



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 16 December, 2009

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1. The House met at 2.15 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, 15 December, 2009.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.
 3. **Petition:**
The following petition was received and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions:

Hon. Kayode Idowu (*Boripe/Ifelodun/Odo-Otin Federal Constituency*), from Bolarinwa Kamilu Adewale, praying the House to intervene in his alleged wrongful dismissal by WEMA Bank Plc with a view to re-instating him.
 4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**
Rising on Order VIII, Rule 4 of the Standing Orders of the House, Hon. Muktar Jubril invited the attention of the House to the increasing rate of accidents along Lokoja - Abuja road. He noted the need for urgent intervention by the Federal Emergency Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) for rehabilitation of and traffic control on the road in order to ameliorate the situation. 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.
 5. **Duties and Functions of Officers of the House — Order VII, Rule 5 (1) and (8):**
Pursuant to the above Standing Orders of the House, Mr Speaker announced additional responsibilities for the Chief Whip and Minority Whips of the House and to that effect shall:
 - (i) recommend Members of the Majority and Minority Parties to the Presiding Officers for National and International engagements;
 - (ii) be responsible for the welfare of Members;
 - (iii) supervise the Committees on House Services, Ethics and Privileges as well as Internal Security;
 - (iv) ensure comfort and discipline of Members in the Chamber; and
 - (v) assign seats to Members.
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6. **Need for the Federal Government to Takeover and Complete the Construction of Zik Centre, Zungeru, Niger State:**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in 1980, the Federal Government and some individuals initiated an Institution at Zungeru the birth place of late Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe to be known as ZIK MEMORIAL CENTRE;

Further notes that the late Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe will always be remembered and respected by all Nigerians and indeed Africans as a leader;

Aware that Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe was a patriotic politician, an intellectual icon, an appreciable statesman and a great nationalist;

Further aware that the objective which was not only to immortalize the name of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, but also to appreciate, study and emulate our great past political leaders;

Cognizant that during the foundation laying ceremony, the late Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe himself was physically present and, pleaded that the project be completed to serve its purpose;

Worried that the construction of this great and magnificent edifice of political research and learning has been abandoned half way and the structure has now turned out to be an abode for reptiles and hoodlums;

Resolves to:

- (i) recognize immense contributions of late Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe to the development and progress of Nigeria, urge the Federal Government to takeover and complete the project in pursuance of the ideals of the great leader;
- (ii) rename the centre, ZIK CENTRE FOR GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATIVE STUDIES when completed as one time President of the Senate (*Hon. Bala Adamu Kuta and 17 Others*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in 1980, the Federal Government and some individuals initiated an Institution at Zungeru the birth place of late Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe to be known as ZIK MEMORIAL CENTRE;

Further noted that the late Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe would always be remembered and respected by all Nigerians and indeed Africans as a leader;

Aware that Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe was a patriotic politician, an intellectual icon, an appreciable statesman and a great nationalist;

Further aware that the objective which was not only to immortalize the name of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, but also to appreciate, study and emulate our great past political leaders;

Cognizant that during the foundation laying ceremony, the late Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe himself was physically present and, pleaded that the project be completed to serve its purpose;

Worried that the construction of this great and magnificent edifice of political research and learning had been abandoned halfway and the structure had now turned out to be an abode for reptiles and hoodlums;

Resolved to:

- (i) recognize immense contributions of late Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe to the development and progress of Nigeria, urge the Federal Government to takeover and complete the project in pursuance of the ideals of the great leader;
- (ii) rename the centre, ZIK CENTRE FOR GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATIVE STUDIES when completed as one time President of the Senate (**HR. 82/2009**).

7. **West African Examination Council (WAEC) and National Examinations Council (NECO) Failure Rates and their Impact in Nigeria's Educational Future:**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the significance of Education in the development of Nigeria;

Further notes the increasing failure rates in both West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and National Examinations Council (NECO), each year as admitted by some officials of the Examination Bodies;

Aware that the 2009 West African Examinations Council (WAEC) results released by its National Head Office indicates that only 356,981 out of 1,373,009 candidates representing 25.99% obtained five (5) credits including English and Mathematics;

Worried that the statistics reveal a failure rate of 75% in the case of West African Examination Council (WAEC) and a similar percentage in National Examinations Council (NECO);

Disturbed that this ugly trend in the nation's most important sector is capable of preventing the realization of vision 20-20-20, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Seven Point Agenda if adequate, realistic and sincere measures are not taken;

Further disturbed by the very weak administrative mechanisms in the nation's educational regulatory authorities and the consequences which had resulted in mass failure in these examinations;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the House to set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the causes of such ridiculous mass failure in West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and National Examinations Council (NECO) examinations and recommend appropriate measures to be taken against such an ugly trend and report to the House within one month;
- (ii) further urge the Honourable Minister of Education to inform the House on the level of provision of Information Communications Technology (ICT), Instructional Materials, facilities and other necessary equipment to the nation's unity schools (*Hon. Umaru I. Kurfi*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i) and *insert* the following:
"mandate the Committee on Education to co-opt any Member with experience in Education sector and to investigate the causes of such mass failure in the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and National Examinations Council (NECO) examinations and recommend appropriate measures to be taken against such an ugly trend and report to the House within one month" (*Hon. Mustapha Ahmed*).

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

- (ii) *Leave out* Prayer (ii) (*Hon. Friday Itulah*).

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

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
"further mandate the Committee on Education to conduct periodic annual review of performances of candidates in West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and National Examinations Council (NECO) and report back to the House" (*Hon. Beni Lar*).

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

- (iv) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
"urge the Executive branch of government and the Ministry of Education to re-introduce Teachers Training Institutes in Nigeria in order to further strengthen the Educational Sector" (*Hon. Ita Enang*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the significance of Education in the development of Nigeria;

Further noted the increasing failure rates in both West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and National Examinations Council (NECO), each year as admitted by some officials of the Examination Bodies;

Aware that the 2009 West African Examinations Council (WAEC) results released by its National Head Office indicates that only 356,981 out of 1,373,009 candidates representing 25.99% obtained five (5) credits including English and Mathematics;

Worried that the statistics reveal a failure rate of 75% in the case of West African Examination Council (WAEC) and a similar percentage in National Examinations Council (NECO);

Disturbed that this ugly trend in the nation's most important sector was capable of preventing the realization of vision 20-20-20, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Seven Point Agenda if adequate, realistic and sincere measures are not taken;

Further disturbed by the very weak administrative mechanisms in the nation's educational regulatory authorities and the consequences which had resulted in mass failure in these examinations;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Education to co-opt any Member with experience in Education sector and to investigate the causes of such mass failure in WAEC and NECO examinations and recommend appropriate measures to be taken against such an ugly trend and report to the House within one month;
- (ii) further mandate the Committee on Education to conduct periodic annual review of performances of candidates in West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and National Examinations Council (NECO) and report back to the House;
- (iii) urge the Executive branch of government and the Ministry of Education to re-introduce Teachers Training Institutes in Nigeria in order to further strengthen the Educational Sector (HR. 83/2009).

8. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria for the purpose of efficiently resolving the Non-Performing Loan Assets of Banks in Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2009 — *Second Reading:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria for the purpose of efficiently resolving the Non-Performing Loan Assets of Banks in Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2009 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 the Second Time and referred to the Joint Committee on Capital Market and Finance.

9. A Bill for an Act to Enshrine an Annual State of the Nation Address in the Laws of the Federation and Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2009 — *Second Reading:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Enshrine an Annual State of the Nation Address in the Laws of the Federation and Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2009 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 the Second Time and referred to the Committee of Whole.

10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (Amendment) Act, 2007 and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 — *Second Reading:*

Order read, deferred.

11. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of National Agency for Albinism and Hypo-Pigmentation (NAAH), 2009 — *Second Reading:*

Order read, deferred.

12. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 17 December, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Tunde Akogun*).

Adjourned accordingly at 4.20 p.m.

Dimeji Sabur Bankole
Speaker