



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 15 October, 2009

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, 14 October, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**

- (i) **Visitors:**

Mr Speaker recognized the presence in the Gallery, of the Legislative Staff of the Ebonyi State House of Assembly on attachment to the National Assembly;

- (ii) **Committee on Legislative Budget:**

Mr Speaker recalled his directive to the Committee on Legislative Budget to organise an In-House-Retreat on Budget Performance and Implementation before consideration of the 2010 Budget; and asked the Chairman of the Committee to brief the House on the matter. The Chairman, Hon. Habeeb B. Fasinro, informed the House of the planned Sensitisation Workshop on the Medium Term Expenditure Framework slated for first week of November 2009 for Hon. Members, particularly Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of Committees.

Mr Speaker emphasized the need for the expected participants to attend the Workshop.

- (iii) **Conferees:**

Mr Speaker named the following conferees on Public Procurement (Amendment) Bill, 2009:

- (a) Hon. Ita Enang
 - (b) Hon. Yusuf Tuggar
 - (c) Hon. Aminu Musa Koko
 - (d) Hon. Buba Ahmed
 - (e) Hon. Jolaoye George
 - (f) Hon. Okey Odeh.

4. **Petitions:**

The following petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

- (i) Hon. Gozie Agbakoba (*Onitsha North/Onitsha South Federal Constituency*), from Lady Ada Ebeledike, praying the House to intervene in her forceful ejection from her flat by the Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development with a view to compensating her;

- (ii) Hon. James Idachaba (*Idah/Ibaji/Igalamela/Ofu Federal Constituency*), from:
- (a) Ajodo Augustine, praying the House to intervene in his alleged unlawful dismissal from the Nigerian Customs with a view to re-instating him,
- (b) Danladi Abdullahi, praying the House to intervene in his alleged wrongful dismissal from the Nigerian Army with a view to ensuring justice;
- (iii) Hon. Henry Dickson (*Ekeremor/Sagbama Federal Constituency*), from Finidi Jadless, praying the House to intervene in the alleged injustice committed against him by the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) with a view to ensuring justice;
- (iv) Hon. Patrick Ikhariale (*Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben Federal Constituency*), from Chris Agbonwangbe and Associates on behalf of R. A. Ogunijiofor, praying the House to intervene in the alleged pre-term retirement from the Federal Polytechnic, Auchu with a view to reinstating him;
- (v) Hon. Ita Enang (*Itu/Ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency*), from Okon Essien Edet, praying the House to intervene in his wrongful termination by the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (Ministry of Aviation) with a view to reinstating him.

5. Presentation of Report:

Committee on Federal Character:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Character on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act, No. 34 of 1996 to include Certain Provisions necessary to ensure greater efficiency in the Performance and Exercise of the Duties and Functions of the Commission, and Provide for Other Matters Relating Thereto, 2009" (*Hon. Abdulwahab Isa*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

6. Non-Payment of the Salaries and Allowances of the Staff of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited: Its Disastrous Effects on Innocent Nigerians:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that salaries and allowances of the Staff of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited have not been paid for a long period of time;

Aware that over ₦3 billion has been provided in the 2009 Supplementary Budget passed recently to settle the arrears but payment is yet to be effected despite the release of the money to the relevant Ministry;

Worried that the staff are finding it extremely difficult to feed and sustain their families;

Disturbed that the said staff now resort to harassing innocent Nigerians who ply the Federal Highway that traverses Ajaokuta to Lokoja in Kogi State;

Further disturbed that safety of lives and properties and economic activities are being threatened by this ugly development;

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the relevant Ministry and Agencies to act without delay and pay the salaries and allowances of the suffering workers;
- (ii) Mandate the Joint Committee on Steel and Labour, Employment and Productivity to investigate the cause(s) of non-payment of the salaries and allowances to the affected workers and report back to the House within 2 weeks (*Hon. Paul O. Eze*).

Debate:

Question put and negatived.

7. **The Role of the Central Bank of Nigeria and Other Regulatory Authorities, vis-à-vis the Reforms and Financial Crisis in the Banking Sector:**

Order read, deferred.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment, Management and Operation of a Centre Which Would Act as a Center for Commercial Arbitration as Well as Other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms in Nigeria and for Other Purposes Connected Therewith, 2009 — *Second Reading*:**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair to enable Mr Speaker lead debate.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment, Management and Operation of a Centre Which Would Act as a Center for Commercial Arbitration as Well as Other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms in Nigeria and for Other Purposes Connected Therewith, 2009 be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Dimeji Bankole)

Debate:

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

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Joint Committee on Public Accounts, Justice and Public Service Matters.

9. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 20 October, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.05 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker