



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 22 July, 2009

1. The House met at 2.25 p.m. Mr. Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 22 July, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
3. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership:**
Abdullahi I. Garba, Member-elect (*Kontagora/Wushishi Federal constituency*), took and subscribed the Oaths as prescribed by law.
4. **Announcement:**
Obituary:
Mr Speaker announced with regrets, the death of Lady Evangelist (Mrs) Phoebe Emiola Makanjuola, mother of Hon. Gbenga Makanjuola (*Ekiti/Isin/Irepodun/Oke-Ero Federal Constituency, Kwara State*).

A minute in silence was observed in honour of the deceased.
5. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:
 - (i) Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal (*Kebbi/Tambuwal Federal Constituency*), from Lexfield Chambers of Solicitors on behalf of Hon. Sani Mohammed Gusau against Executive Officer, Housing Alliance Limited. He urged the House to intervene and ensure that the property he paid for be given to him;
 - (ii) Hon. Ibejiako Ernest (*Owerri Municipal/North/West Federal Constituency*), from Olelewe, Olelewe & Co. of Solicitors on behalf of 8 Others who were allegedly disengaged unlawfully by the National Universities Commission, praying the House to intervene and ensure their recall;
 - (iii) Hon. Ganiyu Tunji Olukolu (*Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency*), from Uche Udogaranya & Co. of Solicitors on behalf of Alhaji Zayd Abiola against the Nigeria Police Force, praying the House to investigate the shooting of his client by the Police to ensure justice prevails.
6. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**
 - (i) Rising on Order VIII, Rule 4 of the House Standing Order, Hon. Halims Agoda drew the attention of the House to the current rise in the external debt profile of the country after its exit from the debtor nations and noted with concern that the recent \$100 million loan agreement had brought Nigeria's external debt to \$3.6 billion. He stressed that if the situation continued, the country might again slip into the status of a debtor nation. He therefore, sought the leave of the House to debate the matter as one of Urgent Public Importance.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Matter to stand over till the next Legislative Day.

- (ii) Hon. Ozor Ugbachi, citing Order VIII, Rule 4 of the House Standing Orders, drew the attention of the House to the grave security situation in Anambra State, occasioned by the armed bandits that had laid siege on the major cities in the State. He noted with concern that the armed gangs had been carrying out their criminal act without reprisals from the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies in the State. He therefore sought the leave of the House to debate the matter as one of Urgent Public Importance forthwith.

Question that the matter be debated as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) be suspended to enable the House debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.

7. Grave Security situation in Anambra State:

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, "The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government", and section 11 (1), of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria states that "The National Assembly may make laws for the Federation or any part thereof with respect to the maintenance and securing of public safety and public order ...";

Worried that for several months now the security situation in Anambra State has so much deteriorated to a level where public safety and public order is in grave danger and can no longer be guaranteed;

Alarmed by the horrific incidents in recent times in which armed bandits have laid siege on major cities of Awka, Onitsha, Nnewi and environs for several hours almost every other day robbing banks, offices, homes, shooting and killing innocent civilians, attacking Police stations and killing some of its officers and men;

Concerned that the bravado and impunity with which these hoodlums have been carrying out their nefarious acts of terror, looting and killing without appropriate and proportionate response from the Nigerian Police and other security agencies is unacceptable and must be addressed decisively, in order to stop spill-over to other neighbouring states and reassure residents and visitors to Anambra State of the capability of the Federal Government to ensure the security and welfare of the people.

Resolves to:

Mandate the joint Committee on Police Affairs and National Security and Intelligence to meet with the Inspector-General of Police and Director-General, State Security Service and come up with immediate and appropriate extra ordinary and emergency measures that would guarantee public safety and public order in Anambra State, and report back to the House within a week (*Hon. Ozor Ugbachi*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
"Urge the Governors of the States in the South East Zone to devise and implement a strategy to combat rising crime waves in the Geopolitical Zone" (*Hon. Darlington Okereke*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
"Urge the State Governor to support the Police by providing at least 10,000 (ten thousand) bullet proof vest and 10,000 helmets" (*Hon. Uche Ekwunife*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
"Urge the Anambra State Governor to immediately put in place a joint task force with the police and military to address the security situation in the State" (*Hon. Friday Itulah*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iv) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
"Urge the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency on security in the South East particularly in Abia and Anambra State" (*Hon. Terngu Tsegba*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (v) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
"That the Federal Government accord special security fund to the Government of Imo State:
- (a) as the only State housing all refugees from Rivers, Bayelsa, Anambra and Abia States;
- (b) The Inspector-General of Police deploy more police officers, arms/ammunition to Imo State because of the spill-over effect from the neighbouring States of Rivers, Abia and Anambra (*Hon. Ibejiako Ernest*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that pursuant to section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, "The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government", and section 11 (1), of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria states that "The National Assembly may make laws for the Federation or any part thereof with respect to the maintenance and securing of public safety and public order ...";

Worried that for several months now the security situation in Anambra State had so much deteriorated to a level where public safety and public order was in grave danger and could no longer be guaranteed;

Alarmed by the horrific incidents in recent times in which armed bandits had laid siege on major cities of Akwa, Onitsha, Nnewi and environs for several hours almost every other day robbing banks, offices, homes, shooting and killing innocent civilians, attacking Police stations and killing some of its officers and men;

Concerned that bravado and impunity with which these hoodlums had been carrying out their nefarious acts of terror, looting and killing without appropriate and proportionate response from the Nigerian Police and other security agencies was unacceptable and must be addressed decisively, in order to stop spill-over to other neighbouring states and reassure residents and visitors to Anambra State of the capability of the Federal Government to ensure the security and welfare of the people.

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the joint Committee on Police Affairs and National Security and Intelligence to meet with the Inspector-General of Police and Director-General, State Security Service and come up with immediate and appropriate extra ordinary and emergency measures that would guarantee public safety and public order in Anambra State, and report back to the House within a week;
- (ii) Urge the Governors of the States in the South East Zone to devise and implement a strategy to combat rising crime waves in the Geopolitical Zone (**HR. 45/2009**).

8. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Indigenous Oil Companies (Regulation and Fiscal Terms) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Legislative Houses, Powers and Privileges Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) National Vocation Training Commission (Establishment and Development) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Federal Character Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) National Judicial Institute Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (vi) Public Private Partnership Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*

- (vii) Crime Victims Compensation Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (viii) Roads Sector Reform Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (ix) Railway Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (x) Construction and Maintenance Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (xi) National Human Rights Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (xii) National Housing Trust Fund Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*
- (xiii) Abuja Geographic Information System Agency Bill, 2009 — *Read the First Time.*

9. Presentation of Reports:

(i) Committee on Health:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health on a Bill for an Act to prescribe for the Compulsory and Immediate Treatment and Care for the Victims of Bullet wounds and Establishment of Bullet Wound Trust Fund and Other Related Matters Connected Therewith, 2009" (*Hon. Alaba Lad-Ojomo*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) Committee on Gas Resources:

"That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Gas Resources on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Associated Gas Re-Injection Act, No. 99 of 1979, Cap. A25 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, 2008".

Order red, deferred.

10. Crisis in the Republic of Niger: A Call for the Restoration of Constitutional Order:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that Nigeria's Foreign Policy promotes African integration and advocates the tenets of good governance, constitutionalism and the Rule of Law within the Polity and the African Continent;

Disturbed that the Constitutional crisis in the Republic of Niger is an immediate challenge to Nigeria as a Neighbouring Country;

Worried that President Tandja Mamadou's dissolution of Democratic Institutions and suspension of the Constitution to enable him rule by decree is undemocratic and despotic;

Concerned that if the crisis is allowed to degenerate into anarchy, the attendant consequences for neighbouring countries like Nigeria will be enormous;

Acknowledges that the United States of America has unequivocally denounced President Tandja Mamadou's bid to undermine Democracy in the Republic of Niger.

Resolves to:

- (i) Condemn the undemocratic and unconstitutional actions of President Tandja Mamadou of the Republic of Niger;
- (ii) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to impress on the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to prevail on President Tandja Mamadou to restore Constitutional Order (*Hon. Samson R. Osagie and 22 Others*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

"Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to unilaterally resort to any measure against the government of Niger Republic in the event that the regime succeeds in the illegal bid to elongate its tenure" (*Hon. Rabe Nasir*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria's Foreign Policy promotes African integration and advocates the tenets of good governance, constitutionalism and the Rule of Law within the Polity and the African Continent;

Disturbed that the Constitutional crisis in the Republic of Niger was an immediate challenge to Nigeria as a Neighbouring Country;

Worried that President Tandja Mamadou's dissolution of Democratic Institutions and suspension of the Constitution to enable him rule by decree was undemocratic and despotic;

Concerned that if the crisis was allowed to degenerate into anarchy, the attendant consequences for neighbouring countries like Nigeria would be enormous;

Acknowledged that the United States of America had unequivocally denounced President Tandja Mamadou's bid to undermine Democracy in the Republic of Niger,

Resolved to:

- (i) Condemn the undemocratic and unconstitutional actions of President Tandja Mamadou of the Republic of Niger;
- (ii) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to impress on the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to prevail on President Tandja Mamadou to restore Constitutional Order (HR. 46/2009).

