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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 12th May, 2009

The House met at 11.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the House is called to order. I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 7th May, 2009.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

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

Wrongful Dismissal from the Federal Inland Revenue Service

Hon Auwalu Abdul Gwalabe (Katagun): I have a Petition here from one of my constituents by name Danladi Adamu Kadudi who felt that due diligence was not strictly adhered to in his dismissal from the Federal Inland Revenue Service.

With your kind permission, I would like to lay the Petition on the Table.

The Deputy Speaker: Please, do so.

Petition laid.

Inability to Retrieve Investment from Intercontinental Bank, PLC

Hon. Charles Onyekwelu Udogwu (Ndokwa East/West/Ukwuani): I have a Petition from one of my constituents by name Mr. Raphael Ebinum for your consideration. Mr. Ebinum invested in Intercontinental Bank PLC but it appears he is finding it difficult to retrieve his investment and he wants the House to look into the matter with a view to helping him recover his investment.

With your kind permission, I would like to lay the Petition on the Table.

The Deputy Speaker: Please, do so.

Petition laid.

The Deputy Speaker: All Petitions are hereby referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

(All Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petition)

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

The Deputy Speaker: The first Business of the Day is the presentation of seven (7) Bills. The Clerk is invited to read the Short Title of the Bills.

Prompt Payment Bill, 2009

Prompt Payment Bill, 2009 (HB. 208) – presented by Hon. Godfery Ali Gaiya (Jaba/Zangon Kataf); *read the First Time.*

National Consumer Credit Regulatory Commission Bill, 2009

National Consumer Credit Regulatory Commission Bill, 2009 (HB. 209) – presented by Hon. Patrick Asadu (Nsukka/Igboeze South); *read the First Time.*

Police Service Commission Bill, 2009

Police Service Commission Bill, 2009 (HB. 211) – presented by Hon. Chukwuka W. Onyema (Ogbaru); *read the First Time.*

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 212) – presented by Hon. Henry Seriake Dickson (Ekeremor/Sagbama); *read the First Time.*

Public Officers Protection Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009

Public Officers Protection Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 213) – presented by Hon. Nnenna Ukeje (Bende); *read the First Time.*

States Tax and Duty Net Proceeds (Distribution) Bill, 2009 (HB. 215)

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Public Officers Protection Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 – presented by Hon. Moruf Akinderu Fatai (Oshodi-Isolo I); *read the First Time*.

Abuja Metropolitan Management Authority Bill, 2009

Abuja Metropolitan Management Authority Bill, 2009 (HB. 216) – presented by Hon. Godfery Ali Gaiya (Jaba/Zangon Kataf); *read the First Time*.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Agriculture on Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (Establishment) Bill, 2008

The Deputy Speaker: The second Business of the Day is presentation of the Report of the Committee on Agriculture on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service and Matters Connected Therewith standing in the name of Hon. Gbenga Makojuola. Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Wednesday, 26th November 2008.

Hon. Makojuola, you are now invited to present your Report.

Hon. Ike Chinwo (Obio/Akpor): Mr. Speaker, I am the Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. In the manner of the Committee, it is my honour and privilege to, on behalf of my Chairman, move that this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Agriculture on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service and Matters Connected Therewith, 2008.

I so move.

Hon. Ifaluyi Isibor (Egor Ikpoba Okha): I do second the Motion moved by the Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

Report of the Committee on Communications on A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Registration of Mobile Telephone Line for Security Reasons, 2008

The Deputy Speaker: The Third Business of the Day is the Presentation of 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, 2008 standing

in the name of Hon. Dave Salako. Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Tuesday, 4th November 2008. The Report is now ready for presentation.

On this note, may I invite Hon. Salako to present his Report.

Hon. Dave Salako (Ikenna/Remo North/Sagamu): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that this House do receive 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, 2008.

Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale (Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben): I do second the Motion moved by the Chairman of the Committee on Communications.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

Report of the Joint Committee on Communications and Environment on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Regulation of Location of Telecommunication Mast and Associated Facilities, 2008

The Deputy Speaker: The fourth Business of the Day is the Presentation of Report of the Joint Committee on Communications and Environment on a Bill for an Act to provide for the Regulation of Location of Telecommunication Mast and Associated Facilities; Co-Location and Infrastructure Sharing for the Purposes of Ensuring Human Safety and Environmental Sustainability and for Other Matters, 2008 standing in the name of Hon. Dave Salako. Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Wednesday, 5th November, 2008. The Report is now ready for presentation.

Hon. Salako, you are invited to present your Report.

Hon. Dave Salako: Mr. Speaker, I rise again to move that this House do receive the Report of the Joint Committee on Communications and Environment on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Regulation of Location of Telecommunication Mast and Associated Facilities; Co-Location and Infrastructure Sharing for the Purposes of Ensuring Human Safety and Environmental Sustainability and for Other Matters, 2008.

Hon. Labaran Y. Dambatta (Dambatta/Makoda): I rise to second the Motion moved by the Chairman of the Committee on Communications.

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Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Cross-Border Incursions into and Displacement of Nigerian Villages by Beninois Communities vis-à-vis the Consequences to the Peaceful Co-existence in the ECOWAS Sub-region

The Speaker: The first Order of the Day is a Motion on Cross-Border Incursions into and Displacement of Nigerian Villages by Beninois Communities vis-a-vis the Consequences to the Peaceful Co-existence in the ECOWAS Sub-region standing in the name of Hon. Garba Abdullahi Bagudu.

Hon. Bagudu is now invited to move his Motion.

Hon. Abdullahi Bagudu (Suru/Bagudu): Hon. Speaker, the House:

Notes with deep concern the recent cross-border incursion and displacement of Tungar-Kungi in Nigeria by Beninois Communities which is a threat to the peaceful co-existence of the ECOWAS Sub-region;

Aware that Tungar-Kungi Village and its neighbouring settlements are richly endowed with fish stocks and fertile Fadama land envied by the Beninois Communities who feel disadvantaged;

Regret that the cross-border incursion into Nigeria displaced thousands of peace loving people of Suru/Bagudu Federal Constituency of Kebbi State from their lawful abodes, inflicting unquantifiable losses worth millions of Naira;

Disturbed that the attack carried out by over 2,000 Beninois displaced 1,500 women and children who sought refuge in a four-classroom primary school at Lolo Town with no facilities to cater for them;

Worried that this cross-border incursion constitutes a devastating loss to the Nigerian Government and a violation of the ECOWAS Treaty;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to immediately investigate the remote/immediate causes of cross-border incursion with the neighbouring Benin Republic and take remedial measures to guard against recurrence of such incidents;

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- (ii) Further urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency set up Police Stations at those villages near the borders to deter such cross-border aggression;

- (iii) Call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently send relief materials to the displaced victims;

- (iv) Direct the National Boundary Commission to urgently set the process in motion to resolve the area of friction on the Nigeria/Benin border; and

- (v) Mandate the House Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure that the above directives are complied with by the relevant Government Agencies.

Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru (Bebeji/Kiru): I wish to second the Motion moved by Hon. Bagudu.

Question Proposed.

Hon. Abdullahi Bagudu: Mr. Speaker, Tungar-Kungi Village is situated on the banks of the River Niger. This place is naturally endowed with fertile farmlands and different species of fish from the River Niger. This village is situated between Nigeria, Niger and Benin border.

All these nationals used to reside in this village but as a result of border adjustment this village is now part of Nigeria. It was formerly under Benin Republic. Following this development, majority of Beninois that reside in this village left to join their fellow countrymen leaving just few houses with Nigerians. Maybe it was just a plan to leave the few behind so that they will continue to forment trouble knowing full ell that they will get the support of their neighbours.

Now the trouble that occurred recently resulted in the burning down of the four villages consisting of about 157 houses. All these houses were razed down by these Beninois. The Nigerians had to be moved to their district town called Lolo. The only place that was provided for these displaced people is a primary school and this primary school has only four classrooms. You can imagine four classrooms to house over 1,500 people, which means there are about five hundred people in a classroom; men, women and children.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the rainy season. You can imagine how these people will continue to suffer. They cannot go back to their village to farm bearing in mind that this is farming season and they cannot continue to remain in four classrooms of a primary school. Their children are denied school because the only primary

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school in Tungar Village has been razed down. That these displaced persons are now residing in another primary school is hindering the children of that school from learning any more because they can no longer go to school. They cannot find any meaningful settlement.

