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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 7th October, 2009

The House met at 2:30 p. 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 Tuesday, 6th October, 2009.

**MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

The Speaker: This is a letter from the President of Federal Republic of Nigeria dated 29th September 2009. It reads:

September 29, 2009

*Rt. Hon. Dimeji Bankole, CFR
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear brother,

**Submission of the Medium-Term Expenditure
Framework (MTEF) to the National Assembly**

I am pleased to forward to you two (2) copies of the 2010/2012 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) which the Federal Ministry of Finance has prepared in line with the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2007.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act indicates that the Budget is required to be based on MTEF, which is to be approved by the Federal Executive Council and the National Assembly before taking effect. The MTEF was duly approved by the FECT on 22nd July 2009. However, the Act requires that the MTEF should also be laid before the National Assembly which, after due consideration, is to pass resolutions in both Houses to give effect to the MTEF before its formal publication in the Gazette. In order to advance this process, I hereby forward copies of the MTEF to your office for necessary consideration.

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Please accept, Rt. Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(Sgd)
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

The Speaker: The next letter is also from the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria. It reads:

September 14, 2009

*Rt. Hon. Dimeji Bankole, CFR
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear brother,

**Forwarding of the Draft Employee's
Compensation Bill, 2009**

I forward herewith for your kind consideration and passage into law the attached Draft Employee's Compensation Bill, 2009.

It is my hope that the honourable House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will consider and pass the Bill in your usual expeditious manner.

Please accept, Mr. Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd)
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

The Speaker: This is another letter from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It reads:

*Rt. Hon. Dimeji Bankole, CFR
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear brother,

**Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the
Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
1999 and for Other Matters Connected Thereto**

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I hereby introduce for formal consideration and enactment into law the above named Bill by the National Assembly.

While I hope that the Bill will receive the usual prompt attention of the honourable Members of the House of Representatives, please accept, Mr. Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd)

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

The Speaker: This is the final letter from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It reads:

*Rt. Hon. Dimeji Bankole, CFR
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear brother,

**Bill for an Act to Establish the Maritime Security
Agency(Establishment etc.), 2009**

I forward herewith for your kind consideration and passage into law the attached draft Bill for an Act to Establish the Maritime Security Agency (Establishment etc.) Bill, 2009.

Pursuant to the above, therefore, and in line with the powers vested in the National Assembly, I hereby present the said Bill for the kind consideration of the honourable House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

It is my hope that the honourable House will consider and pass the Bill in your usual expeditious manner.

Please accept, Mr. Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd)

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Notice of Meeting of the South South
Parliamentary Caucus**

The Speaker: This is from Hon. Warman Ogoriba, Publicity Secretary of the South South Parliamentary Caucus. It reads.

There shall be a meeting of the South South Parliamentary Caucus scheduled to hold today, 7th

October, 2009 immediately after Sitting.

Venue will be Hearing Room 1, House of Representatives.

(Signed)

Hon. Warman W. Ogoriba

Notice of Meeting of the ANPP Caucus

The Speaker: There will be a meeting of the ANPP Caucus in this Chamber immediately after Sitting.

This is from the Leader of the Minority, Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

Wrongful Dismissal from Service

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga (Abakaliki/Izzi): Mr. Speaker, I have two Petitions from my constituents who were Police Officers of the Nigeria Police. I would like to join the Petitions as I present because they are from the same office and were alleged to have committed the same offence.

They are Ikpos Isaac and Nwankwogo Timothy. They claim that they have been wrongfully dismissed from the Nigeria Police for a matter that the person who did it had been charged to court. They are appealing to this honourable House to revisit the matter and reverse the decision of the Nigerian Police.

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

The Speaker: Please, do.

Petition laid.

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

(Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions)

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko Edo): Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do resolve into Executive Session.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do resolve into Executive Session.

Sitting Suspended: 2:40 p.m.

Sitting Resumed 3:55 p.m.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Female NYSC Member Raped to Death

Hon. Paul Andeshi Adah (Obanliku/Obudu/Bakwarra): Point of Order

The Deputy Speaker: Order what?

Hon. Paul Andeshi Adah: Order VIII, Rule 4 - Matter of Urgent Public Importance. It has to do with the rape and murder of a Youth Corper by name Miss Grace Adie Ushang who was raped to death in Maiduguri last week. The story was reported on the Daily Sun of 30th September, 2009.

It would be recalled that Miss Grace Adie Ushang was posted to Borno State to serve as a Youth Corper and unfortunately this incident happened. I pray that the House grants me the leave to enable us debate this matter because as I speak to you, nobody has been arrested and no serious statement has been made by the Director General of NYSC. Furthermore, there is a very serious tension in my Local Government because people have been ganging up to carry out some revenge.

The Deputy Speaker: What is your prayer?

Hon. Paul Andeshi Adah: My prayer is that the Security Agency should do everything possible to bring the culprit to book. The family should be compensated by NYSC.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, we have heard Hon. Paul Adah. Is it the wish of the House to

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consider this matter as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance?

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the case of a female NYSC Member of raped to death be taken as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance to be discussed on the next Legislative Day.

Hon. Emmanuel Bello (Gombi/Hong): Point of Order.

Deputy Speaker: Order what?

Hon. Emmanuel Bello: My Point of Order is still on the same issue of Matter of Urgent Public Importance and it is Order VIII, Rule 4. My matter is very urgent because from yesterday till today 40 people have died in my constituency and I think I should make it known to this honourable House.

Deputy Speaker: Let us know what the problem is all about first.

Outbreak of Suspected Cholera in Miah, Mubi North/Mubi South and Gombi/Hong Federal Constituencies of Adamawa State

Hon. Emmanuel Bello: On the 15th of last month there was an outbreak of a strange disease in Miah, Mubi North and South Local governments, late Hon. Gella Njida's constituency.

Samples of this particular strange disease which are stooling and coughing were taken to the University of Ibadan Teaching Hospital but they could not identify exactly what it was. The report which I have a copy here, was brought to the State Government but they could not determine what it was.

On Friday last week to be precise, there was an outbreak of this disease in my constituency; the samples were taken to University of Maiduguri. It was found that there was an element of cholera but there is a strange trend in it. If somebody is having the symptom and you come around where the person is you will become infected. It is not like cholera because it is choking. The infected would be vomiting and stooling and within three hours you are gone (*dead*) because you are choking at the same time.

This is very urgent and I am urging this honourable House to suspend Order VIII Rule 4(iii) for me to take it immediately so that the Federal Government can step into it and take over because the

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State Government is over stretched; they do not even have the medical personnel or the facilities to determine what it is. This is why I am raising this point of order.

The Deputy Speaker: Is it the wish of the House to take this Motion as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance?

Question put and agreed it.

The second part of his Motion was to suspend the Rule and consider the Motion today.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Emmanuel Bello: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The House

Notes the outbreak of cholera in Miah, Mubi North and South Madagali Bui and Gwoza Local Government areas of both Adamawa and Borno States and Mukpa, Maraba Mubi and Hildi town of Gombe Hong federal constituency;

Further notes that the killer disease according to statistics from state Ministry of Health Adamawa has so far killed 100 people with about 1,000 people hospitalized in the hospitals of eight Local Governments;

Disturbed that the killer disease has spread to about nine Local Governments in Adamawa State alone

Worried that, unless the Federal Government takes adequate steps to checkmate the killer disease, it will continue to spread to other parts of the Federation.

Resolves:

- (i) To call on the National Emergency and Management Agency (NEMA) to send the under listed drugs to affected areas as a matter of urgent national importance: Chlorine for decontamination of under water wells *et cetera*, drips and rehydration fluids, detergents and antiseptic.
- (ii) Further call on the Federal Ministry of Health to detail its officials as a matter of urgent importance to the affected areas in the two states with relevant medication and organized laboratory or mobile laboratory for detection of the problem.

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- (iii) To organize a sensitization programme in the North East geo-political Zone of Nigeria so as to avoid the spread of this same disease to other neighbouring states.

I so move.

Deputy Speaker: You can lead the debate because you have the leading order. The question was put on the Motion; so, you can go ahead.

Hon. Emmanuel Bello: This strange disease started in Miah Local Government of Adamawa State and the State Ministry of Health suspected that it was an under water contamination. So they took samples of deep under water to the University of Ibadan and there was an American NGO that helped in analyzing the content of this under water samples. They discovered the presence of large quantity of bacteria called *Echoline*. Later on the disease spread to Madagali, Mubi North and South. It was noticed that when infected, you would be having very serious stomach pain, you will be stooling and vomiting uncontrollably and at the same time you are choking and within a very few hours you are gone; it will kill you. This has killed about 100 people.

So the area where it started was evacuated by the Adamawa State Government. All the medical workers in the State and other Local Government areas were moved to this area so that they can control the menace of this strange killer disease but it continued to spread. As I am talking to you it has spread to nine local government areas in Adamawa State already; it has spread to neighbouring Gwoza Local Government where the Minority Leader, Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume, represents. I have consulted him on this and I have his permission to talk about it. I have also consulted Hon. Muktar and Hon. Binta Korji. They all agreed that I should move this Motion and bring it to the notice of this House.

The Federal Ministry of Health needs to get involved in this matter to determine what it is. As a matter of fact, the Federal Government should declare an emergency in this perspective so that they can take over the management, facilitation and identification of this disease.

My Hon. Colleagues, this is a straight forward case and I urge you to support this Motion so that this strange killer disease can be identified and taking care of.

Thank you very much.

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The Deputy Speaker: I will go ahead and put the Question.

Question put and agreed to.

The House

Noted the outbreak of cholera in Miah, Mubi North and South Madagali Biu and Gwoza Local Government areas of both Adamawa and Borno States and Mukpa, Maraba Mubi and Hildi town of Gombe Hong federal constituency;

Further noted that the killer disease according to

statistics from state Ministry of Health Adamawa has so far killed 100 people with about 1,000 people hospitalized in the hospitals of eight Local Governments;

Disturbed that the killer disease has spread to about nine Local Governments in Adamawa State alone

Worried that, unless the Federal Government takes adequate steps to checkmate the killer disease, it will continue to spread to other parts of the Federation.

Resolved:

- (i) To call on the National Emergency and Management Agency (NEMA) to send the under listed drugs to affected areas as a matter of urgent national importance: Chlorine for decontamination of under water wells *et cetera*, drips and rehydration fluids, detergents and antiseptic.
- (ii) Further call on the Federal Ministry of Health to detail its officials as a matter of urgent importance to the affected areas in the two states with relevant medication and organized laboratory or mobile laboratory for detection of the problem.
- (iii) To organize a sensitization programme in the North East geo-political Zone of Nigeria so as to avoid the spread of this same disease to other neighbouring States.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the first business of the day is the Presentation of Eleven Bills. The Clerk is now invited to read the short titles of the Bills.

Public Service Institute Bill, 2009

Public Service Institute Bill, 2009, (HB. 289) (Executive) – *Read the First Time.*

National Farm Reserve Commission (Establishment and Development) Bill, 2009

National Farm Reserve Commission (Establishment and Development) Bill, 2009 (HB. 244) presented by Hon. Idris Alhaji Isah – *Read the First Time*

Free Trade Zones Bill, 2009

Free Trade Zones Bill, 2009 (HB.248) presented by Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta) – *Read the First Time.*

Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2009

Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2009 (HB.250) presented by Hon. Tunde Akogun – *Read for the Time.*

Musicians Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2009

Musicians Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 254) presented by Hon. Kayode Jelili Amusan – *Read for the First Time.*

Nigerian Postal Bill, 2009

Nigerian Postal Bill, 2009 (HB. 272) presented by Hon. Chukwudi Leonard ayor Eze - *Read for the First Time*

National Regulation Agency for the Production, Trade and Application of Building Materials Bill, 2009

National Regulation Agency for the Production, Trade and Application of Building Materials Bill, 2009 (HB. 275) presented by Hon. Isah Idris Umar and 23 – *Read for the First Time.*

National Health Insurance Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 2009

National Health Insurance Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 276) presented by Hon. Christopher Eta – *Read for the First Time.*

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Franchise Bill, 2009

Franchise Bill, 2009 (HB. 281) presented by Hon. Juliet Akano – *Read for the Time.*

Criminal Code Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009

Criminal Code Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 287) presented Hon. Godfrey Ali Gaiya – *Read for the First Time.*

Prohibition of Overseas Basic and Undergraduates Education of Children and Wards of Public Officers Bill, 2009

Prohibition of Overseas Basic and Undergraduates Education of Children and Wards of Public Officers Bill, 2009 (HB. 288) presented by Hon. Emmanuel Bello – *Read for the First Time.*

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency and Justice on Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, 2005 (Amendment) Bill, 2008

The Deputy Speaker: The second business of the day is the Presentation of Report of the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, 2005 and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 (HB. 136) standing in the name of Hon. Ozomgbachi.

Honourable Members would recall that the Bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Tuesday, 11th November, 2008. Hon. Ozomgbachi is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): I move that this House do receive the Report of the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Act 2005 and for Matters Connected therewith 2008.

The Deputy Speaker: Do you want to Second the Motion, Please go ahead.

Hon. Alex Ikor Ukam (Akamkpa/Biase): I wish to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed

(Report laid on the Table)

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Establishment of the Institute of Mediators And Conciliators Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Mediators and Conciliators, and for other Related Matters, 2009.

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The first Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill to establish the Institute of Mediators and Conciliators and for other related Matters 2009. The Bill was read for the first time on Thursday 9th July 2009.

I now invite Hon. Emeka Ihedioha to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Emeka Nkem Ihedioha (Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala) I do move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Mediators and Conciliators and for Other Matters Related 2009, HB.286, be read for the Second Time.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any hon. Member who would want to second the Motion? Yes, Hon. Attai.

Hon. Attai Aidoko Ali (Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro): I rise to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Hon. Emeka Ihedioha: In moving for the consideration of this Bill, I honestly and sincerely want to rely on an obvious situation today whereby we know that the justice system is indeed today becoming very bureaucratic and lined up with bottlenecks.

Our Courts are no more, perhaps, very attractive because of the time and the costs. Consequently, it has become less attractive to use the Courts. There are therefore, desires to use Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms.

Mediation as we know is an alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism. It has therefore become an alternative; indeed a veritable alternative.

Mediation is simply an act to use a neutral party or

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a third party to guide disputants in a conflict, to negotiate and resolve voluntarily and mutually without force or dictation. I must here create a distinction between mediation and indeed, reconciliation or arbitration.

Mediation is reconciliatory; whereas, Arbitration is advisory. Mediation requires a third party to get parties involved to resolving at their will. There is no loser, there is no gainer but at the end of the day, you have a resolution. Whereas when you have Arbitration it requires two separate groups. In mediation one person ensures a resolution and by so doing we have peace and faith in the parties involved. In Arbitration, you hire colleagues, your own Arbitrators and your Arbitrator may indeed not give you the required results.

It is therefore desired that in Nigeria, the umbrella professional body which guides the practice of mediation and conciliation is the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC), which set out to train, admit to practice, sets standards of practice as well as regulates the practice of mediation and conciliation in Nigeria. We look at ICMC here as acting in line with ICAN for Accountants, with NMA for Medical Practitioners, with Nigeria Bar Association for Lawyers.

It is important that this House gives statute by law to the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators. If they so do, it will become easy for us through legislation to identify and define who a Chartered Mediator or Conciliator is.

In line with an earlier Bill, which I also sponsored in this House and had been signed into Law, the Institute of Freight Forwarding Practice in Nigeria, I believe there is need for us as a Parliament to set standards of practice. These standards will help to check quackery and it will ensure that we do have dignity in the Institution of Mediation and Conciliation.

Without taking a lot of our time I want to say that if indeed we have a chartered body of Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators, the ongoing imbroglio between the ASUU and the Federal Government today would have been a thing of the past. This is because you require a third party that is seen to enjoy the comfort and confidence of the parties involved.

In this case, the Federal Government and ASUU would have by now had faith in our Conciliators and Mediators to resolve this problem that had been an issue of sort to us and embarrassment to our nation.

I urge my Colleagues to support this Bill so that it goes through the Second Reading.

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The Deputy Speaker: I just want two or three opinions on that. Let me take one each from Members sitting to my right, centre and left.

Hon. Ehiogie West Idahosa (Ovia North East/South-West): Mr. Speaker, I support the preposition by the House Chief Whip on this Bill. If we believe that litigation is costly in this country especially for those of us who have just gone through litigation we know what it takes to get justice in the Nigerian judicial system.

This Bill will deepen the opportunities and open up the processes for the ordinary man to get justice in Nigeria. In those days, they used to say that *the Court is the last hope of the common man*; I doubt if it is still so. Now, the court is the last hope of a man who has the capacity to go to court. It is costly to maintain litigation, it is expensive to hire lawyers, it is also time consuming. In any case, it does not appear to me that this is a Bill which, if we pass, will entail consumption of public funds. If they simply want to certify their own experts, provide the system for alternative justice and create an opportunity for people who do not have the capacity to go to court to also resolve their disputes; I think we should welcome it and consider this as one of the attributes of justice that this House has made.

Hon. Joseph Jaiyeola Ajatta (Oshodi-Isolo II): I want to support this Bill because of what it takes to be a Mediator and a Reconciliator. I like to support it because the system of going through justice in Nigeria is becoming too difficult. If you go to court now, there is a host of litigations in the court which are not being settled. Some cases have been there for more than ten years and people who take them to court are even getting fed up with the justice they are not getting. So, it is necessary to get a better way of doing it.

I know that there is arbitration which I have just been informed is different from this mediation and reconciliation. I have had discussions with few people about this mediation. Even lawyers who do not want to go into law want to go into mediation because they think it is much easier; they believe that if you go to them and get justice you can still be friends but if you go to court and come back, especially in our Yoruba area; we are no more friends because you have taken yourselves to court.

But mediation is something that two of you will agree on and somebody who knows something about it will sit you down, talk to you and by the time he finishes, you will agree with him and you will be friends forever.

So, I believe that if given the chance to have mediation and reconciliation in Nigeria, definitely they

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will do a very good job. In fact to grant them Charter status from here, I believe that it is a very good job and I will support it.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): I wish to give my support to this very important Bill by my Leader, the Chief Whip of the House, Hon. Emeka Ihedioha. The future of Conflict Resolution in Nigeria is definitely in Mediation because we all know that litigations are very time-consuming and extremely expensive.

I was in the legal practice before I joined politics and I know what my colleagues do to stall progress in litigations when they arise. You will find out that it is much easier or cheaper for a litigant, for instance, to pull off the roof of his building just to get a legal occupant out of his premises rather than to go and seek legal means in removing them because it is very expensive and time-consuming.

We all know that most contracts we enter into have a provision for arbitration before litigation and as such it will be a welcome development to have this institution so that any conflict will first of all be referred to the arbitrators before it goes to the court.

So, I wish to solicit for the support of my honourable Colleagues to support this very important Bill and allow it to go for Second Reading.

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir (Minjibir/Ungogo): The concept of mediation and conciliation has its root deep in our African heritage. We all know that all over the continent of Africa, various societies have had over time places where they could have the elders mediate in times of conflict.

This Bill leaves me actually very worried because you have a situation where you are saying that you are going to train and then regulate mediators. How do you do that? What do you teach these people that would enable them to come and mediate in the way that only experience can? We know that the people who mediate deep down in our localities are people who have been tempered by experience. It has nothing to do with the training. That is what I have against the whole concept of saying that we should have an Institute that would now train and regulate the practice of mediation.

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

Question put and agreed to.

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Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Joint Committee on Judiciary and Justice.

**Legislative Houses, Powers and Privileges Act,
Cap. L.12 2004 Laws of the Federation of
Nigeria (Amendment) Bill, 2009**

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Legislative Houses, Powers and Privileges Act. Cap L.12 2004, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and for Other Related Purposes, 2009 (HB. 242) –

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 Amend the Legislative Houses, Powers and Privileges Act. Cap L12 2004, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and for Other Related Purposes, 2009. The Bill was read for the First Time on Wednesday, 22nd July 2009.

I now invite Hon. Henry Dickson to move that the Bill be now read for the Second Time.

Hon. Henry S. Dickson (Ekeremor/Sagbama): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to Amend the Legislative Houses, Powers and Privileges Act. Cap L12 2004, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and for Other Related Purposes, 2009 be read a Second Time.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Chile W. Igbawua (Kwande/Ushongo): I rise to second the Motion.

Question Proposed.

Hon. Henry S. Dickson: Hon. Speaker, this Bill as we all know is one of the important legislations that govern what we do here, not only in this Chamber but in all Legislative Houses of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. There are actually three Laws that govern what we do here. The first as we all know is the Constitution, followed by this Enactment and then the Rules of the respective Houses.

There are two critical areas that we intend to amend by means of this proposed amendment. The first has to do with the need for all of us to prescribe a procedure that should be followed whenever there is an allegation that a Member of a Legislative House has committed a crime or an infraction of the Laws of this Country.

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Let me make it clear from the outset that I am not trying by this Amendment to expand the frontiers of legal immunity. That is not what I am doing. What I am proposing that we do, however, is to stipulate a procedure that Security Agencies must follow. This is so because my Colleagues would agree with me that if you want to protect democracy especially parliamentary democracy, you need as a matter of necessity to empower and protect the Legislators who are the key operators in that system.

We already have a practice whereby if you are a Member of a Legislative House especially of the National Assembly such as ourselves, if there is an allegation, the existing practice is that the Security Agency investigating communicates to the Presiding Officer requesting for the attendance of the Member concerned. That is already the practice, but what we are proposing in this Amendment is nothing strange.

Therefore, all we are trying to do is to legislate and make a clear provision in the Law so that we will now raise the practice; from the practice as it is, to a requirement of Law. What we are saying is that you can only arrest a Member of a Legislative House when there is a Warrant issued by an appropriate Court or when a Member of a Legislative House is found to have committed an offence, and not hearsay. When you see the man committing an offence, then a Security Agency can exercise its powers of arrest and apprehension but not when there is just an allegation. I am saying this because I believe that our collective and individual experiences in this House would bear out the clear and real dangers that Parliamentarians face in this Country,

especially as we get closer to general elections and thereafter.

This Legislative Houses Bill has been in existence for a long time. The Law that regulates us is the same Law that regulated the First Republic. This is a Law that in our view is long over due for a comprehensive amendment. One of the areas we are trying to bring about is that if you accept that Members of the Legislative Houses are honourable people, and of course, we are honourable people, and you also accept that we have a responsibility to stand up to institutions of States in defence of the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and in the normal exercise of our powers of legislation and oversight, then you would appreciate with all due respect, the need for extra measures to be taken to protect the dignity, not only of legislation and Parliament but of the Members who constitute it. That is why we are bringing this.

As I said earlier, we are not, by so doing, creating or expanding the frontiers of legal immunity. All we are prescribing is a procedure that should be followed

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so that Parliamentarians must be protected in the discharge of their duties. They should be put in the position where the Law equips and empowers them to carry out their functions fearlessly to the best of their ability and understanding.

Fortunately, this morning, Mr. Speaker made allusion to the fact that we need to record our proceedings electronically. By that, I mean that our voting records should be displayed on Electronic Score Board and so on.

The second aspect of this proposed amendment is to make that record mandatory on the part of every Legislative House in Nigeria. A Legislative House in this sense is not just this Chamber or the National Assembly; we are talking of all the Houses of Assembly such that we can know when Members seek to impeach a Governor, for example, you can know how many sat and how they voted.

The need for us to have our votes especially at Plenary recorded electronically cannot be over emphasized. For us to function in a democracy as well as talk about electoral reform, we must necessarily talk of how we, 360 Nigerians that assemble in this hallowed Chambers vote and how we make our votes count and be counted; that is an essential aspect of the Political Reform process, which we think should be accommodated by the means of this amendment.

We are not saying that other sessions must be recorded, no; it is only the plenary session because the Plenary is the meeting of Nigerians by their duly elected Representatives. So if we are voting, Members can see clearly how we vote and how votes are counted; our constituency and Nigerians at large can also track our voting records. This is also an important aspect of what we stand for as Representatives.

These are the key aspects of this Bill and I strongly commend it to my Colleagues, your support and assistance to ensure that we deepen the frontiers of Parliamentary democracy and ensure that all legislative Houses are put in a position where they can fearlessly and courageously perform their constitutional responsibilities.

I urge your support.

Hon. Ita Solomon James Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Hon. Dickson is a very good friend of mine and we share a lot of opinion on legal matters but on this matter, I will be completely, wholly and totally opposed to the entirety of the provisions of this Bill.

Firstly, what Hon. Dickson has sought to do by this Bill is to create a class of persons who are no more

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subject to law. It is capable of giving the impression that whenever you are a legislator, either a Member of the House of Representatives or Senate or House of Assembly, you are above the law and that is not the law.

We are all subject to the provisions of the Constitution and the Constitution, very jealous of itself, has said that any law that is contrary to the provisions of the Constitution is null and void.

Section 42 of Nigerian Constitution provides that no person shall be subject to any other law to which ordinary persons are not subject to. That, as a law, is not supposed to be made to be applicable only to a set of persons in Nigeria except as provided for under the Constitution immunity for Presidents, Vice Presidents, Governors and Deputy Governors only.

Let me go to the body of the Bill. The Bill says in section 2, *a Member of the Legislative House to which this law applies shall not be arrested without a warrant duly issued by a Judge of the Federal High Court, High Court of the Federal Capital Territory or High Court of a State except in the following circumstances;*

- (a) Upon a reasonable suspicion of allegation of commission of treason or treasonable felony against the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;*
- (b) When the Member is physically caught in an actual commission of a felony against the Federal law or law of a State;*
- (c) A warrant duly issued in accordance with the provisions.*

The only exception is that which is provided under the Legislative Houses Powers and Privileges Act. That is, it cannot be executed within the precinct but what this amendment seeks to do is ensure or to say that a Member cannot be arrested at all.

Again, if Hon. Dickson intends to bring this as a Bill, it should not be an amendment to the Legislative Houses Powers and Privileges Act because the Legislative Houses Powers and Privileges Act relates to powers and privileges of the legislator within the precinct of the legislature and in the course of the exercise of his functions as a legislator. It is not intended to create the kind of situation where a legislator is seen to have a kind of immunity.

I am glad that Hon. Dickson has said that he does not want to extend the frontiers of immunity which the Governors, Deputy Governors have but the President of

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the Senate, Deputy President of the Senate, Speaker of the House and Deputy Speaker of the House at the National and State levels do not have. So, if that does not exist, this Bill is strictly unconstitutional and it will give a bad impression. As at today that we are working on the amendment of the Constitution, many members of the public are opposed to further extension of immunity.

Most people are saying that immunity should be removed and then we at this stage of our national life want to say that a Member of the legislator cannot be arrested, challenged or that the law should not take its course. I oppose it.

Finally, he has talked about the process of enforcing his proposals and that is contained in Sections 35, 36, 37; I want to say that these are matters that are regulated by and are repeated in the Standing Orders of the different legislative houses including the Standing Orders of this honorable House and it is not a matter that should be elevated to the status of a Bill or a law meant to apply.

I oppose this Bill in its totality.

Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha (Isuikwuato/Umunneochi): Mr. Speaker, I am not a Lawyer but I understand clearly what Hon. Dickson said. He said that there should be a process to arrest people and if somebody is quarrelling with the title, I think we have other processes that we will get to and then we will start amending the title.

He is saying that there should be processes for arrest. The Bill is seeking to stop unwarranted arrest of people especially Members of the Legislative Houses, not just the Federal House but also the States. So for me what we need to do here is to encourage the processes of the Rule of Law. We have seen in recent past where people would come under any guise and whisk people away without warrants and for me that is what I understand by Hon. Dickson's explanation.

Secondly, I know that up till today, as I speak to you, many people who were in this House 2003 to 2007 are still battling with their constituencies on which way they voted on third term issue because there was no electronic voting. There was no way people will understand where they stood at that time and it is a stigma following them. Even people, who did not vote for third term, are today suffering because they said they voted for third term but how do you prove yourself?

I support this Bill in its totality and I am saying that there should be electronic voting so that when I come here I will not be looking at the Speaker's face; I

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will be looking at my own constituency, what they will say when I come back and I will be speaking their minds because I am their Representative.

For me I am supporting this Bill in its entirety and I believe that honourable Colleagues should support this Bill to pass through Second Reading and when we get there the lawyers will come and tell us where a, x, y, and z should be.

Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah (Gokana/Khana): Mr. Speaker, the beauty of democracy is where people are allowed to express their opinion and at the end of the day the wishes of the majority will go through.

In this matter that has been brought before us by my dear friend and Colleague, to my layman's understanding is that a Member by the already existing laws and privileges cannot be arrested within the premises of the Parliament without Due Process of going through the Presiding Officer. What has been extended is that you cannot be arrested in your house if such a procedure is not also followed. We should allow those who are going to look at it in a more broad perspective to say whether or not it is proper and what procedures that should be followed. This is because there is this age of arbitrariness; people wake up and do things. I am sure the background of our Colleague and with some thing that have been happening had also informed his reason for coming to this point because if it was not for God's intervention some time ago, he would have been arrested at some point. But let us look at it in the broad framework of the fact that we are developing in our democracy.

The second issue is one which I believe has been covered by the Standing Orders. We do not need to take that to the level of a law of voting in Parliament; that is an indictment of our own system because it is there and it is not working. We do not need to put it in a law. Everywhere we go to, in Parliaments around the world; ten, twenty, forty or hundred years after, people know where they voted or how they voted. So it is for us to reactivate our system. It has already been taken care of in our Standing Orders such that I do not think it is the best thing for us to bring it up as a part of a law.

We should look at it properly and in a more broad aspect to see where it fits. It is a good thing.

Hon Elizabeth O. Ogbaga (Ebonyi/Ohaukwu): I am in total support of my Colleague Hon. Dickson.

Firstly, the Chairman Rules and Business did not actually understand what Hon. Dickson is saying. If you read the Bill it says;

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A Bill for an Act to Amend the Legislative Houses, Powers and Privileges Act.

And if we read it in conjunction with our Constitution, there is nobody that is above the Constitution. Our Colleague is not saying that the Legislators are above the law. What is trying to say is that. (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ogbaga, when you are together with Hon. Dickson, somewhere else, you can address him as a *young man* but in the Chamber, he is Hon. Dickson. If you are used to addressing him like that somewhere, please, in the Chambers, he is Hon. Dickson.

Hon. Elizabeth Ogbaga: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I intend to withdraw the words *young man*; he is an old hon. Member of the House. I am still supporting the Bill that what the hon. Member is trying to say is that there should be a procedure for the arrest of Members of Parliament as is other areas. Even in the Executive, Public Service or Civil Service there are procedures for arrest. But here, it looks as if everything is mumbled up.

He is saying that there should be immunity, as an Amendment to the Act which is already in existence, in the procedure of arresting hon. Members and also the powers accorded to hon. Members should be critically looked into. For instance, most of the Members that are in court today, the mode, method and procedure which they are being given Warrant of Arrest, are wrong. Most of the times, Members would be in the office here in Abuja but a warrant of address would be addressed to you where your residence is not. And because you are a Member representing a Constituency, the Lawyers are entitled to give you Warrant of Arrest within the jurisdiction of your Constituency.

You will be here in Abuja when Warrant of Arrest is being given to you at your Constituency in the village. I understand Hon Dickson to be saying that there should strictly be a procedure, a kind of immunity and powers accorded to the hon. Members.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, very much but I do not think Hon. Dickson was referring that Amendment to be immunity to the hon. Members; he was categorical.

Hon. James Joseph Idachaba (Idah/Ibaji/Igalamela/Ofu): I am up to give some credence to my good friend, Hon. H. S. Dickson. He is not particularly saying that we should be precluded from arrest; we are not above the law neither are we above the Constitution. What he is trying to say in

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essence is that there should be Due Process surrounding the arrest of any hon. Member of Parliament either of the National level, State or Local level.

The Police take a lot of powers into their hands at times. I was born and bread of a policeman. If you mistakenly run into conflict with a policeman, may be you are chasing his wife, he can come and arrest you without any warrant; or you are chasing the same girl friend with a policeman he can come and arrest you without warrant. I am using that as an example because hon. Members are being chased after by young girls and you may go into conflict in such situations and be arrested without warrant.

Secondly, in observance of the Rule of Law which we are preaching today as enshrined in the message of the present administration, it is nice to ensure that Warrant of Arrest are served before arrest of any hon. Member of Parliament is conducted.

I rest my case.

Hon. Austin Nwachukwu (Ehime Mbano/Ihite Uboma/Obowo): I join Mr. Speaker in welcoming all of us back to the second stanza of the year.

I want to put it very clearly here and now that any Legislator who chooses to go after somebody's wife should be arrested without a warrant because that is the beginning of sanctity. And as such, I want to advise that this House should not be seen or known for a House that makes laws that are not obeyed by the people.

I want to advise, following what Hon. Ita Enang and a few others said, that this Bill is quiet good but we must look at the pros and cons of the existing laws of the Land so that we do not shoot ourselves on the foot.

Hon. Betty O. Apiafi (Ahoada East/Abua/Odual): I rise to support the amendment as proposed by Hon. Dickson. But the issues that are of concern to me really, apart from the issue of laying a proper framework for arresting Members, is the issue of electronic voting.

A lot has been said about electronic voting but the fact that it is in our Rule book has not made electronic voting system to work and I still believe we need that electronic voting. I want to ask Hon. Dickson to add another amendment to the Bill and that amendment is timing.

Given that we are having Electoral Reforms now and the fact that in other Parliaments that we have

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visited, Members are timed, it is necessary, looking at what happens in this House, for Members to be timed. When we were doing the Constitution Review, there was the agreement that every Member would be allowed to speak for five minutes. This should be included in the Rule so that the maximum time members can speak is five minutes; the Member speaks for five minutes. This is because what has been happening in this House is that some people have been made heroes in this House while others are watching them because they have more than 30 minutes to speak while others can only speak for two minutes.

Hon. Solomon U. Agidani (Apa/Agatu): I have difficulty in opposing a good friend's Bill, but the point is that there are fundamental issues here and the most fundamental is the fact that the grund norm which we had sworn to uphold is the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.

Eloquently, our good friend, Hon. Ita Enang, has reminded us of the relevant provisions in the Constitution that disallow us from making laws - selective laws or discriminatory laws - which means that we cannot make laws for selected group of people including ourselves. On that ground, I say no to this Bill.

The second ground is that, if it were to pass the first test, it would not pass the second test because the law being amended is for legislative powers and privileges and certainly whatever you do outside this place falls outside that mandate. So, you cannot under this cover, be protected under the law.

Hon. Bashiru O. Bolarinwa (Lagos Mainland): First of all, I want to thank Hon. Dickson. But I must say that as good as the amendment he is seeking is, even though it is two legged, I have serious problem with Section 29 of it which has to do with arrest of Members.

I want to say at this point that care must be taken regarding what will be the feelings of members of the public as regards our operations here. Already, when he was explaining regarding the standing procedure, he did explain that when there is an allegation against any Member of the House, the Standing Rule is that the Speaker would be notified and the Speaker in turn notifies the person. Talking about a paragraph here under Section 29, which he is trying to put forward, the paragraph is stating that even after the notification by

the Speaker, the alleged Member will be given two weeks within which to respond to the invitation. It will then mean that the total number of days is 21 as per the amendment which he is trying to propose.

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So, I am thinking that that area has to be looked into critically. Even though he did say that he is not asking for an extension of immunity, but left to me, if one goes deeply into the intention of that amendment, it is a way of extending immunity indirectly for the Members of the Legislative Houses.

Hon. Chinyere Emmanuel Igwe (Port Harcourt II): I stand to support the Amendment Bill as proposed by my dear friend, my country man, Hon. Dickson.

Mr. Speaker, it is a known fact of law that there is an immunity law in this country, and that immunity law excludes some people from prosecution depending on circumstances. I also know, and we do know, that we have the Legislative Powers and Privileges Act. What Hon. Dickson is seeking to do is to amend that law. If that is the case, it therefore behoves me to say that it is not true, when we are saying that we are excluding some people from some laws in this country.

The intendment of the drafters of this particular Bill is to say let us enshrine what we have in our Statutes book. Suffice it to say that Parliament starts from the Counselors. It is not only the House of Representatives; but the Counselors and the States Assemblies are also Parliament. If you want to arrest anybody who is going to Parliament, you must follow a due process of law. Let it be enshrined in the law to prevent abuse of power by the Executive arm of government, so that we can enshrine participatory democracy in this country.

Deputy Speaker: Your two minutes has expired.

Hon. Chinyere Emmanuel Igwe: Put the question, Mr. Speaker.

Hon Uzoma Nkem Abonta (Ukwa East/West): Mr. Speaker, what the amendment is seeking to do is to give more live to due process within which you can arrest a Legislator from either the Local Governments, Legislative Houses up to the National Assembly level. If for any reason some legislators want to carryout an impeachment exercise on a Governor, all he needs to do is not to wait for them to gather at the Assembly; he should wait for them at their door steps, accuse them of fighting with their neighbours and they would be picked up. Through certain procedures, they would have finished what they intended to do. A Local Government Chairman would simply pick up Councilors because they were coming to say something contrary. He would inform the DPO to pick them up. They would go and pick them up on minor traffic offence.

For example, a particular Governor who does not want to see the National Legislators clearly framed Psychiatric test for them just because they were on a

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traffic route. But if there were procedures laid down and enshrined in the Constitution as he has said, for you to accost me you would have satisfied certain procedures so that you would not impugn on my freedom, my liberty and my boldness to say what I am saying.

So, I want to believe that the Chairman Rules and Business Committee gave the Amendment a wider interpretation. He was, in a limited sense, saying that though it is an existing law, it should be extended further so that we may be protected outside this premises. If I am only protected here and not protected outside, such as in the Wuse Market or else where, then woe betide Legislators.

I support this amendment and at the Committee stage we would put it in its proper perspective. It is not asking for any immunity. You will still be arrested and persecuted within a particular procedure.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Dambaa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, we are discussing the general principles of the Bill and it seems it has been over flogged so much. I suggest at this stage that you put the Question but before them I still want to call on my Colleagues or humbly request them, as I have always done, that the passage of a Bill through second stage does not signify final work on the Bill.

We have been crying out with respect to the number of Bills that we have passed in this House. If any of our Colleagues takes his time to draw up a Bill which is meant for Second Reading, it is all right that we can make general observations on the general principles of the Bill. But it is always important to allow it to get to the Committee level so that what we are doing here such as the x-raying and looking at the nitty-gritties of the Bill can be done at that Committee stage. When we come to consider the Bill finally at plenary we would know whether to kill the Bill or to pass it into law.

So, I would advice that we support this Bill to go to the Committee level so that the appropriate thing would be done on it.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you Minority Leader. I just allowed Members to speak on the Bill because it is a Bill that affects us and it is only fair to allow Members to speak on any thing that would affect them. I do not want a situation whereby I would only give room for two or three Members to speak on the Bill. I will now put the Question as suggested by the Minority Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

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Bill read the Second time and Referred to Joint Committee on Judiciary and Human Rights.

**Electronic Transaction in Nigeria
(Facilitation) Bill, 2009**

A Bill for an Act to Facilitate Electronic Transaction in Nigeria and for related matters, 2009 –

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The Third Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to Facilitate Electronic Transaction in Nigeria and for related Matters, 2009. The Bill was read for the First Time on Tuesday 21st July 2009.

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

Hon Uzoma Nkem Abonta (Ukwa East/West): Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill for an Act to Facilitate Electronic Transaction in Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2009, be read the Second Time.

Hon Nnenna Ijeoma E. Ukeje (Bende): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as moved by my honourable Colleague

Question proposed.

Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta: Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill for an Act to Facilitate Electronic Transaction in Nigeria and for Related Matters.

Electronic Transaction, Communication and, in fact, voting too, has become the order of the day globally. A developing nation like Nigeria that aspires to participate effectively and to play a key role in the world economic order and diplomatic arena, needs to have a policy; a legislative framework, which can drive our E-Governance and E-Commerce transactions.

Recently, as being practiced too, we now practice what is called E-Governance, E-Commerce, E-Payment, E-Banking, E-Transactions, *et cetera*. To our greatest surprise and dismay we do not have any legal framework, no organized set up of what constitutes a contract or a binding transaction.

What this Bill seeks is to do is to provide an enabling environment and law within which electronic transactions can be carried on.

I would not take much of your time but I want to say that it would be confusing if we do not have a

defined order of what constitutes Electronic Transaction. Today we depend on our telephones to know when payments are made and when transactions are done. Today some transactions are required to have signatures and other things and they are done through Electronic Transactions. It would be unfair if we cannot state when a contract is done electronically because it would remain undeveloped and unstable. There will not be faith if we cannot state what constitutes a complete transaction. In effect this Bill seeks to provide the legal framework, regime and order to do that. This electronic transaction scheme is already a forgotten issue in other parts of the globe.

In summary, the Bill will eliminate all legal barriers to effective use of electronic communication in transactions. It will also facilitate the appropriate use of electronic transactions. It will promote business and community confidence in electronic transactions. The benefits are so much. I urge my Colleagues to please support this Bill so that we can fill in the necessary gaps in our transactions that we may join up with the global community in doing what is just the practice.

Please support this Bill that it will go for the Second Reading.

Hon. Aminu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): I rise to support this very important Bill for the simple reason that electronic business is the future of the world today and it has affected immensely and positively many businesses in Nigeria. A close look at this very important Bill will reveal that it has answered a lot of questions that may arise regarding e-business.

Firstly, is an agreement entered into through electronic media legally binding upon the parties?

Secondly, are the rights and obligations created thereunder enforceable?

Thirdly, does an electronic signature satisfy the requirement of the law which requires that some certain agreements be signed by the parties?

Fourthly, how can parties in e-business protect themselves against frauds, deceit and mistakes? All these have been clearly taken care of by the Bill. I sincerely urge my Colleagues to allow it to go for the Second Reading.

Hon. Nnenna I. E. Ukeje (Bende): Electronic transaction, with the advent of the internet, has actually increased over time and of course there are so many transactions that are being carried out electronically. It is for this reason that as far back as 1996 the United Nations Commission on Trade came up with a model law that would actually take time out to regulate the

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way e-transactions are carried out globally. The reason for this model law is so that other legislations can actually go back home, sit down and create laws that govern the way that e-commerce and e-transactions operate within their own clime.

Up until this time, we do not have a law that states that. A lot of us realised that there is a lot of people who are applying for jobs, visas and so on electronically. Unfortunately, most of the laws are outdated. What that means for instance, is that there are certain documents that up and until today must either be written by hand, signed by hand or sometimes they ask for originally copies.

It is impossible for you to scan and send a document without the enabling law that gives you electronic signature to those documents which will give them the authentication they require. Therefore, we need a law that gives the backing to those documents so that our electronic signatures can be accepted globally. This is because a lot of people are buying things electronically, online and so on. If we do not create laws that for instance states the way the business is done, sanction the people who run a foul of those laws and ensure that our documents are authenticated and accepted across board we would not be a part of this global village we are talking about.

At this point I urge my Colleagues to please support this Bill to go for the Second Reading so that we can actually fine-tune it at the Committee Stage.

Hon. Honourable O. Asita (Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni/Ahoada West): I am amazed that we have been operating without an enabling law that guides the activities in the e- industry. I am particularly worried and I would want a law to govern my relationship with my banker who collects my money on an ATM machine and turns around to tell me that the service cannot give me the money I have already paid for. There is charge on every ATM machine for every withdrawal you make. Most times we slot in our cards; they charge us for the transaction even without giving us money. If there was a law, that relationship would have been covered by such law which protects the individuals.

I agree we should have a law to support e-transactions and like my Colleagues have said it has become a global village. All over the world e-transactions are the in thing; you buy tickets electronically if you want to travel. Whatever you do now is governed by electronic transactions.

I urge my Colleagues to support the passage of this Bill.

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The Deputy 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 Joint Committee on Communication and Commerce.

**National Housing Fund Act 1992 (Repeal)
and National Housing Trust Fund
(Establishment) Bill, 2009**

Order for Second Reading

The Deputy Speaker: The next Order of the Day is the commencement of debates on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to repeal the National Housing Fund Act 1992 and to establish the National Housing Trust Fund and Matters connected therewith, 2009.

The Bill was read for the First Time on Wednesday 22nd July, 2009. I now invite Hon. Daniel Reyenieju to move that the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Daniel Oritse G. Reyenieju: (Warri North/Warri South/Warri West): Mr. Speaker, I want to appeal that this Bill be stood down.

Bill accordingly stood down.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Joint Committee on Science and Technology and Defence on Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) and National Authority for the Effective Implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention in Nigeria (Establishment) Bill 2008

The Deputy Speaker: The fifth Order of the Day is the consideration of the Report of the Joint Committee on Science and Technology and Defence on a Bill for an Act to Prohibit Chemical Weapons and Establish the National Authority for the Effective Implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention in Nigeria and Other Matters connected Therewith, 2008.

Honourable Members would recall that the Report was laid on 28th April, 2009. Hon. Akinlade Abiodun will now move for the consideration of the Report. Hon. Akinlade, please? *(No response)*

Hon. Ita Enang, this should not appear on the next Order Paper please since he is not here. If he is here,

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he will give us reason and maybe we will take it in two weeks time.

Report of the Joint Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development on National Council for Public Assistance to Widows, Dependant Children and Orphans (Establishment) Bill, 2008

The Deputy Speaker: The sixth Order of the Day is the Consideration of the Report of the Joint Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Council for Public Assistance to Widows, Dependant Children and Orphans, and to Provide for Other Matters Relating Thereto, 2008.

Honourable Members will recall that the Report was laid on 13th March, 2009. I now invite Hon. Binta Masi Garba to move the Motion for the consideration of the Report. Hon. Binta Garba, please?

Hon. Binta Masi Garba (Madagali/Michika): Mr. Speaker, I am ready but I do not think that most of our Colleagues have gotten the papers to be discussed.

The Deputy Speaker: If you are ready, move your Motion. It is not for you to tell us whether Members have gotten the Paper or not.

Hon. Binta Masi Garba: I move for the consideration of a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Council for Public Assistance to Widows, Dependant Children and Orphans, and to Provide for Other Matters Relating Thereto, 2008.

I so move.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Isa Idris Umaru (Igabi): I stand to second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Binta Masi Garba.

Question put and negatived.

Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Capital Territory College of Education, 2008

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The Deputy Speaker: The seventh Order of the Day is the consideration of a Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory College of Education, and Other Matters Connected therewith, 2009.

Honorable Members will recall that the Bill was committed to the Committee of the Whole on 23rd July, 2009. Hon Ita Enang will now move for the consideration of the Report.

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): I move that this House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Capital Territory College of Education, 2008.

I so move.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo (Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika): I do second the Motion as moved by Hon. Ita Enang.

Question put and negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): I rise to move that this honourable House do stand adjourned till tomorrow, Thursday, 8th October 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

I so move.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, I do second the Motion as moved by Hon. Baba Shehu that this House do stand adjourned till tomorrow, Thursday, 8th October 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till tomorrow, Thursday, 8th October, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 5.35 p.m.