



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 23 June, 2004

1. The House met at 10.10 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Second Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 2 June, 2004.
By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.
3. Messages from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:
Mr Speaker read the following Messages from the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:
(i)

**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/1 34

The Honourable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Hon. Speaker,

RE.- PRESENTATION OF A BILL BOUNDARY COMMISSION DRAFT BILL

The above-mentioned Bill was earlier presented to the last House vide my letter PRES/134 of 28 February, 2003 for passage into law. However, the Bill was not passed by the House before the expiration of its tenure.

In view of the above, it is deemed necessary to re-present the Bill which has technically expired, for consideration and passage into law by the House.

Yours sincerely

(Signed)

OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

(ii)



**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/I 34

12 June 2004

*The Honourable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three-Arms Zone,
Asokoro — Abuja.*

Dear Hon. Speaker,

**PRESENTATION OF A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH
THE UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS TRUST FUND**

I hereby present, for formal consideration and passage into law by the House, the attached Bill which seeks to establish the Unclaimed Dividends Trust Fund for the management of unclaimed dividends in Nigeria and for matters connected therewith.

I hope the Bill will receive prompt attention of Honourable Members of the House.

Yours Sincerely

(Signed)

OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

(iii)



**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/I 34

12 June, 2004

*Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari,
Honourable Speaker,
Federal House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Hon. Speaker,

I am constrained to write you this letter, which has an element of urgency to it especially after my last letter to you to appropriate or reinstate the Contingency Vote of N2.5 billion, which was contained in the 2004 Budget Proposals submitted to the National Assembly. A Contingency budget is normally meant to take care of contingencies or emergencies that could not be foreseen and therefore planned into the normal budget. It could be a natural disaster or a man-made disaster for which government expenditure is required. We have such a situation in our hands in Plateau State where, for peace and security to return, we have to help the State to resettle those internally-displaced persons back to their homes.

In Bauchi State alone, there are more than 32,000 of such people. In Nasarawa State, there are more than 15,000 displaced people. I am yet to get exact numbers for Taraba State not to mention those that have been displaced within Plateau State that have not moved out to other States.

Now that the Administrator of Plateau State has visited these displaced persons and the visits have given new hope and confidence to the people to return home, we should not waste time to help with their resettlement.

I am, therefore, appealing to your sense of duty and patriotism as well as to your established concern for those displaced citizens of our country not to wait until the formal resumption from your recess on the 20th of July which will be too late before you give consideration to my Contingency, or should I say, emergency appeal for consideration of a Contingency Vote or Budget for ₦2.5 billion.

Please note that by the 18th of June, it would be one month since a State of Emergency was proclaimed in Plateau State. Since then, there have been no resources to effect resettlement, bring succour to the people, empower the Administrator to rebuild confidence in the people, and carry out the much-needed interventions and engagements to reposition the State for peace, harmony, love, inclusion, tolerance and commitment to democratic ideals.

Even donors who want to help are looking to us to show how much we are willing to help ourselves before they come in.

I trust that, as always, I can count on you to be part of this humanitarian process of urgently helping Plateau State to once again become the peaceful community that it used to be. That is the purpose of the State of Emergency.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

(iv)



PRESIDENT

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

June 16, 2004

Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari,
Honourable Speaker,
Federal House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

Dear Hon. Speaker,

**RE: RESTORATION OF CONTINGENCY
VOTE IN BUDGET 2004**

Further to my letter of May 17, 2004, Ref. PRES/134 on the above issue, I wish to make a clarification. I now understand that to effect the request in the said letter, a new Bill would be required. This, I believe, would take time and negate the purpose for the funds as explained in the letter.

Consequently, I am writing that the request be effected by virement of funds as part of global and comprehensive virement for meaningful implementation of the budget 2004. This would then make it unnecessary to pass a new Bill.

As always, I count on your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

(Signed)
OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

4. Announcements:

Obituary:

Mr Speaker announced the death of the father of Hon. Hadi Abubakar Sirika (*Duşi/Mashi Federal Constituency of Katsina State*). He had been buried according to Islamic rites.

(One minute in silence observed in honour of the deceased; Hon. Usman Bugaje prayed for the repose of the soul of the departed).

5. Virement, Pursuant to Section 3, Appropriations Act, 2004:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That whereas the National Assembly in the Year 2004 Appropriation Act, provided the sum of ₦35,299,774,789 (Thirty Five Billion, Two Hundred and Ninety Nine Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Nine Naira) for Recurrent Expenditure for the Presidency and the Parastatals under its supervision;

WHEREAS the sum of ₦500,000,000 (Five Hundred Million Naira only) was appropriated for contingency vote;

WHEREAS the sum of ₦3,000,000,000 (Three Billion Naira only) was provided for special operational fund under the Office of the National Security Adviser;

WHEREAS Section 3 of the 2004 Appropriation Act provides that, in the event that the implementation of any of the projects intended to be undertaken under the Act cannot be completed without virement, such virement shall only be effected with the prior approval of the National Assembly;

WHEREAS the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has requested for the urgent restoration of the contingency vote to address the emergency situation in Plateau State;

WHEREAS the National Assembly is now legislating for Plateau State under emergency rule pursuant to the proclamation of the State of Emergency in Plateau State; and

WHEREAS the President is requesting for more contingency funds in order to address the emergency situation in Plateau State.

Be it resolved by this Honourable House:

- (i) That the sum of Two billion Naira only be vired from the operational funds under the Office of the National Security Adviser vote, to the contingency vote, which already has a provision of Five Hundred Million Naira, bringing the total contingency vote to the sum of Two billion Five Hundred Million Naira only (as requested by Mr President); and
- (ii) That if there be any further need for more contingency funds, the service-wide votes of One Billion Naira only and margin for increased costs vote of Five Hundred Million Naira already provided for in the 2004 Act should be applied" (*Hon. Suswan Gabriel*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House noted that:

The National Assembly in the Year 2004 Appropriation Act, provided the sum of ₦35,299,774,789 (Thirty Five Billion, Two Hundred and Ninety Nine Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Nine Naira) for Recurrent Expenditure for the Presidency and the Parastatals under its supervision;

The sum of ₦500,000,000 (Five Hundred Million Naira only) was appropriated for contingency vote;

The sum of ₦3,000,000,000 (Three Billion Naira only) was provided for special operational fund under the Office of the National Security Adviser;

Section 3 of the 2004 Appropriation Act provided that, in the event that the implementation of any of the projects intended to be undertaken under the Act cannot be completed without virement, such virement should only be effected with the prior approval of the National Assembly;

The National Assembly was now legislating for Plateau State under emergency rule pursuant to the proclamation of the State of Emergency in Plateau State; and

The President was requesting for more contingency funds in order to address the emergency situation in Plateau State.

Resolved:

- (i) That the sum of Two billion Naira only be vired from the operational funds under the Office of the National Security Adviser vote, to the contingency vote, which already had a provision of Five Hundred Million Naira, bringing the total contingency vote to the sum of Two billion Five Hundred Million Naira only (as requested by Mr President); and
- (ii) That if there be any further need for more contingency funds, the service-wide votes of One Billion Naira only and margin for increased costs vote of Five Hundred Million Naira already provided for in the 2004 Act should be applied (*HR. 9/2004*).

Committees on State and Local Governments and National Security and Intelligence ordered to liaise with the Presidency with a view to exercising oversight on the disbursement of funds

6. **Presentation and Adoption of Conference Report on the Pension Reform Bill, 2004:**

The House, on Wednesday, 2 June, 2004 passed the Pension Reform Bill, 2004;

The versions of the Bill as passed by the Senate and the House contained fundamental differences;

The two Chambers have met in Conference, resolved these differences and accepted a harmonized Report on the Bill;

A Clean Copy of the Conference Report is ready for presentation and adoption;

Considering the critical importance of the Pension Reform Bill to the national economy and to the social and economic well-being of Nigerian workers;

This House do resolve to receive and adopt the Conference Report on the Pension Reform Bill, 2004 (*Hon. Chidi Duru*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid and adopted.

7. **Reconstitution of Conference Committee on the Federal Capital Authority Appropriation Bill, 2004:**

Mr Speaker named the following conferees:

House Leader

- (i) Hon. Abdul Ningi
- (ii) Hon. Gabriel Susuwan
- (iii) Hon. Farouk Lawan
- (iv) Hon. Philips Aduda
- (v) Hon. Jeff Ojinika
- (vi) Hon. Igo Aguma
- (vii) Hon. Animashaun

8. **Adjournment:**

That this House do now adjourn till Thursday, 24 June, 2004 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. Abdul Ningi*).

Adjourned accordingly at 11.45 a.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker