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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 18th March, 2009

The House met at 2:50 p.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 17th March, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit by Students of Adonai International School

The Speaker: We have in the Gallery, students from the Adonai International School.

You are welcome and good afternoon.

(The students rose for recognition)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

The Speaker: Any Member who has a petition to present to the House may please rise to do so. *(No response)*

The Speaker: The first Business of the Day will come from the Chairman, House Committee on Education.

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Threat to the sustenance of Democracy in Ondo State:

Need for the intervention of the National Assembly

Hon. Lawan Farouk (Shanono/Bagwai): Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise a Matter of Urgent Public Importance which I want to crave the indulgence of this House to allow me to present.

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We are aware that just a few weeks ago through the judgment of the Court of Appeal the candidate of the Labour Party in Ondo State was duly declared to be the winner of election in Ondo State and since then, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko has been sworn in as the duly elected Governor of Ondo State. Since his assumption of office, the Governor has taken certain steps which if allowed to continue would pose a serious threat to the sustenance and stability of democracy in Nigeria which particularly hinge on the Rule of Law. The first step was suspending the allocations to Local Government Councils. About a week ago, he also proceeded to declare the dissolution of the duly elected Local Government Councils of Ondo State. I believe that we have a responsibility to protect the rule of law and to rise up whenever a matter on justice and stability of democracy takes place in any part of this country.

I therefore wish to ask this House to allow me to bring this matter as a matter of urgent public importance so that we can discuss it.

I so move.

The Speaker: The first Point of Order is coming from Hon. Kawo Ismaila. Which Point of Order are you raising? All right, you are not ready. Hon. Dino Melaye, what is your Point of Order?

Hon. Dino Melaye (Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu): Mr. Speaker, I just want to guide this House that the matter in question – *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Which Order?

Hon. Dino Melaye: It is an Information Order.

The Speaker: May you take your seat Hon. Dino Melaye. Kawo Ismaila what Order are you seeking? Right, if you are not ready to tell us the Order, I am going to put the Question.

Hon. Suleiman Abdulrahman Kawo (Sumaila/Takai): Order IX Rule 5, page 34.

The Speaker: It is not on page 34 and I cannot see Order IX Rule 5 here. Order IX has only Rules 1, 2 and 3. Could it be Order IX Rule 1(5)?

Hon. Suleiman Abdulrahman Kawo: Yes.

The Speaker: All right please proceed.

Hon. Suleiman Abdulrahman Kawo: It reads: *Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a*

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judicial decision is pending, in such a way as might in the Speaker's opinion prejudice the interest of parties thereto.

The Speaker: All right, let me read it from this point: *Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a judicial decision is pending, in such a way as might in the Speaker's opinion prejudice the interest of parties thereto.*

That is my opinion. So, in this case, my opinion rules that we take the Question for Matter of Urgency Public Importance if the Floor allows it. The question is that we consider this as matter of urgent public importance. *(Interruptions)*

We are going to divide the House.

(Prolonged interruptions)

Question put and Pursuant to Order XI (2) (1) of the Standing Orders of the House, the House divided.

Ayes: 156
Nays: 47
Abstention: 8
Total: 211

The Speaker: This issue would be discussed on the next legislative day which is tomorrow and probably live on the Television.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Interior

The Speaker: The first Business of the Day is Presentation of Mid Sessional Report of the House Committee on Interior. The Report is standing in the name of Hon. Jerry Manwe.

Hon. Manwe is invited to present the Report.

Hon. Jerry Manwe (Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo –Kola): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Interior.

I so move.

Hon. Hassan A. Shekarau (Birnin/Gwari/Giwa): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as moved by Hon. Jerry Manwe.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Interior.

Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Population

The Speaker: The third business of the day is presentation of the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Population. It is standing in the name of Hon. James Baitachi

Hon. James Baitachi is invited to present the Report.

Hon. James Baitachi (Bosso/Paikoro): Mr. Speaker, may I move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Population.

Hon. Kolawole Ismaila (Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila): I rise to second the Motion ably moved my hon. Colleague.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

Report of the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory and Federal Capital Territory Area Councils

The Speaker: Hon. Members the fourth business of the day is presentation of the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Area Councils and the Finance Committee on a Bill for an Act to Authorise the Issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation Account, the total Sum of ₦159,521,099,850.00 (One Hundred and Fifty-Nine Billion, Five Hundred and Twenty-One Million, Ninety-nine thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty Naira) only of which the Sum of ₦24,596,140,978.00 (Twenty-four Billion, Five Hundred and Ninety-Six Million, One Hundred and forty Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy eight Naira) only is for Personnel Cost and the Sum of ₦16, 221,165,871.00 (Sixteen Billion, Two Hundred and Twenty One Million One Hundred and Sixty Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy One Naira) only is for Over Head Cost while the Balance of ₦118, 604,684.00 (One Hundred and Eighteen Billion, Six Hundred and Four Thousand, Six Hundred and Eighty Four Naira) only is for Capital Projects for the service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja for the Financial Year Commencing on 1st January and Ending 31st December, 2009.

This is standing in the name of Hon. Ali A. Attai-Idoko Usman. This was referred to the Joint Committee on Thursday 29th January, 2009. The Report is now

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ready; Hon. Attai-Idoko is now invited to present the Report.

Hon. Abdul Ningi (Ningi/Warji): Mr. Speaker, what you read is not what we have.

The Speaker: Clerk, I am on assumption that you made the necessary corrections and distributed to Members?

Hon. Ita-Enang: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have; we are sorry.

The Speaker: Can someone please give a copy to former Leader of the House.

Hon. Ali Atai-Idoko Usman (Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory and the Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and the Committee on Finance on a Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation Account the total Sum of N156,850,070,850.00k ... *(interruption)*

The Speaker: Hon. Atai-Idoko what you are reading is different from what I have just read. Hon. Atai, you authorised this?

Hon. Atai-Idoko Usman: Yes, sir.

The Speaker: Please read what you authorised to me. Do you have a copy of the authorised one? Do you have a correct version that was sent to me?

Hon. Atai-Idoko Usman: No, Sir.

The Speaker: Can someone pass it to him to read, please.

Hon. Ita Solomon James Enang: Mr. Speaker Sir, what ought to be reflected, which we made a mistake, is the figure as sent in by Mr. President and it is only when we have received and passed, that we will pass the actual figure. I pray the House that we receive the Report as if from him on the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Appropriation Bill.

Several Hon. Members: No.

The Speaker: Chairman, Rules and Business, Chairman, on FCT we will stand this Report down till next legislative day.

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(Report accordingly stood down till the next legislative day).

Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Melt Down of World Economy

The Speaker: The fifth business of the day is presentation of the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Melt Down of the World Economy, standing in the name of Hon. John Owan Enoh.

Dear Colleagues, you will recall that on Monday the 8th of October, 2008 the House in a resolution, mandated the Committee to examine how healthy, the financial and economic system of the nation are and evaluate the appropriateness of the measures and actions taken by the government agencies, regulatory authorities, banks and other financial institutions, in safeguarding the economy and report back to the House.

The Report is now ready for presentation. Hon. Enoh is invited to present the Report.

Hon. John Enoh Owan Enoh (Obubra/Etung) Mr. Speaker, may I move that this House do receive the Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Melt Down of the World Economy.

Hon. James Baitachi: I rise to second the motion moved by the House Committee Chairman on Finance.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Need for Legislative Initiative on the Nigerian Economy

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, the next Order of the Day is a Motion on the need for Legislative Initiative on the Nigerian Economy vis-à-vis the Global Recessions, standing in the name of Henry Dickson and 51 others.

Members will recall that this was moved as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance yesterday. Hon. Dickson is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Nelson Belief (Brass/Nembe): Mr. Speaker, Point of Order!

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The Speaker: Order what?

Hon. Nelson Belief: Mr. Speaker, My Point of Order is on Section 39 (1) of the 1999 Constitution.

Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.

I am raising this Point of Order with regard to the Motion.

The Speaker: With regard to what?

Hon. Nelson Belief: With regard to the Motion. My name is slated as one of the sponsors whereas I was not consulted.

The Speaker: It is all right and that is very straightforward. Hon. Chairman, Rules and Business Committee, I am assuming that was a mistake, could you please strike out Hon. Nelson's name.

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Mr. Speaker, Point of Order!

The Speaker: Which Point of Order?

Hon. Enang Ita Solomon James: I would like to raise an issue under Order IX, Rule 6 in respect of the Motion that is to be moved by Hon. Dickson.

I want to say that this matter has been considered by the House and it cannot be reconsidered. Order IX Rule 1 (6) says:

It shall be out of Order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive Motion for rescission.

This honourable House did mandate the House Committee on Finance, Appropriation and Banking and Currency to consider generally the issue relating to the melt down on world economy and the Nigerian economy, including the banking sector. That question was considered and the Report had been ready and presented to the Floor.

The Prayer sought here, on 5th March, 2009 by our Votes and Proceedings, the same Motion was brought and we drew attention to the fact that this Report was pending and that Motion was withdrawn in accordance with page 671 of our Votes and Proceeding of 5th

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March, 2009. The Report that has just been laid by the Chairman of Finance Committee and it contained all the recommendations on issues addressed by the Motion.

I want to plead that the other day when I raised this matter, Members said that we ought not to have listed it. Any matter which arises by way of Urgent Public Importance is an Order of the House and the Rules and Business cannot stop bringing it to the Floor. But when we bring it, we have to draw the attention of the House to previous decisions of the House which cannot be over ridden unless by a substantive Motion.

Accordingly, I pray that this Motion be not heard in view of the fact that the prayers sort have been encapsulated and replied to in the recommendations which the Finance Committee has already laid before the House.

I pray that this Motion be estopped.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, we granted Hon. Dickson the opportunity to raise it as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance yesterday and this House gave him the opportunity to do that today.

However, if we had the Report of the Finance Committee before he raised this Motion, I guess the House would not have given him the opportunity to come and discuss it. Now that it is already laid on the Floor and agreeing with the Committee Chair that it is actually in order, I am, however, still going to allow Hon. Dickson to make his contribution.

Hon. H. S. Dickson (Ekeremor/Sagbama): Mr. Speaker, first of all the issues raised by the Chairman, House Committee on Rules and Business is not completely unreasonable.

I raised this issue yesterday and by the permission of our Colleagues, knowing the importance of the issues that were raised it was agreed that it should be discussed today. Now the issue raised by the Chairman of the Rules and Business Committee, is not, as I said earlier, out of place.

I am not aware as a Member of this Parliament that we mandated Joint Committees or any Committee for that matter to delve into the matter. If am not aware, I will not say what I am not aware of. One can talk of one subject matter but arrive at different conclusions.

The prayers that this Motion before us is seeking are not subject matters of any referral to any Committee and that is the critical thing. We are not bringing up this Motion to discuss the totality of the melt down and

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its implications on the Nigerian economy. We are seeking specific legislative initiatives. We are saying for example that we should mandate the joint Committee to appraise the regulatory framework.

The Speaker: Hon. Dickson, I can understand but I would advise you to please withdraw the statement as you referred to your Colleague as unreasonable.

Honourable Colleagues, I have no doubt in the beauty of democracy but I guess that we are all allowed to make legislative statements in different manners. However, I sincerely hope that the minority was not ready to allow the majority to have their way. So, they are back with us to make concrete contributions as to why we should not consider the point that the majority wants to be considered. While we trust that the leadership and the members of the minority, our friends and brothers, have always contributed greatly to this House, we are glad and happy that they are with us to contribute immensely to the development of our great nation.

You are welcome. (*Applause*)

Hon. Henry Dickson, before we proceed, you referred to your dear Colleague as *not completely unreasonable* which means that there is some level of unreasonableness. We know we are not learned but we do understand English to a level; please withdraw your statement.

Hon. Henry Seriake Dickson: Mr. Speaker, I want to first of all say that at least I have been here for almost two years and my Colleagues should know that it is not in my character to have sought to attack the image and reputation of my Colleague. That was not the intention at all.

The Speaker: Could you please withdraw your statement?

Hon. Henry Seriake Dickson: I withdraw it. What I meant however, was that his views were not completely in order.

The Speaker: Hon. Dickson, be very careful.

Hon. Henry Seriake Dickson: I did not mean him as a person but his views.

The Speaker: You have not withdrawn the statement.

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Hon. Henry Seriake Dickson: I have withdrawn any possible implication on my very good friend and Colleague.

The Speaker: Thank you Hon. Dickson. Chairman, Business and Rules, is that in order?

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

The Speaker: All right. Honourable Colleagues, before I rule on this Order, I want to allow the Chairman, Committee on Banking to contribute.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): Mr. Speaker, I want to rely on the Point of Order raised by Hon. Ita Enang to also advise the House. I recall that some time ago the Minority Leader of the House who, some minutes ago led the minority out of the Chamber and who has now led the minority back into the Chamber, moved a Motion on the depreciation of Naira and World Economic Melt Down. This House passed the Motion, mandating the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency, Finance and Capital Market to carry out an extensive national dialogue on this issue and advise the House on legislative initiatives and measures that would be taken to address the current economic crisis.

All the prayers contained in that Motion are also similar to the prayers being sought in the Motion by Hon. Henry Dickson. These three Committees are still working on that mandate given by the House. Since the assignment is still on, it will take care of the prayers being sought by Hon. Henry Dickson's Motion.

Based on that, I hope that the House would be better guided by this information given.

The Speaker: All right, we will stand down the Motion.

(*Motion with the leave of the House, stood down*)

Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (Amendment) Act, 2007

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, the Second Order of the day is a Motion on the Need to Comply 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 Hon. Austin Nwachukwu and 38 others.

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Hon. Austin Nwachukwu, please move the Motion.

Hon. Austin Nwachukwu (Ehime Mbano/Ihite Uboma/Obowo): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move a Motion on the Need to Comply with Section 3 (3) of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (Amendment) Act, 2007 by the Ministry of Interior. I would like this House to:

Note the Constitutional responsibility of the National Assembly, to enact laws for the good governance of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Aware that the Section 3(3) of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (Amendment) Act 2007 states *inter alia*:

For the purpose of efficiently carrying out the functions set out in Section 3 of the Principal Act, the Corps shall maintain an arms squad which shall be entitled to bear fire arms and be deployed by the office of the Commandant-General.

Worried that Section 3(3) of the said Act, as amended has not been implemented by the supervising Ministry;

Concerned that the lives of Officers and Men of he Cops are put in terrible danger as a result of non implementation of the provisions of the Act as Amended;

Further concerned that the non implementation of the Laws passed by the National Assembly derogates section 4(1) and (2); and section 5(1) paragraph (a) and (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Minister of Interior to immediately implement section 3(3) of the Security and Civil Defence Corps (Amendment) Act, 2007;
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Interior and Legislative Compliance to monitor compliance and report to the House within two weeks.

I so move.

Hon. Igochukwu N. Aguma (Port Harcourt I): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question Proposed.

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Hon. Austin Nwachukwu: Mr. Speaker, this Motion is very straightforward because it has to do with the rule of law. We know that separation of power is the hallmark of any democracy in the world.

There are three basic reasons as stated by economists on why we hold money. The first is for speculative reason, the other is for precautionary reason and the third is for transactionary reason. For that reason, the intention of the lawmaker is to make good and qualitative laws for the good governance of our society and for the socio-economic wellbeing of our people. That was why this honourable House in 2003 passed a law called the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Act 2003. With the attendant problems in the country that had to do with security and the rest, this same honourable House brought an amendment to section 3 (3) of that Principal Act, and it reads: *...for the purpose of efficiently carrying out the functions set out in Section 3 of the Principal Act, the Corps shall maintain an armed squad, which shall be entitled to bear fire arms and deployed by the office of the Controller-General.*

I think that the intention of the House for that amendment is very apt because we are all aware of the security situation in this country where a lot of issues that have to do with kidnapping, maiming of people in Edo State and so on. We know the role of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. They have been playing fantastic role in this country in the areas of pipe-line vandalisation, NEPA power lines, crude oil bunkerers, criminal activities, etc. As a result, I am asking this honourable House to please inform the relevant Ministry to, as a matter of urgency, implement the laws passed by this honourable House.

The reason we are here is to make good laws for our country's betterment. If we make laws that are not adhered to, I am sure that our purpose of gathering here would be an effort in futility.

I am only begging that we should quickly urge the Ministry that is responsible for this issue to quickly carryout their job as stated by the Act.

Hon. Igo Aguma (Port-Harcourt I): Mr. Speaker, this Motion can be looked at from two aspects. The first is that of compliance with the laws passed and assented to which have become Acts of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by the relevant implementing organs. The other has to do with the peculiar functions that the Civil Defence Corps carries out.

I was watching an electronic media over the weekend and I saw a programme where those that have been widowed by reason of performing their functions

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in the Civil Defence being given some sort of financial assistance. There was a peculiar cry from those they have left behind that if probably their parents were better equipped to do their work, they may have been alive.

If you look at the issue of compliance it is a challenge to the National Assembly and a challenge to the House of Representatives. We are vested with the powers to make laws and when our laws are not being complied with, if you check the rate at which motions are coming to the House in terms of compliance, I am sure that necessitated the House having a peculiar Committee functioning in the name of Legislative Compliance.

Mr. Speaker, I want to ask you to put the question and I ask my Colleagues to support the Motion since we have other businesses of the day to attend to. This is because the Motion is germane, especially at this point in time.

Hon. Yacoob E. A. Alebiosu (Kosofe): Mr. Speaker, according to what we have here, it says: *Aware that section 3(3) of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Amendment Act 2007 states inter-alia - for the purpose of efficiently carrying out the functions set out in section 3 of the principal Act, the Corps shall maintain an armed squad.*

My understanding of an armed squad is not the Civil Defence Corps as a whole. Already, the law says that they can carry gun. I am of the opinion that it is between the Corps and the Ministry of Interior to sort this out amongst themselves. Let them prove to the Ministry of Interior why they need arms rather than discussing the issue here.

This is my opinion and I so submit.

Hon. Samson Ihiabe Positive (Dekina/Bassa): Mr. Speaker, I am speaking fairly in relation to the last speaker. This is because the Act says Squad – the interpretation it gave is totally acceptable. In the second instance, take the case of the Police who have the right to carry gun; it is not every Police man that carries gun. It depends on the special assignment that is being given at that particular point in time.

On the other hand, this issue arose here exactly this time last year and there was a motion that they should not be allowed to maintain an armed squad. That Motion was stood down. But I must tell you that between last year and now, even if they are supposed to maintain a squad that is supposed to be carrying arms, it takes them to recruit and train. How long has it taken them now that it is too late that we are passing a

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resolution that they should go straight and allow them to carry arms all over the country?

In this country we have a lot of policemen, military men or other types of paramilitary outfits carrying guns all over the places. We have been complaining that there are too many guns and stray bullets all over the place, abuse of procedure by officers carrying guns and sirens and pursuing people into the bush. Today, we want to add another problem by allowing the Civil Defence to carry gun all over this country. It is dangerous and I think it is not ripe for us to do this.

We should allow them to do the proper training and allow the Ministry of Interior and the Civil Defence Corps to recruit, train the right people and maintain only the squad that is allowed to carry guns and not the totality of the members of the Civil Defence Corps.

Hon. Leonard Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): Mr. Speaker, let me first and foremost state that the essence of this law passed by Parliament was to address some specific mischief. The fact remains that the security and welfare of the citizens are the primary responsibility of government. Every citizen, no matter where he or she is working, has the rights to life. The danger of putting some people on the street to carry out some specific jobs, mostly when they are being confronted by criminals is overwhelming.

We all know very well that the Civil Defence is outside there in the night and day, facing some specific and dangerous criminals. Parliament has already passed a law empowering them to carry a specific number of people that are already trained to go with arms, and we are saying that they should not be armed and that they should go empty handed to confront armed robbers or oil bunkerers. I believe that the danger of sending innocent people out there without preparing them to do this job is not in the interest of parliament.

I therefore appeal to my brothers and sisters that we as Parliament have already passed an Act of this House, authorising the Corps to carry arms. I think the most important thing we need to do at this particular moment is to look at the possibility of advising the Ministry to follow due process.

Hon. Adebayo F. Odulana (Ikeja): Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is the responsibility of the Nigeria Police to protect the citizenry and to keep law and order. The Civil Defense Corps is an aberration. *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hold on Hon. Odulana, you are a Member of the Federal House of Representatives and

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by extension, a Legislator of the National Assembly that passed a law. And you are now referring to our law as an aberration.

Hon Adebayo F. Odulana: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, let me withdraw that Sir,

The Speaker: All right, it has been withdrawn

Hon. Adebayo F. Odulana: I believe seriously that we do not just empower too many people who are not trained to carry arms such that at the end of the day we would have problems on our hands. These people have specific functions which the law said they should do. We should leave it to the Ministry of Interior to dictate what functions they are to perform.

Hon Warman W. Ogoriba (Yenagoa/K/Opokuma): Mr. Speaker, this is a very straightforward Motion. There is a law on ground. There is an Act passed by this House.

What the mover of this Motion is seeking is that the Act be implemented. Are we now saying that we want to repeal the Act? We do not have to run around this issue. What we need to do is to ask the authority to implement the law that we have passed.

Hon Andrew Uchendu (Ikwerre/Emohua): Mr. Speaker, the last speaker Hon. Warman Ogoriba, seemed to have captured what I wanted to express. This is a simple issue of compliance.

The law has already been passed and the mover of this Motion is asking the House to now ensure that the Police Act is implemented.

Hon. Emmanuel Yisa O. Jev (Buruku) Point of Order!

The Speaker: What Order?

Hon Emmanuel Yisa O. Jev: It is a Constitutional Order.

The Speaker: Please, Hon. Jev. I would want to appeal to our Colleagues to please, refer to Orders in our Rules book, which of course, comes out of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I am going to allow this one to go. Yes, go ahead.

Hon. Emmanuel Yisa O. Jev: (Benue): I am referring to Section 5, Sub-Section (i) paragraph (b). Section 5 says:

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Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, Executive Powers of the Federation,

(b) shall extend to the execution and maintenance of this Constitution all laws made by the National Assembly and to all matters with respect to which the National Assembly has, for the time being, power to make laws.

So if we have a law that is made by the National Assembly, we do not need a Motion on the Floor. (Interruption)

The Speaker: Excuse me, you are debating. Which Order have we flouted here?

Hon. Emmanuel O. Jev: We have brought a Motion that is not supposed to be on the Floor. We should just go ahead and obey the law that has been made by the National Assembly

The Speaker: Hon. Okey Jev, thank you. Could you please, round up Hon. Uchendu?

Hon Andrew Uchendu: Mr. Speaker, the point I am making is that I am in support of the prayers asking for compliance. However, I would plead with my Colleagues to resist at all times the temptation of raising Motions on issues that ordinarily a Committee collaboration or oversight duty would have handled so that we save time, but I agree that we should comply with our laws.

The Speaker: Hon. Uchendu, did you speak or against that Motion?

Hon. Andrew Uchendu: I spoke for the Motion.

Hon. Jerimon S. Manwe (Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola): Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the mover of this Motion and those who spoke in favour of it. The issue is not whether the Civil Defense Corps should carry arm, but that of compliance with the laws passed by this House.

Sections 4 (i) and (ii) and Section 5, stipulates what the Executive needs to do to laws passed by the National Assembly. I do not think any body else in this country loves the people of this country than this gentlemen that were carefully selected and elected by God through them. So, if there is any law (Interruptions).

The Speaker: Did you say selected?

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Hon Jerimon S. Manwe: Yes, selected by God.
(Laughter)

The Speaker: All right, I now understand.

Hon Jerry S. Manwe: Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Interior on assumption of its function, immediately tried to find out why a provision of about ₦100 million in last year's budget was not utilized for the arms provision to the Corps. We were told that there was politics going on between the security agencies. People should not play politics with the lives of the citizens; you cannot give someone an assignment to carry out without tools to do it.

We know the roles this people play both in combating criminals and vandals of pipelines. Therefore, there are no ways you would have asked these people to go and face these criminals with ordinary batons.

So, it is on that note that I urge my Colleagues to support this Motion.

Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah
(Gokana/Khana): Point of Order!

The Speaker: Which Order Sir?

Hon., Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah: Order IX Rule 7.

The Speaker: Could you read it please?

Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah: Order IX Rule 7 reads:-

After a question has been proposed, a member rising in his place may claim to move "That the question be now put", and, unless it shall appear to the Chair that such motion is an abuse of the rules of the House or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the motion "That the question be now put" shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate notwithstanding that the mover had no opportunity to make his reply.

The Speaker: So?

Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah: I want to move that the question be now put on this matter.

The Speaker: Could you read the first three sentences again, my dear Chairman?

Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah: *After a question has been proposed, a member rising in his place may claim to move "That the question be now put", and, unless it shall appear to the Chair* (Interruptions)

The Speaker: Hold on. *Unless it appears to the Chair that ...?*

Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah: *that, it is an infringement of the rights of the minority, people have spoken against* (Interruptions)

The Speaker: *Infringement of the rights of the minority.*

Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah: Yes Sir.

The Speaker: In the Chair's?

Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah: opinion.

The Speaker: Please sit down.

Chairman Police, do you want to contribute to this matter?

We are talking about the Police Force.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi (Ningi/Warji): I want to share the opinion of the Sponsor of this Motion, where *compliance* is that you must obey before you complain. I find it terrible that this particular Act of the National Assembly duly passed and assented to by the President; is not being obeyed. However, we have a procedure in this Chamber where *compliance* is not being obeyed. That is the purpose and the intendment of the creation of the Committee of Legislative Compliance.

The Speaker: Is the Chairman Committee on Compliance here? (No response)

Is the Deputy Chairman, Committee on Compliance here?

Hon. Agbonu A. Adikpe (Obi/Oju): Yes, Mr Speaker I am here. An issue has been raised bothering on non-compliance. If a Resolution of this honourable House is passed, (Interruptions)

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The Speaker: This one is an Act of Parliament.

Hon. Agbonu A. Adikpe: All right, if an Act of this Parliament is passed, *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: I believe you mean to say when an Act of Parliament is passed; because it has been passed already.

Hon. Agbonu A. Adikpe: Yes, when an Act of Parliament is passed and there is no compliance, a Member within my place here just asked, what is the House Committee on Legislative Compliance doing? The House Committee on Legislative Compliance has been very much active. We have been able to compel more than 13 Ministries to appear before us as to why the Act of this honourable House or *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: No, no, we are talking about this particular one.

Hon. Agbonu A. Adikpe: The present one has not been referred to us; it is only when the complaint of a Chairman of a Committee is before us, that we act.

The Speaker: All right, let me put the question maybe we can refer it to you.

(Laughter)

All right, Hon. Igbawua has an amendment. Please proceed.

Hon. Chile W. Igbawua (Kwande/Ushongo): Given the fact that from our discussions, this matter has not been investigated and we do not know why there is no compliance, I move that we should delete the two Prayers and substitute them with the Prayer calling on the House Committee on Interior to investigate the reason for non-compliance and report back to this House within two weeks.

Hon. Nelson G. O. Alapa (Ohimini/Otukpo): I rise to second the Amendment proposed by honourable Igbawua Chile W.

Amendment put and negatived.

The Speaker: Hon. Osagie has an amendment.

Hon. Raphael Samson Osagie (Orhionmwon Uhunmwode): I rise to suggest that *Prayer one be*

deleted in view of the fact that I do not see how we can use the Motion to enforce an Act of Parliament. Rather,

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we should sustain Prayer two so that this Prayer can reinvigorate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure that there is compliance since the Act has already been passed by the National Assembly.

Hon. Wilfred C. Onyema (Ogbaru): I second the Amendment moved by honourable Osagie Raphael Samson.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Speaker: Hon. Doguwa has an amendment and it will be the last amendment.

Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba: (Doguwa/Tudun Wada): My Amendment is on the last Prayer. While I subscribe entirely to whatever submission made in favour of this Motion, my only Amendment Sir is on the timeframe given to the Committee to report back.

This is a Prayer for the Committee to go and ensure compliance. It could be investigative in nature and if you really want to bring up a positive result out of the investigations and ensuring compliance I will like my Colleagues to join me to amend the two weeks to four weeks, so that they can effectively do their job and report back, considering the money involved.

I so move.

Hon. Mohammed Ibrahim Garba (Tankarkar/Gagarawa): I rise to support and second the Amendment as raised by Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba.

Amendment put and negatived.

Main Motion put and agreed to

The House:

Noted the constitutional responsibility of the National Assembly to make Laws for the good governance of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Aware that section 3 (3) of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (Amendment) Act, 2007, states inter alia “for the purposes of efficiently carrying out the functions set out in section 3 of the principal Act, the Corps shall maintain an armed squad which shall be entitled to bear fire arms and deployed by the office of the Commandant-General”;

Worried that section 3 (3) of the said Act, as amended has not been implemented by the supervising Ministry;

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Concerned that the lives of Officers and Men of the Corps are put in terrible danger as a result of non implementation of the provisions of the Act as Amended'

Further concerned that the non implementation of the Laws passed by the National Assembly derogates section 4 (1) and (2); and section 5 (1) paragraph (a) and (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999;

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the Committee on Interior and Legislative Compliance to monitor and report to the House within two weeks.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Power on huge sums of Money spent on Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution between June 1999 and May 2007

The Speaker: Honourable Colleagues, I guess this is the D-day. We are moving to the Consideration of Reports.

I will just say one or two things before we begin this. Please listen.

We are about to start Consideration of the Report on Power in Nigeria. It is going to come in three phases. First, will be the opportunity for the Chair to open up on some of the facts that they have found. We are going to give opportunity for Members to react to those facts. Then the third part is for us to now take on recommendations, one by one. So, this may take a day, two days or three days. It is truly up to us.

The third Order of the Day is Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Power on the Investigation into the Huge sums of Money spent on Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution between June 1999 and May 2007 without commensurate Result. This Report was laid on Tuesday, the 10th of October, 2008.

I now invite Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu to move for the consideration of the Report.

Hon. Godwin Ndudi Elumelu (Aniocha North & South/Oshimili North & South): I move that this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Power on the Investigation into the huge sums of money spent on Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution between June 1999 and May 2007 without commensurate Result and approve the Recommendations therein.

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Hon. Uche Ekwunife (Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia): I rise to second the Motion as moved by Hon. Ndudi Elumelu.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Power on the Investigation into the huge sums of money spent on Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution between June 1999 and May 2007 without commensurate Result and approve the Recommendations therein

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko-Ado): I move that the House do resolve into Committee of Whole to consider the Report of the Committee on Power.

Hon. Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/West): We learn everyday but if I listen to the caveat you gave before now, they are in three stages. The first stage is for the Chairman of this Committee to fully brief the House on the kernel of his Report. The second stage is for members of this honourable Assembly to react to his presentation and the third stage is for us to then do the clause by clause consideration.

If we are going to take the first and the second stages, are we not to take it in a Session like this? Are we to go into the Committee of Whole first? I was thinking that the first two stages should be taken. Then, when we want to go into the consideration clause by clause, we will go into the Committee of Whole.

The Speaker: Chairman Rules and Business, is there anything stopping us from taking all the three steps in the Committee of Whole?

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): This is a Report by a Committee which had been laid and it is going to be considered in the Committee of Whole. All these steps are to be taken in the Committee of Whole by the Chairman of the Committee of Whole.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): I rise to second the Motion as moved by the House Leader.

The Speaker: I am of the opinion that we have the opportunity to take this as extensively as possible.

Question put and agreed to.

Report of the Committee on Power on the Investigation into the huge sums of money spent on Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution between June 1999 and May 2007 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE

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The Chairman: The Report for consideration now is the Power Report. This House will consider the Report of the Committee on Power on the investigation into the huge sums of money spent on Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution between June 1999 and May 2007 without commensurate results and approve the recommendations therein.

I want to inform Members that this is just like any other Report that we have considered in this House. I want Members to see it that way. It is not in anyway special.

I call on the Chairman of the Committee on Power to please brief the House on the findings.

Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu (Aniocha North/Aniocha South/ Oshimili North/Oshimili South): I shall give a brief summary of the Report.

On 31st January, 2008 the Minority Leader Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume and 103 other Members brought a Motion urging this honorable House to review the Power Reform Programme Performance.

After a vigorous and robust debate in which numerous Members took active part, the House by Resolution No. HR/07/2008 of Thursday, 31st January, 2008 resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Power and Steel to carry out a comprehensive and thorough investigation and conduct a Public Hearing into how huge sums of money was expended on power generation, transmission and distribution without any commensurate result and report back to the House within four weeks.

Preliminary Actions

Immediately the House Resolution was forwarded to the Committee by the Clerk of the House of Representatives vide his letter Ref. No. NASS/CHR/B/4/Vol.111/48 of 5th February 2008, the Committee had a meeting to decide on ways and means of carrying out the assignment given to it by the House in Plenary.

In carrying out that mandate, the Committee believed that a comprehensive and thorough investigation as envisaged by the House would entail technical, financial and legal audits of power sector projects and expenditures, as well as power sector reform programme during the period under review. To that effect, the following Ad-hoc Sub-Committees were set up to take charge of the various activities involved

in the investigative exercise.

This Report encapsulates the findings of the Committee on the investigation conducted into the huge sums of money spent on power generation, transmission and distribution between June 1999 and May 2007.

In the course of the investigation, the Committee reviewed 105 sets of memoranda from public officials, private citizens, corporate organisations and non-governmental bodies. In addition to the memoranda submitted, the Committee held Public Hearing from 11th March till 12th May 2008. Activities of the Committee climaxed with a tour of project sites located all over the federation.

The Committee found that the sum of \$13.28 billion was expended on the Power Sector during the period, with further unfunded commitments of over \$12 billion.

The Public Hearing also revealed that many strange things happened in the power sector during the period, including financial, technical and legal irregularities raging from the then President single-handedly waiving due process in the award and certification of payment. The most striking revelation was flagrant disregard of Sections 80(3) and (4) of the 1999 Constitution which states clearly:

(3) No moneys shall be withdrawn from any public fund of the Federation, other than the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation unless the issue of those moneys has been authorised by an Act of the National Assembly.

(4) No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund or any other public fund of the Federation, except in the manner prescribed by the National Assembly.

The then President disobeyed most of these things in the course of our investigation.

In a large number of instances, legal processes in the appropriation and release of funds for the power projects were circumvented. Project costs were routinely and massively inflated. In a number of cases, up to 1000 *per cent* project over-pricing was reported and most troubling was the extremely low performance level after three or four years of commencement of projects. In about 50 *per cent* of the projects visited, contractors collected billions of naira and disappeared from the project sites while most project consultants maintained a conspiratorial silence.

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The investigation showed beyond doubt that the major problem of the Nigerian power sector during the review period was not the means to execute projects but efficiency in the management of resources. The weakest point in the project failure was in plan execution, which is a key factor in the success of any project. Project management teams treated planned time schedules as if they did not exist.

The intended power projects were part of a larger reform programme of the administration but as it has turned out, the infrastructure reforms have not made a difference in the country.

It was also found that failure to execute plans did not arise from technical incompetence but from weak management and institutional processes. What is lacking is not capital or technical expertise but fiscal discipline, programme supervision by responsible consultants and a willingness to bring erring contractors and officials to book.

With the phenomenal revenues accruing to the country from crude oil over the past 10 years, resources have never been as generously available as they are in Nigerian history. Unfortunately, huge sums like earlier stated were spent but there was little or nothing to show for the expenditure in terms of extra megawatts of electricity.

The technology to deliver sustainable power and other infrastructure solutions in Nigeria is available in the world market. Our problem is mainly human and managerial rather than technological.

The Report was presented in Eight Volumes. The Committee took the contents of all the volumes into account in arriving at the findings and recommendations.

Finally and most importantly, infrastructural and other forms of development in Nigerian would necessitate a fundamental transition in our world view. Let me clearly state that in the course of our investigation, the Committee found that in most cases, most of the people in the sector were directly instructed by the then President to selectively award these contracts and that we found very displeasing. Nigerians have got what it takes to compete globally but need to have the mind-set to do things the way they should be done.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Committee on Power of this honourable House, it is with gratitude for the opportunity given my Committee and indeed a deep sense of humility that we were able to complete this

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project. I submit this Report in Eight Volumes for your consideration and action as you consider fit.

On behalf of all Members of the Committee on Power and Steel, I wish to register our deep appreciation to all hon. Colleagues of the House of Representatives for the confidence reposed in us by giving the Committee the onerous assignment. Our thanks also go to the Media and the Nigerian Public in general for their support.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, before we move to Clause by Clause consideration, the Speaker had made an announcement that the Chairman of the Committee will brief the House. After the brief of the Chairman, Members will be allowed to fairly contribute on the findings of the Committee.

I think it will be nice if we can call on Members of the Committee particularly those who have not signed the documents to speak.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/South): Mr. Chairman, I am relying on Order XII, Rule 9, page 54, which borders on the procedure on Bills in the Committee of Whole. It states:

The Chairman of the Committee shall call the numbers of each clause in succession or the first and last numbers of a group of clauses and if no amendment be offered thereto or when all proposed amendments shall have been disposed of shall proceed to put the question.

What you are saying here is clearly in violation of this particular Order. I therefore move that if you intend going by it because you are almost going into the Second Reading of the Bill, it therefore means that it becomes important that we suspend this Rule.

The Chairman: Hon. Ogor, the marginal note there is, *Procedure on Bills in the Committee of Whole*. We are not considering Report on any Bill and what we are doing is not illegal. Let him get the law, he cannot bring in this Order to support his argument.

Hon. Ogor, you are overruled.

Hon. Sama'ila Abdullahi Mohammed (Bassa/Jos North): Point of Order, Mr. Chairman!

The Chairman: Who is raising a Point of Order?

Hon. Sama'ila Abdullahi Mohammed: My

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Order is premised on Section 89 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 that is: *Power as to Matter of Evidence*; and if you will permit me, I will read the relevant Section:

For the purpose of any investigation under Section 88 of this Constitution and subject to the provisions thereof, the Senate or the House of Representatives or a Committee appointed in accordance with section 62 of this Constitution shall have power to;

(a) to procure all such evidence, written or oral, direct or circumstantial, as it may think necessary or desirable, and examine all persons as witnesses whose evidence may be material or relevant to the subject matter.

My contention is that what we have before us in this House, Volume One is an Interim Report and it does not contain all the Reports and this is fatal to our consideration because there are certain recommendations particularly recommendation 48 and 49 that have direct and specific reference to Volumes 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this Report. This Report has not been presented to us for our scrutiny and consideration.

I therefore move that we should have this Report before we can consider this Report because references have been made in this Report.

Please, go to page 490 of the Order Paper, and look at item 48 and 49.

Hon. Ajibola Saubana Muraina (Ibarapa Central/North): Mr. Chairman, I feel very strongly that posterity will not forgive me, if I fail to bring before you some salient points in respect of this Investigation Report which this great Chamber is about to consider.

I want to start by saying with all sense of responsibility that, the whole gamut of all that we did was basically in respect of Due Process and with due respect I want to say that the Report that is before you got the whole thing wrong.

This is not the first time that I have said so, I have consistently been saying so from time to time, and I want to make use of this opportunity today to say again not only to the Honourable Members, but also to the whole Nigerians.

By the time the awards which formed the basis of what we are to consider today were awarded what was

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on ground were the due process regulations that were made by the then President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The Public Procurement Act was not in existence as at that time. I have a copy here, and I want to say with all sense of responsibility that that Act came into effect on the 1st day of June, 2007 after almost all these contracts that they are talking about have been awarded and after all those things have been done.

What exactly happened was that due process regulations were broken into two. The first set was to ensure that contracts were awarded on the basis of having been issued certificates from the Due Process Office.

The second aspect was to ensure that in respect of payments to be made from time to time they should make sure that certificates were also issued.

In respect of the first one regarding all contracts awarded, they must first of all obtain due process certificate from the due process office; this was completely done in respect of all the projects.

But as they were going along, there was a problem in respect of the second leg, there was time that because of the enormity of the projects that they were considering, the due process office could no longer cope with the issuance and processes relating to the second stage of the due process.

It was at this stage that the then Honourable Minister of Power brought an application before the President for waiver of the second stage of due process. Again let us bear in mind, and this is very important, that the application brought is relating to due process regulations made by the President; it is not a law or alert of this Honourable Parliament.

Of course, a reasonable President who wants the projects to be fast tracked will not watch, standing akimbo, while these things wait. (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Ali Ndume Mohammed (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Chairman, Point of Order!

The Chairman: Which Order?

Hon. Ali Ndume Mohammed: Mr. Chairman, I rise to observe Order IX, page 38 and it is on *Relevancy in Debate*. The Motion under consideration is the *Motion to look at the huge sums of money expended in the Power Sector without commensurate results*. That is the mandate given to the House. For somebody to

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say that the Report not being considered is irrelevant to the purpose of the Motion. The Motion is very clear. It says: *the Committee on Power is to look at the large sums of money expended in the power sector without commensurate result.*

That is what the Committee was supposed to do. For somebody to say that the Committee was given mandate to look at the due process involved in it and there is no law on ground, therefore, the Committee's Report should not be considered does not make sense because we are looking at it. It is not an issue where we would say that because the Procurement Act was not in place so the work of the Committee is not what we asked them to do. That does not make sense.

Let us look at the Report as it is first before we decide whether it is relevant or not. After all, we are going to take the recommendation one after the other. Therefore, if the recommendation is not in the interest of the House or the House does not believe in the recommendation, then we will drop it. For somebody to try to say we dropped this idea of considering the Report because the Due Process Law was not on ground at that time does not make sense at all.

The Chairman: Thank you very much Minority Leader. As Minority Leader, I believe you will have your say. The honourable Member that spoke before you was expressing his views as a member of the Committee. He was a member of that Committee or he is still a member of the Committee. The Speaker while presiding used his own discretion to say that this issue would be in three stages. We have passed the first stage; that is, comments by the Chairman. We are now on the second stage in which the Speaker used his own discretion to allow Members to express their opinion on the Report.

I do not think we are doing anything wrong by following what the Speaker has suggested that we should do. Therefore, Hon. Muraina, I will give you 30 seconds to round up.

Hon. Muraina Saubana Ajibola: Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me the unique opportunity to continue. I am very grateful because as a person who did not sign that Report, giving me an opportunity is giving me life.

I was at the point of telling us that because of the ample evidence before us as to the problems within the Due Process Office to process the second stage, the Minister for Power as at that time brought a request to the then President that the second stage of this process be waived. I say with all sense of responsibility that under our laws, the President ordinarily even without

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considering any laws, I want to submit most humbly before you that a President who has made due process regulation just to ensure that contracts are implemented without any problems should be able to say *I do not want this or that; or let us waive certain things.* Even then, our laws actively support what he had done.

I want to refer you most humbly to Section 5 of our Constitution which gives the President executive powers that are very wide.

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia (Jibia/Kaita): Mr. Chairman, Point of Order!

The Chairman: Which Order?

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia: Order XIV on page 70 on *dissenting opinion.*

The Chairman: Read the Order please.

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia: Order XIV, Rule 3 (e) says;

Every member shall be permitted to indicate in a Report that he or she dissents with a particular recommendation or comment within the Report. The Committee shall permit a member to express the reasons for such dissent.

Mr. Chairman, I read this Report from page one to the last page and I could not find that dissenting opinion. For us to start debating on this Report in the first instance, it is inconsistent with the provisions of our Rules. It does not accommodate dissenting opinion which is a right of a Member. I believe that there are a number of dissenting opinions from the members of the Committee because they did not sign this Report. The best thing we can do if I can move, is that we constitute a Sub-Committee to Review this Report to accommodate dissenting opinions.

The Chairman: Thank you Hon. Sada.

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia: Mr. Chairman, I have not finished.

The Chairman: You have finished with your Order, Hon. Sada. Thank you very much. As I said earlier, the Speaker has said while he was presiding that we should have this thing in three stages which we approved. The first was that the Chairman will make comments. Members will make comments and finally we take the recommendations. The Chairman has made his comments. A member is making a comment. After

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that maybe we may take some members again and then go into the recommendations of the Committee.

Therefore Hon. Sada, you are ruled out of Order. Hon. Muraina, please round up your comments.

Hon. Muraina Saubana Ajibola: Honourable Members, I most humbly refer you to Section 5 of the Constitution. I take it that the law is well written in the breast of all honourable Members and I would not want to read it. Secondly, I also refer them to Section 175 of the Constitution, which gives the President the power of life and death.

Finally, I want to submit most humbly that most of the recommendations in this report are moribund; they have been overtaken by events. The contracts we are talking about are not as they are now. So many things have changed there. Those people they want to sack or retire, many of them have been sacked or retired.

Hon. Igo Aguma: Mr. Chairman, my Point of Order is Order 1, Rule 1(b) on page 1. It reads thus: *in all cases not provided for hereinafter or by Sessional or other orders or practice of the House, the House shall be resolution regulates its procedure.* Mr. Speaker sat down on the Chair here and told us his proposal and we did not dissent. His proposal for the consideration of this report is part of our House Rules.

The Chairman: Your Point of Order is sustained. If you want to speak, just raise up your hand without calling the Chairman. That is what our rule says. I will be taking two members from each side.

Hon. Kayode Idowu (Odo-Pin/Ifelodun/Boripe): Mr. Chairman, I think that it is very important for us to understand that we in this green Chamber are virtually for only the truth and what will promote the development of the citizens of this country. It is equally important for us to understand that there is nobody here that will receive an anonymous letter and feel happy that he has received a letter to be considered. It is equally important to understand that this chamber of the National Assembly has been in existence since 1999. It is also important for us to understand that there were people who were responsible at that time to do what we called oversight functions in all these Parastatals that we are trying to consider today.

Therefore, nobody signed the report we are about to consider including the Chairman of the Committee. None of them signed this report. We have never been practicing such things here where a report will be brought to the House without duly signed by the Members.

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Secondly, it is equally important for everyone here to understand that whatever thing we do today will have a resultant effect tomorrow. Therefore, we should not lay a bad precedent. I want to suggest that it is important for us to drop this report today on the basis that nobody signed the report. So, we should not consider anonymous report.

Hon. Abdul Ningi (Ningi/Warji): Mr. Chairman, let me thank you and all other hon. Members for this unique opportunity in this historical sitting. Let me say that this House, this Institution and this National Assembly is on the threshold of history. It is either for the House to make this history or mar it.

No report has generated such commentary from the general public, Nigerians and outsiders, since after the demise of the Constitution Amendment than this Power Report. It is therefore imperative for all of us to understand that when the House took a resolution, they were sending some of its ambassadors to investigate. What is before the House right now is the opinion of the Committee even though there are some dissenting

opinions. That dissenting opinion should be able to guide the House on why they are dissenting. It is not for those people who either refuse to take part in the Committee's proceedings to say so. The Chairman of the Committee that had this process will be cited to provide answers to each and every question raised.

Therefore, the credibility of the Speaker of the House of Representatives in this report is at stake, having postulated before the national media that US\$16 billion was spent. The credibility and integrity of the President of this country is equally at stake, having postulated that US\$10 billion was spent. The credibility of the Special Committee, headed by the Vice President and which the Governor heading the Committee said that only US\$3.08 billion was spent and that there was an outstanding of US\$1.5 billion.

These are very serious allegations and we cannot, we must not, we shall never sweep these allegations under the carpet. Whether appropriations were made for these monies, we will come to know. In 2006, the Chairman of Appropriation was Hon. Farouk Lawan; he will tell us, documentary wise, whether monies were actually being appropriated for this project. That is all that we should ask for. All these ingredients should be kept so that the House will take a dispassionate decision on this matter.

The Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Ali Ndume.

Several Hon. Members: He has spoken on this matter.

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The Chairman: What he did was to raise a Point of Order.

Hon. Muhammed Ali Ndume: Hon. Colleagues, let us look at this issue as we initiated it. The Motion was necessitated because this honourable House and the country in general felt that a lot of money has been put into the Power sector without commensurate result – that is the crux of the Motion. It is not intended to indict anybody and it is not intended to polarize this House. The Motion is seeking to see whether this honourable House, through its legislative powers can contribute towards making power available to the citizens of this country. This is what Nigerians are expecting from us. This report came out now and we have a responsibility.

My concern *ab initio* is the issue that the former Majority Leader raised; the President himself said in the media that they have spent over US\$10 billion in the Power sectors and that he was not willing to put in more money without commensurate result. Mr. Speaker said it was US\$16 billion that was spent. Presently, the Presidential Committee on Power is talking of a different figure. Even the current Committee is saying US\$5.6 billion; and there are interested parties that can see that there are variations.

The issue is not who or what. The issue is that, for example, in Maiduguri, there is a signboard where they are supposed to build a substation and I understand that monies have been paid but there is no sub-station; what we have there is a signboard. The person responsible should either go and do the job or bring back the money to Nigerians so that they can give it to somebody else to do the job.

Honourable Colleagues, let us not consider this issue as issue that we could consider on Party basis, Sectional basis or interest basis. Let us look at the interest of the country. If we do not do that, history will judge us.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Ali Ndume. Hon. Colleagues, let us not confuse or mix the issue. Hon. Colleagues, the issue of the Vice President's Report which was read by the Governor of Benue State was only on NIPP. The issue stressed earlier was not on NIPP alone, but on Power. Please, we should note that. NIPP is only part of the Power project that was awarded.

Therefore, that Report does not in any way contradict what the earlier statement was suggesting. Probably, after we must have gone through the Report of the Committee we would find out if what has been

said was correct or not. But that issue of NIPP or 3.08 is only on NIPP please.

Hon. Dino Melaye (Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu): Mr. Chairman, I want to go by the elusive definition of the word Report. A Report is that document that is put together with its entire compendium duly signed by those constituted to put the Report together.

With very due respect to the Leader of Minority who was referring this House to history that history shall judge; History is not an elected Member of this Parliament. What I am saying in essence is that, because of the shortcoming and absence of reasonable numbers of Members of that Committee on that Report, there is no Report. This is because the definition of a Report, from whatever perspective we look at it, must be that document is duly signed by those constituted to put the Report together. I am referring this House to history again; history is not an elected Member of this House and it cannot prevent us from calling a spade a spade.

Hon. Tsegba Terngu (Gboko/Tarka): Mr. Chairman, we have all gone through the Report. In most cases the Committee did not give fair hearing to some of the people that were indicted. For example, Hon. Abdullahi Ahmed, who was a Member of this House but who is now the Nigerian Ambassador to Turkey, did not have the opportunity to appear before the Committee, even though the Committee in its recommendation recommended for his indictment and went ahead to say that he should be recalled to Nigeria. One of the fundamental issues that is guaranteed in our Constitution is that of fair hearing to everybody.

Again, the Report is at variance with the Report of the NIPP presented by the National Economic Council by the Governor of Benue State on the current status and cost of the NIPP project. I think it is very important.

Also, on recommendations 34 and 42, even though the Committee failed to get vital documents from CBN in terms of letters of credit opened, advances made to the Power Holding Company, they still went ahead and arrived at a very far reaching conclusion. To me, it is not correct because they did not relate back to this House on their inability to get some of these documents from CBN and Power Holding Company. All these investigations were supposed to be on the basis of the documents which they obtained from both CBN and Power Holding Company; and if these documents were duly obtained by the Committee, we would not have been speculating on the issues of the amount spend whether 16 Billion or 10 Billion or 5 Billion. This

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information could have been sought and obtained from the CBN. On the issue of the amount spent, this was only based on speculation since the Committee did not obtain one single document from the CBN.

In other instances, the Committee even went ahead to promote people to ask that people should be upgraded from Assistant General Manager to General Manager and some people should be demoted from General Manager to Deputy General Manager. That is not the responsibility of this Parliament. We are not here to purge, promote or downgrade people in the civil service.

The most interesting aspect of it is that the Consultant retained by this Committee bided for the Calabar Power Project and failed. In his bid, he lied that he was in agreement with the Hyinda Corporation of Korea; and when the bid was evaluated, it was discovered that this Consultant was not in any partnership with Hyinda of Korea; thereafter, he was disqualified. This is the man who was retained by the Committee; and if you look at the anger in the language used in the Report and Recommendation, you will definitely come to the conclusion that this was done by a very angry person who was so angered.

In carrying out such assignment as a House, we should look at the caliber of people we choose as Consultants who will help us write a Report. To me, this is what has brought us to where we are now, because the person writing this Report was so frustrated that he was thrown out of the Power Project.

Hon. Austin Nwachukwu (Ehime Mbano/Ihite Uboma/Obowo): Mr. Chairman, Point of Order!

The Chairman: What Order?

Hon. Austin Nwachukwu: Mr. Chairman, my Point of Order is on Order 14 Rule 9(e) page 77 (Investigative Hearing Procedures). It says;

The Committee shall proceed to receive such testimony in open session only if a majority of the members of the Committee, a majority being present determine that such evidence or testimony will not tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person, In either case the Committee shall afford such person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness; receive and dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

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This reference is being made because I got a petition from one of my Constituent

The Chairman: Hon. Austin, you can only raise a Point of Order on the issue under discussion.

Hon. Austin Nwachukwu: Yes, it is on this issue

The Chairman: You just raised the Point of Order to make contribution; you cannot make contribution by raising a Point of Order.

Hon. Austin Nwachukwu: I am sorry; I will go straight to the point

The Chairman: You are ruled out.

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdul (Alkalari/Kirfi): Mr. Chairman, my modest contribution in this very privileged slot ordered by Mr. Speaker is premised on this.

Firstly, whether we like it or not a lot of money has been spent on the power sector.

Secondly, it is also a fact that hard earned foreign exchange has been spent. It is also a fact that there is no power in Nigeria now. It is a fact that there is no power commensurate to the expenditure and it is a fact that there are so many negative consequences on the citizenry of Nigeria because of lack of power.

Lots of operations in theatres could not take place in our hospitals because of lack of power. The production capacity of our industries has collapsed because of lack of power. Many people are dying in one way or the other, directly or indirectly because of lack of power. Our economy is driving to a halt due to lack of power.

I want to appeal to this House to be fair to our teeming population that elected us to represent them and we must represent them responsibly. Let us not use emotions or recognize few faces that have gotten opportunities to be at the helm of affairs of this country and muddled up our economy.

Let us go to the root of the problems and that is the essence of this power probe. Let us see the mandate and look at the Report even if it is not complete whether it has touched on the crux of the matter. Let us not go into such indictments but allow the Report to be looked at carefully and deeply and let us identify those culprits. Whoever is caught should be dealt with properly. We

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must be responsible to our people, to ourselves, to Nigeria and the future of our children.

Between yesterday and today, about ten people have come to appeal to me that we should not spoil the future of Mr. A or Mr. B, when the future of over 140 million people is totally in disarray.

Please, let us look at this Report passionately; we should not allow it to be swept under the carpet because of the interest of a few people.

Hon. Mohammed Salik (Dala): Mr. Chairman, for the purpose of the records, I was a member of this Committee when these organizations came for the Public Hearing and I am still a member of the Committee and for that reason I can claim to be a very active member and I am sure the Chairman will agree with me. My comments are only two. (*Interruptions*)

The Chairman: Hon. Members, please, can we listen to a member of the Committee, he was a member of the Committee and he is still an active member of the Committee.

Hon. Mohammed Salik: Mr. Chairman, firstly, I never had the opportunity as an active member of the Committee to even look at this Report until a few days ago, notwithstanding my being very active in that Committee which is still recognized by members of the Committee.

Secondly, I have had causes to complain about the exclusive manner in which this Report was prepared. In fact, I went to the Press; I publicly disowned the Report saying that as far as I am concerned there is no Report from the Committee, and if there is, that it belongs to the Chairman and the Chairman alone.

Thirdly, I share the sentiments expressed by Members that we should have done much more thorough job because of the importance of power generations to the generality of the people of this country. We should in the first instance, remember that we are a law-making body and whatever we do here should be done within our own rules. Other Members have observed that no member of the Committee had signed the Report. I thought that I was the only person that did not sign it. But honestly, nobody has signed! Therefore this Report for all its intents and purposes remains anonymous.

If some of us have been carried along especially given the efforts that we had put in this investigation some of the apparent contradictions contained in the summary of the recommendations would not have been there.

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If you look at recommendation No. 47, it is claimed that one of the contracts was over scoped; that instead of 249 kilometers it was found to be 168 kilometers. The question now is, how did the Committee arrive at this? I am sure Members of this House would want to know. If they had included that we went to measure the distance, it would have been more informative.

Lastly, the question of a particular project which was over-priced, the example given and the comparison that was done between a Chinese sourced Turbine and that of General Electric, which is an American Company which is over one hundred years old. The basis for comparison to arrive at over-pricing has not been justified.

These are just few examples.

Hon. Ernest Ibejiako (Owerri Municipal/North/West): Mr. Speaker, Point of Order!

The Chairman: What Order?

Hon. Ibejiako: Order V Rule 1(b) page 11: *Privileges*. It reads:

Whenever a matter of privilege arises it shall be taken into consideration immediately.

I am rising to speak because I am a Member of the Power Committee since inception. I was among the Members that travelled throughout the country to investigate this assignment given to us by this honourable House.

We took all the risk and at the end of the day, we compiled the Report and two-third of us signed.

The Chairman: Did you sign?

Hon. Ibejiako: Yes, I signed the Report.

The Chairman: You raised your Point of Order that you are a Member of the Committee and you want to be recognised. I hope all the Members of the Committee will raise their hands for recognition. It will take some time. Let me finish with the procedure that I have started already.

You should sit down because the Order you just raised does not apply because we did not say all Members of the Committee but because of your complaint we will look into it.

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Hon. Ibejiako: Mr. Chairman, I want to speak the truth in this matter.

The Chairman: Everybody speaking here, I assume is saying the truth. Nobody is misleading this House.

Hon. Ibejiako: There are some who are misleading this House, I assure you.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, let us assume that everybody who is speaking is speaking the truth. The only difference is that the way you understand your truth may be different from the way another person understands his own truth; not that he is speaking lies. Everybody in this House is speaking the truth.

Hon. Olaka J. Nwogu (Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai): Mr. Chairman, we all know the importance of power and why the House decided to investigate the amount of money spent on power project and the result there from. My worry now is that this House probably lost a golden opportunity to do something good for this country.

First of all, the length of time it took from when the work of the Committee started to this time that we are discussing the Report is one of the problems we are having. There is a clear disconnect between the recommendations and the reality today.

A Professor once advised his students to always use current books because the older the book, the chances are that even the authors of those books may have change their mind on what they wrote. We face a situation where companies that are indicted or said not to be working were recently paid by the government of today because the government had verified that their work is on going.

The nature of the industries seems to have compounded the defects that are becoming glaring and noticeable from the Report. I am disturbed that there were Agencies that did not collaborate or respond to the Committee. I thought that a Committee of this House should have reported to this House its non-cooperation. This House would have put everything at its disposal at the Committee to make sure that it got all its facts.

Unfortunately, I think the Committee was a victim of its own sensation. From the beginning, the work of the Committee was of interest to the media and the reporting by the Press seemed to have given a new light to the war that was going on then. Hopes of Nigerians were raised, strong impression created of massive fraud and corruption and the expectation of the general public therefore was nothing other than finding the people guilty because of the exposure of massive crime and

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corruption. Anything short of that would have appeared an anti-climax.

I regret to say that it looks like the Committee just flew on those wings and that was why we have a Report. If we pass this Report as it is with every respect to Members of the Committee including its Chairman, I think we will be doing a lot of injustice to those indicted and even to the image of this House. We would have failed to uphold the truth.

The contradictions here - I am not a member of the Committee but I have heard what the Committee had reported. In one of its most profound recommendations, the Committee seemed to suggest that this work be done again when he said there is need for the list of Federal Government jobs, their value, location *et cetera* to be ascertained.

I thought that the Committee in trying to find out how monies were spent was at those sites; so the Committee Members know the locations and the values. The fact that the Members disagreed among themselves and they were not united in their work and it was not brought to us, further goes to show that we have a problem.

I urge that given the importance of this Committee's work and what we have told Nigerians that we are trying to find out; and the fact that we cannot rely on this work, shows that this House has a problem - a problem of finding a way of getting the truth without relying on this document.

On the surface of it, this Report is weak, wrong and should be jettisoned.

Hon. H.S Dickson (Ekeremor/Sagbama) Point of Order!

The Chairman: What Order?

Hon. H.S Dickson: My Point of Order is based on Order IX Rule 2 and it reads:

Any Member deviating from the provisions of these rules may be immediately called to order by the Speaker or the Chairman, or by a member rising to a point of order. A member rising to a point of order shall simply direct attention to the point he desires to bring to notice and submit it to the Speaker or to Chairman for decision.

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With all due respect, haven listened to the various contributions from the Members who participated and those that have disowned the report, the point I am raising is that based on this provision, it is very clear that we may have no other alternative in this matter than to set up a small Committee.

The Chairman: That is not an Order, but a Motion, please. You are ruled out of Order.

Hon. Colleagues, if you are talking about time we can sit up to 6.00 p.m. because today is Wednesday. Already, I have given the Floor to Hon. Erewa Abike.

Hon. Abike Kafayat Dabiri Erewa (Ikorodu): Mr. Chairman, obviously this Report is getting very controversial and I believe the controversy started with the drama that this Report generated while the Committee was going on its assignment. Maybe they did not realize it but the drama it generated led to so much anxiety. This is coupled with the fact that the power issue is what Nigerians are very passionate about.

At this point in time, this is one Report on which we have spent so much time and money. So, what do we do now and which is the way forward?

This Report has 88 recommendations. If we go ahead now to consider some of these recommendations, I do not think that all of these recommendations will be useless. We have spent so much time and Nigerians expected that with this Report, we are going to have light because we have generated so much attention with the Report.

My simple suggestion is that although some are saying that we should set up a Review Committee, let us consider those recommendations and throw out what we want to throw out and take what we want to take. If there is nothing in the recommendations that we are taking, then let us say that there is nothing; but we should just go ahead and take decision.

Hon. Ekpo Ekperikpe (Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika): Mr. Chairman, Point of Order!

The Chairman: Order What?

Hon. Ekpo Ekperikpe: Order XIV, Rule 3(8) page 70. It reads thus:

Disorder in a Committee can only be censored by the Speaker on receiving a Report from the Committee.

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Mr. Chairman, while the work of this Committee was going on, there was no information sent to the Speaker that there was disorder or that we were derailing.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, it is only the Speaker that can say that.

Hon. Ekpo Ekperikpe: Yes, it is only the Speaker that can censor that and there was no Report from the Committee or by anybody that it was derailing. So, we have to deliberate on whether or not we are doing the right thing. That is why I am quoting that very Order.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, can we please hear additional truth from the Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory (FCT)?

Hon. Ibejiako (Owerri Municipal/North/West): Mr. Chairman, I know strongly that God is truth and truth is life and it is the truth that can set us free. I am a foundation Member of the Power Committee and I was among the team that went round the States.

The Chairman: Hon. Ibejiako, what does it mean to be a foundation Member?

Hon. Ibejiako: I was a Member of this Committee since 2007. I was there when this assignment was given to the Committee and I was in the Team that went round the States.

What we found during our investigation is not something that we will stand here to trivialize. Some of the contractors that were given the job could not identify their sites while they have been fully paid. I am very sure of what I am saying.

The Chairman: Are you sure that some of the contractors have been fully paid?

Hon. Ibejiako: Yes, even some of the contractors have been fully paid and some were over paid.

The Chairman: You mean over paid?

Hon. Ibejiako I. Ernest: Yes; and they have collected their money. Some saw us and ran into the bush, while we saw some that had just started digging foundation. This was aired on the television during our tour and I am sure that the former President, Olusegun Obasanjo, had a very good intention in setting up the NIPP but the operators messed it up.

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It is very important that we consider this Report by looking at the message and not the messenger. If this House considers part of the sections of this Report wrong or where we could be corrected, then you can correct us but do not throw away this Report. This is because Nigerians are watching us and at the end of the day, whatever we do with this Report would also tell on the contractors that the Executive will give jobs. If we do not recover some of these monies, Nigerians are watching. We know the importance of power and it cannot be over emphasized.

I was there and I saw it myself. I know that they did not do the work and they collected money. It is now left for us to decide which way to follow, either to look at the Report critically, take the recommendations that we want to take, throw away those that we want to throw away but we should not throw away the whole Report.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, let me make this point clear. The Speaker has said that this Report will be taken in three stages. The first stage is for the Chairman to brief the House, while the second stage is for Members to contribute and the third stage is the consideration of the Report Clause by Clause.

Nobody has said or is insinuating that this Report should be thrown away. This is just the time for Members to make their contributions.

Hon. Andrew I. Uchendu (Ikwerre/Emohua): Mr. Chairman, the assignment before us is a herculean task. The setting up of this Committee was highly celebrated and Nigerians were looking forward to a very good Report. We must remain grateful to Mr. Speaker, for allowing the modification that would enable us look at the Report before considering it.

We asked them to go and do an Investigative Hearing on it and advise us on what to do but to my greatest dismay, when you look at Recommendation No. 5, the Committee is recommending to this House that we should go back and conduct Technical, Financial and Legal Audit, which means they are asking us to drop this Report.

I quite sympathize with this Motion, but for them to recommend that we should go back and conduct Technical, Financial and Legal Audit on this same thing that we have spent one year waiting for, is most unacceptable. The only thing we could do is to ask them to go back and give us an acceptable Report or we set up a small committee to review the entire Report.

Several Hon. Members: No.

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Hon. Leonard Wakkyai Williams Dilkon (Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam): Mr. Chairman, when the Committee visited Plateau, I was with them. We went to two sites. Firstly on Rukuba Road, there was a signboard. The contractor accepted he was paid 90 *per cent* and that he was going to start work. I passed there two weeks ago, there was nothing and unfortunately, it is not incorporated in this Report.

Secondly, there is another site; the contractor said he was rounding up and that all the equipment he has bought was on the way. There was nothing there at the site. I am talking about the one that goes to Pankshin, my Constituency. That project is not report in this Report. What I am saying in essence is that we cannot just throw away this Report. You can give a contract and the contractor will not do the work, it is not your fault.

Let us look at it one after the other. If it is the former President Olusegun Obasanjo that gave them the work and they said they gave him the money, let us know. We cannot start saying anything now. Let us look at that Report because if we throw it away, the House of Representatives will lose its respect before Nigerians.

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Mr. Chairman, permit me to speak using a case study; and I will pray each Member that we have each of the cases either in our Constituencies or States as a case study so that we do not generally throw away the Report because we will definitely have to come and say *yes* or *no* to each of the recommendations.

I want to take the example of Recommendation No. 80 which affects the project in Akwa Ibom State and in my Constituency. This recommendation says;

That Okuado Nigeria Limited be thoroughly investigated by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission with a view to recovering huge and undeserved financial gain it made at the expense of the Federal Government and the people of Nigeria.

I want to say that this company was awarded the construction of the line from Ikot Abasi to Eket, Eket to Uyo, Uyo to Itu. Itu is my Constituency. As a constituent, I took interest in this project because I took interest in the Power Sector from the beginning. I want to say that I am one of the persons who can say that I am a foundation member of the Power Committee because I was a foundation member of the Power Committee from 1999 till now; including my friend. I want to say that this project, at the time that the

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Committee went, not all the turbines had arrived but some of the turbines and the equipment have arrived at that time.

The Chairman: Arrived at the site?

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, Sir. As at today, I can speak from the Floor of the House of Representatives that the turbines are in Uyo and in the warehouse for the installation of this power in my State. I am talking from my own area. We are saying that let each of us take the case of his own State and talk about it. I am talking because I will not want investigation or any action that could be taken to jeopardize the completion of this project because I need the project.

We made this law and I want to state with respect that we made the Electric Power Reform Act. The Electric Power Sector Reform Act which is a law made by this House requires the acquisition of land. What has motivated this project is acquisition of land for the running of the transmission line.

The acquisition of land is to be the action of the Federal and State Government. When land is not acquired for the lines to be drawn we cannot blame the contractor for not doing it.

I refer the House to Section 77 and 78 of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act. Section 77 requires that the Federal Government should acquire the land for the entire route; and if this land has not been acquired then the construction cannot continue. I will want the project in my Constituency to be protected.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker elected in this House can listen and hear. If you say, Point of Order once, the Speaker has heard you. Allow him, if he gives you time then you speak, but not for you to continue shouting Point of Order and disturbing the House.

Hon. Colleagues, by our Rules, we sit on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Several Hon. Members: No.

The Chairman: Order IV, Rule 4, says:

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the House shall meet at 10.00 a.m. and unless previously adjourned shall sit until 6.00 p.m. provided that at 1.30 p.m. the Speaker shall suspend sitting until 3.00 p.m. Unless before 1.00 p.m. a substantive motion had been moved by the Leader of the House or a

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Member acting in that capacity "that the House do now adjourn" and if such a motion be moved and if the question thereon has not previously been determined at 1.45 p.m. the Speaker shall adjourn the House without question being put.

Honourable Colleagues, it is now after 6.00 p.m. Do we take the recommendations today?

Several hon. Members: No!

The Chairman: Since Members are saying that we take the recommendations tomorrow that means we are going to adjourn till tomorrow and when we resume tomorrow, the first thing that we will start with is Recommendation No. 1.

Honourable Colleagues, do you want to speak more?

Several hon. Members: No!

The Chairman: It has to be tomorrow.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): Mr. Chairman, I move that the House do revert to Plenary.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): Mr. Chairman, I second the Motion.

The House in Plenary

(The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Deputy Speaker: Honourable Colleagues, the House in the Committee of Whole commenced consideration of the Report of the Committee on Power Probe and deferred further consideration till next legislative day.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House adopts the Report of the Committee of Whole.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole.

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ADJOURNMENT

Order IV, Rule 6 of the Standing Order of the House.

*And it being after 6.00 p.m. The Deputy Speaker
adjourned the House without Question put pursuant to*

The House adjourned accordingly at 6.05 p.m.