



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 16 March, 2004

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 Thursday, 11 March, 2004.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
Mr Speaker informed members that the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency, President Rau, would be visiting Nigeria from Tuesday, 16th to Friday 19th March, 2004. During the visit, President Rau would meet with the presiding officers and selected Committee Chairmen of the National Assembly at Senate Hearing Room 1, on Wednesday, 17th March, 2004 at 9.00 a.m. Accordingly, the following Committee Chairmen would join Mr Speaker to receive the visiting President:
 1. House Committee on Commerce;
 2. House Committee on Electoral Matters;
 3. House Committee on Federal Capital Territory
 4. House Committee on Communications;
 5. House Committee on Finance;
 6. House Committee on Governmental Affairs;
 7. House Committee on Education;
 8. House Committee on Science & Technology;
 9. House Committee on Women Affairs;
 10. House Committee on Population;
 11. House Committee on Health; and
 12. House Committee on Petroleum Resources.

4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**
Invoking Order VIII, Rule 4 (1), of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, Hon. Usman Mohammed Balkore informed the House that Locusts and Queller Birds had invaded and destroyed farmlands in Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States, threatening food production and the economic lives of rural dwellers in the affected States. He urged the House to debate this sad development as a matter of urgent public importance

Question, that the Matter be debated, put and agreed to.

Question, that Order VIII, Rule 4(3) be suspended to enable the House debate the Matter forthwith, put and agreed to.

Queller Birds and Locust Invasion of Farmlands in 15 Local Government Areas of Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That whereas Agriculture remains the mainstay for the livelihood of the majority of Nigerians;

Whereas dry season farming is the major veritable source of income for the rural dwellers of Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States;

The House:

notes with concern the recent invasion of farmlands by Queller birds and locusts in the three affected States in an unprecedented scale.

recognizes the technical and financial handicap of the three States to effectively and adequately combat the menace of these Queller birds and locusts;

shudders at the potential threat this menace poses to agricultural activities especially dry season farming as it affects the production of tomatoes, onions, maize, sorghum etc if left unchecked..

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency direct the relevant department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to intervene with aircrafts pesticides and other chemicals to bring the situation under control;
- (ii) Call on National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide immediate relief to the effected farmers to cushion the effect of Economic and welfare losses to enable them resume farming activities.
- (iii) Set up an ad-hoc Committee to visit the affected States to commiserate with the Government and people of Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States" (*Hon. Usman Mohammed Balkore, Hon. Mohammed Kabir Umar, Hon. Abdul A. Ningi, Hon. Abubakar B. Bwari, Hon. Ahmed M. Salik, Hon. Gilbat Nnaji, Hon. Aminu Wazir Tambuwal, Hon. Bala Ibn Na' Allah, Hon. Dahiru Zubairu, Hon. Bello Moriki, Hon. Kabiru Achida, Hon. Bashir B. Koko, Hon. Musa Abubakar Ausa, Hon. Altine Kajiji, Hon. Faruk U. Dange, Hon. Zakari Shinaka, Hon. Sirajo Gatawa, Hon. Nasiru Balarabe, Hon. Uzairu Suleiman, Hon. Sani M. Gusau, Hon. Sani R. Dorowa, Hon. Ibrahim Karnba, Hon. Abubakar S. Dakingari, Hon. Sani Argungu, Hon. Mukhtar Dikko, Hon. Faruk U. Abdullahi, Hon. Ibrahim Gwandu, Hon. Garba Umar Uba, Hon. Suleiman Gumi*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"Urge the Executive arm of Government to take all necessary measures to intervene to bring the situation under control" (*Hon. Yemi Oluwale*).

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

- (ii) *leave out* all the words in Prayer (iii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"Direct the House Committee on Agriculture to visit the affected States to carry out an on-the-spot assessment of the problem and report to the House" (*Hon. Yemi Oluwale*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

recognized that Agriculture remained the mainstay for the livelihood of the majority of Nigerians;

aware that dry season farming was the major veritable source of income for the rural dwellers of Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States;

noted with concern the recent invasion of farmlands by Queller birds and locusts in the three affected States in an unprecedented scale;

recognized the technical and financial handicap of the three States to effectively and adequately combat the menace of these Quella birds and locusts;

shuddered at the potential threat this menace poses to agricultural activities especially dry season farming as it affected the production of tomatoes, onions, maize, sorghum etc if left unchecked;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Executive arm of Government to take all necessary measures to intervene to bring the situation under control;
- (ii) Call on National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide immediate relief to the effected farmers to cushion the effect of Economic and welfare losses to enable them resume farming activities.
- (iii) Direct the House Committee on Agriculture to visit the affected States to carry out an on-the-spot assessment of the problem and report to the House (HR. 5/2004).

5. **Presentation of Reports:**

(i) **Committees on Appropriations:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That This House do consider the Report of the Committee on Appropriations on the Bill for an Act to Authorise the Issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the Total sum of ₦1,296,273,384,399 (One Trillion, Two Hundred and Ninety Six Billion, Two Hundred and Seventy Three Million, Three Hundred and Eighty Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Ninety Nine Naira) only of which the sum of ₦43,000,000,000 (Forty Three Billion Naira) only is for Statutory Transfers and the sum of ₦378,369,000,000 (Three Hundred and Seventy-Eight Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty-Nine Million) only is for Debt Service, while the sum of ₦523,312,286,982 (Five hundred and Twenty Three Billion, Three Hundred and Twelve Million, Two Hundred and Eighty Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty Two Naira) only is for Recurrent (Non-debt) Expenditure and the balance of ₦351,592,097,417 (Three Hundred and Fifty One Billion, Five Hundred and Ninety Two Million, Ninety Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventeen Naira) only is for contribution to the Development Fund for Capital Expenditure of the Government of the Federation for the Year Ending 31st December, 2004 and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Gabriel Suswan).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid..

Copies of the Report ordered to be made available to Members immediately.

(ii) **Committee on Finance:**

Revenue Framework for the Fiscal Year 2004:

Hon. Farouk Lawan Briefed the House on the Revenue Framework in relation to the Appropriation Bill 2004.

Copies of the brief ordered to be circulated to Members.

6. **A Bill for an Act to establish the Directorate of Rural Roads and Waterways Development as Means of Opening up the Rural Areas with Roads and Canals as Precondition to Guaranteeing Massive Agricultural Production and Distribution and the Stimulation of other Productive Services Sector, Consistent with the High Aspirations of the Incipient National Economic Recovery Plan., 2004 (HB. 65) — Second Reading:**

Order read and deferred.

7. **Security Situation in the Country:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to enable Members receive briefings from the Inspector General of Police on the Security situation in the country" (Hon. Abdul Ningi).

Question put and agreed to.

Question, That the House Order XVI Rule 9 of the House be suspended to enable the Inspector General of Police be admitted to the Floor of the House — agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(The Inspector General of Police briefed the House and answered Questions).

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker reported that the House in the Committee of Whole asked questions and received briefings from the Inspector General of Police, consequent upon which a Special Committee comprising the House Committees on Police Affairs, National Security, Internal Affairs, Army, Navy, Air Force and Defence was set up to plan for a Conference of Stakeholders to produce a blue print on the security situation in the country.

(See details of Proceeding in the Official Report of 16 March, 2004)

Question, That the Report of the Committee of Whole be adopted — agreed to.

8. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 17 March, 2004 at 2.00 p.m. *(Hon. Abdul Ningi).*

Adjourned accordingly at 2.00 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker