

0655

0656

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 30th July, 2009

The House met at 11.05 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the House is called to Order. I have examined but do not approve the Vote and Proceedings of Wednesday 29th of July, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit of Students of Life Gate Academy, Abuja; and Members of Tourism Club, Kano

The Speaker: We recognise the presence in the Gallery of:

- (a) Staff and Students from Life Gate Academy, Abuja; and
- (b) Members of Tourism Club, Kano.

Could you, please, stand up for recognition?

(Staff and Students from Life Gate Academy and Members of Tourism Club stood up for recognition)

Obituary

The Speaker: With heavy heart, I announce the death of Hon. Maxwell Bulama (Member representing Gombe/Hong Federal Constituency) from 1999 to 2003 which occurred on Wednesday, 29th July, 2009.

Could Members, please rise for one minute silence?

(One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

The Speaker: Any Member who has a Petition to present to the House may, please, rise to do so.

Plea to take Possession of Unserviceable Overhead Water Tank

Hon Mayor Eze (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from F. M. Ezeiruakwu & Company Ltd, Auctioneer, praying the House to prevail on the Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to allow their client take possession of unserviceable overhead water tank auctioned to him at Shagari Estate, Ipaja, Lagos.

With your kind permission, may I lay the Petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Please do.

(Petition laid)

Alleged Non-payment of Compensation

Hon Herman C Hembe (Konshisha/Vandekiya): I have here from Mr. John Iyorver Ami a Petition praying this honourable House to intervene in the alleged non-payment of compensation due to him by the National Council on Agriculture following the loss he sustained as a result of the outbreak of Swine Fever Epidemic of 1998.

I beg to lay the Petition on the Table.

The Speaker: Go ahead.

(Petition laid)

Re: Destruction of Aleibiri and Angalao Weigbene Communities By Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC)

Hon H. N. Dickson (Ekeremor/Sagbama) Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from M. D. Terepere Engineering Limited on behalf of Aleibiri and Angalao-Weigbene Communities praying the House to investigate the destruction of their communities by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) as a result of oil exploration and grant the relief sought.

Mr. Speaker may I, please, lay the Petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Go ahead.

Petition laid.

Alleged Theft of Container under the custody of CMA CGM DELMAS Nigeria Ltd.

0657

0658

Hon. Chinwendu C. Odedo (Idemili North/Idemili South): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from Azubuike Anoliefo and Company, Legal Practitioner on behalf of Nelcon International Limited praying the House to investigate the alleged theft of

container No. CMA CGM U5 130465 under the custody of CMA CGM DELMAS Nigeria Ltd with a view to payment of claim.

Alleged Non-Payment of Disengagement Entitlements

I also have a Petition from Mrs. Nnoli Bridget praying the House to intervene in the alleged non-payment of her disengagement entitlements by the Cross River State Government and grant the relief sought.

With your kind permission, Mr. Speaker, I will lay the two Petitions on the Table.

The Speaker: All right, go ahead.

Petitions laid.

Alleged Unlawful Dismissal from the Nigeria Police Force

Hon. Nasidi Mohammed Danladi (Baure/Zango): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from one of my Constituents, Sergeant Musa Danladi together with three others. He was in the Nigeria Police and was accused of being an accomplice in an armed robbery operation. Sergeant Danladi and some other Policemen were dismissed from the service of Nigeria Police and their case was taken to a Katsina High Court which delivered judgment exonerating them. He has, therefore, decided to write to the House to prevail on the Nigeria Police to reinstate them so that justice can be seen to be done to their case.

With your permission, I will lay the Petition on the Table.

The Speaker: Go ahead.

(Petition laid)

Police Brutality of an 80 years old man

Hon. Ifaluyi Isibor (Egor Ikpoba Okha): I have a Petition from an 80 years old man. About twenty years ago, he was brutalised by Mobile Policemen in Benin. He went to court and got judgment in the sum of ₦500,000 against the Nigeria Police.

The man in question is now 83 years old and he is appealing to this honourable House to assist him get his money from the Police authorities before he dies. This is a very serious issue.

The court gave judgment and the Police refused to honour the judgment and he has absolute confidence that this House will be a source of contentment in doing that.

May I ask for your permission to lay this Petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Please, go ahead.

Petition laid.

Conduct likely to Cause the Breach of the Peace

Hon. Asita Honourable (Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni/Ahoada West): I have a Petition signed by one Comrade P. M. Godwin and Izi Chialuka for and on behalf of the Itu Obosukwu Community in Rivers State. The Petition is titled: *Conduct Likely to Cause the Breach of the Peace* between the People of Ndoni and Ahoada.

With your kind permission, may I lay the Petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Yes, you may.

Petition laid.

The Speaker: Are there any more petitions? (No response) All the Petitions are referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

(Petitions accordingly referred to the Committee on Public Petitions)

Notice of Meeting of the Committee on Appropriation

The Speaker: This is from the Chairman, Committee on Appropriation. He is reminding Members of the Committee that there will be meeting of the Committee today in Room 301 at 1:00 p.m.

All Chairmen of Standing Committees of Rules and Business, Special Duties and Sub-Committee Chairmen of Appropriation are invited to attend their meeting on Saturday.

0659

0660

Hon. Nelson G. O. Alapa (Ohimini/Otukpo):
Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: What is the Point of Order, Hon. Nelson Alapa?

Hon. Nelson G. O. Alapa: My Point of Order refers to Order V, Sub-Rules (1), (2) and (3) of our Standing Orders dealing with Privileges.

Precisely on the 26th of September, 2007 a Petition was brought before this honourable House by Hon. Habu Abubakar Shehu Gumi on behalf of 71 Officers of National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) alleging wrongful termination of their appointment.

This House referred this Petition to the Committee on Public Petitions. After about six or seven months, the Committee brought a Report before this House. On further appeal before this House, the House directed this Petition to Committee on Drugs, Narcotic and Financial Crimes and I am privileged to be a Member of this Committee. In fact, I enjoyed the favour of my Chairman, Hon. Dave Salako of being the Chairman of the Investigative Panel of this Committee.

We went into action and seriously concluded deliberation on this Report. Our Chairman, Hon. Dave Salako, was at the verge of presenting the Report before this honourable House before he was stopped by the then dissolution of Standing Committees of this House. One would ordinarily say that at the re-constitution of a new Committee the new Chairman should take off from where his predecessor stopped and bring this Report before this House.

As I am talking to you now I am in constant touch with these 71 dismissed staff of NDLEA. They are of the opinion that the justice demanded in this matter had gone into oblivion.

However, I have constantly assured them that this House has integrity to defend justice at all times. Having said this, I want to finally say that it might interest you to hear sympathetically that about six of these seventy one officers have gone to the great beyond while waiting for justice.

I therefore seek the leave of this House to demand that the Report of this Committee on this matter be laid before this honourable House.

Thank you for this privilege.

The Speaker: Is the Chairman of the Committee on Drugs and Narcotics here? (*No response*) Is his Deputy here? (*No response*)

Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business, we would like to see the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of this Committee on the next Legislative Day. I would like to appeal to any Member that has Wireless Microphone System in the office to, please, send it to the Plenary now.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

The Speaker: The next Business of the Day is Presentation of four Bills. The Clerk is invited to read the Short Titles of the Bills.

Treatment, Management and Control of Lassa Fever Bill, 2009

Treatment, Management and Control of Lassa Fever Bill, 2009 (HB. 297) – presented by Hon. Patrick Ikhariale (Esan Central/Esan West/Igubeben); *read the First Time.*

Federal Highway Medical Services Agency Bill, 2009

Federal Highway Medical Services Agency Bill, 2009 (HB. 298) – presented by Hon. Patrick Ikhariale (Esan Central/Esan West/Igubeben); *read the First Time.*

City Technical University Kaduna Bill, 2009

City Technical University Kaduna Bill, 2009 (HB. 277) – presented by Hon. Godfrey Ali Gaiya (Jaba/Zango Kataf); *read the First Time.*

City Technical University, Yaba, Lagos Bill, 2009

City Technical University Yaba, Lagos Bill, 2009 (HB. 278) – presented by Hon. Samuel W. Sejoro (Badagry); *read the First Time.*

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, we are not going to stop this proceeding today because of this hitch with the sound system; we are going to move on. So we can make it easier for ourselves.

If any Member has a system that we can take advantage of, please, send it to the Chamber.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Rules and Business on a Bill for an Act to make it Mandatory for the National Assembly to Scrutinise and Approve Subsidiary Instrument before it becomes Enforceable

The Speaker: The next Business of the Day is Presentation and Adoption of the Report of the

0661

Committee on Rules and Business on a Bill for an Act to Make it Mandatory for the National Assembly to Scrutinise and Approve Subsidiary Instrument before it becomes Enforceable and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 standing in the name of Hon. Ita Enang.

My dear Colleagues, you would recall that the Report was referred to the Committee on Thursday 25th February, 2009. The Report is ready.

Hon. Ita Enang, please proceed.

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do Receive the Report of the Committee on Rules and Business and Justice on a Bill for an Act to make it Mandatory for the National Assembly to Scrutinise and Approve Subsidiary Instrument before it becomes Law and Enforceable and for Matters Connected Therewith.

Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale (Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben): I do second the Motion moved by Hon. Ita Enang.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

Report of Committee on Interior on the Non-Compliance with Section 3(3) of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (Amendment) Act, 2007

The Speaker: The next Business of the Day is Presentation of the Report of the Committee on Interior on the Non-Compliance with Section 3(3) of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (Amendment) Act, 2007 by the Ministry of Interior standing in the name of the Chairman, Hon. Jerry Manwe. This Report was referred to the Committee on Wednesday, 18th March, 2009. The Report is ready.

Hon. Manwe, please, present your Report.

Hon. Jerimon S. Manwe (Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo Kola): I rise to move that this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Interior on the Non-Compliance with Section 3(3) of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (Amendment) Act, 2007.

Hon. Mohammed Umaru Kurfi (Dutsin Ma/Kurfi): I rise to second the Motion moved by my Colleague, Hon. Jerimon S. Manwe.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

0662

Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on Auditor-General's Reports on the Accounts of the Federal Government for 2003 and 2005

The Speaker: The next Business of the Day is Presentation of the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the Findings and Recommendations on the Examinations Conducted on Ministries and Agencies on Auditor-General's Reports on the Accounts of the Federal Government for 2003 and 2005 and Status Report on some Public Entities standing in the name of Hon. Usman A. Mohammed.

Hon. Mohammed, please present your Report.

Hon. Usman A. Mohammed (Albasu/Gaya/Ajingi): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the Findings and Recommendations on the Examinations Conducted on Ministries and Agencies on Auditor-General's Reports on the Accounts of the Federal Government for 2003 and 2005 and Status Report on some Public Entities.

Hon. Shuaibu Umaru Galadima (Yamaltu/Debba): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion moved by Hon. Shuaibu Umaru Galadima.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on NIGCOMSAT – 1 and the Activities/Operations of Nigerian Communication Technology

The Speaker: The next Business of the Day is the Presentation and Adoption of the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on the Investigative Hearing on NIGCOMSAT – 1 and the Activities/Operations of Nigerian Communication Technology standing in the name of Hon. Akinlade Abiodun Isiaq.

Hon. Abiodun, please present your Report.

Hon. Akinlade Abiodun Isiaq (Egbado South/Ipokia): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on the Investigative Hearing on NIGCOMSAT-1 and the Activities/Operations of Nigerian Communication Technology.

Hon. King Aniedi Ikpong (Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Erbiom): Mr. Speaker, I do second the Motion moved by the Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology.

0663

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

**Report of the Committee on NDDC on the
Presidential Nominees for the Governing
Board of the Commission**

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is the presentation and adoption of the Report of the Committee on NDDC on the Presidential Nominees for the Governing Board of the Commission standing in the name of Hon. Nicholas Mutu.

Hon. Colleagues would recall that the Report was referred to the Committee on the 28th of July, 2009. The Report is ready.

I call on Hon. Nicholas Mutu to present the Report.

Hon. Nicholas E. Mutu (Bomadi/Patani): I move that this House do receive and adopt the Report of the Committee on NDDC on the Presidential Nominees for the Governing Board of the Commission.

Hon. Ita Enang: I second the Motion.

Hon. Nicholas E. Mutu: In compliance with Section 2(2) and 12(4)(c) of the NNDC Act 2002 which states that the President and the Commander-in-Chief shall appoint the Chairman and Members of the Board of the Commission subject to confirmation by the Senate in consultation with the House of Representatives, the Senate President wrote a letter to the Hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives on the constitution of the Niger Delta Commission Governing Board. Consequently, this Committee received a referral from this House on the confirmation of the Nominees on Tuesday, July 28, 2009 and to report to the House on Thursday, July 30, 2009.

The Committee's recommendations are as follows:
No. 1. *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hold on, Hon. Nicholas Mutu. That is not what I asked you to do. There was a Motion on the Floor of this House yesterday. Have your Committee met with the nominees?

Hon. Nicholas E. Mutu: Yes, we have.

The Speaker: So, they have been invited and you are satisfied with what you needed to do?

0664

Hon. Nicholas E. Mutu: Yes, they all came and we screened them.

The Speaker: That is all right. That is what we need. Can you move your Motion again?

Hon. Nicholas E. Mutu: I move that this Report be recommitted to the Committee of Whole for consideration of its recommendations.

Hon. Warman W. Ogoriba (Yenagoa/Kolukoma/Opokuma): I second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Report of the Committee on NDDC on the Presidential Nominees for the Governing Board of the Commission be recommitted to the Committee of Whole for consideration of its recommendations.

Hon. Ita Enang: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: What is the point of Order, Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business?

Hon. Ita Enang: I pray that the Order Paper be reordered so that we can go to Consideration of Reports before we come to the Motion. It is for the appropriate management of time and in view of the fact that today is the last sitting day of the House before the House goes on vacation.

The Speaker: I believe you are in order.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Public Procurement (Amendment) Act Bill, 2007

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 (HB. 87)

Order for Third Reading.

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008.

Members would recall that the Bill was passed on Thursday 9th October, 2008 and transmitted to the Senate for Concurrence. However, the House sought the need to have further legislative input on the Bill

0665

pursuant to Order VII, Rule 10(2) of our Standing Orders.

I hereby invite Hon. Ita Enang to move that the Bill be recommitted to the Committee on Public Procurement for furtherer legislative action.

Hon. Ita Enang: As the Speaker rightly said, this Bill was read the Third Time and committed to the Senate and we had intended to send a Conference to the

Senate but in the course of that, we discovered that there was a constitutional infraction.

I hereby come under Order XII, Rule 4, to seek that this Bill be recommitted to the Committee of Whole for reconsideration.

Hon. Ralph Okeke (Anambra East/Anambra West): I second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill, with the leave of the House, recommitted to the Committee of the Whole for reconsideration.

Annual State-of-the-Nation Address

A Bill for an Act to Enshrine an Annual State-of-the-Nation Address in the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2009 -

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is the commencement of debate on the General Principles of A Bill for an Act to Enshrine an Annual State-of-the-Nation Address in the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2009. The Bill was read for the First Time on Wednesday, 25th March, 2009.

I now invite Hon. Christopher Eta to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Ita Enang: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: Hold on Hon. Eta Enang. Apparently, Hon. Ita Enang has a Point of Order.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill that was sponsored by the Deputy President of the Senate and incidentally Hon. Christopher Eta also sponsored a Bill on the same subject matter and the other Bill passed the Second Reading and was committed. But when this Bill came we still had to list it because it came as a Bill from the Senate for concurrence.

0666

So, I pray that we do not put Question on this Bill again. We should simply commit it to the Committee of the Whole since the Question had been put on the Bill as sponsored by Hon. Christopher Eta which is the same as this Bill that is seeking our concurrence.

The Speaker: Hon. Ita Enang, can you read the relevant Rule for us?

Hon. Ita Enang: Order XII, Rule (14) on page 54 of our Standing Orders. It states:

Bills on the same Subject Matter

More than one Bill on the same subject matter may be introduced but when the Second Reading of a Bill has been agreed to or negatived, the Question shall not be proposed for the Second Reading of another Bill of the same subject matter - (Interruptions)

The Speaker: Hold on, Hon. Ita Enang. Why are you in such a rush? I do not think you read the entire content of that to us. I am sure that rule is referring to two Bills in this House, not a Bill here and a Bill in the Senate.

So what is the whole point of harmonisation?

Hon. Ita Enang: I agree with the point taken by Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. On the Point of Order, you are ruled out of Order. So you can sit down now.

Hon. Emmanuel Nwika Deeyah (Gokana/Khana): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: What is the Point of Order, Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah?

Hon. Emmanuel Nwika Deeyah: Let me throw more light on this. Procedurally, anything we start here has Bill number and anything from the Senate has a different lifespan. We will only meet at harmonisation.

The Speaker: That is what I said.

Hon. Emmanuel Nwika Deeyah: Hon. Ita Enang is fond of doing this kind of thing.

The Speaker: Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah, can you take your seat please?

Hon. Christopher Sunday Eta (Boki/Ikom): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do commence the debate on a Bill for an Act to Enshrine an Annual State-

0667

of-the-Nation Address in the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2009.

Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu (Aniocha North/South/ Oshimili North/South): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion moved by Hon. Christopher Eta.

Hon. Christopher Eta: Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill from the Senate on enshrinement of the State-of-the-Nation Address in the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria. (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: Hon. Christopher Eta, is this your Bill or a Bill from the Senate? Hon. Eta, I hope you can read my lips; is this your Bill? (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Colleagues, please sheath your sword for now. I need to reconfirm one thing now.

Your Bill has passed Second Reading, yes or no?

Hon. Christopher Eta: It has.

The Speaker: Now, this is not your Bill.

Hon. Christopher Eta: No.

The Speaker: If it is not your Bill, then you have no *locus standi* to be speaking on it.

Hon. Ita Enang is actually correct. What we should be doing now really is to go for harmonisation on your Bill.

Hon Ita Enang: When this Bill came, Mr. Speaker, I spoke with Hon. Leo Ogor that we had a Bill which the Senate had passed on the same subject matter and asked whether or not his Report was ready so that we could take it all at the same time and he said that his Report was not ready.

The Speaker: So why did you list it for us to consider?

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, this is coming from the Senate for concurrence. When a Bill comes from the Senate, we cannot keep it under the Table just because our Committee is still working on it. That is the procedure.

The Speaker: So you want to jettison our own Committee.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, we are not jettisoning it. This one also has been gazetted and given

0668

a number because every Bill of ours that goes to the Senate is published and given a number.

Therefore, I pray that if this Bill is suffering some procedural challenges, we can stand it down for further action.

The Speaker: What we are saying is that this is a Senate Bill; is it not?

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, it is, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: So why is the House not keen on it?

Hon. Ita Enang: When a Bill comes from the Senate, it cannot on the Floor of the House bear SB. Number. We have to give our own number which is HB, that is, House Bill. That is the procedure and that is what we do.

The Speaker: It is all right. We are going to stand this Bill down.

Bill, with the leave of the House, stood down.

The Speaker: When Hon. Leo Ogor's Report is ready, both Bills will go for harmonisation and then we move forward.

Hon. Ita Enang, we will go back to the Motions now so that we can take them. We have taken both Bills for the day.

Hon. Ita Enang: I agree, Sir.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

MOTIONS

Need to Upgrade the National Identity Card Scheme to meet International Standard

The Deputy Speaker: The next Order of the Day is a Motion on the Need to Upgrade the National Identity Card Scheme to meet International Standard.

Hon. Alex Ukam, you can move your Motion, please.

Hon. Alex Ikor Ukam (Akamkpa/Biase): I beg to move the Motion on the Need to Upgrade the National Identity Card Scheme to meet International Standard.

The House:

0669

0670

Appreciates the Federal Government's effort to identify its Citizens through the National Identity Card Scheme;

Aware that despite the huge sums of money spent on the Scheme, there is still much to be done about its workability;

Regrets that the failure of the National Identity Card Scheme in Nigeria had led to reliance on different documents identification instruments;

Acknowledges that the revival of the National Identity Card Scheme will facilitate communications, promote economic activities and exchange of

information on the identification and particulars of Citizens between Nigeria and other countries;

Disturbed that on a weekly basis the foreign media is replete with news of non-Nigerians claiming to be Nigerian citizens who are arrested for committing heinous crimes which tarnish the image of the country;

Recognises that the international trend is to adopt a National Identification Scheme which provides a database for multifarious functions such as verification of forensic evidence in criminal justice administration, voters' registration, immigration service and identification of Citizens and foreigners;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the National Identity Management Commission to upgrade the machinery of the National Identity Database and the entire scheme to meet with International Standard;
- (ii) Mandate the House Committee on Interior to furnish the House on the last registration exercise conducted by the National Identity Management Commission and report to the House within two weeks.

I so move.

Hon. Kayode Idowu (Odo Otin/Ifelodun/Boripe):
I do second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Alex Ukam, please proceed. Are you a Bishop? I am just making sure.

Hon. Alex Ukam: Yes, I am a Bishop. This Motion seeks to address two principal issues:

- (i) The standard of our current Identity Card.

- (ii) The question of what went wrong with the last National Identity Card Registration Exercise in the country.

You will agree with me that the importance of having a standardised National Identity Card that meets the international standard cannot be compromised. It is expected that a standard Identity Card should promote or facilitate communication; promote economic integration as well as authentic agent of information between countries.

It is also expected that a standard Identity Card that meets international standards should also serve multipurpose interest. National Identity Card should provide the security agencies the service of verification in criminal justice administration.

What we have today as National Identity Card cannot be said to meet that international standard we are talking about. What we have today, as National Identity Card is not recognised by many agencies of government because it is substandard. When you go to the bank or any business house for any activity, they will rather ask you to produce either your International Passport or Driving Licence whereas in the Act establishing the National Identity Management Commission, we have made adequate provisions and spelt out even in the Schedule what and what in each person's feature that will appear in the National Identity Card. What has been produced to us is more or less an empty Identity Card.

It is also stated in the Act that the international passport number of any holder of international passport should equally be inserted in the National Identity cards. Unfortunately, it is not there.

Mr. Speaker, you need to see the detail of the current Identity cards. One of the items there having to do with Occupation is not enough. If you ask anybody about his occupation, if he is a lawyer, he will say; I am a lawyer. If he is a medical doctor, he will say, I am a Medical Doctor. That does not spell out where one is working. It is expected that if you are not working, you can fill in the word applicant and as soon one secures a job, one can now go back to what we call *update* but there is no such provision.

It appears that we are not even interested in finding out what happened with the last registration of persons by the National Identity Management Commission when so much money had been expended. Several years after the exercise, I cannot tell my constituents what went wrong with the last exercise. Despite the fact that the government admitted that something actually went wrong with the last exercise, as

0671

I am talking to you, no action had been taken to correct what went wrong with that exercise.

With this, I urge my Colleagues to please support this very important Motion.

The Speaker: I will give the Floor to those who want to speak for the Motion.

Hon. Kayode Idowu (Odo Otin/Ifelodun/Boripe): It is important for me to say that the Motion is very good because the intention of the motion is to actually have a competitive National Identity Card.

What is the objective of the National Identity Card? The objective is that once you see a Nigerian, you will be able to identify the person wholly. At least you will have the opportunity to meet that particular person as you are seeing him or her.

Let me also say that this Motion is a bit technical. No two persons will have the same identification number which shows that it is highly authentic. You cannot have two persons having the same passport number but not everyone can have the opportunity of having a passport in this country. That was why the government believed then that its citizens must have something that we can use to identify people in this country so that we can have a comprehensive database with which we would be able to identify ourselves in this particular country whether in the rural areas or urban areas; that is one. Secondly, the database from which these identity cards are produced must be dynamic enough to capture the fingerprint of every citizen of this country.

It is equally important that the update of whatever is on the identity card should be automatic and dynamic which is definitely not the case today. That is why it is difficult to actually use it as identification for the citizens of this country. If it is fully implemented it will go a long way in solving our security problems facing us in this country. Secondly, it will definitely help us to identify defaulters which we have in this country. Not only that, it will enable us identify ourselves such that we can be safe at any moment and people can know that this country has come of age. This is because we have enough equipment to carry out this task.

Therefore, I urge my hon. Colleagues to support this Motion.

The Deputy Speaker: The Floor is still open to those in favour of the Motion.

Hon. Isa Idris Umaru (Igabi): I stand to support

0672

this Motion for the fact that when you look at the crisis Nigeria is facing today, I must say it is as a result of unidentifiable people coming from all parts of the country and causing mayhem. If national identity is made very comprehensive and it covers the entire Nigerians as stipulated in this motion, definitely we would no longer have crisis in Nigeria. I support the Motion to be able to standardise our national identity so that every Nigerian should be identifiable.

Identification is one of the key elements for adequate planning by any country and being able to identify our citizens will definitely make us a secured nation.

Hon. Jerimon S. Manwe (Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola): Mr. Speaker, I have so many issues concerning this issue of National Identity Card. It may interest this august Chamber to note that the Governing Board of NIMC is not yet in place in spite of the fact that the Act setting up the Commission was passed in 2007.

While the intention to establish an Agency like that is good but there has not been proper planning. The Agency has been moving from one Ministry to another. Therefore, I want to propose an Amendment in addition to what the mover of the Motion is praying for *that this Chamber should, as a matter of urgency, ask the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to put the Governing Board of the National Identical Management in place.* This is because without a Board so many things cannot be done.

Even the Director General of the Commission is there on an acting capacity. Therefore, if we want to do the proper thing, a proper structure of NIMC needs to be in place.

I urge my Colleagues to support this Motion *in toto*.

The Deputy Speaker: I will now give the Floor to those who want to speak against the Motion.

Hon. Austin Nwachukwu (Ehime Mbano/Ihite Uboma/Obowo): Mr. Speaker, ordinarily I do not intend to speak against this Motion but as a Member of the Interior Committee I would like to give this House a very serious assignment.

The issue my Colleague raised is very serious. I want to inform this House that this item of updating the Department of the National Identity Card Scheme has been captured in this year's budget and the equipment as we are speaking right now are being procured. Therefore, it is not in our interest to over flog the main cause.

0673

What I am saying is that we have budgeted over ~~N~~400 million in the 2009 Budget for equipment upgrading. It will not be fair to give the monkey a cup of water and turn our back to it. We should find out more facts from our dear Colleague who happens to be a Member of the Interior Committee and who should have known that we have appropriated such amount of money for database for the upgrade of the National Identity Card equipment.

We know that when this ID Card Scheme started many people were sent to jail for mismanagement of the scheme and corruption. We also know that a former Minister of Interior was sent to jail for corruption and he later died. I am saying that we should not over flog the matter but ask that Interior Ministry should compel the appropriate office to, please, install the equipment as stated in our budget for this year.

Hon. Dino Melaye (Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu): Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to speak vehemently against this Motion simply on the ground that we must ask ourselves what is the yardstick, indices or criteria for Identity Card that can meet international standards are? If you say it is because the former or the present National Identity Card is analogue, I want to say here that, for example, the National Identity Card that I was given reads: *Dino Melaye from Edo State; born in 1942*.

I want to say that it is not even an analogue ID card because it has a micro security chip with all the information needed therein. So if you want to upgrade the new one you must do a comparative analysis of what is contained in the old and in the new.

As I speak to you now we must have been aware that the last scheme was marred with massive corruption. If today you are asking that the relevant Committee investigates the corruption that took place during the last Identity Card exercise, I will support it but for you to say today that we should go again on a fresh upgrade of the National Identity Card scheme, then you are creating another corruption and another job for contractors and others to come and make money from this contract. I personally do not support it.

There is no need for this Chamber to sit down here and agree that we will go and spend money on the upgrade of the National Identity Card. We should go and upgrade the old one and we should not support what is not recognised. In any organisation that you go to, they will either ask you of your National Identity Card or International Passport or at most your drivers' licence.

Therefore, what we need to do is for the relevant Committee to embark on oversight at the National Identity Management Commission to make sure that

0674

they do the right thing; A should be A and B should be B. They should not be mixing up information.

Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo (Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika): Mr. Speaker, let me thank my brother Hon. Ukam for presenting this Motion. I would not have spoken against the Motion but for the presentation he made mention of; *inclusion of work place of individuals in the identity cards*. The idea here is that the only thing that is permanent to indigenes of Nigeria is that ID card; the other one that refers to the workplace is just temporary. Supposing somebody is a Member of the National Assembly and is being captured in the National ID card as a Member of House of Representatives, when he gets out of the House, will he surrender this ID card for modification? Supposing somebody is working in the Police Force and he is dismissed, will he surrender the National ID card for modification?

So, I believe we should allow it to stand the way it is except this is excluded in which case, I will support the Motion but if it is going to be included, I disagree totally for fear of misrepresentation.

Hon. Abdu Mohammad Sani (Alkalari/Kirfi): I rise to oppose this Motion on a very fundamental ground than most Members have done in the sense that I hold here my National ID card which was collected by somebody who said he has seen it not even in the ward where I registered. I did it in Abuja but it was collected in Bauchi; that is one.

Secondly, it is very comprehensive in terms of the database because it includes my date of birth, occupation, where I reside; even the name of my next of kin is there. A lot of details and there is also a computer chip taking more of the details. So I think the issue is not the issue of upgrading of machines. As it is today, anybody can have this otherwise I cannot register in FCT and somebody gets it in Bauchi just because we have put our date of birth there. Look at somebody's age being changed in the case of Hon. Dino Melaye who is said to have been born in 1942, which may be true or not; I do not know but the fact is that we may need to look at the laws and bring out an Amendment Bill whereby the operations, funding, scope and *modus operandi* of the scheme are undertaken rather than the issue of upgrading of machines.

Thirdly, Sir, if it is a law, it is bound to be followed but as a resolution we would only urge the scheme, bad as it were, to do a, b, c and d. We have more fundamental Motions that have passed through this House, yet nobody does anything about it but we keep on lamenting and chewing our fingers.

Therefore, I propose that this Motion should be withdrawn or otherwise voted out and I call on Hon.

0675

Ukam to sit down with so many of us that are interested in a better identification scheme to bring a Bill that will stand the test of time.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, before I put the Question on the Motion we have two Amendments one of which is from Hon. J. Manwe.

Hon. Jerimon S. Manwe: My simple Amendment is that this House do mandate or ask the Executive to, as a matter of urgency, put the Governing Board of the National Identity Management Scheme in place as stipulated in the Act.

Hon. Rufus Omeire (Ideato North/Ideato South): I rise to second the Amendment moved by Hon. Jerimon Manwe.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: The second Amendment is from Hon. Henry M. Shawulu.

Hon. Henry M. Shawulu ((Jalingo/Yorro/Zing): My Amendment is on that Prayer (ii) to read thus:

Mandate the House Committee on Interior to furnish the House with information about the status of the full implementation of the last registration exercise conducted by the National Identity Management Commission and report to the House within two months.

Hon. Sokonte H. Davies (Degema/Bonny): I rise to second the Motion moved by Hon. Henry M. Shawulu.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

The House:

Appreciated the Federal Government's effort to identify its Citizens through the National Identity Card Scheme;

Aware that despite the huge sums of money spent on the Scheme, there is still much to be done about its workability;

Regretted that the failure of the National Identity Card Scheme in Nigeria had led to reliance on different documents identification instruments;

0676

Acknowledged that the revival of the National Identity Card Scheme will facilitate communications, promote economic activities and exchange of information on the identification and particulars of Citizens between Nigeria and other countries;

Disturbed that on a weekly basis the foreign media is replete with news of non-Nigerians claiming to be Nigerian citizens who are arrested for committing heinous crimes which tarnish the image of the country;

Recognised that the international trend is to adopt a National Identification Scheme which provides a database for multifarious functions such as verification of forensic evidence in criminal justice administration, voters' registration, immigration service and identification of Citizens and foreigners;

Resolved to:

(i) That this House do ask the Executive to, as a matter of urgency, put the Governing Board of the National Identity Management Scheme in place as stipulated in the Act;

(ii) Mandate the House Committee on Interior to furnish the House with information about the status of the full implementation of the last registration exercise conducted by the National Identity Management Commission and report to the House within two months.

Need for all Government Security Documents to be printed by Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company (NSPMC)

The Deputy Speaker: The second Order of the Day is a Motion on the Need for Government security documents to be printed by the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company standing in the name of Hon. Chukwuma Umeoji and twenty four others. Hon. Chukwuma Umeoji is invited to move his Motion.

Is this a Motion for Banking and Currency?

Hon. Chukwuma Umeoji (Aguata): Yes, it is a Motion emanating from the other Motion that we took last year.

The Deputy Speaker: It is all right.

Hon. Chukwuma Umeoji: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House supports the Motion that all Government security documents be printed by the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company (NSPMC).

0677

The House:

Notes that most Government Agencies and Parastatals award private companies contract for printing of documents;

Aware that Government has a printing outfit by name Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company (NSPMC);

Further aware that the outsourcing of contract to private companies is a loss of revenue to the Government and poses a great danger to National Security;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge all Government Agencies and Parastatals to direct all their security printing works to the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company. (NSPMC)
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the remote and immediate cause of the problem and report to the House.

I so move.

Hon Sani Muhammed (Alkaleri/Kirfi): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker! I am relying on Order IX, Rule 5(4) and (6) of our Standing Orders at page 35. It says:

Relevancy in Debate

On an Amendment proposing to leave out words and insert other words, debate shall be confined to the omission or insertion of such words respectively.

I want two names to be omitted from the list as co-sponsors. This is because *Muhammed Salik* has been replaced by *Alhassan Ali Uba* who was sworn in on the Floor of this House about three months ago.

Secondly, we do not have Kabiru Ibrahim in our list. I have checked and there is no such name. Therefore, I want these two names to be omitted. The closest that we have in the Committee of Banking and Currency is Umaru I. Kurfi and I believe it was a mistake which he now wants to be corrected.

The Deputy Speaker: Who said that he want it to be corrected?

0678

Hon Sani Muhammed: The Proposer of the Motion, Hon. Chukwuma Umeoji said he wants to include Umaru I. Kurfi.

Thirdly, Order IX, Rule 6, reads: *No dilatory Motion shall be entertained by the Speaker.* This Motion is dilatory on three fundamental points.

I feel that this Motion urging the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company not to outsource its printing job to private companies on the grounds of revenue protection *et cetera* impinges on the right of private entrepreneurship.

Secondly, in security documents, there are sensitive ones and there are non-sensitive ones. If he had confined himself to the sensitive ones, I would not mind.

Thirdly, there is a violation of the Act of the National Assembly, that is, the Act establishing the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting which allows it to borrow from the private and to outsource and buy materials from private enterprises. I am saying that we are just wasting our time and that this Motion is dilatory and it should be stood down.

The Deputy Speaker: The First Order you have raised is about names. Order sustained.

On the second issue, the Motion was written, Members have signed; it went to the Committee of Rules and Business, it was sent to the Committee on Banking and Currency and the Committee approved that the Motion be taken. It was sent back to the Chairman Rules and Business and I do not believe that they have wasted time by so doing.

So it is left to the House now to decide whether to pass the Motion or not. Therefore, your second request is out of order.

Yes, Hon. Dambatta, former Management Staff of Printing and Minting Company.

Hon Labaran Y. Dambatta (Dambatta/Makoda): I will leave that until the Motion is ably moved because I am opposing it actually. I am a Member of Banking and Currency Committee. My name is conspicuously absent and I believe that I have more knowledge on that issue.

The Deputy Speaker: I am looking for a Seconder, Hon. Dambatta? Is there any Seconder?

0679

0680

Hon. Chukwuka Onyema (Ogbaru): I rise to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Hon. Umeoji Chukwuma (Aguata): The Printing and Minting Company of this country has been undertaking security printing works but because of the conspiracy and in-fighting in this country, they have refused to give this business to the Mint.

I know that the forces that are against all these things will continue to manifest themselves. As we speak today, the company has the capacity to mint the ₦200, ₦500, ₦1,000 notes; in fact, any currency you need. I remember that we installed the equipment to produce the ₦1,000 notes but what you usually get in this country is that if you need 50 million pieces of ₦200 notes, if you put them on notice one week to the time whereas you know they will not meet up, what they do is to outsource it to a foreign company who will now print and import the foreign currency for you. So have we taken the security aspect of this into consideration? No. How can you defend that? There is no nation on earth that will outsource the printing of her foreign currency outside and expect the economy to be sound as we think.

In terms of security you know quite all right that if any international company is printing 50 million notes of ₦1,000 notes you do not guarantee that it is only that 50 million notes that were printed; whatever happened to the remaining is what you do not know. The only fear we have is whether the company we have in Nigeria is capable of doing the job?

I tell you honestly that if we move from here to the mint you will see that all the equipment necessary are on ground and that they are competent and ready to do this job but people always like to sabotage the system.

We will be doing this nation a better service if we do this job internally. Therefore, we should give the Nigeria Printing and Minting Company the mandate to make sure that it is done. Mr. Speaker this is my contribution and I hope that people will think along that line.

Hon. Saudatu A. Sani (Lere): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this Motion as provided by my Colleagues. The issue at hand is security. If the Government of Nigeria is committed to guaranteeing the security of this nation, then the printing of such important documents should not be outsourced. We should try to strengthen the capacity of the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company so that our documents will be protected.

We are aware that the ballot papers are printed outside this country and we witnessed what happened during the 2007 Elections where some fake ballot papers were found in the custody of some errant politicians. We should protect our documents and ensure their security and also provide the Minting and Printing Company enough money to do this job. I do not think that it is politically right to outsource the printing of our security documents. We may direct the printing of about 60 million ₦1000 notes and somebody will now use the figures to print more. So, we will have excess money in the country which has not been legally released by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

I would like to urge our Colleagues to as a matter of security to support this Motion.

Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru (Bebeji/Kiru): Mr. Speaker, what this honourable House is discussing today is a very important issue. I want to believe that hon. Members have varying experiences when it comes to the issue of security in minting.

The most important issue here is whether we have in this country the capacity to do all the security printing work required by the Government Ministries, Parastatals, and Agencies. I want to believe that we do not have that capacity. We have all the machineries and equipment in the Minting and Printing Company to do the job on full scale. Unfortunately, something somewhere happens which makes things extremely difficult for us as a people.

Two years ago, we heard news in the Media that a 40 feet container was caught at the Port in Lagos State with ₦1000 notes found in that container. Now this is most unfortunate. In a country of the kind we have, I do not believe our economy will survive this kind of pressure and I think this is one of the reasons, even if we do not have the necessary equipment, we should be able to afford to buy them so that we save our economy from those kinds of problems.

The second issue has to do with the printing of electoral materials. In the last two months we have been talking about how best we can procure election materials and instruments that will be used in this country. The printing of our electoral materials has continued to be one of the greatest sources of concern for our electoral officials. I believe that on this note we should be able to support this Motion. This honourable House should be able to accept that all the printing of security materials in this country should no longer go out of the shores of this country for printing.

The Deputy Speaker: I will now give the Floor to hon. Members who want to speak in favour of the Motion

0681

Hon. Abubakar Abdulaziz Yari (Anka/Talata Mafara): This Motion is timely. Nigeria has a population of over 150 million people. In the current economic situation that we are in, despite the fact that these were inherited from the military dictatorship and we are now in a democratic dispensation where things are being done rightly it has become a reality that our monies are being printed offshore. What kind of security do we then have in our country?

As the last speaker said, there are many things behind printing these monies offshore. I want to believe that the past governments are deficient of this art of printing.

Therefore, whatever it is going to cost us, this honourable House should do justice to this Motion and ensure it is passed so that the government can now put everything in place to ensure that our monies are printed in Nigeria for the purpose of security.

Hon. Ihiabe Samson Positive (Dekina/Bassa): This is a wonderful, timely and nationalistic Motion. I will give you a typical example. If I have a filling station and I have a cause to buy fuel, it will be unreasonable of me to go and buy it in another filling station, particularly if it is cheaper in my filling station.

Secondly, some of us may argue that the Security Printing and Minting Company may not have the capacity but who is supposed to provide the capacity? The Government is supposed to provide the capacity. The government should be able to place that company on a sound economic footing to be able to do anything in respect of printing for all government agencies and parastatals. It is very sad to hear that security documents from government to government are printed outside the government fold when the government has put in place all things that are possible in a security printing outfit owned by the government.

In the second instance, what has accounted for the leakages of government secrets is because the printing of most government documents are done by private printing press.

In the third instance, what has accounted for the problems we have had in various courts of first instance and the Appeal Courts in respect of elections, omission of names, and misdirection of this or misrepresentation of that is because INEC materials were printed outside Nigeria. The printing of Nigerian currency outside this country and the charges and duties we pay to import same to the country is an embarrassment.

We have the capacity to produce these things. Some of us who are Members of the House Committee on Banking and Currency have visited the places. I am

0682

aware that the management of Security Printing and Minting Company had written left, right and centre to the Federal Government. Yet, at the point of giving them this contract to do the job, they will look for flimsy excuses and take them abroad. This is a disgrace to the country and Nigerians.

It is time we do something that is in the interest of the nation. We should not look at it from the private point of view. It does not matter whether you know somebody that is in charge of this or that. Nigerians should be proud of what they have. We should have confidence in our own materials and country. We should be able to know that when government agencies are doing any printing, it does not matter what; it has to be the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting. Government money goes to the government.

Hon. Bala Barnabas (Kaura): Mr. Speaker, initially I was about to oppose this Motion but based on the very good contributions of Members, I wish to support this Motion. I want to use this opportunity to let those who were with me initially to reconsider their position and support it.

The reason earlier given was that no security document of government will be printed outside the security printing company without the due authority and approval of the company itself. In other words, we had thought that the Security Printing and Minting Company will, after due diligence, give approval for the outsourcing of the printing of all security documents when necessary.

Going by the contributions made earlier, it is clear that government sometimes really forces the Security Printing and Minting Company to outsource this on the pretext that there is no time. I do not think this lame excuse can be accepted for getting very serious security documents printed either within or outside this country except by the company that government itself has established for the purpose of printing all security documents.

I wish that all Colleagues would support this Motion without any delay.

Hon. Kolawole A. Yusuf (Ifelodun/Offa/Oyun): The people who set up the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company in the early sixties had a vision. The vision is what is being discussed in the Parliament today. The danger inherent in outsourcing our security documents was one of the major criteria for setting up this company in the early sixties. It is unfortunate that after 40 years of the existence of Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company, the issue of outsourcing printing of security documents is still happening.

0683

0684

In the early seventies, the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company was outsourcing the printing of our notes and few other security documents to the technical partners of NMPC in the United Kingdom but that has since stopped by the importation and installation of up-to-date equipment in the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company. It is, therefore, worrisome that in the year 2009, we are still talking of outsourcing of our security documents which is very dangerous to our national security.

Apart from currency note which he is talking about which is very serious, there are other security documents that if outsourced can endanger very seriously the security of this nation. More importantly, the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company has the facility to import papers that have their own watermark for security printing jobs. Therefore, outsourcing these kinds of documents, like security documents, to other companies either abroad or in Nigeria, is very dangerous and serious.

This Parliament must, therefore, rise up to the occasion by insisting that all security documents needed in this country are printed by the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company. The issue of outsourcing of the printing of security documents must henceforth stop and all Government Agencies involved in printing any form of security documents, be it currency or other security documents, must be encouraged to use the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Yusuf Kolawole. I now give the Floor to those who want to speak against the Motion.

Hon. Labaran Y. Dambatta (Dambatta/Makoda): Mr. Speaker, hon. Colleagues, I am a Member of the Banking and Currency Committee but surprisingly my name is missing from the list of the Members. Probably it is deliberate. It is a pity I have to oppose my good friend, Hon. Chukwuma.

The issues we have to look at are varied in the sense that (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Dambatta, it is not every Member of the Committee that is here because I cannot see the name of one of the Members that I know.

Hon. Labaran Y. Dambatta: It is all right, Mr. Speaker. The issue I am trying to raise is that here is a place that was set up in 1963 to produce what we call bank notes and when we say bank notes we are talking about currency notes and other security documents.

When this place was set up, the various items being printed were the Passports, Stamps, Postal Orders, Cheque Books, Certificates, Receipts and so on; these are the things that are called security documents within that company but over the years, you will all agree with me that the volume of work has expanded to a level that the company could not cope with such things and so it is obvious really for commercial reasons that they could not handle most of these jobs.

To that extent, today, what we see is that most of the cheque books we have are being printed by private companies. To deny those private companies this kind of business will mean stifling private entrepreneurship and I think it is not good for the economy.

The other issue has to do with printing receipts; it depends on how you define it yourself to the extent that today even the E-Passports are being printed by another company not even the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company.

They have limitations within that factory and you cannot saddle them with the responsibility they cannot shoulder. I do not see how we can take something they cannot handle and give it to them. I had the pleasure of working there and I still earn pension there but we have to look at the issues on the ground. Are they capable of handling these things? I am afraid they cannot. To that extent, to saddle them with that will cripple the economy, bring about inefficiency and so on.

With respect to the issue of outsourcing, yes, they outsource quite all right but what do we do? If we look at the ballot papers used for the last elections, they were printed in South Africa and it was because the Mint does not have the capacity to print those Ballot Papers. They secured an order that they could not handle. That was why the Ballot Papers were printed abroad. So, we should not saddle a place that cannot handle something with additional responsibilities.

What I believe is that the Committee on Banking and Currency should be mandated to examine the problems of the Mint before we can take on any other issue regarding the handling of any matter.

As to the currency, if we look at what is happening in the volume of the currency and so on yes; the Mint could print but what has happened in the last few months was that part of what came out were trash. I have noticed quite a number of notes in circulation that should ordinarily not be in circulation. Most Members here do not know. Some notes that you will see with lines denoting that they have been cancelled are not supposed to be in circulation in those days but what are

0685

we having now? These notes are in circulation and most people do not even know. These are notes that should have been destroyed.

Therefore, we have to tackle the lack of capacity of that place and make sure they can handle these things. I think the Banking and Currency Committee should be mandated to thoroughly examine these things and report back to the House as to what appropriately should be done, not really to saddle a company that cannot handle things with additional responsibilities.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dambatta. You did say that when the Mint was established in 1963, one of its responsibilities was to print the Naira notes that we have today but from his (the mover of the Motion) submission, he said that even the Naira that is supposed to be printed in Nigeria is outsourced. Some other documents which ordinarily can be printed in Nigeria are printed outside.

From your argument, you said some of these things are the primary responsibility of the company but if you have given them open space to go and print or to outsource, they will never print anything in the country because it will be better for them to outsource so that they will get the dividend of going out to outsource. This is not my decision; it would be left to the House to decide.

Hon. Chinyere Igwe (Port Harcourt I): I want to speak against the Motion in its entirety. You will agree with me that Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria underscores the need of upholding the Fundamental Rights of the Nigerian people and those rights include Right to Gainful Employment and Right to Empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, you will also agree with me that in Nigeria we have one Federal Government and we have 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory. We also have 774 Local Governments and we have over 742 Federal Parastatals. There are also Federal parastatals at the State and Local Government level. These are all government organs. The implication is that if all these agencies of government were to do their printing through the Nigeria Security and Printing Minting Company, you will agree with me that they do not have the capacity to carry out that volume of work.

The next issue is what is a security document? Is receipt a security document? Is letter-heading a security document? You will also agree with me that in defining security document, we do know that our Naira is printed by the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company. We also know that the chequebooks used by the banks are printed by that company. All organs of government, private and individuals who believe in the

0686

word security document do their printing through that particular Government agency.

The issue is that as there are different strata of the society, no matter what you do as a government they will do everything to sabotage you. As legislators, we owe a duty to the people of Nigeria and I believe we should protect them. In making a rule we must look at the ill that the rule will cure.

If we now say that private individuals, sole businesses and bigger industries should not handle this, the question then is; how are we protecting them? Are we encouraging them? That is not what we are here to do. Therefore, we must do anything that will help to turn our economy around and not do things that will cripple them.

The next issue I want to raise as an individual is that I have a role to play against anything that is detrimental to my people. We have a role, we have a duty and we have a mandate to protect our people.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Chinyere Igwe for protecting your constituents. I believe that the Printing Company can also have branches all over the country if they so wish and this same people will be employed there. First, you must protect Nigeria as a government and as an entity before protecting anybody.

If the benefit is coming to Nigeria, that should be your number one priority.

Hon. Andrew I. Uchendu (Ikwerre/Emohua): Mr. Speaker, regrettably I have not been sufficiently moved by the views and contributions of those who have spoken in favour of this very Motion on a number of grounds. Hon. Chinyere Igwe has tried to highlight some of them. Let me add support to the views that had been expressed.

We have been told many times that this economy if we are to make progress must be driven by the private sector. I am surprised that this Motion is quarrelling with the issue of awarding contracts to private companies. The Motion did not talk of international companies; it talks about private companies and these companies, I believe, are Nigerian private companies and the philosophy of this administration is to ensure that the private sector moves the economy because they know how best to handle the situation.

The other issue as the Motion informs us is that there would be loss of revenue. Possibly the mover of this Motion may not have taken due cognizance of what is referred to as *circular flow of income*. What goes round comes around. If government agencies award contracts to Nigerians companies whatever may be the

0687

money that they may have lost by awarding the contracts to Nigerians companies will also come around in what is commonly known as circular flow of income.

The mover of the Motion may also have forgotten that we are in an era of globalisation; we cannot limit our contacts here; wherever it is better to do a job we go there. It is just the price that is important in a mixed economy.

The timeliness of the Motion must be called to question. We must put ourselves in the shoes of Nigerians who are outside this Chambers; people are not employed, people are hungry, people are being slaughtered in Maiduguri, in Bauchi and in the Niger Delta areas and we are here as representatives of our people talking about printing of security document. The mover did not tell us what type of security documents he was referring to.

In the presentation of a Motion like this, the mover should be definite, be selective and give statistics. When our Colleagues outside this country present issues as Motions they reel out statistics that will convince their Colleagues. I am not persuaded by the watery nature of this submission.

As pointed out, if all the MDAs in this country now send their security documents to Nigerian Printing and Security Agency, their machines will even ground to a halt. We should encourage decentralisation and privatisation. We should encourage larger Nigerians to participate in the development of the economy.

I do not think that this Motion is important and timely.

Hon. Rufus Omeire (Ideato North/Ideato South): Mr. Speaker, my Amendment is simply to amend Prayer (ii) to include the House Committee on Security and Intelligence and I would like Hon. Chinyere to second it.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any Seconder? *(No response)* I want to put Question on the Main Motion.

Main Motion put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that most Government Agencies and Parastatals award private companies contract for printing of documents;

0688

Aware that Government has a printing outfit by name Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company (NSPMC);

Further aware that the outsourcing of contract to private companies is a loss of revenue to the Government and poses a great danger to National Security;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge all Government Agencies and Parastatals to direct all their security printing works to the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company. (NSPMC)
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the remote and immediate cause of the problem and report to the House.

**Naming of the National Stadium,
Lagos after Late Chief M.K.O. Abiola:
A Pillar of Sports in Africa**

The Deputy Speaker: The third Order of the Day is a Motion on naming the National Stadium, Lagos after Chief M.K.O. Abiola: A Pillar of Sports in Africa, standing in the name of Hon. Friday Itulah and 36 others.

Hon. Friday Itulah is invited to move his Motion, please.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South East): Our Motion is naming the National Stadium, Lagos after M.K.O. Abiola: A Pillar of Sports in Africa.

The House:

Notes the enormous contributions of late Chief M.K.O. Abiola to the growth and development of sports particularly in Nigeria and Africa in general;

Aware that the support of late Chief M.K.O. Abiola to the game of football through the then unbeatable *Abiola Babes*, a Division One Club Side in Nigeria, had a tremendous record not only in Nigeria but also in Africa;

Acknowledges that during his lifetime, Chief M.K.O. Abiola was called the *Pillar of Sports in Africa* and his contribution to sports was known throughout the whole world;

0689

0690

Further acknowledges that naming the National Stadium in Lagos after Chief M.K.O. Abiola will encourage other well-meaning Nigerians and sports lovers to do more for the development of sports in the country.

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Government to name the National Stadium in Lagos after the late Chief M.K.O. Abiola being the then Pillar of Sports in Africa.

I beg to move.

Hon. Bashiru Omolaja Bolarinwa (Lagos Mainland): I second the Motion moved by Hon. Friday Itulah.

Question Proposed.

Hon. Friday Itulah: Mr. Speaker, hon. Colleagues, the Motion we have before the Parliament this afternoon is very straightforward and we all know the intendment. Our desire is to give honour to whom honour is due. We all know Chief Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola as a Pillar of Sports not only in Nigeria but all over Africa.

Our desire to now have the National Stadium, Lagos named after him is for the purpose of encouraging other Nigerians to also do something like he did in his time to encourage sporting activities in our dear country, Nigeria. We know that today FIFA has given Nigeria the Right to host the Under-17 2009 Football Tournament in Nigeria. Before we were able to get to this level, a lot of people had played their roles and today when the activities will be done, we know the benefits that will accrue to us as a nation.

As we have said, we do know that if other Nigerians were to do as this man did Nigeria, like other footballing nations, will be a destination centre in terms of football, and, therefore we are doing this so that other people will see the need to emulate what this great man had done. Abiola was also a philanthropist that was unparalleled in sports and was an Ambassador extraordinary. Therefore, we are urging this Parliament that is the representative of the people to do justice to this man so that other Nigerians will see the need to do good in this area.

Mr. Speaker, hon. Colleagues, it is not my desire to waste your precious time on this issue because we are all familiar with what this man had gone in this area. It is giving the cap to whom it fits.

The Deputy Speaker: Those who want to speak in favour of the Motion now have the Floor.

Hon. Gbenga O. Elegbeleye (Akoko North East/West): I wish to sincerely thank the mover of this Motion, Hon. Friday Itulah. Like my other Colleagues, I believe Chief M.K.O. Abiola deserves lots of recognition for his philanthropic gestures during his lifetime particularly in the area of sports development in Nigeria, sports promotion and sponsorship in the entire continent of Africa.

I remember the last time the issue of hosting of Under-17 World Cup was debated in this House. Members were vehemently against it based on the fact that the bill proposed for the sponsorship was rather too high; it is not that Members of this honourable House do not like sports. We have individuals and corporate bodies who can actually finance all these things without necessarily spending the taxpayers' money on sports promotion and hosting of sporting activities.

For us to be able to encourage others to do it, the very first step to take is what we are doing today, which is naming the National Stadium in Lagos after the late Chief M.K.O. Abiola. That will encourage those living philanthropists who wish to do same and who have not been encouraged at all to at least in future get involved in sports sponsorship and sports development in this country with their resources. Without this, it will be very difficult for people in this country to come up because it is not solely the business of the government to sponsor sports hosting and sports promotion; individuals and private companies are better off and I sincerely believe that for us to encourage them, we need to pass this Motion containing this single prayer of naming the National Stadium, Lagos after the late Chief M.K.O. Abiola.

This was a man who had a Football Club in this country which at a time, during the course of the Green Eagles and later Super Eagles, produced 26 footballers who played for Nigeria; I have their records and their names. There are yet others who have resources like he had then and who can equally do what this man did during his lifetime. For us to encourage the living ones, we need to appreciate the contributions and efforts of our past heroes like Chief M.K.O. Abiola.

I wish and I will advise that my hon. Colleagues support this Motion because this will encourage others to come up and do same.

Hon. Eziuche Chinwe Ubani (Obinwa/Ugwanagbo/Osisioma): Mr. Speaker, I want to lend my voice in support of this Motion. I support

0691

this Motion that seeks to immortalise Chief M.K.O. Abiola by naming the National Stadium in Lagos after him.

The reason is very simple. Those who understand history in Youth Development and Sports will know that Abiola was a strong pillar in the development of Sports from the grassroots level to the continental level. It was not for nothing that he was once named by CAF and the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa as the *Pillar of Sports in Africa*. I think we need to remind ourselves of that.

The departure of Abiola and the rest of the other philanthropists in sports reminds us of what we are not doing right today because at that time, they stepped in when government's resources and management skills could not carry us to the expected end. Since the exit of these people, Nigeria's progress in sports has diminished.

I would like to say that if we pass this motion and the National Stadium in Lagos is named after Abiola, it will encourage other philanthropists and people to give something back to the society by encouraging sports and youth development. That is where we need to go.

Moreover, more than anything else, in this season when there is so much paucity of resources available to the government to develop sports and youth development in those lower cadres we need people like him to step in. Seeing that Abiola has been immortalised will seemingly encourage other people to give something back in that critical sector so that we can give opportunities to people who can excel in sports to represent this country.

Hon. Betty Apiafi (Ahoada East/Abua/Odual): Mr. Speaker, I want to lend my support to this Motion that the National Stadium, Lagos be named after late Chief M.K.O. Abiola. He was indeed the Pillar of Sports in Africa. He donated generously to the development of sports in Nigeria. Apart from floating his own Football Club called Abiola Babes, he virtually supported every other Club.

Even in the Universities, he supported sporting activities. He gave his support to people that approached him. Abiola being a national figure should be accorded such recognition and since the Motion has suggested naming the National Stadium, Lagos after him, I urge all my Colleagues to support the Motion.

I also believe that other philanthropists who had been at the forefront of sports and youth development should also be honoured.

0692

Hon. Waziri Aminu Tambuwal (Kebbe/Tambuwal): I believe all the issues on the merits of this Motion have been discussed extensively. I am only adding my views. I believe that naming the Lagos Stadium after Chief MKO Abiola will bring to mind that all the contributions not only in sports

development in Nigeria but to our national development, were worth doing. I support this Motion and I crave the indulgence of my Colleagues to so support.

Hon. Sani M. Abdu (Alkaleri/Kirfi): I am not opposing this Motion just because Abiola has not been the pillar of sports or a philanthropist. But I believe that there is somebody who has done so much for sports in Nigeria to my understanding more than Abiola and the National Stadium in Lagos should have been named after him.

Before then, people have been bringing the argument that Abiola had Abiola Babes but we also have Iwuanyanwu Nationale. These are people who had also floated football teams but the real hero of sport to me in Nigeria is retired General Samuel Ogbemudia of the defunct Bendel State.

I am proposing him because he has done more to unite Nigeria under sport. Even when he was the Governor of Bendel State, he floated the idea of establishing Football teams in secondary schools all over the nation called *the Academicals* which competed against each other immediately after the war which brought people from the North-East to go to the South-South, the South-West and all over and there was cross-breeding of young minds on the sports field and it brought unity.

Secondly, he also hoisted the idea and followed solely the issue of National Sports Festival; everybody knows this and you cannot deny that. He floated Bendel Insurance; one of the best football teams we ever had. I remember the likes of Okorowanta and the rest. At that time, he encouraged inter-State football. Indeed, we had the Mighty Jets of Jos in the most memorable matches for the League Match which we played three times.

Not only that, he encouraged in us the spirit of sports because he was a public officer, he had no money but he used his public office and goodwill; he built stadia, hosted football teams and encouraged unity. Therefore I am calling for an Amendment that instead of Moshood Abiola, not for his person but for this reason that this man had served sports much more than that.

0693

0694

Only last week, we talked about the immortalisation of Chief M.K.O. Abiola and the Motion failed and now it is being brought in another bottle; it is an old wine in a new bottle. I am opposing this Motion for this particular reason.

I will amend the Motion to read: General Samuel Ogbemudia, former Governor of the defunct Bendel State should be the Pillar of Sports and the National

Stadium Lagos should be named after him.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Sani Abdu. While you were speaking some hon. Members were raising Point of Order. I know they were raising a Point of Order because the subject matter is M.K.O. Abiola. If you want somebody to be named after anything, it would come by way of Motion. If you have changed from Abiola now to Ogbemudia, it means he has done the job for you.

I will put the Question on the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the enormous contributions of late Chief M.K.O. Abiola to the growth and development of sports particularly in Nigeria and Africa in general;

Aware that the support of late Chief M.K.O. Abiola to the game of football through the then unbeatable *Abiola Babes*, a Division One Club Side in Nigeria, had a tremendous record not only in Nigeria but also in Africa;

Acknowledged that during his lifetime, Chief M.K.O. Abiola was called the *Pillar of Sports in Africa* and his contribution to sports was known throughout the whole world;

Further acknowledged that naming the National Stadium in Lagos after Chief M.K.O. Abiola will encourage other well-meaning Nigerians and sports lovers to do more for the development of sports in the country;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Government to name the National Stadium in Lagos after the late Chief M.K.O. Abiola being the then Pillar of Sports in Africa.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Public Procurement Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2008

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 (HB. 87) -

Order for Third Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The fourth Order of the Day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008.

Hon. Members would recall that the Bill was passed on Thursday, 9th October 2008 and transmitted to the Senate for Concurrence. However, the House saw the need to have a further legislative input on the Bill pursuant to Order XII, Rule 10(2)(i) of our Standing Orders.

I hereby invite Hon. Ita Enang to move that the Bill be recommitted to the Committee on Procurement for further legislative action.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, with respect, we have taken that Orders 4 and 5. We may, with your leave, go to Order No. 6 on the Order Paper.

It has been recommitted to the Committee of the Whole for reconsideration. We have taken it earlier today. We are now going to Order 6 for Consideration of the Report in the Committee of the Whole.

The Deputy Speaker: We are on number 6; Consideration of Report?

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Communication.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Communications on the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)/Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) Statutory Budget, 2009

The Deputy Speaker: The sixth Order of the Day is Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Communications on the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)/Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) Statutory Budget, 2009.

Hon. Members would recall that on Tuesday, 29th July, 2009 the Chairman of the Committee on Communications laid the Report of the 2009 Budget

0695

0696

Proposal for the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) before this House.

Hon. Dave Salako is now invited to move for the Consideration of the Report.

Hon. Dave Salako (Ikene/Remo North/Sagamu): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Communications on the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)/Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) Statutory Budget, 2009 and approve the Recommendations therein.

Hon. Khadija Buka A. Ibrahim (Damaturu/Gujba/Gulani/Tarmuwa): I do second the Motion moved by the Chairman, Committee on Communications, Hon. Dave Salako.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Communications on the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)/Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) Statutory Budget, 2009 and approve the Recommendations therein.

Report on a Bill for an Act to further Amend the Certain Political Public and Judicial Office Holders (Salary and Allowances, etc.) Act, 2002

The Deputy Speaker: The seventh Order of the Day is Consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to further Amend the Certain Political and Judicial Office Holders (Salary and Allowances, etc.) Act, 2002 and for Other Related Matters Therein, 2009. The Bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, 29th July 2009.

I now invite Hon. Tunde Akogun to move the Motion for the consideration of the Bill.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko-Edo): Mr. Speaker, I do move for the Consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to further Amend the Certain Political and Judicial Office Holders (Salary and Allowances, etc.) Act, 2002 and for Other Related Matters Therein, 2009.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): I do second the Motion moved by my able Leader, Hon. Akogun Tunde.

Question put agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Report of a Bill for an Act to further Amend the Certain Political Public and Judicial Office Holders (Salary and

Allowances, etc.) Act, 2002 and for Other Related Matters Therein, 2009.

Report of the Committee on Special Duties on the Call for a Speedy Action on the Resettlement Plan for the Internally Displaced People of Bakassi

The Deputy Speaker: The eighth Order of the Day is Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Special Duties on the Call for a Speedy Action on the Resettlement Plan for the Internally Displaced People of Bakassi. Hon Members would recall that the Report was laid on Tuesday, 26th May, 2009.

Hon. Samson Osagie will now move for the Consideration of the Report.

Hon. Chukwudi Mayor Eze (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Deputy Speaker: What Point of Order?

Hon. Chukwudi Mayor Eze: My Order is Order VIII, Rule 5 of our Standing Orders at page 26. It reads:

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

By the indulgence of the House and the leave of the Speaker, a Member may make a Personal Explanation although there be no question before the House; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the explanation. The terms of the proposed statement shall be submitted in extensor to the Speaker when his leave to make it is sought.

Mr. Speaker, I want to correct an impression. During the debate on a Motion on late Chief M. K. O. Abiola, my Colleague, Hon. Betty did mention that those who wanted to speak against the Motion, for example, Hon. Mayor Eze. I do not want that to be on record because I never spoke against any issue concerning late Chief M. K. O. Abiola.

I am one of the Sponsors of the Motion moved by Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon. I want it to be on record that I am not against the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker: It is well noted. Hon. Mayor Eze was raising his hand in support of the Motion. So Hon. Mayor Eze should not be seen as somebody who is opposed to anything on late M. K. O. Abiola.

Thank you.

0699

0700

Sundry Income 30,000 48,995 30,000

Total Revenue 24,839,752 26,004,259 31,565,639

Balance Brought Forward 0 0 8,207,375

Total Funds Available 24,839,752 26,004,259 39,773,014

Total Recurrent Expenditure 3,711,689 3,305,844 6,123,042

Total Capital Expenditure 9,586,560 8,056,399 7,924,529

Special Projects

Wire Nigeria Project 3,400,000 0 2,650,000

State Accelerated Broad Band Initiative 0 0 7,204,465

Total Special Projects 3,400,000 0 9,854,465

Transfer to Federal Government 5,380,715 3,879,320 6,293,700

Transfer to USPF 6,106,399 5,568,466 7,444,479

Subvention to Digital Bridge Institute (Admin/Operational Costs) 0 0 2,000,000

Total Budgeted Expenditure 28,185,363 20,810,029 39,640,215

~~₦~~39,640,215 for Total Budgeted Expenditure for Budget 2009 - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND
BUDGET 2009**

SUMMARY

~~₦~~

Income from AOL (2009) 7,444,479

Income from AOL (4th Quarter 2008) 1,006,950

Interest from Investment 300,000

8,752,903

Brought Forward from 2008 1,480,143

Total Funds Available 10,231,572

Total Recurrent Expenditure 523,155

Total Capital Expenditure 16,730

Total Projects (Goals) 8,682,903

Total Budgeted Expenditure 9,222,788

~~₦~~9,222,788 for Total Budgeted Expenditure - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND
BUDGET 2009**

SUMMARY

Revenue Budget 2008 Actual 2008 Budget 2009

Income from AOL 2007 (4th Quarter) 800,000 800,000 0

Income from AOL 2008 (1st – 3rd Quarter) 4,027,800 4,027,800 0

Income from AOL (2009) 0 0 7,444,479

Income from AOL (4th Quarter 2008) 0 0 1,006,950

Interest from Investment 600,000 600,000 600,000

8,751,903

Brought Forward 8,526,640 8,526,640 1,480,143

Total Funds Available 13,954,437 13,954,437 10,231,572

Total Recurrent Expenditure 447,476 244,164 523,155

Total Capital

Expenditure 27,770 27,760 16,730

Total Projects (Goals) 11,999,046 5,044,350 9,222,788

Ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Hon Ita Enang (Ibiono Ibom/Itu): I have seen here Total Projects (Goals). I do not understand what it is; I want the Chairman to tell us what the Goals there are?

The Chairman: Well, Hon. Ita Enang, you can see the Chairman of the Committee on Communications later because it has been agreed to. See him later for him to explain what the goals are and what it means.

0701

Hon Ita Enang: Thank you Sir. I will.

The Chairman: Chairman, please take your time to explain what this term means.

That is the Budget Proposal for Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC), 2009.

A Bill for an Act to further amend Certain Political Public and Judicial Office Holders (Salary and Allowances, etc) Act, 2002 and for Other Related Matters Therein, 2009 CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Chairman: The next Report is on Certain Political Office Holders and the Judiciary. Hon. Ita Enang, have they laid our own?

Hon Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, this Bill has some challenges now because we have not produced enough of the copies we were to produce and we intended to use the diskette from the Revenue Mobilisation Commission.

The Chairman: We have the Report; let them distribute it.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, I did not understand the question Sir.

The Chairman: Have they laid our own?

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, is it the Salaries and Allowance of the Members of the Legislature that you are asking, Sir?

The Chairman: Yes, the Salaries and Allowances cut of the legislators.

Hon. Ita Enang: It is not supposed to be done by the Legislature. It is supposed to be done by the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission and they will communicate to us but I am not aware that it has been communicated.

The Chairman: It will only be laid but we cannot debate on it. Hon. Colleagues, we know that by our Constitution a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is higher than a Minister. So also is a Member of the House of Representatives higher than a Minister. I hope I am correct?

In the last one that they did, the Estacode that they gave to Ministers was higher than that of Senators and hon. Members. We have called them severally. We discussed with them that if they are not increasing our

0702

own all what we are saying is, let them reduce that one so that we should know that, yes, a Senator is higher than a Minister and a Member is higher than a Minister.

Now this is the right time for them to do it. This is an opportunity for them to do it. Let them do our own then we would consider this particular Bill.

Hon Ita Enang: On account of that, may this be stood down so that when it is laid we can compare what they did and we take a decision. Since the law allows us not to go below and not to take above, we will be able to know that. I pray we should stand down this.

The Chairman: I do not want us to tamper with their figures; I just want them to go and correct our own or let them correct this one so that we know we are put in the right position. From what they have done, it shows that a Senator and a House of Representatives Member is less than a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Not only that, even the Senate President and the Deputy Senate President, Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are less in ranking than a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

This Report will not be considered now until after they have done that Amendment.

Report, with the leave of the House, stood down.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: (Akoko Edo): Mr. Chairman, I move that the House do revert to Plenary.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do revert to Plenary.

(The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Communications on the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) Statutory Budget, 2009 and approved Part A and Part B; the Summaries of the Commission and Universal Service Provision Fund Budget 2009.

The House in the Committee of the Whole also considered a Bill for an Act to further amend the Certain Political Public and Judicial Office Holders and deferred consideration pending when a lingering problem is resolved.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Hon. Speaker, I move that the House do adopt the recommendations of Committee of the Whole.

0703

0704

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: I rise to second the Motion that the House do adopt the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do adopt the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Aids, Loans and Debts and Justice

The Deputy Speaker: I have an Announcement. There will be a meeting of the Joint Committee on Aids, Loans and Debts and Justice on Tuesday, 4th August 2009 at Hearing Room 18 by 2:00 p.m.

(Signed)

*Hon. Abdulazeez Yari Abubakar
Chairman*

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker: Before we adopt the Votes and Proceedings, let me say that yesterday Mr. Speaker made an announcement dissolving the Committee on Power and because of the importance of that Sector to the economy of this country, we feel it will not be good for the House to go on a recess of almost two months without having anybody to oversight the activities of that Ministry.

For that reason, we are hereby directing the Ad-hoc Committee that reviewed the Report of the Power Committee to oversight the Ministry of Power pending when a Standing Committee will be constituted to take charge of that Committee. So the Ad-hoc Committee under the leadership of Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, who headed the Committee and his Members, are given the responsibility by this announcement to take charge of the Ministry of Power.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we are proceeding on Annual Vacation for eight weeks and the need to communicate the decisions taken by this House today in particular on the Budget and all

other items as agreed, I therefore move that the Votes and Proceedings of this day, the 30th day of July 2009, be adopted and all items and announcements approved.

Hon. Takori Mohammed Sani (Gummi/Bukkuyum): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion moved by Hon. Ita Enang, that the Votes and

Proceedings of this day, the 30th day of July 2009, be adopted and all items and announcements be approved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of this day, 30th July 2009, be adopted and all items and announcements be approved.

The Deputy Speaker: The Votes and Proceedings of yesterday were not approved by the Speaker.

I hereby approve the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday, 29th July, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, our well deserved Annual Recess takes off tomorrow and terminates on the 29th of September this year. Even though I am aware that some Committees like Constitutional Review Committee and the Power Committee will be at work, I wish everyone a very peaceful and restful Annual Recess.

I now move that the House do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 29th September 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: I rise to second the Motion that this honourable House do adjourn till Tuesday, 29th September 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till

Tuesday, 29th September 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.20 p.m.