These people are suffering; these people have always been within the river side because they are fishermen. They are now compelled to drink pure water; people who in their lifetime have always lived along the river banks. In the past they used to drink water at their pleasure but now they only have access to pure water. This is a very pitiful condition.

The worst part of it is that up till now, no government official from Benin Republic had said anything about this case. The village was completely burnt down. It appears as if it is the government that is using these people to foment trouble. If we are not careful, there is going to be a repeat of Bakassi situation in my constituency. The Nigerian Government should not continue to remain silent on this issue of Beninois' threat to Nigerians.

If nothing is done, the people of Niger Republic may also think of taking another Nigerian village because all the land in the villages along the border are very fertile and Beninois and Niger people have desert land. They envy our people. That is why they always try to foment trouble.

The Beninois people have not only distributed the farms belonging to our people they have also taken over the management of these farmlands.

I therefore call on my Colleagues to, please, support this Motion so that we will all rise up and call on our government to expedite action so that our people will be re-settled to their farms and secondly to ensure that security is provided for them along the border areas to stop this incessant harassment.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, let us take two amendments.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South East): Mr. Speaker, I am for the Motion and I am also sure that all our Colleagues are in support of it. The only area I wish to amend is on the last Prayer which states: *Mandate the House Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure that the above directives are complied with by the relevant Government Agencies.*

My amendment is that we have a Committee in the House that is in charge of Boundary Adjustment; that is the Committee on Special Duties. It is the

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responsibility of that Committee to follow up the provisions and ensure that they are complied with; it has nothing to do with the Committee on Legislative Compliance.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Itulah, you want Prayer (v) amended?

Hon. Friday Itulah: Yes.

The Deputy Speaker: So many people are raising their hands. Is any Member seconding that Amendment that instead of mandating the House Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure that the above directives are complied with, we should direct the Committee on Special Duties which has the oversight responsibility on boundary issues?

Hon. Chile W. Igbawua (Kwande/Ushongo): I rise to second the Motion that the Prayer (v) should be substituted with the appropriate Committee. Secondly, what we are giving are not directives. Therefore, my Amendment is that we leave out the word *directives* and replace it with the word *resolution*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any other amendment?

Hon. Samson Raphael Osagie (Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode): My amendment is with respect to Prayer (ii). I will read Prayer (ii) after which my amendment will flow from there.

Further urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, set up Police Stations at those villages near the borders to deter such cross-border aggression.

My amendment is that there is an agency established by law; the Border Development Community Agency charged with the responsibility of carrying out this function but the Federal Government has refused to constitute that Agency. So it is in limbo and part of its responsibility is to carry out this function.

However, the National Boundary Commission is annexing the function of that agency to its own function. So I want to use this opportunity to request that we *urge the Federal Government to urgently set up the Border Development Agency to carry out its responsibility under the law.*

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any seconder to that amendment?

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Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha (Isuikwuato/Umunneochi): I rise to second the Amendment moved by Hon. Samson Osagie.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted with deep concern the recent cross-border incursion and displacement of Tungar-Kungi in Nigeria by Beninois Communities which is a threat to the peaceful co-existence of the ECOWAS Sub-region;

Aware that Tungar-Kungi Village and its neighbouring settlements are richly endowed with fish stocks and fertile Fadama land envied by the Beninois Communities who feel disadvantaged;

Regretted that the cross-border incursion into Nigeria displaced thousands of peace loving people of Suru/Bagudu Federal Constituency of Kebbi State from their lawful abodes, inflicting unquantifiable losses worth millions of Naira;

Disturbed that the attack carried out by over 2,000 Beninois displaced 1,500 women and children who sought refuge in a four-classroom primary school at Lolo Town with no facilities to cater for them;

Worried that this cross-border incursion constitutes a devastating loss to the Nigerian Government and a violation of the ECOWAS Treaty;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to immediately investigate the remote/immediate causes of cross-border incursion with the neighbouring Benin Republic and take remedial measures to guard against recurrence of such incidents;
- (ii) Further urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency set up Police Stations at those villages near the borders to deter such cross-border aggression;
- (iii) Call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently send relief materials to the displaced victims;
- (iv) Direct the National Boundary Commission to urgently set the process in motion to

resolve the area of friction on the Nigeria/Benin border;

- (v) Mandate the House Committee on Special Duties to ensure that the above resolutions are complied with by the relevant Government Agencies.
- (vi) Urge the Federal Government to urgently set up the Border Development Agency to carry out its responsibility under the law.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Land Use Act, Cap. 15 LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 by Amending the Land Use Act, Cap. 15 LFN 2004 and for Related Matters, 2009 (HB. 193) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The second Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 by Amending the Land Use Act, Cap. 15 LFN 2004 and for Related Matters, 2009. The Bill was read for the First Time on Tuesday, 17th March 2009.

I now invite Hon. Ita Enang Solomon to move that the Bill be read for the Second Time.

Hon. Ita Solomon J. Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Mr. Speaker, once again I move that this Bill be stood down. There are matters which we have produced and which we ought to have circulated before now. The Principal Act is going to be circulated in a while; we had a problem with our printing system.

The Speaker: Please kindly circulate the Principal Act immediately. The Bill is stood down.

Bill, by leave of the House, stood down.

Mandatory Inclusion of Cassava in Flour Production Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Mandatory Inclusion of Cassava in the Production of all flour in Nigeria and Other Matters Connected, 2009 (HB. 97) -

Order for Second Reading.

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The Deputy Speaker: This third Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Mandatory Inclusion of Cassava in the Production of all flour in Nigeria and Other Matters Connected, 2009. The Bill was read for the First Time on Wednesday, 25th March, 2009.

I invite Hon. Olakunle Salako to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Olakunle Kazeem Salako (Ado Odo/ Ota): Mr Speaker, I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Mandatory Inclusion of Cassava in the Production of all Flour in Nigeria and Other Matters Connected, 2009 be read a Second Time.

Hon. Betty Apiafi (Ahoada East/ Abua/Odual): I rise to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Hon. Olakunle K. Salako: Mr. Speaker, this is a very straightforward Bill and I am seeking the support of all Members because of the utilitarian nature of this Bill.

This Bill has about seven Clauses. It seeks to provide legal framework for the mandatory inclusion of between five to ten *per cent* of cassava to be mixed with wheat flour for all Flour Mills for the baking of bread and other confectionaries and invariably to bring down the cost of bread which is one of the staple food that cuts across all social strata, that is, for both the rich and the poor.

The Bill seeks to empower the Minister of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to make relevant regulations on cassava wheat composite flour.

The Bill seeks to recognise that technological improvement could drive the proportion of cassava in composite flour for bread and other confectionaries.

In addition, this Bill is seeking the creation of Composite Flour Policy Coordination Body for composite flour administration.

As at today, this country has a policy which was initiated in 2004/2005 and it is still in force. Painfully, we have found out that this policy has enjoyed minimal success. Today, it is on record that it is only one Flour Mill in Nigeria that is adding cassava into the production of flour to make bread.

You will recall that Nigeria imports over 40 million metric tonnes of wheat per annum and produces

about 49 million metric tonnes of cassava per annum. This implies that if we add between 5 to 10 *per cent* of cassava into composite flour, we will have more than enough cassava to be able to implement this law.

It is pertinent to know at this stage that Nigeria as at 1985 was spending an average of about US\$37 million in the importation of wheat into this country. Furthermore, in 1995 the resources of this country, to the tune of another US\$293 million, were being expended in the importation of wheat. Progressively, we have found out that we have been expending and the cost is becoming more burdensome. We have so far spent about US\$2 billion in the importation of wheat.

Between 1989 and 1990, we all recall that the Government of the then President Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida, worried about the cost of importation of wheat into this country and the need to empower our farmers in the production of cassava, banned the importation of wheat which generated a lot of crisis between Nigeria and the United States of America (USA) which is a major producer and exporter of wheat to Nigeria. This policy has not really taken firm root.

For this reason, I am seeking the cooperation of all Members that we should move from ordinary policy into a law that will empower this country to use cassava which is abundant in Nigeria today. I will not fail to mention that there are so many social and economic benefits that will accrue if this Bill is passed into law.

It is pertinent to know that about six million jobs will be created initially if this policy is turned into a law; needless to say that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Nigeria will be enhanced. Again, so much foreign exchange that I had mentioned earlier will also be conserved and that will be diverted into other areas which includes infrastructural development that is yearning for so much funds.

I would also like to mention that the direct investment into cassava farming and processing would be another added advantage. In the final analysis, the cost of this staple food will also be brought down.

I want to mention quickly that success story has been recorded in countries like Brazil, Ghana, Kenya and Mozambique. If we follow suit, the Nigerian economy and the nation will be better for it.

The Deputy Speaker: This Bill is for Second Reading; it is not about against or for the Bill. We are only discussing the general principles of the Bill. Members are expected to express any observations they have on the Bill. There will be no time for those who are supporting or against the Bill.

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Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwazo/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, this Bill is a very important one especially at this time when all hands must be on deck to promote internally generated revenue or anything that will encourage our farmers to go into mass production.

We know that Nigeria is highly blessed with fertile land for production of cassava but the consumption and utilisation has been very low. The cassava production initiative by former President Olusegun Obasanjo yielded positive result but we need to go further. Moreover, one of the ways to go further is by supporting a Bill like this to pass through Second Reading so that other technicalities involved would be considered.

In fact, it will be of immense benefit to this country if we can increase the proportion of cassava in flour to 10 *per cent*. If possible, we can push it further to 20 *per cent* so long as other factors in consideration will not be affected. It would be to the advantage of this country because cassava is produced here while wheat is normally imported. This is a very patriotic Bill. I am surprised that my Colleague wanted to speak against it but I am sure that with my presentation now, he will change his mind and give his support.

I urge other Colleagues to support this very important Bill and allow it to go through the Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Ali Ndume, the Opposition Leader.

Hon. Ahmed Mustapha (Bauchi): Mr. Speaker, honestly speaking, the principles and ideas behind this Bill may be laudable but the question is; do we need an Act to include cassava in the production of flour? Should we as a Parliament descend to trivialities that we need a law for cassava to be included in the production of flour in Nigeria? The problem this Parliament may face is; how do we enforce the law? Where do we start? Is cassava the only staple food we have in Nigeria?

Beside cassava, we have maize, sorghum, millet etc; they can also be included in the flour making process in Nigeria but passing a Bill into an Act to support the inclusion of cassava in flour production in Nigeria is unnecessary because this is a normal process that needs no Bill. So, we should not descend into trivialities in this Parliament to start making a law that we cannot enforce. How do we even enforce it? Do we have to go to all the Flour Mills in Nigeria to start monitoring whether or not cassava is included in the production of flour and in what percentage because there is a law on ground for that? Therefore, while the

principle is good in my mind I do not think we need a law to back it up.

Hon. Andrew I. Uchendu (Ikwerre/Emohua): Mr. Speaker, a good number of us seem to have the view that this could be of general policy matter but beyond that it has to do with the economics of the business and, in fact, our consumption habit. Are we prepared as at now to start consuming bread that has some percentage of cassava? Taste is an individual thing; you cannot force me to consume what I do not like. There are so many products in the market; people will see (a) but buy (b). Assuming we come out with this and the market collapses, then that takes us back to the economics.

Remember that the economy is a mixed one; it is being driven by the private sector. If a private sector entrepreneur is convinced that his business will survive if he includes cassava in the production of flour, he would do that and if it is not going to be viable, there is no law, policy or other incentive that will make him include cassava in the production mix. So it is utterly outside the realms of pure economic management. Therefore, I think that this Bill should be allowed to rest.

Hon. Mohammed Abubakar Maifata (Tarauni): I will start by saying that Nigeria is the biggest producer

of cassava in the world. This law that we are discussing now is not a new law in the world. Some other countries notably like Brazil and Thailand have been practicing this law, so it is not a new law *per se*.

If you can remember from 2002 when the then Government launched the Cassava Initiative, our people started producing this product *en mass*. Right from that time I know of some farmers that have this product in stock as far back as 2004 to date who are finding it difficult to sell it.

I do not think the issues raised by Hon. Ahmed Mustapha on how to enforce this law can stop this law from being passed. The first issue is that the Standard Organisations of Nigeria, the Association of Bakeries and so many enforcement agencies are there to enforce this law. This can help and generate more employment in the system.

If some of my hon. Colleagues had driven past our major highways in December 2008 and January this year, they would have seen that our farmers are processing this cassava. The cassava undergoes drying process when it is spread by the roadside because they do not have a first-hand market to sell the product and the employment generated by this are in thousands. We need to have the statistics so that Members can

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appreciate anything to do with agriculture. This is very vital to the survival of the country.

Therefore, I urge my Colleagues to, please, allow this Bill to pass the Second Reading. If there is any Amendment or whatever, we can do it the Committee to which this Bill will be referred.

Hon. Waziri Aminu Tambunwal (Kebbe/Tambuwal): In as much as I share in some concerns raised by Hon. Mustapha and Hon. Andrew Uchendu, I hasten to add that there may be health-related issues when you say each bag of flour made in Nigeria must contain cassava because people who are diabetic may not necessarily find it easy to consume.

Notwithstanding, I am pleading with my Colleagues to allow this Bill to go for Second Reading so at the level of the Committee, whatever that needed to be done in order to ensure that whatever is good for the agricultural and the economic sectors of this country is protected and promoted. That is why I am pleading with my Colleagues to allow this Bill to go for Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Agriculture so that they can work on it and collate some opinions from experts that will definitely bring something good out of the Bill.

The Speaker: I will now put the question that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Question put and agreed to.

(Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Health and Commerce)

National Commission for Inter-governmental Relation and Federalism (Establishment) Bill, 2008

A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Commission for Inter-governmental Relation and Federalism and Other Matters, 2009 (HB. 174) -

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The fourth Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Commission for Inter-governmental Relation and Federalism and Other Matters, 2009. The Bill was read for the First Time on Tuesday, 10th February 2009.

I now invite Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time but before

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then let me say that the Bill on cassava was referred to the Committees on Health and Commerce.

Question proposed.

Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta (Ukwa East/West): Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill for the Establishment of the National Commission for Inter-governmental Relation and Federalism and Other Matters, 2009.

Pursuant to Order XII, Rule 13 of our Standing Orders on page 59, permit me to withdraw the Bill. This is pursuant to the fact that on further investigation and research, I discovered that a Commission already exists. Rather than asking for more Commission to handle it, we have filed for consideration a Bill to amend the Federal Character Commission for purposes contained in this present Bill.

I am therefore praying this House to permit me to withdraw the Bill. I hope that by the time I bring up this Bill again, I will enjoy the support of Members.

Bill, with leave of the House withdrawn.

Resolutions Passed by both Houses of the National Assembly (Enforcement) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to give Force of Law to Resolutions Passed by both Houses of the National Assembly and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 (HB. 190) -

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The fifth Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to give Force of Law to Resolutions Passed by both Houses of the National Assembly and for Matter Connected Therewith, 2009. The Bill was read the First Time on Thursday, 26 March 2009.

I now invite Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time. *(No response)*

He is not in the Chamber. Hon. Ita Enang, do we stand the Bill down?

Hon. Ita Solomon J. Enang: I leave it to the discretion of the Chairman.

Bill, with leave of the House, stood down.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

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Report of the Joint Committees on Science and Technology and Defence on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Establishment of the National Authority for the Effective Implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention in Nigeria

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the sixth and seventh Orders of the Day are the consideration of the Reports of the Joint Committees on Science and Technology and Defence on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Establishment of the National Authority for the Effective Implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention in Nigeria; and the Report of the Committee on Defence on a Bill for an Act to Prescribe Conditions under which the President, C-in-C can call out the Armed Forces to Suppress Insurrection.

The seventh Order of the Day had to be stood down because the presenter of the report, Hon. Oluwale Oke, is unavoidably absent. The other Report is also not ready.

For these reasons, we are standing down consideration of these two Reports.

Reports, with leave of the House, stood down.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice of Consideration of the Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Review of the Recommendations in the Report of the Committee on Power

The Deputy Speaker: Please be informed that the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the Recommendations in the Report of the Committee on Power on the investigation into how huge sums of money was spent on Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution between June 1999 and May 2007 without commensurate result will be considered by the House tomorrow Wednesday, 13th May 2009. Copies of the Report will now be distributed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

I call on the Leader of the House to move a Motion that this House do resolve into Executive Session to discuss matters of national interest.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko-Edo): Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do resolve into Executive Session to discuss matters of national interest.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do resolve into Executive Session to discuss matters of national interest.

Sitting suspended: 12 noon.

Sitting resumed: 1.38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do stand adjournment till tomorrow, Wednesday, 13th May, 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till tomorrow, Wednesday, 13th May 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.40 p.m.