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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 8th October 2009

The House met at 11:00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: The House is called to Order. I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday 7th May 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker: Please listen to this announcement. It is coming from Hon. Ita Enang. It reads:

8th October, 2009

***Special Invitation to Constituency Questioning and
Thanksgiving Service for God's Grace in my
Legislative Career***

May I, please, invite you, my hon. Colleagues, to the under listed two events scheduled as hereunder:

Constituency Questioning: Saturday 17th October 2009

I shall submit myself to be questioned by my constituents and interest groups on the programmes and activities of government, my representation and legislative measures, including Constitution Amendment and Electoral Reform Bills. I will brief them prior and dispense empowerment to some.

Venue: Ibiono Ibom Local Government Headquarters Pavilion, Oko Ita, Akwa Ibom State.

Thanksgiving Service: Sunday, October 18th 2009

I will go to Church to thank God for his Grace on my legislative career spanning over a decade, and more.

Venue: The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria, 73 Wellington Bassey Way, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

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You are all please invited.

(Signed)
Hon. Ita Enang
Chairman, Rules and Business Committee

**Visit of the President and Exco Members of the
National Union of Rivers State Students**

The Speaker: I wish to announce the presence of the President and Exco Members of the National Union of Rivers State Students in the Gallery to observe the Proceedings of the House today.

Can you, please, rise up for recognition?

(The President and Exco Members of the National Union of Rivers State Students rose for recognition)

**Meeting of the House Committee on
Constitutional Amendment**

The Speaker: There will be a meeting of the House of Representatives Committee on Constitutional Amendment today at Meeting Room 1 immediately after sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

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

Appeal against Dismissal from Service

Hon. Dino Melaye (Kabba/Bunnu/Ijumu): Hon. Speaker, my highly respected Colleagues, I have a Petition from Mr. Okon Denny. He is asking for the reversal of his dismissal from the service of Kaduna Polytechnic in April 1999. He was wrongly dismissed from service having been acquitted by a Committee and a Panel set up by the same institution. So he is asking this honourable House to help him address this issue and ensure that justice is done.

If I have your permission, Sir, may I lay this Petition on the table?

Petition laid.

**Petition against Niger Delta Development
Commission (NNDC) for Breach of Contract**

Hon. Chuka Ama Nwauwa (Oguta/Ohaji-Egbema/Oru West): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from one of my constituents, Chief I. I. Amadi, in a case of maltreatment by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NNDC) on an agreement and contract that he did with them.

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I do not want to bore you with the details of this Petition but the Petitioner has put all the details here. If it pleases Mr. Speaker, may I lay the Petition on the Table?

Petition laid.

**The Disappearance of
Elder Aigbo's son in Police Custody**

Hon. Sokonte H. Davies (Degema/Bonny): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from Elder Aigbo George whose son, Mr. Diepriye Agi George, had been arrested by the Police or so since the 30th of May, 2009 and every effort made to see him or produce him had not yielded the necessary result. He believes that this House is in a better position to ask the authority to give explanation as to where his son is.

If I have the permission of Mr. Speaker and the leave of the House, may I lay the Petition on the table?

The Speaker: Could you say that again, please?

Hon. Sokonte H. Davies (Degema/Bonny): The Petition is from Elder Aigbo George. His son had gone missing since 30th May 2009 and the last time Elder George said he heard from his son was when he was with the Police.

He had made every effort to see him at the Police Stations or at the Morgues but he could not find him. So, he thinks that this House could help him. Thank you, Sir.

The Speaker: Did you say that the last time this Petitioner spoke with his son was while he was in Police custody?

Hon. Sokonte Davies: Yes, I did.

The Speaker: It is all right. Is there any other Petition, please? *(No response)*

My dear Colleagues, all Petitions are referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir (Minjibir/Ungogo): Point of order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: What is the Point of Order, Hon. Sani Minjibir?

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MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Tell Magazine front page Publication:
Nigeria, the Making of a Failed State**

Hon. Sani S. Minjibir: It is Order IV of our Standing Orders dealing with Matter of Urgent Public Importance. It reads:

The matter for discussion shall if possible be referred to the Speaker prior to the commencement of the day sitting and the Speaker shall refuse to accept the claim unless he is satisfied that it is definite and urgent.

Since Mr. Speaker recognised me I believe that he has recognised the fact that the matter is urgent.

Mr. Speaker, my hon. Colleagues while we were on break, there was a publication in the *Tell Magazine* which had as its front page *Nigeria, the Making of a Failed State*. My hon. Colleagues, a simple definition of a *Failed State* is one in which a State has been unable to fulfill the basic requirements expected of a modern state e.g. security, energy, education, healthcare and vital things of that nature.

Some time in 2005, the America Government was advised by one of the numerous bodies empowered to give it such advice that Nigeria could be a failed State by 2015 and I remember we were given the chance to debate that issue on the Floor of this House. This issue has been a recurring decimal and I believe that as a responsible and responsive Parliament, that is truly representative of the Nigerian people, we owe it as a duty to this country to do something about it. This issue concerns everybody in this country.

My prayer is that we discuss this very important issue at the next Legislative day with a view to articulating those points which we believe contribute towards making a Failed State with a view to adopting a Legislative Agenda that would address all those issues squarely so that the efforts that are being made in other areas will be complimented by us.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I will put the Question that this matter be considered as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That *Tell Magazine* front page publication: *Nigeria, the Making of a Failed State*, be

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considered a Matter of Urgent Public Importance to be discussed on the next legislative day.

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

The Speaker: What is the Point of Order, Hon. Mayor Eze?

Hon. Leonard Chukwudi Eze: My Point of Order is Order VIII, Rule 4 of our Standing Orders dealing with Matter of Urgent Public Importance. With your permission, I read:

The matter for discussion shall, if possible be referred to the Speaker prior to the commencement of the day's sitting and the Speaker shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite and urgent.

Nine Hundred per cent increase in the Charge on Certificate of Occupancy in Abuja

The issue is on the 900 per cent increase in the charge on Certificate of Occupancy in Abuja, which has been causing a lot of hardship to Nigerians and will continue to do so unless the issue is immediately addressed. So if it is the wish of this honourable House, I will also move that Order VIII, Rule 4(3) be suspended so that we take the matter immediately.

The Speaker: Can you take it one by one? You are asking us to consider if it is urgent enough to be debated?

Hon. Leonard Chukwudi Eze: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the issue 900 per cent increase in the charge on Certificate of Occupancy be considered as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

The Speaker: Hon. Leo Eze, before you move for the suspension of the relevant House Rule, my advice to you is to allow hon. Colleagues to conduct research on this matter. You can move if you so wish; it is only an advice.

Hon. Leonard C. Eze: Mr. Speaker, hon. Colleagues, I move that Order VIII, Rule 4(3) of our Standing Orders be suspended so that we take the matter immediately.

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The Speaker: If you are moving that, then someone has to second it. Hon. Dino wants to second that.

Hon. Leonard C. Eze: Mr. Speaker, hon. Colleagues, this is a House of democracy and a Hall of democratic process. From the feelers from my hon. Colleagues who have unanimously agreed that the Motion be taken - (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: Hold on Hon. Mayor Eze. You have already moved. Now, a Member needs to second the Motion.

Hon. Leonard C. Eze: I am withdrawing my earlier prayer that the issue be taken immediately so that it can be taken at the next legislative day.

Hon. Dino Melaye: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the matter be taken at the next Legislative Day.

(Breakdown of Public Address Systems)

The Speaker: It is all right. Where is the Chairman, Committee on House Services or the Deputy Chairman? Is there any Member of the House Services Committee here? Hon. Jime, when are we going to have the systems working properly?

Hon. Emmanuel Jime (Makurdi/Guma): All I can say as a Member of the House Services Committee is that a meeting of the Committee has been scheduled for this afternoon consistent with the directives that were given by the Leadership of this House yesterday. I am unable to say with any degree of certainty what exactly has happened to the Address System in the House.

The Speaker: Thank you. Chief Whip of the House, could you please, attend the meeting with the Committee on House Services this afternoon.

Hon. Emeka Nkem Ihedioha: I will do so, Sir.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Report of the Committee on Special Duties on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Boundary Commission (Amendment) Act, 2006

The Speaker: The only Business of the Day is Presentation of the Report of the Committee on Special

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Duties on a Bill for an Act to amend the National Boundary Commission (Amendment) Act, 2006 No. 12 so as to make appointment of some Members for the Commission to be full-time as Commissioners. This is standing in the name of Hon. Samson Osagie. Members would recall that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Wednesday, 11th February, 2009.

Hon. Osagie, please proceed.

Hon. Samson Osagie (Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege to move that this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Special Duties on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Boundary Commission (Amendment) Act, 2006 No. 12 so as to make the appointment of some Members for the Commission to be full-time as Commissioners.

Hon. Bala Adamu Kuta (Shiroro/Rafi/Munya): I hereby second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Female National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Member Raped to Death

The Speaker: The first Order of the Day is a Motion on the Rape and Death of a female National Youth Service Corps Member standing in the name of Hon. Paul Adah.

Hon. Paul Adah is invited to move his Motion.

Hon. Paul Adah (Obanliku/Obudu/Bakwarra): The House

Notes with nostalgia the assault and raping to death of Miss Grace Adie Ushang, a member of National Youth Service Corps serving with El-Kanemi College of Business Administration (ECOBA) in Borno State on 27th of September 2009;

Aware that Late Miss Grace Ushang left the Corper's Lodge around Customs area of the State at about 6:30 p.m. on that fateful day in search of food within the neighbourhood only for her corpse to be found beside a nearby river at about 8.00 p.m.;

Disturbed that the windy weather in Maiduguri in the evening of that fateful day allegedly provided a cover for Grace's assailants to assault and murder her in cold blood;

Worried that Late Grace Ushang's assailants attacked her on the ground that she was wearing Khaki Trouser – the official uniform of Youth Corpers which they considered as indecent dressing;

Further aware that medical report confirmed that Late Miss Grace Adie Ushang was physically assaulted, thereby sustaining grievous injury in the process which resulted in her untimely death;

Regrets that late Miss Grace Adie Ushang 25, a graduate of Education Administration from University of Calabar is from Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State;

Resolves to:

(i) Condemn this dastardly act as it is a crime against humanity;

(ii) Implore all security agencies to identify and arrest the perpetrators of this devilish act by making them to face the wrath of the law with a view to serving as a deterrent to others;

(iii) Commiserate with the people of Cross River State and the family of Miss Grace Adie Ushang;

(iv) Call on the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to adequately compensate the family of Late Miss Grace Adie Ushang as she died serving her nation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Folake Olunloyo Oshinowo (Ibadan South West/North West): I hereby second the Motion moved by Hon. Paul Adah.

Question proposed.

Hon. Paul Andeshi Adah: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed with a very heavy heart that I stand before you to mourn the death of Miss Grace Adie Ushang who hails from Obudu, one of the Local Government Areas that I represent in this House.

Miss Grace Adie Ushang was posted as a Youth

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Corper to Borno State. She was a very humble person from a humble home. Her education was solely borne by her mother because she had no father. She could not influence her posting to any town such as Abuja, Port Harcourt or Lagos. Therefore, as humble as she was, she decided to accept her posting to a faraway place as Borno State because it was a national call to duty.

