



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 29 October, 2009

1. The House met at 10.40 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 28 October, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**

(i) **Medium Term Expenditure Framework:**

Mr Deputy Speaker requested Members interested in participating in the debate on the Medium Term Expenditure Framework slated for Tuesday, 3 November, 2009 to submit their names to the Chairman, Rules and Business Committee.

(ii) **Obituary:**

Mr Deputy Speaker announced with regret, the death of a former Member of the House of Representatives during the Second Republic, Hon. Ambrose Na'anlong (*Shendam/Qua'an-pan Federal Constituency*) of Plateau State, which occurred on Tuesday, 27 October, 2009.

A minute in silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

- (iii) Mr Deputy Speaker announced that the Clerk of the House, Otunba Niyi Ajiboye had completed 35 years of service and would be proceeding on his terminal leave, preparatory to his final exit from the service of the National Assembly. He subsequently invited him to make his valedictory speech.

4. **Valedictory Speech of the Clerk of the House:**



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29 October, 2009

*Hon. Speaker
House of Representatives
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja*

Your Excellency,

GOODBYE TO READING

On 31 January, 2010, the day I attain the age of 60, I will retire from the National Assembly Service. On October 31, 2009, I will proceed on a three-month Pre-retirement leave. Today therefore, marks my last day in the Chamber of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

2. *I started my legislative career on December 7, 1992 and had served in various capacities in the National Assembly, especially in the House of Representatives. I came to the peak of my legislative career when I became the Acting Clerk of the House on January 12, 2006. During this period I served for One and a Half years under the Speakership of Hon. Aminu Bello Masari, six months with Hon. Patricia Olubunmi Etteh, and from November 1, 2007 to date, I have been serving under the Speakership of Hon. Dimeji Sabur Bankole.*

3. *Since the time I assumed Office as the Clerk of this Honourable House, I have had the singular honour and privilege of working with and meeting distinguished Nigerians, who have dedicated their lives and time to serving this country selflessly. The House of Representatives is especially blessed with young, agile, and conscientious men and women who think and dream Nigeria. I am indeed humbled to have served these exemplary Nigerians for almost four years.*

4. *Before I take my final bow, I must express my profound gratitude to the Honourable Speaker, Dimeji Bankole, the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Usmon Bayero Nafada, the Leadership and the entire Membership of the House of Representatives, for giving me a conducive atmosphere to serve as the Clerk of the House. I am also grateful to the Clerk to the National Assembly, his Deputy and all the staff of the House of Representatives for their support.*

5. *It is now time for me to leave. The good and hard times we shared together in the course of entrenching an enduring democracy will always remain fresh in my memories.*

6. *I wish you God's guidance in your onerous and unenviable endeavours to shape a better course for our dear Nation, Nigeria.*

7. *God bless you all.*

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

OTUNBA NIYI AJIBOYE
Clerk, House of Representatives

(Tribute)

See details in the Official Report of Proceedings of Thursday, 29 October, 2009.

5. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (*Chibok/Dambo/Giroza Federal Constituency*), from Modu Chiroma, praying the House to intervene in his alleged wrongful dismissal by the National Directorate of Employment with a view to re-instating him;
- (ii) Hon. Kayode Idowu (*Boripe Ifelodun/Odo-Otin Federal Constituency*), from eight aggrieved retired Union Bank Staff, praying the House to investigate their alleged wrongful retirement by the Bank, with a view to ensuring that justice prevails;
- (iii) Hon. Ganiyu T. Olukolu (*Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency*), from Ajibulu Atiroko & Co, on behalf of Kirikiri Community, praying the House to intervene in the complacent attitude to addressing issues affecting community requests by the Nigeria Maritime Authority with a view to ensuring justice;
- (iv) Hon. Overah O. Joyce (*Okpe/Uvwie/Sapele Federal Constituency*), from Mr John O. Ebisan, praying the House to intervene in his alleged pre-mature retirement from the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, with a view to re-instating him;
- (v) Hon. Nnena Elendu Ukeje (*Bende Federal Constituency*), from Paul Erokoro & Co, on behalf of Mr Charles Okoronkwo, praying the House to investigate the alleged abuse of power against him by the Nigeria Police Force, with a view to ensuring justice;

(vi) Hon. Samson Osagie (*Orhionmwon/Uhunnwode Federal Constituency*), from:

- (a) Edo Territory Nipost Retirees, praying the House to intervene in their alleged unlawful retirement by Nigerian Postal Services (NIPOST), with a view to re-instating them;
- (b) Paul I. Orumwense, praying the House to investigate his improper placement by the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, with a view to ensuring justice.

6. **Privilege:**

Rising on Order V, Rule 3 of the Standing Orders of the House, Hon Henry Dickson recalled the referral of a Bill for an Act to amend the Legislative Powers and Privileges Act to a Standing Committee of the House for further legislative action. He noted that since the referral, Media reports in respect of the act of the House on the Bill have not been factual and purportedly aimed at bringing the House to disrepute. He explained that the Bill being considered was not intended to confer immunity on Legislators as reported in the media. He therefore, considered the development as a breach of the privilege of the House.

Mr Deputy Speaker affirmed that the Bill did not seek to confer immunity on Legislators.

7. **Massive Looting of equipment and property of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and National Iron Ore Mining Company, Itakpe:**

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited is an integrated Steel Complex comprising 37 production Units, each of which could be established as an independent enterprise;

Further notes that Steel production is the bedrock of industrialization and economic development of any Nation;

Aware that the Federal Government has expended over \$4.6 billion on Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited;

Further aware that the project status is 98% complete;

Appreciates that about ₦3.32bn outstanding workers' salaries and allowances are currently being paid;

Worried that this National Investment is being massively looted unabated;

Further worried that lack of adequate measures to protect these investments will lead to more looting.

Resolves to:

- (i) Condemn the looting of these huge investments by the perpetrators of this unpatriotic act;
- (ii) Urge the Inspector-General of Police to, as a matter of urgency provide security in and around the Industrial Complex of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and National Iron Ore Mining Company Itakpe; and
- (iii) Further urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to abide by an earlier resolution of this Honorable House to complete and Commission the project without further delay (*Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"Condemn the Asset stripping of these huge investments by the perpetrators of this unpatriotic act.
(*Hon. Yusuf M. Tuggar*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (ii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayers (i) and (ii) and *insert* the following words instead thereof:
"Investigate the looting and the perpetrators of the heinous act and prosecute accordingly" (*Hon. Mustapha Ahmed*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayers (i) and (ii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
- (a) "Condemn the asset-stripping looting of Ajaokuta and investigate to find out who the perpetrators are with a view to bringing them to justice;
 - (b) Mandate the Committee on Steel to find out why the technical audit has not been carried out when one billion naira has been voted for the exercise" (*Hon. Abass Braimoh*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iv) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i) and (ii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"Mandate the Leadership to invite the Minister of Steel Development and the Inspector-General of Police to brief them on this sad development and what is being done to stop the looting" (*Hon. Shehu Garba Matazu*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (v) In Prayer (ii), line 1, immediately after the word "Police", *insert* the words "and the supervising Ministry" (*Hon. Yakubu Barde*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (vi) (a) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"Urge the Minister of Steel to as a matter of urgency, replace the current management of the Company";
- (b) In Prayer (ii), line 3, immediately after the word "Itakpe", *insert* the words "and institute an investigation, arrest and prosecute those found guilty in the looting of the company" (*Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (vii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (iii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"Urge the Federal Government to complete, Commission and privatize so that Nigeria can have the benefits and services of the Ajaokuta Steel Company" (*Hon. Saudatu Sani*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (viii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
"Direct the Committee on Steel to submit a comprehensive report on the present state of the two plants within 4 weeks for the consideration of the House" (*Hon. Andrew Uchendu*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (ix) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
"Mandate the Committee on Steel to investigate why the Interim Management Committee put in place by Government to look after the complex failed to carryout their responsibility" (*Hon. Leo Ogor*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited is an integrated Steel Complex comprising 37 production Units, each of which could be established as an independent enterprise;

Further noted that Steel production is the bedrock of industrialization and economic development of any Nation;

Aware that the Federal Government had expended over \$4.6 billion on Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited;

Further aware that the project status was 98% completed;

Appreciated that about ₦3.32bn outstanding workers' salaries and allowances were currently being paid;

Worried that this National Investment was being massively looted unabated;

Further worried that lack of adequate measures to protect these investments would lead to more looting.

Resolved to:

- (i) Condemn the looting of these huge investments by the perpetrators of this unpatriotic act;
- (ii) Urge the Inspector-General of Police to, as a matter of urgency provide security in and around the Industrial Complex of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and National Iron Ore Mining Company Itakpe;
- (iii) Further urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to abide by an earlier Resolution of the House to complete and Commission the project without further delay;
- (iv) Mandate the Committee on Steel to investigate why the Interim Management Committee put in place by Government to look after the complex failed to carryout their responsibility (HR. 62/2009).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Prohibit Kidnapping, Hostage Taking, Prescribe Punishment for its Contravention and Other Matters Relating Thereto, 2009 — *Second Reading:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Prohibit Kidnapping, Hostage Taking, Prescribe Punishment for its Contravention and Other Matters Relating Thereto, 2009 be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Friday Itulah).

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 Judiciary, Justice and Police Affairs .

9. (i) **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act, Cap. F7 LFN 2004 for the Purpose of Strengthening Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations in Nigeria; and for Other Matters, 2009 — *Second Reading:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act Cap. F7 LFN 2004 for the Purpose of Strengthening Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations in Nigeria; and for Other Matters, 2009 be now read a Second Time" (Hon Uzoma Nkem Abonta).

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 on Federal Character.

(ii) **Consolidation of Bills:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That Order XII, Rule 14 be suspended to enable the House to consolidate a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act Cap. F7 LFN 2004 for the Purpose of Strengthening Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations in Nigeria; and for Other Matters, 2009 with a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act, 2007 (HB. 9)" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta).

Question put and agreed to.

10. **Extension of Sitting:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "Pursuant to Order IV, Rule (4) of the Standing Orders of the House, that this House do extend the Day's Sitting to enable it deliberate on the other items on the Order Paper" (Hon. Tunde Akogun).

Question put and negatived.

11. **Adjournment:**

And it being 2.15 p.m. the House adjourned till Tuesday, 3 November, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.