



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 5 November, 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, 4 November, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
 3. **Announcement:**
Visitors:
Mr Speaker recognized the presence in the Gallery, of Students and Staff of Hallmark Secondary School, Itanla, Ondo State.
 4. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:
 - (i) Hon. Henry S. Dickson (*Ekeremor/Sagbama Federal Constituency*), from Jack Afamukoro, praying the House to intervene in his alleged wrongful dismissal from the Nigerian Prisons Service with a view to re-instating him;
 - (ii) Hon. Andrew Uchendu (*Ikwere/Emohua Federal Constituency*), from Adiele Kenneth, praying the House to intervene in the alleged wrongful termination of his appointment and the refusal to obey court order by the Nigeria Custom Service with a view to re-instating him and ensuring enforcement of the court order;
 - (iii) Hon. Sadiq Asema Mohammed (*Ajaokuta Federal Constituency*), from Ibrahim Mohammed Rabi'u, praying the House to intervene in the alleged wrongful termination of his appointment by the Nigeria Airforce with a view to re-instating him;
 - (iv) Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi (*Udi/Ezeagu Federal Constituency*), from:
 - (a) Fabian O. Abaratu and two others, praying the House to intervene in the alleged wrongful termination of their employment from the Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank with a view to re-instating them,
 - (b) Mr R. O. Ime, praying the House to investigate his alleged unlawful denial of his terminal benefits by the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and to exonerate him and pay his dues;
 - (v) Hon. Samaila Mohammed (*Jos North Federal Constituency*), from the Leadership of the National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Jos North Local Government Branch, on behalf of 1,200 employees, praying the House to intervene in their alleged unlawful disengagement from the service of the Jos North Local Government Council, with a view to re-instating them and paying all their outstanding entitlements;

- (vi) Hon. Emmanuel Bello (*Gombil/Hong Federal Constituency*), from 20 disengaged temporary staff of the Airforce Secondary School, Kaduna, praying the House to investigate the matter with a view to re-absorbing them and paying all their outstanding entitlements.

5. Conference Committee on Public Procurement (Amendment) Bill, 2009:

Motion made and Question proposed, " That this House do receive and adopt the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009" (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

Question put and agreed to.

6. State of the Nation:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes with surprise the negative, uncomplimentary and unpatriotic cover story of the "Tell Magazine" of October 5, 2009 titled "the making of a failed State";

Aware that Nigeria like other developing countries is grappling with myriads of problems like lack of adequate power supply, youth unemployment, poverty, hunger and general insecurity, etc.;

Concerned that the said cover story concluded that Nigeria is a failed state and not alluding to fact that much reforms could still be achieved in a stable political atmosphere;

Worried that there are problems such as sectarian violence, civil crises, communal clashes, kidnappings, cultism, killings and robberies, vandalism, etc. but impression should not be created that these problems are insurmountable and would last forever, for it is often said, "where there is a will, there is always a way";

Further aware that a successful Nigeria can help transform the fortunes of the African Continent in the 21st Century.

Resolves to:

- (i) Constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to:
 - (a) identify factors that create the impression that Nigeria is a failed State and to recommend ways of addressing them within a reasonable period; and
 - (b) identify those elements that contribute to the making of a failed State and report back to the house within 7 legislative days;
- (ii) Assert that Nigeria our dear country is not a failed State and it is unpatriotic for any Nigerian to say so (*Hon. Sani Saleh Minjibir*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Prayer (i) (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted with surprise the negative, uncomplimentary and unpatriotic cover story of the "Tell Magazine" of October 5, 2009 titled "the making of a failed State";

Aware that Nigeria like other developing countries was grappling with myriads of problems like lack of adequate power supply, youth unemployment, poverty, hunger and general insecurity, etc.;

Concerned that the said cover story concluded that Nigeria was a failed state and not alluding to fact that much reforms could still be achieved in a stable political atmosphere;

Worried that there were problems such as sectarian violence, civil crises, communal clashes, kidnappings, cultism, killings and robberies, vandalism, etc. but impression should not be created that these problems were insurmountable and would last forever, for it is often said, "where there is a will, there is always a way";

Further aware that a successful Nigeria could help transform the fortunes of the African Continent in the 21st Century;

Resolved to:

Assert that Nigeria our dear country is not a failed State and it is unpatriotic for any Nigerian to say so (HR. 66/2009).

7. Partial and Non-Implementation of 2008/2009 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Quickwin Projects:

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that the partial and non implementation of the 2008/2009 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Quickwin Projects is not only disturbing but calls for immediate attention;

Further notes that since the 2008 projects are either yet to be completed or even started in some areas, it is necessary to ask questions on the 2009 projects;

Aware that since the 2009 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) projects has been budgeted for as provided in the 2009 Appropriation Act, it becomes worrisome why the projects are yet to be started;

Acknowledges that since we are now in the 11th month of the year, monies meant for these projects be released, accessed and contract awarded;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) office to immediately award contracts in strict compliance with the provisions of law as stipulated in the 2009 Appropriation Act;
- (ii) Further urge the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) office to complete all outstanding 2008 projects as funds for them have been provided in the 2009 supplementary budget (*Hon. Dino Melaye*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
"Urge that Prayers (i) and (ii) of the Motion be complied with before consideration of Quickwin Projects with the MGDs 2010 budget by the House" (*Hon. Patrick Ikhariale*).

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

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
"Mandate the relevant Committee to conduct a Public Hearing to ascertain the capacity and capability of the Public Service and/or their role in the non/partial implementation of the Federal Budget" (*Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the partial and non implementation of the 2008/2009 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Quickwin Projects was not only disturbing but calls for immediate attention;

Further noted that since the 2008 projects were either yet to be completed or even started in some areas, it was necessary to ask questions on the 2009 projects;

Aware that since the 2009 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) projects had been budgeted for as provided in the 2009 Appropriation Act, it became worrisome why the projects were yet to be started;

Acknowledged that since we were now in the 11th month of the year, monies meant for these projects be released, accessed and contract awarded;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) office to immediately award contracts in strict compliance with the provisions of law as stipulated in the 2009 Appropriation Act;
- (ii) Further urge the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) office to complete all outstanding 2008 projects as funds for them have been provided in the 2009 supplementary budget;
- (iii) Also urge that Prayers (i) and (ii) of the motion be complied with before consideration of Quickwin Projects with the MGD's 2010 budget by the House.
- (iv) Mandate the relevant Committee to conduct a Public Hearing to ascertain the capacity and capability of the Public Service and/or their role in the non/partial implementation of the Federal Budget (HR. 67/2009).

8. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria as a Corporate body and to Empower the Council, *inter alia* to determine Persons, what Standard of Knowledge and Skill to be attained by such Persons; and for Related Matters, 2009 — *Third Reading: Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria as a Corporate body and to Empower the Council, *inter alia* to determine Persons, what Standard of Knowledge and Skill to be attained by such Persons; and for Related Matters, 2009 be read a Third Time" (*Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

9. **Adjournment of First Sitting:**
Motion Made and Question proposed, "That the House do now adjourn the First Sitting" (*Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.25 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker