



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 4 November, 2009

1. The House met at 2.50 p.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 3 November, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Messages:**
Mr Speaker read the following Messages from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

(i)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

October 26, 2009

*Right Honourable Dimeji Bankole, CFR
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear brother,

BILLS FROM THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION

I forward herewith, for your kind consideration and passage into law, the under-listed Bills:

- i. *Bill for Property Tax*
- ii. *Bill for FCT Hospitals Management Board*
- iii. *Bill for Prohibition of use of Motorcycle for Commercial purpose*
- iv. *Bill for FCT Agency for Mass Education*
- v. *Bill for FCT College of Education, Zuba*

- vi. *Bill for Abuja Metropolitan Management Council*
- vii. *Bill for FCT Directorate of Road Traffic Service*
- viii. *Bill for Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service.*

It is my hope that the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will consider and pass the Bills in your usual expeditious manner.

Please accept, Mr Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

(ii)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

October 29, 2009

*Right Honourable Dimeji Bankole, CFR
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear brother,

**BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE IMMIGRATION ACT 1963
AND ENACT THE IMMIGRATION ACT, 2009**

I forward herewith, for your kind consideration and passage into Law, the attached draft Bill for an Act to repeal the Immigration Act, 1963 and Enact the Immigration Act, 2009.

Pursuant to the above, therefore, and in line with the powers vested in the National Assembly, I hereby present the said Bill for the kind consideration of the Honourable House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

It is my hope that the Honourable Members will consider and pass the amendment Bill in your usual expeditious manner.

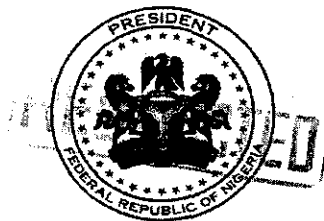
Please accept, Mr Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

(iii)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

November 3, 2009

*Right Honourable Dimeji Bankole, CFR
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear brother,

**REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT OF
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION**

I write to request for the kind support of the House of Representatives in endorsing supplementary appropriation and the associated financing items occasioned by a number of factors, including the urgency of consolidating and sustaining peace in the Niger Delta; the need to put in place strategic interventions geared towards addressing the transitional costs which would accompany envisaged reforms in the downstream petroleum sector; as well as meeting additional expenditure needs that have emerged. Details of the expenditure items as well as sources of financing are attached to this letter for your kind consideration and endorsement.

In relation to the Niger-Delta, you would agree with me, Honourable Speaker, that it is extremely important that we embark on projects which would help deepen and consolidate peace as well as lay foundations for sustainable development. This is crucial to rebuilding confidence and trust in the amnesty initiative, enhancing production and improving revenue flow, to the federation account, mitigating investment risks, as well as boosting full realization of the nation's economic potential.

Details of expenditures and the Niger-Delta Amnesty program are being worked out, based on close consultations with key stakeholders. Areas of focus include the East-West Highway (currently under construction); Coastal road/highway; East-West Rail line, inland water way transportation infrastructure; reclamation to link all communities; dredging of canals; housing and land reclamation projects for oil producing communities; and environmental clean-up activities. The money being appropriated will be ring-fenced under a similar arrangement that has been made in respect of funding for the National Integrated Power Project, and appropriate mechanisms of accountability, control and reporting will be put in place.

In addition to the Amnesty program-related expenditure, we are seeking to invest in programs and projects that would address the transition costs of envisaged reforms in the downstream petroleum sector. In this context, the government is proposing additional interventions in the rail and road transportation sectors, as well as emergency road rehabilitation. These are being complemented with measures to facilitate access to low income housing for workers, as well as support to the real sector through development finance institutions. The overall thrust of these envisaged policy measures are to reduce the cost of transportation and make available alternative sources of transportation, seek avenues for reducing the cost of living as well as generate employment opportunities.

We also seek the endorsement of the House of Representatives to finance strategic interventions aimed at addressing supply constraints and unemployment in the context of the global economic meltdown. Some of the expenditure items in the supplementary appropriation would be utilized to offset outstanding government obligations (including pension arrears), meet funding shortfall, and provide for counterpart funding.

Honourable Speaker, approving these expenditure items would help in alleviating the adverse impact of the global economic crisis on the most vulnerable segment of the population as well as ensuring effective day to day operations of some MDAs.

The proposed expenditure items above will be financed from Federal Government's portion of the sharing from the Excess Crude Account, proceeds of the soft loan from the World Bank (as communicated in the letter of 27 October 2009) and the proceeds of the sale of FGN Bonds by the Debt Management Office.

Right Honourable Speaker, I trust that these key interventions will receive the traditional expeditious kind consideration of the Honourable. House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

4. Announcement:

Visitors:

Mr Speaker acknowledged the presence in the Gallery, of:

- (i) The Leaders and Councilors of the Action Congress Party from Lagos Island I, on capacity building visit to the National Assembly;
- (ii) Pupils and Staff of Evergreen Family School. Zuba, FCT, Abuja.

5. Petitions:

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

- (i) Hon. Clever Ikisikpo (*Ogbia Federal Constituency*), from Romeo Aruguoteinsi, praying the House to intervene in the non-payment of his Pension Arrears with a view to paying all outstanding arrears;
- (ii) Hon. Abike Dabiri (*Ikorodu Federal Constituency*), from Mr B. T. Idowu, praying the House to intervene in his alleged wrongful dismissal by the Nigerian Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research (NITR), Kaduna, with a view to re-instating him;
- (iii) Hon. Mayor Eze (*Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*), from C. C. Njoku, praying the House to intervene in his alleged wrongful dismissal by the Nigerian Postal Service with a view to ensuring justice.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

- (i) Rising on Order VIII, Rule 4 of the Standing Orders of the House, Hon. Dino Melaye drew the attention of the House to the non-implementation of the Millennium Development Goals projects (MDG's). He noted that since funds had been allocated in the 2009 Appropriation Act, there was the need to ascertain the basis for non-implementation. He therefore, sought the leave of the House to consider 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) Also rising on Order VIII, Rule 4 of the Standing Orders of the House, Hon. Ahmed Wadada drew the attention of the House to the wanton killings, destruction of property and illegal arrest of some indigenes of Garaku community of Nasarawa State by the Nigerian Police. He explained that the incident arose following the brutal response of the Police in the area to a peaceful demonstration staged by the Youths of the town to draw the attention of the Federal Government to the urgent need to construct speed-bumps on the highway traversing Garaku. In order to preserve peace in Garaku, he sought the leave of the House to consider the matter as one of Urgent Public Importance.

Question that the matter be considered as one of Urgent Public Importance, put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 4 (3) to consider the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.

7. Wanton Killings, Destruction of Properties and Illegal Arrest of some Indigenes of Garaku by the Police: Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the approval by the Nigeria Police Force to allow the youths of Garaku stage a peaceful demonstration over the frequent and persistent cases of death along the Federal Highway in Garaku, Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State;

Further notes that all the relevant Security agencies were also notified before the peaceful protest to draw

Disturbed that despite the Police approval, the planned protest was disrupted by the same Police resulting in the death of 8 people while several others injured and hospitalized as a result of Police gunshot wounds;

Concerned about the wanton arrest of youths, women and under-aged children, numbering fifty-two (52) from their houses and taken to Lafia;

Worries about several motorcycles, telephone-handsets and various sums of money confiscated by the Police from some indigenes of Garaku.

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the Inspector-General of Police to investigate the dastardly act by the men of the Nigeria Police in the area;
- (ii) Urge the Federal Ministry of Works to provide Speed Bumps across Garaku Town to forestall further occurrence of deaths on the road (*Hon. Ahmed Wadada*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the approval by the Nigeria Police Force to allow the youths of Garaku stage a peaceful demonstration over the frequent and persistent cases of death along the Federal Highway in Garaku, Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State;

Further noted that all the relevant Security agencies were also notified before the peaceful protest to draw attention of government to the need for urgent construction of speed-bumps along the highway which traversed Garaku;

Disturbed that despite the Police approval, the planned protest was disrupted by the same Police resulting in the death of 8 people while several others injured and hospitalized as a result of Police gunshot wounds;

Concerned about the wanton arrest of youths, women and under-aged children, numbering fifty-two (52) from their houses and taken to Lafia;

Worried about several motorcycles, telephone-handsets and various sums of money confiscated by the Police from some indigenes of Garaku.

Resolved to:

- (i) Call on the Inspector-General of Police to investigate the dastardly act by the men of the Nigeria Police in the area;
- (ii) Urge the Federal Ministry of Works to provide Speed Bumps across Garaku Town to forestall further occurrence of deaths on the road (*HR. 63/2009*).

**8. Collapse of Access Road to and from Akwa Ibom State, Abia State, Rivers State and Cross River State:
*Motion made and Question proposed:***

The House:

Notes that the Uyo- Itu-Calabar Highway is the only and exclusive road leading between Akwa Ibom and Cross River States and the Calabar-Ikom-Ogoja-Katsina-Ala/Markudi is the Northern access from and to the Northern part of Nigeria;

Further notes that the Ikot Ekpene - Umuahia Road, Aba-Ikot Ekpene Road and Etim Ekpo - Ngwa and the Ekparakwa -Ukanafun-Ngwa Roads are the only Roads linking Akwa Ibom to Abia and Rivers State;

Aware that the Calabar - Itu-Uyo-Ikot Ekpene Road constructed in 1976 have completely collapsed and for two or three days each week, and for the last 5 months access to traffic to and from Cross River and Akwa Ibom States have completely broken down and access to and from Abia and Rivers State completely shut down;

Resolves that the Federal Government be urged to provide the necessary funds for the re-construction of these roads.

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Road Maintenance Agency to urgently reconstruct these roads to restore access to, from and between Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Abia and Rivers States as links to other States of the Federation;
- (ii) Further urge the Federal Government to expedite action to award contract for the re-construction of these roads;
- (iii) Mandate the House Committee on Works to inspect the roads and report to the House within two weeks (*Hon. Ita S. J. Enang and 52 Others*).

*Debate:**Question put and agreed to.*

The House:

Noted that the Uyo- Itu-Calabar Highway is the only and exclusive road leading between Akwa Ibom and Cross River States and the Calabar-Ikom-Ogoja-Katsina-Ala/Markudi is the Northern access from and to the Northern part of Nigeria;

Further noted that the Ikot Ekpene - Umuahia Road, Aba-Ikot Ekpene Road and Etim Ekpo - Ngwa and the Ekparakwa -Ukanafun-Ngwa Roads are the only Roads linking Akwa Ibom to Abia and Rivers State;

Aware that the Calabar - Itu-Uyo-Ikot Ekpene Roads constructed in 1976 have completely collapsed and for two or three days each week, and for the last 5 months access to traffic to and from Cross River and Akwa Ibom States have completely broken down and access to and from Abia and Rivers State completely shut down;

Further aware that there have been promises by the Federal Government for the re-construction of these roads;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Road Maintenance Agency to urgently reconstruct these roads to restore access to, from and between Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Abia and Rivers States as links to other States of the Federation;
- (ii) Further urge the Federal Government to expedite action to award contract for the re-construction of these roads;
- (iii) Mandate the House Committee on Works to inspect the roads and report to the House within two weeks (**HR. 64/2009**).

9. Need to Rehabilitate the Benin-Auchi-Okene Expressway particularly Between Iruakpen Junction and Ambrose Alli University:

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in few weeks from now, the nation like the rest of the world will be caught in the frenzy mood of the Yule-tide and New Year festivities;

Aware that it is the responsibility of the government as in all civilized Nations of the world, to ensure that appropriate measures, are taken to prevent road mishaps that tend to characterize such seasons;

Disturbed by the neglect of the Benin-Auchi-Okene expressway, particularly the segment between Iruakpen junction and Ambrose Alli University gate, a distance of just about a kilometer, which has been totally cut off by gully erosion;

Worried that unless very urgent measures were taken to rehabilitate the badly damaged segment of the express road, the movement of people on this road which will increase in volume and intensity during the Yule-tide, will be marred with difficulties of untold proportions.

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and other relevant agencies of Government to rehabilitate Benin-Auchi-Okene expressway;
- (ii) Urge the Minister of Works to lay before the Joint Committee on Works and Transport, measures being taken to rehabilitate our road-network nationwide (*Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale*).

*Debate:**Question put and agreed to.*

The House:

Noted that in few weeks from now, the nation like the rest of the world, would be caught in the frenzy mood of the Yule-tide and New Year festivities;

Aware that it is the responsibility of the government as in all civilized Nations of the world, to ensure that appropriate measures, are taken to prevent road mishaps that tend to characterize such seasons;

Disturbed by the neglect of the Benin-Auchi-Okene expressway, particularly the segment between Iruekpen junction and Ambrose Alli University gate, a distance of just about a kilometer, which had been totally cut off by gully erosion;

Worried that unless very urgent measures were taken to rehabilitate the badly damaged segment of the express road, the movement of people on this road which would increase in volume and intensity during the Yule-tide, would be marred with difficulties of untold proportions;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and other relevant agencies of government to rehabilitate Benin-Auchi-Okene expressway;
- (ii) Urge the Minister of Works to lay before the Committee on Works and Transport, measures being taken to rehabilitate our road-network nationwide (**HR. 65/2009**).

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Electoral Debates Commission, to Regulate the Conduct Debates into Elective Offices and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Electoral Debates Commission, to Regulate the Conduct Debates into Elective Offices and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila*).

Debate:

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

11. **Consideration of Reports:**

Committee on Science and Technology:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on the Investigative Hearing on NIGCOMSAT 1 and the activities/operations of Nigerian Communication Technology and approve the Recommendations therein" (*Hon. Akinlade Isiaq Abiodun*).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider the Report, put and agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(*Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair*)

Recommendation (i):

"That Government should divest substantial interest in the company to Private and Corporate Organizations to develop the satellite sector" (*Hon. Akinlade Isiaq Abiodun*).

Question put and agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

"That the Company should commence in earnest the building of NIGCOMSAT 3 as a backup, if Nigeria should remain in satellite business" (Hon. Akinlade Isiaq Abiodun).

Debate:

Report, by leave of the House withdrawn and recommitted to the Committee for re-consideration.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on the Investigative Hearing on NIGCOMSAT-1 and the activities/operations of Nigerian Communication Technology and re-committed the Report to the Committee for re-consideration.

12. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 5 November, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie*).

Adjourned accordingly at 5.15 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker