



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 23 July, 2009

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1. The House met at 11.00 a.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. **Announcements:**
Visitor:
Mr Speaker recognized the presence in the Gallery, of the Students from Kings College, Lagos.
 4. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:
 - (i) Hon. Mohammed Sani Ibrahim (*Kaduna North Federal Constituency*), from Alhaji Junaidu Idris Baba against the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, praying the House to intervene and redress his alleged victimization;
 - (ii) Hon. Chukwudi Mayor Eze (*Orlu/Orsu/Oru Federal Constituency*), from Nduka Angelina Ezinwa (Miss), praying the House to intervene and direct the Federal Ministry of Education to immediately pay her gratuity and pensions to enable her attend to her health problems;
 - (iii) Hon. Gozie Agbakoba (*Onitsha North/Onitsha South Federal Constituency*), from C. O. Anah (SAN), Counsel on behalf of Mr Tony Okeke against Messrs Hans Mehr G.M.B. H & Co. KG a German Company urging the House to intervene and ensure that the fund illegally held by the German Company be recovered and paid to his client.
 5. **Presentation of Reports:**
Joint Committee on Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Water Resources:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Joint Committee on Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Water Resources on Revitalizing the Textile Industry in Nigeria" (*Hon. Solomon Agidani*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.
 6. **Budget Account:**
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the recent revelation by the Joint Committee on Appropriation and Finance on the poor implementation of the 2009 Appropriation Act by the Executive;

Concerned that despite 100% release for Capital Projects, the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's) selectively implement the 2009 Budget as they wish;

Further concerned that while the Capital Projects are not being implemented according to the 2009 Appropriation Act, the Overhead of the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's) are being exhausted;

Worried that the releases not utilized may be misappropriated as unspent fund by the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's);

Resolves to:

Mandate the House Joint Committee on Appropriations, Finance and Public Accounts to investigate the Accounts of all the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's) to find out how the releases for projects not implemented are managed (*Hon. Mohamed Ali Ndume and 9 Others*).

Debate:

Question put and negatived.

7. Nigerian's Return to Foreign Debt Burden:
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Appreciates Nigeria's exit from the burden of foreign debt a few years ago through the concerted efforts of the Federal Government, the National Assembly and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);

Worried by the recent report attesting to Nigerian's foreign debt totaling Three Billion and Six Hundred Million (\$3.6) US Dollars used to finance projects that are shrouded in secrecy;

Aware that it is a constitutional imperative for the Executive to brief and seek the consent of the National Assembly before sourcing, drawing and utilizing of foreign loans under whatever description;

Regrets the plight of Nigerians who have had to make sacrifices and bear the pains of hunger and underdevelopment, underscored by collapsing and deteriorating public infrastructure in virtually all facets of national growth and/or national undergrowth;

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Joint Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management and Justice to as a matter of urgency, investigate under what platform and approval these foreign loans are being sought, processed, drawn, utilized, and their relevance to the needs of Nigerians and advise the House on legality or otherwise of the loan and report to the House within two weeks;
- (ii) Further mandate the Joint Committee to determine the actual debts owed by Nigeria since 2007;
- (iii) Call on the President to order an immediate halt to further foreign loans until the circumstances leading to Nigeria's current debt burden of Three Billion, Six Hundred Dollars (\$3.6bn) is made clear to Nigerians (*Hon. John Halims Agoda*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Appreciated Nigeria's exit from the burden of foreign debt a few years ago through the concerted efforts of the Federal Government, the National Assembly and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);

Worried by the recent report attesting to Nigerian's foreign debt totaling Three Billion and Six Hundred Million (\$3.6) US Dollars used to finance projects that are shrouded in secrecy;

Aware that it is a constitutional imperative for the Executive to brief and seek the consent of the National Assembly before sourcing, drawing and utilizing of foreign loans under whatever description;

Regrets the plight of Nigerians who have had to make sacrifices and bear the pains of hunger and underdevelopment, underscored by collapsing and deteriorating public infrastructure in virtually all facets of national growth and/or national undergrowth;

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the Joint Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management and Justice to as a matter of urgency, investigate under what platform and approval these foreign loans were being sought, processed, drawn, utilized, and their relevance to the needs of Nigerians and advise the House on legality or otherwise of the loan and report to the House within two weeks;
- (ii) Further mandate the Joint Committee to determine the actual debts owed by Nigeria since 2007;
- (iii) Call on the President to order an immediate halt to further foreign loans until the circumstances leading to Nigeria's current debt burden of Three Billion, Six Hundred Dollars (\$3.6bn) is made clear to Nigerians (HR. 48/2009).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and Other Matters Connected Thereto — *Second Reading:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and Other Matters Connected Thereto be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

Debate:

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

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory College of Education, and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 — *Second Reading:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory College of Education, and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Atai 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 the Committee of Whole pursuant to Order XV, Rule 8.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria as a body Corporate and to empower the Council, *inter alia* to determine Person, what Standard of Knowledge and skill to be attained by such persons; and for Related Matters, 2009 — *Second Reading:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria as a body Corporate and to empower the Council, *Inter Alia* to determine Person, what Standard of Knowledge and skill to be attained by such persons; and for Related Matters, 2009 be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Ita Enang).

Debate:

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

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

11. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 28 July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.52 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker