

0397

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Thursday, 16th July 2009

The House met at 11.10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the House is called to order. I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday the 15th of July, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laying of Reports by Chairmen of Committees

The Speaker: This announcement is from the Leader of the House. It is to all Chairmen of Committees. All Chairmen that have been financially facilitated or funded for their public hearings should, please, lay their Reports now to enable the House consider the Reports.

Please, Chairmen could you lay your Reports so that we can move on.

Meeting of Forum of Legislators in support of State Creation

The Speaker: This is from Hon. Patrick Asadu and it is on behalf of the Forum of Legislators in support of State Creation. Apparently, there is a forum amongst us here of legislators who are in total support of State Creation.

Therefore, Members from States or Areas seeking the creation of new States from such States or Areas are hereby invited to a Meeting of the Forum of Legislators in support of State Creation as a Cardinal Aspect of the Alteration of the 1999 Constitution.

That will be Tuesday, 21st July 2009 at 2.30 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1.

(Signed)
Hon. Patrick Asadu,
Coordinator

0398

**Two-Day Consultative Meeting on the
Implementation of 2009 Budget, 2010 Budget
Preparation and the Petroleum Industry Reform Bill**

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, this is from the Special Adviser to National Assembly in the Presidency. He is inviting all Members of the House of Representatives to a Two-Day Consultative Meeting holding today at the Niger/Plateau Hall of the Transcorp Hilton on 16th and 17th July 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the 2009 Budget Implementation and 2010 Budget Preparations and, of course, the Petroleum Industry Reform Bill.

Meeting of the Committee on Power

The Speaker: There will be a meeting of the Committee of Power at 3.00 p.m., not 1.00 pm as earlier announced.

**Visit of the Nigeria Association of Computer
Science Students, Auchi Polytechnic Chapter**

The Speaker: We have in the Gallery the Nigeria Association of Computer Science Students, Auchi Polytechnic Chapter.

Could you, please, stand for recognition?
(*Students stood up for recognition*) You are most welcome.

Leader, I think you have some challenges on that invitation scheduled for this afternoon. You may need to do some extra work.

**Passing Away of Alhaji Mohammed:
Father of Hon. Ismaila Mohammed**

The Speaker: This announcement is from Hon. Ismaila Mohammed of Jos North/Bassa Federal Constituency of Plateau State. It reads:

With heavy heart, we announce the death of Alhaji Mohammed, the father of our dear Colleague, Hon. Ismaila Mohammed of Jos North/Bassa Constituency of Plateau State.

(Signed)
Hon. George Daika
For: Members from Plateau State.

Let us, please, observe a minute silence for the departed soul?

0399

0400

(One minute silence observed)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

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

Payment of Outstanding Arrears of Gratuity and Pension

Hon. Sokonte Davies (Degema/Bonny): I have a Petition with me from one of my constituents who worked for the Nigeria Police Force and retired at the end of 35 years in service. In the process of paying his gratuity and pension, instead of paying him completely, they paid him two ranks below the rank he retired and he believes that injustice has been done to him and he has brought this Petition to the House because he has implicit confidence in this House to do justice.

With your kind permission, may I lay the Petition before the House?

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Petition laid.

Brutal killing of Mr. Rufus Obeize by a Policeman

Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha (Isuikwuato/Umunneochi): Mr. Speaker, Hon. Colleagues, this Petition is from one of my constituents, Mr. Nnagi Obieze on behalf of the family. He is writing this Petition concerning the brutal killing of Mr. Rufus Obeize who was shot dead by a Nigerian Policeman on the 26th of December, 2007 at about 10.00 a.m.

The late Mr. Rufus was sitting down with others at Nyanyan Market, Abuja when Police bullet hit him. He slumped and died. Although the Police are saying that the man who killed Mr. Rufus was under the influence of alcohol at that point but the family is asking for justice.

I am praying this honourable House to look into this Petition so that justice can be done. Mr. Speaker, may I lay this Petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Petition laid.

Wrongful Dismissal by the Management of NITEL

Hon. Abass Ogwime Braimah (Etsako East/West Central): I have a Petition here from Mr. Apiakpunna John, my constituent from Imiegba Town in Etsako East Local Government. He had put in well over twenty-five years in NITEL. He said he had been wrongful dismissed.

His is praying this House to use its instrument of Parliament to prevail on the Management of NITEL to redress his wrongful dismissal and secondly for the House to ensure that his benefits, entitlements and other emoluments accruable to him are paid to him during this period.

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

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Petition laid.

The Speaker: Is there any other Petition, please? *(No response)* All Petitions are referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

(All Petitions accordingly referred to the Committee on Public Petitions)

Hon. John Halims O. Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: What is the Order, Hon. Halims Agoda?

Hon. John Halims O. Agoda: Mr. Speaker, I stand very firmly on Order IX, Rule 1(9) of the Revised Standing Orders of the House at page 31. With your permission, I read:

Rules of Debate

A Member desiring to speak shall raise his hand in his place and if called upon shall stand and address his observations to the Speaker or the Chairman.

Following from this, my short observation is in respect of the letter flowing from the Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters which you read to us among which he said he is inviting this

0401

distinguished Assembly to come together and hold Seminar on the issue of Budget Implementation.

If you follow the mood of the House and based on the recent revelation and from the workings of Budget Implementation in all democracies of the world, when a budget is passed it is not the duty of the Parliamentarians and indeed the National Assembly Adviser to Mr. President to now hold a Public Workshop as to how that budget is to be implemented.

We have seen from copious evidence gotten from the Executive that we have enough money, particularly as at the period they complained about, to execute this year's project. Now asking Members to now come together and hold Public Hearing is by all means endangering us into a trap which at the end of the day would mean that we all concurred to illegality.

I urged this honourable House to discountenance that letter and send a clear message to the Executive that they need to execute and implement the 2009 Budget as passed by the Nigerian National Assembly. *(Applause)*

Hon. Igochukwu N. Aguma (Port Harcourt I): Mr. Speaker, this House had passed a number of resolutions in the past. Virtually every week we have passed resolutions bordering on non-implementation of the Budget. We cannot partake in the Overhead of the Special Adviser on National Affairs because we do not have problems with implementation of Overhead. We cannot partake in it by going to dine and wine with him at a time Nigerians are suffering.

There are no light, water, housing, road, security and schools. ASUU, the Health Workers and the Television people are on strike. I believe that we are the last hope of the Nigerian Man and Woman. We must live by example.

I join my Colleagues and say that the Special Adviser to Mr. President should go and do his work and tell the Ministries, the Parastatals and Mr. President to implement the Budget.

The Ministry of Petroleum Resources or the Minister has not implemented one kobo of the Budget this year. As Chairman, Committee on Gas, what am I going to discuss with him? On what project are we discussing when there is no implementation?

I crave your indulgence and I will use this forum once again to call on the President and his Ministers to implement the Budget. Let us expunge that letter from our record.

0402

The Speaker: The point has been made on that one. Let me rule on the first Point of Order. I guess that is the end of any particular meeting with any Special Adviser.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

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

Constitutional (Third Amendment) Bill, 2009

Constitutional (Third Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 260) (Executive Bill); *read the First time.*

Electric Power Sector Reform (Amendment) Bill, 2009

Electric Power Sector Reform (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 279) – (Executive Bill); *read the First time.*

National Order of Precedence of Public Officers, Bill 2009

National Order of Precedence of Public Officers and other Persons Bill, 2009 (HB. 249) – presented by Hon. Tunde Akogun; *read the First Time.*

Federal Capital Territory Agency for Mass

Education (Establishment) Bill, 2009

Federal Capital Territory Agency for Mass Education (Establishment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 255) – presented by Hon. Ali Atai Usman Aidoko; *read the First Time.*

Federal Capital Territory Education Resources Centre Bill, 2009

Federal Capital Territory Education Resources Centre Bill, 2009 (HB. 256) – presented by Hon. Ali Atai Usman Aidoko; *read the First Time.*

Federal Capital Territory College of Education Bill, 2009

0403

Federal Capital Territory College of Education
Bill 2009 (HB. 257) – presented by Hon. Ali Atai
Usman Aidoko; *read the First Time.*

Constitution (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2009

Constitution (Fourth Amendment) Bill 2009 (HB.
291) – presented by Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila; *read the
First Time.*

Public Holidays Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009

Public Holidays Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB.
292) – presented by Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila; *read the
First Time.*

**Federal Roads Maintenance Agency Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2009**

Federal Roads Maintenance Agency Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 293) – presented by Hon.
Femi Gbajabiamila; *read the First Time.*

Labour Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009

Labour Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 290) -
presented by Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila; *read the First
Time.*

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

**Report of the Joint Committee on Labour,
Employment and Productivity and Justice on
Occupational Safety and Health Commission of
Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2008**

Hon. Ado Dogo Audu (Jemaa/Sanga): Mr.
Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report
of the Joint Committee on Labour, Employment and
Productivity and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Provide
for the Establishment of the occupational Safety and
Health Commission of Nigeria to Promote and Secure
the Safety and Health of all Workers and other Persons
from Risks arising out of Work Activities in the
Workplace and for Other Matters Connected Therewith,
2008 – HB. 91 and 93.

Hon. Cornelius Oyefolu Ojelabi (Ojo): I rise to
second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

0404

**Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment
and Productivity on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the
Trade Union Act, Trade Disputes Act, 2008**

The Speaker: The next Business of the Day is
consideration of Report of Committee on Labour,
Employment and Productivity on a Bill for an Act to
Repeal the Trade Union Act, Trade Disputes Act and
make Comprehensive Provision for Collective Labour
Relations and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008.

Hon. Ado Dogo Audu (Jemaa/Sanga): Mr.
Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report
of the House Committee on Labour, Employment and
Productivity on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Trade
Union Act, Trade Disputes Act and make
Comprehensive Provision for Collective Labour
Relations and for Matters Connected Therewith.

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga (Abakaliki/Izzi): Mr.
Speaker, I hereby second the Motion moved by
honourable Ado Dogo Audu.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

**Report of the Committee on Niger Delta
Development Commission on the 2009
Statutory Budget**

The Speaker: The next Business of the Day is
Presentation and Adoption of the Report of the
Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission
on the 2009 Statutory Niger Delta Development
Commission Budget standing in the name of the
Chairman, Hon. Mutu Nicholas Ebomo. It was referred
to your committee on the Tuesday 5th May, 2009.

Honourable Mutu Nicholas Ebomo is invited to
make the presentation.

Hon. Mutu Nicholas Ebomo (Bomadi/Patani):
Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive and
adopt the report of the Joint Committee on Niger Delta
Development Commission and Ministry of Niger Delta
Affairs on the Niger Delta Development Commission
2009 Statutory Budget.

Hon. Shuaibu Gwandu Gobir (Isa/S.Birni): Mr.
Speaker, I hereby second the Motion moved by Hon.
Mutu Nicholas Ebomo.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

0405

O406

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Centre for Democratic Studies (Establishment) Bill, 2009

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, the first Order of the Day is resumption of the debate of the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to Establish the Centre for Democratic Studies and Other Related Matters, 2009.

You will recall that two days ago, that is, on 14th July, 2009 debate on the Bill was adjourned to enable the Chairman, Rules and Business to produce the enabling Decree establishing the Centre for Democratic Studies with a view to determining the areas of differences between the old Bill and the recent Bill forwarded by the Executive to the House.

Hon. Ita Enang, you have the Floor.

Hon. Ita S. J. Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Mr. Speaker, the brief of the House two days ago was that I should produce before the House the law establishing the Centre for Democratic Studies, 1992 and the 2007 Act Establishing the Centre for Democratic and Legislative Studies and a comparison between that and the one that has just been submitted by Mr. President.

I draw attention to the Centre for Democratic Studies Decree 1992. It is on page 531 of the Decree in the Gazette of 1992. This is the law that established the Centre for Democratic Studies in 1992.

In 1996, the Government of late General Sani Abacha by Decree No.14 of 1996 dated 19th of April, 1996 repealed the Centre for Democratic Studies Decree 1992. That is found on page A3239 of the 1996 laws. It is also produced here in the publication of the National Assembly coordinated by Rules and Business Committee in 2003. That is on page 383 of this book.

In 2007, the National Assembly enacted the Institute for Democratic and Legislative Studies Act 2007. It is Act No. 37 of 2007, assented to by President Yar'Adua on the 30th of July, 2007. That Act only deals with two paragraphs; out of a little over twenty paragraphs, only two of the Sections deal with Democratic Studies. The rest of it deals with Legislative Studies and I will just read with your leave, only paragraph (1) one of it which deals with Democratic Studies; it says:

The Institution shall act as a Centre of Excellence for research and publication on Democratic Governance and Legislative Practice and Procedure; Act as a Centre for Continued Education on Democracy and Legislation.

Those are the only two paragraphs that deal with democratic studies. But the Bill that has been sent now by Mr. President deals exclusively with Democratic Studies and all the Sections are almost in tandem with the Centre for Democratic Studies Act which was repealed and it is intended to sustain democracy to re-enact and improve upon and widen the aspect of the Democratic Studies that is domiciled in the Executive.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of Rules and Business, I draw your attention that there is in the works, a Bill which was initiated about two months ago sponsored by the Hon. Deputy Speaker and it is also sponsored in the Senate by the Deputy Senate President to amend the Centre for Democratic and Legislative Studies Act 2007; to remove all the aspects that deal with Democratic Studies so that the Institute will simply be Centre for Legislative Studies.

Therefore, this Bill that has just been brought by Mr. President deals exclusively with Centre for Democratic Studies and there is no existing law that is in conflict with it. Therefore, there is nothing impeding the consideration of the Bill on the Floor of this House. That is my brief.

If the House agrees as it were, the Leader was to continue the Debate on the Bill.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact and explanation by the Chairman, Rules and Business Committee. Three hundred and sixty (360) of us that are here are as qualified and equal to the Chairman, Rules and Business Committee. We are responsible people and we have our heads on our bodies.

We cannot talk about democracy without legislation. You cannot talk about these things without mixing it up. We should not swallow a Bill hook, line and sinker just because it is coming from the Executive. We should look at it maturely and if it is supposed to be dead on arrival, so be it but we just cannot be defending things just for the sake of it. It does not work and does not make sense. His explanation does not convince me.

The Speaker: I do not understand what you are saying.

0407

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: What I am saying is that this Bill is a duplication and a repetition. It is unnecessary as he has explained. In 1996, there was a Centre for Democratic Studies and in 1999 there was another one. So, why do we have to create a Centre for Democratic Studies on the one hand and Centre for Legislative Studies on the other hand? How do you separate democracy from the Legislature? We have more important things to do and consider. Let us just throw this out at the initial stage and do things that are more important

Hon. John Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): Mr. Speaker, my worry is not that the current Bill before us refused to merge the issues of the Executive and that of the Legislature. We need to see what is obtainable in other democracies. For instance, we keep on saying that ours is taken from the United States. We need to look around and see whether there is in existence, for instance, an Institute solely meant for Parliament.

There was also in existence before now an Act of Parliament by virtue of Section 315 of the 1999 Constitution, a Centre for Democratic Institute headed by Professor Omo Omoruyi during the General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida's regime.

From the analysis made by my dear Friends, if we now add the Centre for Democratic Institute plus the two earlier mentioned by him, then we have a collection of these laws that would be in place. My worry is whether we do not have an elaborate existing Act that covers what the Executive is presenting before us? If we do, then it would be a duplication.

Are they bringing amendment? Are they trying to harmonise all the existing Acts into one? We need to be told because from what Hon. Ita Enang said, he was unable to tell us whether what they have brought to this Parliament is in more detail or it is repealing the other two existing Acts so that at the end of the day we will have new materials that will advance our democratic experiment.

We need to see from other democratic countries whether they have Institutes *per se* for Legislature and for the Executive or whether they have both together.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila (Surulere I): Mr. Speaker, I want to very unusually agree with the Chairman Rules and Business Committee. His analysis is very clear. We should not muddle things up. From his analysis, there is only one law right now that is in existence, not two. From Hon. Ita Enang,s

0408

analysis, one had already been repealed by the Abacha Administration. Therefore, that does not exist.

Whilst we want to always borrow from more advanced democracies, we should also balance it with an understanding of where we are at this time. Whether or not there is a separate Legislative Institute in America or in Germany is absolutely irrelevant in our own context. This is a nascent democracy and those are fully developed advanced democracies.

From what he analysed on the Floor, there are only two Sections in the existing legislation that deal with democracy or Democratic Studies as such. Those two Sections are actually very nebulous; they did not give details at all. He read them out. They just basically say that there shall be Democratic Centre. However, this particular Bill that is before us is more detailed.

What I would suggest for the benefit of Members so that we can do things thoroughly is to once again step it down and let the Chairman, Rules and Business Committee circulate the existing Act to Members and also the present one that is before us so that Members will have the benefit of comparing the two.

The Speaker: Hon. Femi you have more or less authenticated what the Chairman has said so we can move on.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila: My point is that I am with him on all fours.

Hon. Ihiabe Samson Positive (Dekina/Bassa): Mr. Speaker, what the Presenter has said is that there is already a law in place in respect of Centre for Democratic Studies but it deals more with the Legislative Studies rather than the Centre for Democratic Studies. The question I want to ask is can there be Centre for Democratic Studies without Legislative arm?

In the second instance, there are attempts from the Senate and House of Representatives to put on a different Bill and repeal this one and put them at par so that each one can be different from the other. While that Bill is in process because it has not been assented to, it has not repealed the first one that is in place.

My position is that we should look at it from the point of the fact that this Act is already in place and has been assented to by the current government. Are we going to harmonise them by looking at the details of the one that in process and the one that is being brought in

0409

line with what we want to do to ensure that the two are put in place in the interest of Nigeria?

Hon. C.I.D. Maduabum (Nnewi North South/Ekwusigo): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether to presume that we are already doing the Second Reading because I do not know what the debate is all about. If we are doing the Second Reading, then my contributions would be as follows, Sir.

The Speaker: Hon. C.I.D. Maduabum, please let us not get into unnecessary frivolities. We are already engaged in the Second Reading of this process and there are contributions from the Floor. Just make your contribution, please.

Hon C. I. D. Maduabum: My contribution is to, first of all, thank the Chairman, Rules and Business Committee because the House gave him this assignment and he has acquitted himself creditably. So we owe him that debt for the research he has made.

What is before us is simple. Do we want one institution to handle Legislative Training and other issues or do we have another institution that will handle the entire Political Class and the entire country on the issue of Democracy?

The current Bill says:

Hon. Dino Melaye (Kabba/Ijumu): Point of Order?

The Speaker: Which Point of Order?

Hon. Dino Melaye: My Point of Order is Order XII, Rule 4 of our Revised Standing Orders at page 48 dealing with Procedure on Bills. It says:

(1) On the Order for the Second Reading of a Bill being read, a Motion may be made "That the Bill be now read a Second Time" and debate may arise covering the general merits and principles of the Bill.

Hon Ita Enang has not moved that this Bill be read the Second time and we are already debating it.

The Speaker: The Bill was already read the Second Time two days ago; this is a continuation.

Hon. Dino Melaye: That is not true.

0410

The Speaker: Hon Melaye, I read it and I gave date. Thank you. Hon. Maduabum, continue please.

Hon C. I. D. Maduabum: Thank you for the indulgence. I am saying that the current Bill before us seeks to set up a Centre that would be empowered by Section 2(2)(a) of the Bill to conduct training for the Political Class drawn from the different sectors with a view to expanding their outlook, perspectives and award Certificates of Attendance and all that.

If you look at this current Bill the entire Political Class and the Legislature are also part of Political Class and, therefore, the Definition Section did not define Political Class but I think that Political Class includes, by ordinary construction, the Legislature. If that is so, the current Bill covers the Legislature as well as those in the Private Sector.

What is before us is to take a decision. Do we consider the Legislature so important in our current democracy to have one institute dedicated to its training? For instance, we have Legislature at the Local Government level, State level and the Federal level. Is it such an important Institution that we should have one Institute devoted to its training? This the question we need to resolve or do we need this one institute to take care of the Legislature, Executive and other persons involved?

Currently, what seems to be in place is that the Judiciary has National Judicial Institute that trains Judicial Personnel. I am of the view, therefore, that this current Bill cannot take care of the Judiciary because it already has a separate training Institute and, therefore, it might well be that the current law that is already in existence should take care of the Legislature differently and then this one will restrict itself to the Executive. That is the decision we need to take.

We have Training Institutes for the different Arms. In the alternative, let us abolish all the Institutes and have only one.

Hon Emmanuel Jime (Makurdi/Guma): Mr. Speaker, the explanation that came from the Chairman, Rules and Business Committee has clearly indicated that there is already in existence a Centre for Democratic Studies.

The Bill that we are considering or discussing at the moment is also suggesting the establishment of a Democratic Institute. We really cannot have two of these institutions existing at the same time. We can only either have an Amendment to the existing Institute

0411

which means that this Bill as it stands now must be withdrawn so that it could be represented to suggest the proper thing which is to amend the existing Institute to cover all that is required to be covered by the centre for Democratic Studies.

We cannot have two different Institutes that would be governed by the same sort of laws and passed by the same Nigerian Parliament operating side by side with one another. Given the explanation that has been made the proper thing to do is to withdraw this particular Bill as it stands so that if there is a need to improve on the existing Institute, it can be re-presented as an Amendment to that Bill that is already in existence.

Hon Patrick Obahiagbon (Oredo): Mr. Speaker, for me I do not think that the explanation of the Chairman of Rules and Business Committee subject itself to any ambiguity. What Hon. Ita Enang said is very clear to me. What he said is that the former Institute for Democracy which Professor Omo Omoruyi had the privilege to suzerain over is no long in existence. Therefore, we must get that fundamentally clear that that Institute is gone for good.

The Chairman of Rules and Business also said that the Institute just now is for Legislative and Democratic Studies. He went further to say that it dealt more *in extenso* with Legislative Studies and its scope of coverage as it has to do with democracy was very constricted. Beyond that it brought to our attention that both the Deputy Speaker of this House and Deputy Senate President had already put in the works attempt to amend that law so as to make it strictly legislative.

If you read the intended Bill for consideration as I have done and you juxtapose it with the one already in existence, you will see that the scope of coverage of this one is quite latitudinarian in such a way and manner that it reduces and makes that one pale into thin insignificance.

Therefore, I am *in pari materia* with his very clinical and cerebral submissions that that law already in existence especially when viewed against the background of what is already in the work between the House of Representatives and the Senate does not inhibit the consideration of this Bill.

I submit and urge my Colleagues that we should move further into Second Reading and go on to debate this Bill as it stands.

The Speaker: I thought we are already in Second Reading.

0412

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

Hon. Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: Which Point of Order?

Hon. Halims Agoda: Mr. Speaker, my Point of Order is the same Order IX, Rule 9 of our Revised Standing Orders at page 31 and I have read this earlier. On the basis of this, may I ask a question?

The Speaker: If it is the same Order, we have already ruled on it.

Hon. Halims Agoda: But it is a new issue based on the same Order.

The Speaker: Please proceed with the issue.

Hon. Halims Agoda: With your permission, I read:

A member desiring to speak shall raise his hand in his place and if called upon shall stand and address his observations to the Speaker or the Chairman.

The Speaker: You have not been called upon. You may take your seat, Sir.

Hon. Halims Agoda: I thought I raised my hand.

The Speaker: It is now that you read the Order. I just realised that you are just using your experience in the Legislature to bamboozle all of us.

Hon. Halims Agoda: No, Sir.

The Speaker: What is the new issue, with all due respect?

Hon. Halims Agoda: I have listened carefully and I have gone through the content of the Bill we are discussing now. I have equally gone through the content of the Act and the Policy Objective of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Jos.

When you look at the Programmes of that Institute and the aim and objective of what this new Bill seeks to achieve, they are the same thing. From the presentation that my very good Friends made to this House nothing has been mentioned of that Institute.

0413

If we go ahead to consider and pass this Act, are we saying that we will put in place two institutions that have the same working programme in this country? This is because you need to read the two institutes and their programmes.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, basically, it looks as if this is very confusing and we may need to call more people to testify to us. We may as well allow this to go to the Committee level where it can be thoroughly looked into. Therefore, I am going to put the question that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Halims Agoda: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: What is your Point of Order? Do you want to approach the Chair?

Hon. Halims Agoda: I will approach the Chair.

The Speaker: Which Order are you raising?

Hon. Halims Agoda: My Point of Order is constitutional; it is the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution, Section 14 dealing with the Independent National Electoral Commission, particularly subsection (f) at page 143.

The Speaker: Can you read the subsection please?

Hon. Halims Agoda: What Section 14, subsection (f) of the Third Schedule to the Constitution is saying is that this function is given to INEC.

A hon. Member: Point of Order!

Hon. Halims Agoda: Section 14, subsection (f) of the Third Schedule says – *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, allow Hon. Halims to get to the bottom of his point so that I can rule on it, please.

Hon. Halims Agoda: I can be ruled Out of Order or my Point of Order can be sustained but I should be listened to.

I am saying that, in the first place, this Bill cannot be presented to Parliament.

0414

The Speaker: You are ruled out of Order. The Bill is referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Bill read a Second Time and accordingly referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

**Exclusive Economic Zone Act, Cap. E17 LFN 2004
and the Territorial Waters Act Cap TS LFN 2004
(Repeal) Bill, 2009**

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Exclusive Economic Zone Act, Cap. E17 LFN 2004 and the Territorial Waters Act Cap. TS LPN 2004 and Enact the Maritime Zones Act to Provide for the Maritime Zones of Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 – (HB. 170)

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Exclusive Economic Zone Act, Cap. E17 LFN 2004 and the Territorial Waters Act Cap. TS LFN 2004 and Enact the Maritime Zones Act to provide for the Maritime Zones of Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009.

Leader of the House, can you approach the Chair, please? Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business, can you also approach the Chair, please?

(Leader of the House and the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business approached the Chair accordingly and conferred with the Speaker)

The Speaker: Apparently, the last two Bills are not ready for presentation.

Bills with the leave of the House stood down.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila (Surulere I): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: What Point of Order? We have not even done anything.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila: It is on the matter you have just brought up.

The Speaker: What matter?

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila: Go ahead, Sir.

0415

The Speaker: Why are you in such a hurry?

Political Parties Registration and Regulatory Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Political Parties Registration and Regulatory Commission and for Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2009 (HB. 237) -

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the next Order of the Day is the Debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to Establish the Political Parties Registration and Regulatory Commission and for Other Matters Connected Thereto.

The Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday, 13th May, 2009. I now invite the Leader to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko Edo): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Political Parties Registration and Regulatory Commission and for other Matters Connected Thereto 2009 be read the Second Time.

Hon. Shehu Baba Agaie (Agaie/Apai): I rise to second the Motion moved by the Leader, Hon. Tunde Akogun.

Question proposed.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, it is important for me to remind us that this Bill has had some very serious challenges in the other Chamber. However, we may need to look at one or two things there so that we would be more thorough in the level of constitutional amendment that exists in this Bill. Therefore, it will be committed to the Committee where a thorough job can be done on it.

However, I would like the Chairman, Rules and Business Committee to make some clarifications.

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Mr. Speaker, may I draw the attention of this honourable House that Mr. President brought the Constitutional Amendment No. 2 Bill to this House. That Bill passed Second Reading and it sought to amend the Constitution by deleting item 15(b), (c) and (d) from the Functions of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as stated in this Constitution. That Bill had passed.

0416

Therefore, the Functions that this body seeks to perform are those functions that are sought to be deleted from the Constitution. Mr. Speaker, I draw attention to item 15(b), (c) and (d). I also draw attention to item F - Independent National Electoral Commission as is provided in the Third Schedule to the Constitution. The particular item is 15. I read the three of them:

Item 15: *The Commission shall have power to –*

- (a) *Register Political Parties in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and an Act of the National Assembly;*
- (b) *Monitor the organisation and operation of the political parties, including their finances;*
- (c) *Arrange for the annual examination and auditing of the funds and accounts of Political Parties and publish a report on such examination and audit for public information.*
- (d) *Arrange and conduct the registration of persons qualified to vote and prepare, maintain and revise the register of voters for the purpose of any election under this Constitution.*
- (e) *Monitor political campaigns and provide rules and regulations which shall govern the political parties;*

This Bill is a Constitution (Amendment) Bill because it seeks to take the functions, which have been deleted from the Constitution by the first Bill that we passed; the Comprehensive Constitution (Amendment) Bill that we passed to give to the Political Parties Registration.

The final point is that we agree that this Bill had challenges in the Senate. Now, this is one National Assembly sitting in two Chambers. If a Bill suffers any fate in the Senate, it does not stop the House from taking the Bill. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, it is when we have passed the Bill that we can send it for harmonisation.

Some hon. Members: No way. *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, that is all right. Let us sheath our swords for now; let us seize fire for now.

Hon. Colleagues, for clarity sake; what he said is

0417

that there is a particular Constitution (Amendment) Bill that has passed Second Reading in this Chamber which seeks to amend or alter the Constitution, and therefore, this particular Bill which is being read now is part of that to make sure that it fills those areas that have been amended.

Some hon. Members: No! No!

Hon. Dino Daniel Melaye: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: Hon. Dino Melaye, what is your Point of Order?

Hon. Dino Daniel Melaye (Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu): Mr. Speaker, it is a constitutional Point of Order. Chapter 1, Section 1 of the Constitution says:

This Constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all authorities and persons throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Then Sections 224 to 226 of the Constitution stipulated conditions for the registration, management and funding of Political Parties. If you permit me, Mr. Speaker, I can read Section 224.

The Speaker: Why is he Out of Order?

Hon. Dino Daniel Melaye: He is out of Order because the Constitution has taken care of the Registration of Political Parties and you cannot by Bill in this Chamber amend those provisions. Since the Constitution has already provided conditions for the Registration and Management of Political Parties, we cannot amend those provisions by way of a Bill.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila (Surulere I): Mr. Speaker, the point being made here is very simple. Hon. Ita Enang has said that we brought an Amendment to the Constitution to this House. The Amendment I remember was for the purposes of independent candidacy, not to amend the items as enumerated by him. Be that as it may, assuming that it was for the Amendment of item (f) or (15), it is not sufficient.

The point Hon. Dino Melaye is making is that Sections 221 to 225 deal with this same provisions; regulation of political parties. Therefore, it is not enough to amend the items enumerated by him; you also have to amend Sections 221, 222, 223, 224 and 225.

0418

Until that amendment is done, this Bill cannot stand. You cannot build something on nothing. It is as simple as that; it is an anticipatory Motion, which is against our Rule.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Raphael Samson Osagie (Orhionmwon Uhumwode): I concur with the last two speakers on this matter. We do not need to unnecessarily play to the gallery because it is an Executive Bill.

Essentially speaking, there is nothing in the Bill that is not already a constitutional provision. If that is the case, until the Constitution, the *grundnorm*, is amended, no Bill can be passed by any Arm of the National Assembly that can stand the test of time.

The point being made is that in spite of the fact that the Bill has suffered very serious challenges there, this Bill cannot stand and cannot even be taken until we cross this bar.

Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum: I associate myself completely with the views of my Colleagues. There is no way you can bring an ordinary Bill, not for constitutional Amendment, to amend the Constitution. That is legal heresy and I am surprised the Attorney-General brought this kind of thing to this House.

Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale (Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben): My position is absolutely in consonance with the last four speakers on this issue. I want to take a cue from what Hon. Dino Melaye mentioned earlier by referring to the Constitution.

While not going into the particular Sections of the Constitution that he quoted copiously, I want to cap it up by saying that if you look at Section 1(3) of the Constitution, it is very clear *that if any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, this Constitution shall prevail and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.*

Just like the Court, no Judge would want to give judgment that would be rendered nugatory or unenforceable. In the same vein, it would be absolutely absurd for this House to take a position on attempting to make a law that, for all intents and purposes, is absolutely not going to be implementable because of the fact that the Constitution itself, the *grundnorm* as it has been called is in existence and the necessary Amendment has not been made.

0419

Therefore, if anybody intends to bring a Bill to talk about registration of political parties; whether the funding, the formation, and what have you, the Sections of the Constitution, as Hon. Gbajabiamila earlier said, must be taken care of and until that is done, this Bill is said to be in abeyance.

The Speaker: Thank you. Leader of the House, in view of all these contributions, what do you have to say?

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Hon. Speaker, a couple of days when this Bill was introduced it suffered a dizzying halt. Today, it is being subjected to very incisive comments that one cannot but take cognizance of.

For now I am convinced by the points raised by my Colleagues especially the last four or five speakers that the Constitution is still there; the Bill we passed is to enable an Amendment to be made to the Constitution and until that Amendment is effected, the law is still what it is. Therefore, this Bill cannot go through the Second Reading.

I therefore move that the Bill be stood down.

The Speaker: The Bill is stood down.

Bill with the leave of the House stood down.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: I have already ruled.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila: It is not on your ruling.

The Speaker: Is it on the same subject that I have ruled on?

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila: Yes, I am bringing a Matter of Privilege.

The Speaker: You may wish to go on.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila: I want to move that the Attorney-General of the Federation of Nigeria, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, who should know better than bringing an ordinary Bill to amend our Constitution should be summoned by the Committee on Justice to come and explain why he should bring a Bill like this to this very hallowed Chamber.

0420

The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Colleagues, I believe I should say one or two things now.

For clarity, the essence of this exercise is to come out with an Electoral Reform and Constitutional Amendment that the country will have confidence in and that we, the players in the field, will also have confidence in so that whatever we do in governance will have the participation of the public and, be in the public interest.

When this particular Bill had challenges in the Senate, we asked some of our Members to sit with the Attorney General. I think they were in agreement to a level that something ought to be done to make sure that the main point of this Bill is achieved by making adjustments, where necessary, so that we can achieve the objective.

Hon. Na'Allah and Hon Fasinro are not here and I believe the Chairman, Committee on Justice also took part in that meeting with the Attorney General of the Federation. They have not reached a conclusion because if they had certain adjustment would have been made before this Bill is actually taken on the Floor.

I am appealing to you that in view of the fact that we have our Members who are experienced, who understand what you are saying and are already engaging the Attorney General to find a solution to achieve the objective, that we allow them to complete the exercise and then come back for us to have a look at the process again to achieve it. That is why we took that decision.

So, please bear with us. Thank you.

**Transfer of Convicted Offenders (Enactment and Enforcement) Act, Cap. T16 LFN 2004
(Amendment Bill) 2009**

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Transfer of Convicted Offenders (Enactment and Enforcement) Act, Cap. T16, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Related Matters, 2009 (HB. 230) -

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is Commencement of Debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to Amend the Transfer of Convicted Offenders (Enactment and Enforcement) Act, Cap. T16, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Related Matters, 2009.

0421

The Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday, 13th May, 2009. I now invite the Leader, Hon. Tunde Akogun, to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, the next two Bills including the one the honourable Speaker has read, have not been completely cleared at the point of briefing with me. So they ought not to have been listed in today's Order Paper.

I move that the two Bills be stood down.

The Speaker: The Bills are stood down.

Bills with the leave of the House stood down.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity on the Establishment of the National Commission for Conciliation and Arbitration

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment, and Productivity on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Commission for Conciliation and Arbitration, National Labour Council, the Office of the Registrar of Trade Unions, etc to administer the Provisions of Labour Laws in Nigeria and Matters Connected Therewith, 2008.

This Bill was laid by Hon. Ado Dogo Audu on Tuesday, 2nd July, 2009. Hon Ado Dogo Audu, can you please move for the consideration of the Report?

Hon. Ado Dogo Audu (Jemaa/Sanga): I would like to plead that the Consideration of the Report be stood down because copies of the Bill have not been circulated to all Members.

The Speaker: Why not?

Hon. Ado Dogo Audu: I will have to talk to Chairman, Rules and Business Committee.

The Speaker: Chairman Rules and Business?

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, we produced the Bill and circulated it; that is why we listed and told him even yesterday.

0422

The Speaker: The Bill has been circulated? Chairman, Rules and Business, your Colleagues are saying that they do not have the Bill.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker we have circulated the Bill unless they have not brought them but we have extra copies.

The Speaker: Hold it. Has it been circulated or not?

Hon. Ita Enang: It has been circulated but we have extra copies.

The Speaker: Members do not have the copies.

Hon. Ita Enang: It may be stood down, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. The Bill is stood down.

Report with the leave of the House stood down.

Report of the Committee on Communications on Registration of Mobile Telephone Line for Security Reasons Bill, 2008

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is consideration of the Report of the Committee on Communications on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Registration of Mobile Telephone Line for Security Reasons and for Matters Related Thereto. The Report was laid on 12th May, 2009.

Is the Chairman of the Communications Committee here? *(No response)* Is his Deputy here? *(No response)*

Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business, how do you want to do this?

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, we spoke with the Chairman of the Committee on Communications yesterday and when you look at the Notice Paper that was published on Friday last week, it was there and we told him that we would honour our Notice Paper so that this House will have what to do today.

We spoke with Hon. Salako in person.

The Speaker: The Report is stood down.

0423

Report with the leave of the House stood down.

Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Niger Dock on the Investigation into Threats to National Security and Economic Interest of Nigeria at Niger Dock Premises

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is consideration of the Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Niger Dock on the Investigation into Threats to National Security and Economic Interest of Nigeria at Niger Dock Premises.

The Report was laid on Thursday, 4th December, 2008. Hon. Tunde Akogun will now move for the consideration of the Report.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that this House do consider the Report of the *Ad-Hoc* Committee on Niger Dock on the Investigation into Threats to National Security and Economic Interest of Nigeria at Niger Dock Premises and to approve the Recommendations therein.

Hon. Shehu Baba Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Report of the *Ad-Hoc* Committee on Niger Dock on the Investigation into Threats to National Security and Economic Interest of Nigeria at Niger Dock Premises and to approve the Recommendations therein.

Hon. Ita Enang: I do move that this House do suspend the provision of Order VII, Rule 2(2) of our Revised Standing Orders to enable the Speaker preside over the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo (Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika): I do second the Motion moved by Hon. Ita Enang, Chairman, Rules and Business Committee.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do suspend the provisions of Order VII, Rule 2 (2) of the Standing Orders to enable the Speaker preside over the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: I move that the House do resolve into Committee of the Whole to consider the Report.

0424

Hon. Shehu Baba Agaie: I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do resolve into Committee of the Whole to consider the Report of the *Ad-Hoc* Committee on Niger Dock on the Investigation into Threats to National Security and Economic Interest of Nigeria at Niger Dock Premises and to approve the Recommendations therein.

House in the Committee of Whole

Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Niger Dock on the Investigation into Threats to National Security and Economic Interest of Nigeria at Niger Dock Premises – CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Chairman: Yes, Leader of the Minority?

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Chairman, my concern is that we are just being given copies of this Report and we are to take it now. It is not possible for us to take this voluminous Report that we are just receiving now. I am getting it just now.

The Chairman: There is no problem.

Hon. Olaka J. Nwogu (Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai): Mr. Chairman, some of us have had the document that we have just been given before now while others are getting it for the first time. Our consideration would be a joint one; that is, those who have had it before and those who are getting it now.

For us to do justice to this report, let us appeal to those who already have opinion on it to allow those of us who are getting it for the first time to study it. We need to look at the volume of what we have just been given. It is in the interest of Nigeria and Nigerians.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, this has my name on it and it is talking about *Security – Service Chiefs on the Security Threats at Niger Dock Premises*. It deserves thorough perusal. So, we are not going to take it today.

Please, take your time to study it. We would take it on the next Legislative Day. Security and threats is a very serious issue.

0425

Report with the leave of the House stood down stood down; to be considered on the next Legislative Day.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do revert to Plenary.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Lapai/Agaie): I second the Motion that the House do revert to Plenary.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do revert to Plenary.

(The Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Speaker: Hon. Ita Enang, could you, please, make sure that all hon. Members have a copy of this Report now?

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, with respect Sir, we had circulated this report but we still have enough copies.

The Speaker: I saw members of the Sergeant-at-Arms team distributing this report a while ago. So, you cannot say it has been circulated when almost all the Members are saying they do not have it.

Hon. Ita Enang: We will circulate it before Tuesday when we shall be considering it.

The Speaker: No! I saw them circulating it. So, make sure they finish circulating it today.

Hon. Ita Enang: We will do that now, Sir.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: What is the Point of Order, Hon. Ali Ndume?

Minority Leadership

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. Speaker, my Point of Order is Order VII, Rule 8 of our Revised Standing Orders at page 18 dealing with Minority Leadership. It says:

0426

1. *Members of the Minority Party in the House shall nominate from amongst their members their Leader, Minority Whip, Deputy Leader and Deputy Whip.*

2. *The functions of the Minority Leader shall be:*

(a) *To lead discussions on behalf of the Minority Parties;*

(b) *Liaise with Committee Chairmen and functionaries of the House on behalf of the Minority Parties in general.*

For the last one week I have been following the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business. We have two very important Motions. The first is on Pension Review and the second one is on the Budget that we passed.

As I am speaking to you now and as you know, Hon. Ita Enang, Chairman, Rules and Business Committee, who used to be my Friend, consistently decided to deny us this evening the privilege to even have our say. Therefore, I want to bring it to your attention so that our Motion should be taken next week.

The Speaker: Leader of the Minority, I am absolutely sure that Hon. Ita Enang cannot singlehandedly stop the Leader of the Minority and the entire Minority Members from having their say.

Hon. Ita Enang, please respond.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, with respect, Sir, the Leader of the Minority Parties is my Friend ordinarily.

Yesterday we had a Supplementary Order Paper which contained four Motions and as Leader of the Minority his Motion was the No. 1 on that Order Paper but he was not present. He was not present when the matter was to be taken.

Yesterday when it was time for that Motion on Pension to be taken, he had to go and joined the Women in Parliament at Transcorp Hilton when they were doing the opening ceremony; he was not there to take the Motion.

On the Motion on the Budget, we took the Motion

0427

assigned by you. We compared the prayer that the hon. Minority Leader sought and we compared it with the Votes and Proceedings of the day when that Motion was taken - Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, the 14th July, 2009 - and the resolution that were taken by the House. Those resolutions that were taken two days ago are *in pari materia* with the resolution and the prayer by the Minority Leader on that Motion.

Therefore we cannot unless we are going to review what the House did and unless we rescind the matter in the Votes and Proceedings we cannot take that Motion again on the same Budget because we have already taken the same matter.

The Minority Leader is my Friend and I respect him, Sir.

The Speaker: Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume raised a Point of Order which I am about to rule on. I still remain your Friend as well but apparently the Motion you complained about was tabled and you were not present.

Minority Leader, apparently you chose to spend your time with Women in Parliament. Now do you have anything to say for yourself?

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I was in the House yesterday with you. We went for a function and we came to the House.

The Speaker: We did not go for any function together.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: The function was the Creation of Egun State where I was given a title. Thereafter, we came for a sitting. I am hearing the function he is talking about for the first time. He knows that he is closer to women than myself; that is the fact. *(Laughter)*

It was not on the Order Paper. The Supplementary Order Paper Hon. Ita Enang was talking about was neither circulated to Members nor mentioned on the Floor of this House because I was here up till 6.00 p.m. in my office after the sitting.

0428

The issue of the Budget that he talked about is not in conflict at all with the resolutions of the House as passed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole chaired by the Deputy Speaker; they are completely different. In fact my Motion is as a result of the regulations including the consideration of that particular Report and this is asking this House now to further go ahead and find out if these releases have been given to the Ministries, what happened to the money and where they are kept so that they are not misappropriated.

The Speaker: It is all right. First of all, I can bear witness that Hon. Ali Ndume was nowhere near the Conference of Women in Parliament because I was there and he was not. I think they mistook you for the Leader of the House who was there.

On the second issue, Hon. Ita Enang, I have seen a copy of that Motion before I actually sent it to your Committee. It was referring to only releases of what has been funded by the Office of the Accountant General while the initial Motion was referring to the financing of the budget itself, revenue shortage *et cetera*. Therefore, I am appealing to your Committee to reconsider so that the Motion can be tabled and the Floor will decide.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker we will definitely do that on Tuesday.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker I move that this House do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 21st July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: Mr. Speaker I second the Motion moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 21st July 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.00 p.m.