Unfortunately, on the 27th of September 2009, while strolling around her neighbourhood she was attacked, beaten up, raped and stabbed. This incident showed that it was not an accidental one. I say so because in a society like ours where people are conscious of what they do and aware that there are security agents, nobody can move about with instruments like daggers without the fear of being arrested. I am sure the incident was pre-conceived, well planned and executed because after beating her up and raping her, they left her with daggers pierced into her two eyes and one on her neck. This can be seen through a physical examination of the body as we do not need a medical doctor to tell us this. Medical reports confirmed that she was raped.

As I speak to you, Mr. Speaker, no arrest had been made by the Police. When this incident happened, the Youth Corpers serving in Obudu Local Government Area took to their heels to save their dear lives because the people of Obudu, the youths in particular, had assembled in their numbers to carry out some reprisal attack. Thank God for the intervention of the peace-loving Governor of Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke, the Paramount Ruler of Obudu and Leaders like me who had to appeal to the youths to maintain peace otherwise all you would have heard would have been different.

The Youth Corpers serving in Obudu Local Government Area are yet to return. As I speak to you now, no arrest had been made.

Hon. Members, Miss Grace Ushang was a Youth Corper. In the place where I come from, Youth Corpers are treated like District Officers of those days; they are treated like Reverend Fathers. In other words, when a Youth Corper is posted to our community, we do not only receive that person but we also ensure his protection.

It is a challenge to all of us as leaders sitting in this honourable House that we have a responsibility to protect these Youth Corpers wherever they are. We have Village Heads, District Heads, Councilors and hon. Members of State Houses of Assembly and the National Assembly who come from one community or the other. It is, therefore, our responsibility, if we have to support and maintain this Scheme, to give protection to Youth Corpers.

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The National Youth Service Corps Scheme has come a long way. It is one Scheme that even armed robbers respect. I say this because hardly have you heard of any armed robbery incident where Youth Corpers' uniforms are used for operation. It is one uniform someone could wear while standing along the road and be offered a ride because of the nature of the assignments it represents. I say this because the nature of the assignments Youth Corpers carry out is a very big sacrifice.

(System malfunction)

The Speaker: Please hold on a moment. Whoever is working on this system right now should please stop. When we finish with the microphone that we are using and have departed this place, you could continue work on the system.

Let us hear from the Leader of the Minority parties, please. Could someone give the microphone to the Leader of the Minority, please?

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, this incident is rather very unfortunate.

I stand here to support the Motion with serious observation. I would have appreciated if the Chairman, Rules and Business looked at this issue before the Motion came out. It is very unfortunate that this incident of rape happened in Maiduguri as it could have happened anywhere - *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: It was rape and murder.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Yes. It was rape and murder. It could also have happened anywhere in the State. We are all Nigerians and we know what happens. Let us not try to make it as if it was an exclusive, deliberate or collective thing. For example, we should note in the Motion

Disturbed, that the windy weather in Maiduguri in the evening of that fateful day allegedly provided a cover for Grace's assailants to assault and murder her in cold blood;

The weather in every State is not a man-made thing. *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, Hon. Ali Ndume has the Floor. You will have your opportunities as well.

Hon. Ndume, please proceed.

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Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Secondly, when we bring a Motion like this to the Floor of the House, we should consider the content of that issue. I come from Borno State but I do not support the incident that happened. I am supporting this Motion so that the appropriate authorities will ensure that the culprits responsible for this action are identified. But at the same time, when we bring in a Motion we should not sensationalise it by making it look as if it is peculiar to a particular place.

The emphasis laid on this Motion should be on condemning the action and the content should be to address the issue at stake. I am particularly concerned about the description of Borno State or the people (*Interruptions*).

The Speaker: My dear Minority Leader, just for the records, I have just looked at what the Motion seeks to resolve and it is in four parts. There is no mention of Borno State. However, the only State mentioned in the *Resolves* is actually Cross River State. So, if anybody is mentioning Borno State in the *Resolves*; you are the person.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: No.

The Speaker: It is: Yes.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. Speaker, what I am suggesting is that this is rather unusual. I am in support of all the prayers. But, I want paragraphs 3 and 4 removed from this Motion for record purposes.

The Speaker: It is all right. Hon. Chairman, Committee on MDGs, please.

Hon. Saudatu A. Sani (Lere): Mr. Speaker, I speak with heavy heart as this could be our daughter, sister or even our mother. This is because an 80-year-old woman was raped last year. So, the issue of raping has nothing to do with the States, Minority Leader. The issue is that a girl who was on National Service was raped and killed.

Hon. Colleagues, I do not think that this needs any debate. There is a strong violation of human rights. Somebody left her parents to serve Nigeria and while she was serving Nigeria, some irresponsible men or boys attacked her and killed her. So, as a Parliament, we have to denounce, reject this kind of attitude. We have to even find out what Borno State Government as well as the NYSC did in this respect.

I am, therefore, proposing an amendment to this Motion that we must invite the NYSC Joint Committee on Women Affairs and Women in Parliament to sit with

the NYSC to find out what they did after this girl was attacked. When I was Chairman, Committee on Women Affairs, we ensured that women are protected. The message to NYSC is that if you make women to stay where they are, you are reducing the impact of the exercise but if women would leave their families to answer a national call only to be raped and killed, I do not think any mother or parents will allow their children to leave their homes.

For us as a Parliament, we need to take this very seriously. I want all of us to support this Motion and please commend it. We should please pray for the repose of the soul of this young girl who wanted to serve Nigeria and was denied the opportunity.

Hon. Chinyere Emmanuel Igwe (Port Harcourt II): Mr. Speaker, ordinarily Parliament will not waste time and resources discussing this kind of issue but for the implication on our psyche; the traumatic experience that the family of the deceased, neighbours, relatives, friends and associates. The dastardly act committed by the people against the Nigerian society is the issue at stake.

This is an act against humanity. All known Conventions on Human Rights have been contravened. The victim, Miss Grace is a very young Nigerian, who was coming up to contribute her quota to the development of the Nigerian society but she had been cut in her prime. What other reasons do we have other than to say that the people must be brought to book?

As a Member of the Committee on Human Right, as Deputy Chairman and as a Parliament, we must condemn this act and bring those who perpetrated this act to book.

Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon (Oredo): Mr. Speaker, let me say straightaway and as quickly as possible that I am *in pari materia* with the views expressed by the mover of this Motion. I am in tandem with the views expressed by the principal mover of this Motion against the background of the fact that today Nigerians are already questioning the necessity, viability and the utilitarian purpose the National Youth Service scheme is serving.

There has been a great political and sociological debate about whether or not the NYSC scheme is still relevant and while this debate is going on, here we are being told that a female Youth Corper who had suffered a lot of emotional macadamisation, a lot of financial strictures, in the metamorphosis of her educational pursuit would be sent to untimely sepulchre in the course of her service to Nigeria. This Parliament as a responsible Parliament must rise this morning to join

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the Mover of this Motion to deprecate in very strong terms this dastardly act.

There is no way we can talk about this Motion without referring to this *locus in quo*, that is, the place where the crime took place. We must not travialise and platitudinise the essence of this Motion by dragging a red herring across the path.

My only worry is with the preamble number one. Let Parliament not send very wrong signals to society to say that we note with nostalgia. No! We cannot note with nostalgia the dastardly act that had taken place; Parliament notes with *outrage* or Parliament notes with *revulsion*... The mover of the Motion and all Members of Parliament have condemned this act. So if we are saying in the preamble that we are noting with nostalgia, then we are approbating and reprobating at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, while joining the Mover of this Motion, I do say that I proffer a little amendment to say that we note with revulsion or we note with outrage.

The Speaker: That is enough, hon. Colleagues. Now, we have to go for the Amendment and we will start from Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon.

Could you just state your Amendment for the record now so that we can put the question on it?

Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon: This is my Amendment. *The House:*

Notes with outrage the assault and raping to death of Miss Grace Adie Ushang, a member of National Youth Service Corps serving with El-Kanemi College of Business Administration (ECOA) in Borno State on 27th of September, 2009.

Hon. Ike Chinwo (Obio/Akpor): I rise humbly to second the Amendment as moved by Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Hon. Saudatu Sani: I would like to propose an Amendment to Prayer (v) that the Joint Committee on Women Affairs, Human Rights and Women in Parliament invite the Director-General, NYSC to find out what exactly they did regarding this case and what the Government of Borno State has done to the family of the deceased.

Hon. Eziuche Chinwe Ubani: I rise to second

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the Amendment proposed by Hon. Saudatu Sani.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Speaker: The next Amendment is from the Leader of the Minority, Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume. Can you move your Amendment, please?

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: My Amendment is that Paragraphs 3 and 4 be deleted from the Motion because it is an attack on Borno State. It is not addressing the Motion itself.

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Munguno (Munguno/Marte/Nganzai): I beg to second the Motion for Amendment as moved by the Minority Leader.

Amendment put and negated.

The Speaker: The next Amendment is from Hon. Jime. Please move a Motion for your Amendment, please.

Hon. Emmanuel Jime (Makurdi/Guma): Mr. Speaker, my proposed Amendment reads as an additional prayer as follows:

That this honourable august Assembly resolves to urge the Federal Government through the National Youth Service Corps scheme to pay reasonable compensation to the family of the deceased, Miss Grace Adie Ushang.

The Speaker: Hon. Jime that prayer is already part of the resolves stated earlier. It is Prayer (iv), which calls on the National Youth Service to adequately compensate the family of late Miss Grace Adie Ushang as she died serving the nation.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South East): Mr. Speaker, I propose to amend Prayer (ii), which says: *That the House should implore all security agencies to identify and arrest the perpetrators to the end.*

My Amendment is to delete the words *implore all security agencies* and in its place; *call on the Inspector General Police*. When you say: *all security agencies*, you cannot hold anybody accountable. Let us be specific and call on the Inspector General of Police to immediately spring into action and arrest the perpetrators of this crime.

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga (Abakaliki/Izzi): I beg to second the Motion.

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Amendment put and agreed to.

The Speaker: Hon. Stanley Ohajuruka, go ahead with your Amendment. Hon. Colleagues, do not forward any other Amendment to me, please.

Hon. Stanley Ugochukwu Ohajuruka (Umuahia North/South/Ikwunano): My Amendment goes thus:

That she be given a National Posthumous Award in the next National Award ceremony in Nigeria.

Hon. Betty A. Apiafi (Ahoada East/Abua Odual): I second the Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Speaker: Hon. Andrew Uchendu, can you move a Motion for your Amendment, please?

Hon. Andrew Uchendu (Ikwerre/Emohua): My Amendment has been covered by the Amendment proposed by my Chairman.

Hon. Abiodun Aderin Adesida (Akure North/South): Mr. Speaker, my Amendment is to discourage indecent dressing by mandating the NYSC to design and supply Youth Corpsers with suitable uniforms.

Several hon. Members: No! No!

Hon. Abiodun A. Adesida: Let me land, please. *To mandate the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to design and supply suitable uniforms for Corpsers acceptable to all the geo-political zones based on religion and belief.*

I beg to move.

The Speaker: Is any Member seconding this Motion please? *(No response)*

(Amendment lapsed)

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): Mr. Speaker, my Amendment is on the premise that the deceased was attacked on the ground that she was wearing khaki trouser, the official uniform of Youth Corpsers, which they considered as indecent dressing. In my humble view, this is speculative because there is nowhere in the fact of the case this was ascertained and as such I urge my hon. Colleagues to allow Paragraph 4 to be deleted as it is speculative. That is my humble amendment.

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The Speaker: I understand Hon. Ali Ndume's Amendment was referring to that as well. So that has already been dealt with.

Amendment lapsed.

Hon. Adamu Bala Kuta (Shiroro/Rafi/Munya): My Amendment is not different from that proposed by Hon. Shagari.

The Speaker: If it is not different from Hon. Aminu Shagari, then it has been taken care of. Thank you very much.

The last is from the hon. Member from Rivers State, Hon. Olaka Nwogu.

Hon. Olaka Nwogu (Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai): Mr. Speaker, my Amendment is based on the fact that this patriot was serving in Borno State at that time and to ensure that people who are within the State do not think that their government has a lukewarm attitude to things like this to call on the Government of Borno State to condemn the dastardly act.

The Speaker: Is there any seconder to that? *(No response)*

Amendment lapsed.

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted with outrage the assault and raping to death of Miss Grace Adie Ushang, a member of National Youth Service Corps serving with El-Kanemi College of Business Administration (ECOBA) in Borno State on 27th of September, 2009.

Aware that Late Miss Grace Ushang left the Corper's Lodge around Customs area of the State at about 6:30 p.m. on that fateful day in search of food within the neighbourhood only for her corpse to be found beside a nearby river at about 8.00 p.m.;

Disturbed that the windy weather in Maiduguri in the evening of that fateful day allegedly provided a cover for Grace's assailants to assault and murder her in cold blood;

Worried that Late Grace Ushang's assailants attacked her on the ground that she was wearing Khaki Trouser – the official uniform of Youth Corpsers which they considered as indecent dressing;

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Further aware that medical report confirmed that Late Miss Grace Adie Ushang was physically assaulted, thereby sustaining grievous injury in the process which resulted in her untimely death;

Regretted that late Miss Grace Adie Ushang 25, a graduate of Education Administration from University of Calabar is from Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State;

Resolves to:

- (i) Condemn this dastardly act as it is a crime against humanity;
- (ii) Call on the Inspector General of Police to immediately spring into action and arrest the perpetrators of this crime.
- (iii) Commiserate with the people of Cross River State and the family of Miss Grace Adie Ushang;
- (iv) Called on the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to adequately compensate the family of Late Miss Grace Adie Ushang as she died serving her nation.
- (v) Mandate the Joint Committee on Women Affairs, Human Rights and Women in Parliament to invite the Director-General, NYSC to find out what the organisation did concerning the tragedy and also to determine what the Government of Borno State did to cushion the pains of the family that lost their daughter.
- (vi) That Late Miss Grace Adie Ushang be given a Posthumous National Award in the next National Award Ceremony in Nigeria as she died in active service of our fatherland.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I believe what Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume was trying to explain to us has some valid points. Horrible things happen all over Nigeria. It is rather unfortunate that this particular one is gaining attention but if this is going to stop all those things happening all over Nigeria all well and good. No attempt should be made to categorise any particular State as such.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

National Arbitration Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to set up the National Commission as a Corporate Body charged with the Responsibility of advising the Federal and State Governments on all aspects of Arbitration and the general development of Arbitration in Nigeria, 2009 (HB. 283) -

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is Commencement of Debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to set up the National Arbitration Commission as a Corporate Body charged with the Responsibility of advising the Federal and State Governments on all aspects of Arbitration and the general development of Arbitration in Nigeria, 2009. The Bill was read for the First Time on Thursday, 9th July 2009.

The Bill is being sponsored by me. So Hon. Deputy Speaker, could you, please take the Chair? (*The Speaker vacates the Chair*)

(*The Deputy Speaker in the Chair*)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Dimeji Bankole can you, please, move your Motion?

Hon. Dimeji Bankole (Abeokuta South): Mr. Speaker, may I please move a Bill for an Act to set up a National Arbitration Commission as a Corporate Body charged with the responsibility of advising the Federal and State Governments on all aspects of Arbitration and the general development of Arbitration in Nigeria.

Hon. Emeka Nkem Ihedioha (Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala): I rise to second the Motion as moved by Hon. Dimeji Bankole.

Question proposed.

Hon. Dimeji Bankole: Mr. Speaker, the need for the establishment of the National Arbitration Commission is long overdue. If established, the Commission would advise the President and Governors of the States through the Ministry of Justice on all matters of arbitration in Nigeria.

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The Commission would, among other thing, make investigations relating to arbitration as it may be considered as a matter of national interest. It would also make such recommendations to the Federal and State Governments relating to arbitration as may be considered as a matter of national interest.

It would also inquire into and advise the Federal Government on the financial needs, both Recurrent and Capital, of arbitration in Nigeria in particular; to investigate and study the financial needs of arbitration research and ensure adequate provisions.

Also, it will advise the Federal and State Governments on arbitration on matters of finances, such as grants as may be made by State Government, persons and institutions in and outside Nigeria.

Nigeria is yet to become an arbitration centre and should move quickly to establish such a centre in our economic interest to avoid countries like Sierra Leone and Ghana seizing the initiative when it comes to such cases.

My dear Colleagues, all arbitration cases of this nature are handled in countries, of course, outside Nigeria thereby not developing our own system as far as this is concerned and in the process losing billions of monies and revenues to other countries.

It is time we start looking at the national interest of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and promote our legal system, our Judiciary system and those of the legal profession that engage in such business.

The Deputy Speaker: I will take contributions on the General Principles of the Bill sponsored by Hon. Dimeji Bankole (CFR).

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): I speak in support of this Bill sponsored by Hon. Dimeji Bankole representing Abeokuta South Federal Constituency. This is the Bill that seeks to establish the National Arbitration Commission in Nigeria and the National Arbitration Commission is to regulate matters and issues relating to Arbitration because any profession that does not have regulation or a Commission like this gets into disrepute.

This is a Bill that most retired Justices or judicial officers are very interested in because when these persons retire or get out of active service they can no longer appear in courts as advocates and most of them are now engaged as Arbitrators or Conciliators. It is therefore necessary to have a Commission to regulate these activities.

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Part of what this body will do is to collate and analyse information relating to Arbitration, find out issues that relate to Arbitration and also regulate issues which ought to go for adversarial trial in the court. It will also bring out draft rules of this practice. On this basis, my Colleagues, I support that this Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): I humbly wish to support this very important Bill which is long overdue. As we all know, Arbitration is the future of conflict resolution in the whole world because it is faster, cheaper and will decongest our Courts. Not only that, it is more accessible to the common man or the less privileged persons. It is a more humane way of settling disputes as it still leaves room for a cordial relationship between the warring factions. This is a very welcome development and I urge my Colleagues to support it for the reasons I have alluded above.

Hon. Raphael Samson Osagie (Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode): I want to speak in support of this all-important Bill especially from the point of view of the fact that today, in our world, there is need to have recourse to alternative dispute resolution mechanism. As the last Speaker said, it makes processes of trials of disputes to be faster.

As you may be aware, the Court system or the Legal system currently prevailing in our nation is such that it does not give confidence to would-be investors. As such, in a world where we are thinking of government collaborating with the private sector to bring about infrastructural development there certainly would be Clauses that must require Arbitration. That is why we have had cases where Nigeria has not been regarded as a Centre for Arbitration. So, people prefer to go to England or France to have their matters tried. Therefore, this is an all-important Bill and I would support it.

Hon. Mustapha Ahmed (Bauchi): First, I commend the presenter of this Bill. I am in support of it. I know of the proliferation of various laws on Arbitration because we have Arbitration Law, Arbitration Act, Industrial Arbitration Court and we have Arbitration Clauses entrenched in most of the agreements which sometimes seek to refer disputes to Arbitration Panel to be appointed by the parties or by the Courts. With all these proliferation of Arbitration matters, if we can centralise it as demanded by the presenter of this Bill, it would be better for all of us.

May I advise as well that during the consideration of this Bill at Committee level, it should be taken into consideration holistically so that it should bring all

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other Arbitration Acts, Arbitration Laws, and Industrial Arbitration Courts in conformity with this Bill.

Hon. Joseph Jaiyeola Ajatta (Oshodi-Isolo II): First of all, I would like to support this Bill because it is coming from Hon. Dimeji Bankole and secondly because the Bill looks more than what I used to know when I am considering Arbitration because this Arbitration he is proposing is looking for ways of assisting the government at Federal, State and Local levels.

The Bill seeks to make provisions on the operation and finances of the proposed Commission, among others. I know that the people who are involved in Arbitration are the most experienced like lawyers or the legal luminaries that have retired. They tend to speak the truth and this is very good for our society.

I saw there is a distinction between this and the one we had yesterday which had to do with Mediation and Reconciliation. Arbitration is very important, not only for us here but also for the whole nation and for the whole world because there could be some problems. It is cheaper, faster and most acceptable and the result of the Arbitration is always acceptable to the people that are involved.

So, I think it is very good and I will support the Bill.

Hon. Chile W. Igbowua (Kwande/Ushongo): Mr. Speaker, arbitration is a long established process. When we look at the state of development of the Judicial System in Nigeria it is surprising that up till now we are yet to establish one body that is able to regulate this practice.

As the mover of the Motion rightly pointed out, it has denied us the opportunity of serving as venues for international arbitration because we had no regulatory body and I think bringing one in place now will promote the practice of arbitration in Nigeria which of course is on-going. But before we can receive international recognition and qualify to serve as venue for international arbitration, they must be sure we have a body that registers those who participate in this sector of our legal system. As an African country, we have customary laws which emphasise the need to arbitrate rather than to go through the orthodox legal system and this has proved very useful in most cases.

I think this Bill is long overdue and I lend my weight wholly behind it.

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno (Monguno/Marte/Nganzai): Mr. Speaker, as a legal

practitioner, the importance of the Bill presented by the Speaker cannot be over-emphasised by me. This is because the need for a Commission that will serve as an Alpha and Omega in arbitration matters is long overdue in this country.

As Hon. Osagie rightly alluded to cases in Nigerian, Judicial System usually suffer chequered history of adjournments and delays. As a result, cases are not disposed of expeditiously and in a 20th century economy that is globalised, there is the need for an expeditious disposal of cases with a view to moving the economy of various nations forward.

So, the need for an Arbitration Commission that will regulate the activities of arbitration cannot be over-emphasised and I totally support the need to pass this Bill into law.

Hon. David Idoko (Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu): The need for a corporate body to act as a Commission to regulate or arbitrate as my Colleague said is long overdue in this country. We are living in a globalised system; people are becoming very conscious of proper and sincere ways of arbitrating. There is need for us to also sincerely look at people in the face and tell them the truth; to look at issues from dispassionate points of views, not from the legal perspective but proper human perspective and conscientious approach to issues. These are areas where proper arbitrations are sought and when you go into proper arbitration, they do not go into the depth of the legality of issues but they go to the moral and sometimes conscientious issues in arbitration.

So, I believe that Hon. Dimeji Bankole has looked at the issues in their perspective and has found the need for arbitration in most cases. Some of my Colleagues have also said that judicial settlement sometimes takes a lot of time and has some financial implications.

I therefore urge my Colleagues to support this Motion and give it expeditious hearing. I also commend the Speaker for bringing this Motion.

Hon. Elizabeth O. Ogbaga (Ohaukwu/Ebonyi): I wish to join my Colleagues to commend the presenter of this Bill bearing in mind that the Bill stipulates the responsibility of advising the Federal and State Governments on all aspects of arbitration and the general development of arbitration in Nigeria.

This Bill, if it is passed, as I am made to understand, will form an advisory body between the Federal and State Governments in the area of arbitration.

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Secondly, this Bill, if I understand it well enough, will act when it is a corporate body though we have alternation to dispute resolution, which in the actual sense has no legal backing. I think if there is a Commission that takes the responsibility, it will coordinate not only the Mediation and Coalition of Arbitration Bill that passed through Second Reading yesterday, it will also coordinate the other areas such that those who cannot afford legal support can have recourse to this Arbitration.

Finally, if this Bill is passed it will assist in resolving legal disputes as the people involved will come out from various areas to give adequate and proper advice since it is an advisory body to the Federal Government.

Hon. Saudatu A. Sani (Lere): I want to join my Colleagues in congratulating the Mover of this Motion for such a beautiful foresight. If you look at the situation in Nigeria, the moment you take somebody to Court the person will say I will never forgive him or her for taking me to Court but if there is a Commission like this that will serve as an arbiter to settle matter softly it will go a long way in bringing the peace that we so much need in this country.

If you look at so many cases of election problems that we have, if there is an Arbitration Commission that does not need to go through all the legal problems of going to court, going on adjourning, paying all the court fees *et cetera*, they will then settle the matter softly so that by the time you finish, there will neither be a winner nor a loser. What is important is that the matter will be laid to rest. I therefore invite every one of us to, please, support this very important Bill.

Hon. John Halims O. Agoda (Ethiopia East/Ethiopia West): Let me thank the Rt. Hon. Speaker and say very frankly that in spite of his office, he has gotten the time to also come to do what we are doing from this side of the Chamber. I think that is great.

Simply put, that is good to our judicial system. This initiative will deal with problems of judicial delay, lack of Courts, lack of materials, lack of Judges and the rest.

By virtue of our population and by the volume of trade, commerce and business that we have within our country and even beyond this land there is the need to actually have an Arbitration Centre. But one important Clause in the Bill which I read that is also very prominent is that it would give opportunity to some of our very serious legal practitioners to be solely involved or employed in matters that were hitherto taken over by

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some foreign henchmen which in fact have denied this country of a lot of money. In other words, capital flight in that respect would be stopped. Our lawyers should be well exposed to other international interpretations and involvement. So, this is a step in the right direction.

However, my worry frankly speaking is that as a Parliament and indeed as a nation our problem is not the issue of lack of laws. We have been able to pass laws nearly in all areas of human endeavours. What we need as a Parliament is that whichever Committee we are heading, we must ensure that there must be compliance of the existing Act or law regulating each of the sectors we are heading.

It is a right action in a right direction. Let us encourage the Hon. Speaker so that he can sponsor more Bills.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, this is a very timely and important Bill. I would advise, as my Colleague Hon. Mustapha did, that at the Committee level this Bill should not be restricted to only the Federal and the State Governments; it should provide the framework for all aspects of arbitration. This is because there are so many cases as various speakers have enumerated that stand in between this agreement and the Courts. People disagree on issues; they do not want to go to Court yet the issues remain unresolved.

We are even facing one of such in the National Assembly as it relates to Budget where we were arguing as to who is supposed to take one another to Court. If we had such Commission in place it would have adequately advised the Federal Government to know that the responsibility of appropriation is Constitutionally vested in this honourable House but because of the absence of such a body we were not able to achieve that and we could not go to Court because we feel that is going to be an odd thing to do.

So this Bill is very timely and appropriate. I wish I had an opportunity to oppose it because that is supposed to be my job but I have no option but to support it.

Hon. Emeka Nkem Ihedioha (Abokha/Mbaibe/Ngor Okpala): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I commend Hon. Dimeji Bankole, our Speaker, for finding time and deeming it auspicious to take his time and articulate this Bill which is almost in line with the Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Mediators and Conciliators and for Other Related Matters which I sponsored and which graciously passed through Second Reading yesterday.

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I commend the need and desire for us to have an Arbitration Commission. I am happy that Hon. Jaiyeola Ajatta is indeed very excited and supportive of the need for us to set up this Commission. This Commission, when it is set up, would offer the likes of Hon. Ajatta who is heading for retirement more useful years to the Nation. He would add his years of experience in the Insurance Industry and in the Legislature to further the course of Arbitration.

I also thank you for redeeming the Minority Leader of the House today who has had a difficult day. I thank you for giving him the opportunity to go in the right direction for once.

In asking my Colleagues to support this Bill, it is an Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism. Mr. Speaker told us earlier on that what had been going in this country has been some sort of capital flights. Ordinarily, Arbitration matters that would have been handled by Nigerians and firms in Nigeria have been taken to enrich other Nations who are in developed countries in Europe, America and the likes.

If we set up this Commission, it would create jobs and help us to reduce the rate of crime. This is because if you know that you can meet people who would adverse and the matter can be resolved without spending monies to the likes of Hon. Mustapha who is aspiring to be a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, it would indeed aid us.

I urge my Colleagues to support this Bill and I commend Mr. Speaker to come forth with more Bills so that Nigerians out there would know that our Speaker and indeed our Leaders find time to do other Legislative Duties that are Plenary beyond the Administrative Functions.

I commend him and I urge all of us to support this Bill.

Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah (Gokana/Khana): Mr. Speaker, I want to point this House to Order IX, Rules 4 (11)(iv) on Pages 34 and 35 of our Standing Orders. This debate is on one line and we do not need to waste the time of Parliament talking about something that has already been accepted so that we can move on to other things.

The Deputy Speaker: You are ruled out of Order. That is good enough. Members have contributed to this Bill. It is a Bill we are sure of what the outcome would be. It is not because it was sponsored by the Speaker but because of the merits of the Bill.

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If Hon. Dimeji Bankole had brought an unpopular Bill to the House I believe the House would not have taken it the way it has taken this one. I want to say that the support that this Bill has enjoyed from Members is not because this Bill was sponsored by the Speaker but because of its merits.

I will now put the question on the Second Reading of the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Regulations and Fiscal Incentives (Provision) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Make Provisions for Regulations and Fiscal Incentives in Connection with Petroleum Operations Carried out by Indigenous Oil Companies, 2009. (HB.251) -

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The third Order of the Day is the commencement of debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to make provisions for Regulations and Fiscal Incentives in Connection with Petroleum Operations Carried out by Indigenous Oil Companies, 2009.

Hon. Members should note that the Bill has been passed by the Senate and it now requires the attention of the House for concurrence please. The Bill was read for the First Time on Wednesday, 22nd July, 2009.

I now invite the Deputy Leader of the House, Hon. Shehu Baba Agaie to move that the Bill be now read for the Second Time.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to make provisions for Regulations and Fiscal Incentives in Connection with Petroleum Operations Carried out by Indigenous Oil Companies, 2009 be read the Second Time.

Hon. Umaru Ibrahim Kurfi (Dutsin-Ma/Kurfi): I rise to second the Motion as moved by Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie.

Question proposed.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: Mr. Speaker, this Bill

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is proposed in similar context like the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (Fiscal Incentives Guarantees and Assurances) Act but with emphasis on indigenous oil companies.

This Bill essentially seeks to regulate Petroleum operations carried out by indigenous oil companies together with enabling fiscal incentives connected therewith.

This Bill effectively defines the nature, general scope and application of the proposed incentives and it will act as catalyst towards evolving a massive involvement of indigenous oil firms in the Oil Sector. This Bill makes other necessary provisions with respect to mandatory application of the proposed incentives.

The Bill also offers wider latitude to indigenous oil companies relative to non-indigenous companies with regard to time for payment of signature bonuses. This Bill is bold and is a practical step towards indigenising the Oil and Gas industry in the country.

I urge hon. Members to allow this Bill pass for Second Reading.

Hon. Bassey Edet Otu (Calabar Municipal/Odukpani): Mr. Speaker, as much as we of the Petroleum Committee and Members of the House in general would like to support Bills having to do with indigenisation and increasing capacity and activities in the Petroleum Sector, we are a bit different on this particular Bill because almost all the issues mentioned here are captured in the Nigerian Content and Indigenisation Bill which the Committee had already reported to the House. I will, please, beg the Sponsor of this Bill to step it down while we meet to see how we can harmonise conflicting areas.

I would ask that the Bill be stepped down so that we meet with the Sponsor to see the way forward.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/South): Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I commend the mover of this Bill as it borders on his interest in seeing the possibilities of developing our local content in the Petroleum Sector. This is a very good one.

It is also important for me to point out to the House that as the Chairman, Committee on Upstream has stated clearly, there is a major similarity as to the requirements of this Bill and that of the Local Content Bill which borders on the Petroleum Sector. When you take a clinical analysis of our House Rule, Mr. Speaker, you will clearly see here that this Bill, if by any chance it is passed, it will be a clear duplication of the same

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Bill which borders on the Local Content Bill in the Petroleum Sector.

I would therefore advise that looking at the content of this Bill it is the same as the one we have treated in respect of the Local Content Bill in the Petroleum Sector. It will therefore be important for the author and mover of this Bill, because of the good intention that he has, to probably withdraw this Bill for the time being. This is necessary because most of the contents are already reflected in the Local Content Bill in the Petroleum Sector.

Hon. Sada Soli Jibia (Jibia/Kaita): Mr. Speaker, the participation of foreign investors is necessary and welcome in our petroleum industry. But then, look at the case of Brazil, the Petrobras Indigenous Company, the Petronas in Malaysia, and that of Saudi Arabia; these are all indigenous companies that are taking care of exploration and exploitation of their resources. The intendment of this Bill or one of the general principles of this Bill is to guarantee adequate sound professional incentives to our honest and sincere indigenous participants in this industry.

Oil means so much to Nigeria and this product should not be left in the hands of multi-nationals. It is time we developed our indigenous hands because they are capable; they have the capital or access to capital. Though the multi-nationals have better access but then, giving them the window of opportunity by creating incentives through this legislation, will afford them greater control over this industry in some time to come.

Nigerians will benefit more from the operations and the profit of indigenous oil companies than they are benefiting at present if they are given the incentives in this legislation. So, one of the intendments or one of the general principles of the Bill is to create these incentives so that our indigenous oil companies will not only generate capital but also control the manipulation that exists in the industry.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon Colleagues, this is a Bill that was forwarded to us by the Senate. What it seeks is concurrence from the House.

Instead of committing this Bill to the Committee of the Whole, it will be better if we can commit it to the Committee on Petroleum (Upstream) so that they would look at it alongside the one that they have. I believe that if we do it that way, it would serve the purpose. 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 Committee on Petroleum (Upstream)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Postponement of the Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Constitutional Review

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, an announcement had earlier been made here that there would be a meeting of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Constitutional Review. In view of the fact that this is an all-important Committee coupled with the fact that that announcement ought to have been made earlier than today I want to announce here again that, that meeting has been postponed for today until further notice.

Notice towards the consideration of Reports and Bills

The Deputy Speaker: I also want to announce that next week we are going to consider about 20 Reports in the House. We have over 20 Reports ready and we are determined to consider them next week. We also have about 10 Bills for Second Reading, which we

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are also ready to consider next week.

Therefore, I am calling on Members who have their Reports ready to be punctual next week and those who have their Bills ready for Second Reading should also be punctual so that we can take them within the week.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): Mr. Speaker, Hon. Colleagues, I move that this honourable House do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 13th October, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Ita Enang: I do second the Motion that the House do stand adjourned till next week Tuesday, 13th October, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 13th October, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.10 p.m.