11. The Need to Resuscitate Makurdi, Enugu and Aba Pipeline Products and Marketing Company (PPMC) Depots to Functional Capacity:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that for some time now, the PPMC Depots in Makurdi, Enugu and Aba respectively have become non-functional in the supply and loading of petroleum products;

Aware that these depots were meant to supply petroleum products to States in the South East and Middle Belt regions;

Concerned that the non-functioning of these Depots has resulted in consistent artificial scarcity and selling of petroleum products at a higher pump prices in this region;

Worried that the higher cost of these petroleum products has invariably resulted in higher cost of goods and services causing untold hardship to the people of these zones;

Disturbed that unless these Depots are resuscitated Petroleum Dealers in the area will continue to use it as a ploy to hoard and sell petroleum products at higher prices than the Government approved prices;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government through the relevant Parastatals particularly the Nigerians National Company Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Petroleum products Marketing Company (PPMC) to urgently resuscitate the Enugu, Aba and Makurdi Depots;
- (ii) Further urge the security agents especially the Inspector-General of Police and Commandant-General of the Civil Defence Corps to intensify surveillance on pipeline from Port Harcourt refineries to Aba, Enugu and Makurdi depots to avoid further vandalization;

- (iii) Also urge the Federal Government through the relevant parastatals to ensure adequate supply of Petroleum products to the affected States at a subsidized cost to avoid further untold hardship on the peoples (*Hon. Peace U. Nnaji and 91 Others*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that for some time now, the PPMC Depots in Makurdi, Enugu and Aba respectively had become non-functional in the supply and loading of petroleum products;

Aware that these depots were meant to supply petroleum products to States in the South East and Middle Belt regions;

Concerned that the non-functioning of these Depots had resulted in consistent artificial scarcity and selling of petroleum products at a higher pump prices in this region;

Worried that the higher cost of these petroleum products had invariably resulted in higher cost of goods and services causing untold hardship to the people of these zones;

Disturbed that unless these Depots were resuscitated Petroleum Dealers in the area would continue to use it as a ploy to hoard and sell petroleum products at higher prices than the Government approved prices;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government through the relevant Parastatals particularly the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Petroleum Products Marketing Company (PPMC) to urgently resuscitate the Enugu, Aba and Makurdi Depots;
- (ii) Further urge the security agents especially the Inspector-General of Police and Commandant-General of the Civil Defence Corps to intensify surveillance on pipeline from Port Harcourt refineries to Aba, Enugu and Makurdi depots to avoid further vandalization;
- (iii) Also urge the Federal Government through the relevant parastatals to ensure adequate supply of Petroleum products to the affected States at a subsidized cost to avoid further untold hardship on the peoples (**HR. 47/2009**).

12. Conference Report on the National Health Bill, 2009:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The National Health Bill, 2009 was passed by the House on Thursday, 26 February, 2009 and transmitted to the Senate for concurrence.

The Senate passed the same Bill with some differential.

The two Chambers met in Conference on Thursday, 15 May, 2009 and adopted a harmonised version of the Bill;

A clean copy of the Conference Report is ready for presentation and adoption;

And in view of the importance of this Bill to the Health Sector of the country;

Resolved:

To adopt the Conference Report on the National Health Bill, 2009 (*Hon. Alaba Lad-Ojomo*).

Question put and agreed to.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act 1991 and to Re-enact the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2009 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 — *Second Reading*:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act 1991 and to Re-enact the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2009 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Betty Apiaffi*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to Committee on Banking and Currency.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Center and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 - Second Reading.**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Center and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Attai Aidoko Usman*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to Committee of Whole pursuant to Order XV, Rule 8.

15. **Consideration of Report:**

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory Water Board and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009:

Order read, deferred.

16. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 23 July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 5.10 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker