

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Thursday, 10th December, 2009

The House met at 11.05 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the House is called to order. I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday Wednesday, 9th December, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Death of Dr. Ibrahim Tahir,
Taliban Bauchi**

The Speaker: This announcement is from Hon. Mustapha Ahmed from Bauchi Federal Constituency. He regrets to announce the passing away of Dr. Ibrahim Tahir, Taliban Bauchi who died in an Egyptian hospital on Tuesday 8th December, 2009 after a protracted illness. His remains would be laid to rest in Bauchi, his home town. The death is not only a loss to Bauchi but to the entire nation.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.

(Signed)
Hon. Mustapha Ahmed

**Death of Alhaji Muhammed Inuwa Ali,
Turakin Jos**

Also I regret to announce the death of a former Member of the House of Representatives of the 1979/1983 set, Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa Ali, Turakin Jos. He died in Jos on Thursday 3rd December, 2009 after a brief illness. He was until his death a community leader, a traditional title holder and Vice Chairman of Plateau State Jama'atu Nasir Islam. He was 85 years old.

*(A minute in silence was observed in honour of
Alhaji Muhammed Inuwa Ali)*

May his Soul rest in perfect peace, Amen.

**Submission of all Committee Reports on the
Appropriation Bill**

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the submission of all Committee Reports on the Appropriation Bill has been extended by one week. Those Reports should be submitted to the Committee on Appropriation by 17th December, 2009 failing which the Appropriation Committee will take over.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

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

Wrongful Dismissal from Service

Hon Ike Chinwo (Obio/Akpor): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from one of my constituents who was a serving Police Officer, E. O. Oyamendan. He investigated a case of illegal trafficking in hard and dangerous drugs and was made to pay the prize because of his uncompromising stance.

He went to court; the court gave judgment in his favour. He wrote to the Police Commission. He also wrote to the Police authority to re-instate him but as I speak, this man is still suffering. It is a case where if nothing happens, courageous men in the Civil Service, Police and Military Service would have no recourse other than follow the business as usual attitude. He has written and he believes that through this House justice would be done.

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

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Petition laid.

Intimidation and Harassment

Hon. Chinedu Eluemunoh (Anyamelum/ Oyi): I have a Petition from one of my constituents who lives in Japan. His case is a case of intimidation and harassment by the Nagoya Immigration Authorities in Japan.

My constituent, Mr. Akweze, is married to a Japanese woman and by their law he is entitled to certain privileges but the immigration authorities there has arrested him and refused to grant him those privileges. As I speak, he is in detention and his fear is that if care is not taken, he will lose everything he has got in Japan.

He has written to this House to intervene on his behalf as a citizen of our country so that he would be

able to live a normal life. By your kind permission may I lay the Petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Petition laid.

**Wrongful Treatment in the
Course of Service**

Hon. Samson Raphael Osagie (Orhionmwon/ Uhumwode): I have a Petition from one of my constituents, Mr. Paul Orumwense, who is complaining about wrongful treatment in the course of his service at the Clinical Services and Training department of the University of Benin.

The Petition is supported by a number of attachments and without bugging this House with details I will lay the Petition on the Table.

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Petition laid.

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

Petitions accordingly referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Mayhem in Ijebu Ife Local Government Area of
Ogun State**

Hon. Olusegun Osibote (Ijebu North/ Ijebu East/Ogun Waterside): Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order and it is Order VIII, Rule 4 dealing with Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

This matter has to do with the mayhem that took place in Ijebu Ife, Ijebu East Local Government Area of Ogun State on 5th December, 2009 where an Area Commander was killed. Several others were killed and various properties were destroyed in the mayhem.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues I will put the question that we consider this matter as one of Urgent Public Importance.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the matter be considered as one of Urgent Public Importance to be taken on the next Legislative Day.

Protest by NITEL Staff over Unpaid Salaries

Hon. Dino Daniel Melaye (Kabba/ Bunu/Ijumu): Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order. It is Order VIII, Rule 4 of our Standing Orders dealing with Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

I was driving by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) yesterday when I saw hundreds of NITEL Workers sleeping on the road and by the side of the whole streets over non payment of their eighteen months salaries. The same applies to pensioners in the military; hundreds of them are in the streets. We know how calamitous it can become.

Mr. Speaker, If I have the leave of the House, I will appeal to my Colleagues so that the relevant Committee look into this issue because I personally went out to ask questions and I was told that the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has already written that they be paid five months salaries out of their eighteen months salaries and these people are our constituents; our brothers and sisters and as their representatives, we should be concerned that some Nigerians are sleeping in the streets because they are pressing for their demand.

If I have the leave of the House, I would like to bring this matter as a substantive Motion on the next Legislative Day.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Matter be considered as one of Urgent Public Importance to be taken on the next Legislative Day.

PRESENTATION OF BILL

**Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria
(Establishment) BILL, 2009**

A Bill for An Act to Establish the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 348) (Executive) - *read the First Time.*

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

**Report of the Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and
Financial Crimes on the Petition of 71 Disengaged
Staff of the National Drug Law Enforcement
Agency (NDLEA)**

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, the only Business of the Day is Presentation of the Report of the

Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes, on the Petition by 71 Disengaged Staff of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), standing in the name of the Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Rabe Nasir. Members would recall that the matter was referred to the Committee on Thursday, 30th July, 2009.

Hon. Nasir, can you please proceed?

Hon. Rabe Nasir (Bindawa/Mani): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes on the Petition by 71 disengaged staff of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

I seek your kind indulgence to lay the Report on the Table.

Hon. Garba Shehu Matazu (Matazu/Musawa): Mr. Speaker, I do second the Motion as ably moved by Hon. Rabe Nasir.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

New Form of Imperialism through Land Acquisition in Africa and Nigeria

The Speaker: The first Order of the Day is a Motion on New Form of Imperialism through Land Acquisition in Africa and Nigeria standing in the name of Hon. Samaila Abdullahi Mohammed.

Hon. Abdullahi Samaila is invited to move his Motion.

Hon. Abdullahi Mohammed Samaila (Bassa/Jos North): Mr. Speaker, this Motion is titled New Form of Imperialism through Land Acquisition in Africa and Nigeria. The House:

Notes that enormous tracts of land on the African Continent have been bought or leased by countries and trans-national companies under the guise of agricultural development;

Further notes that markets access has been denied to African and Nigerian Agricultural products in developed countries;

Aware that Agricultural subsidies in developed countries have serious and negative impact on African agriculture and accentuated poverty and underdeveloped the countries;

Further aware that the use of food plants as biofuel has resulted in unprecedented increase in food prices creating food insecurity in many African countries including Nigeria;

Worried that those large tracts of fertile farmlands in Nigeria are being targeted by these trans-national companies;

Further worried that this new form of imperialism driven by agro-business in the name of development threatens livelihoods, endanger ecological balance and portends new forms of resources conflict and crisis in Nigeria and Africa as a whole;

Cognisant that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 has made the security and welfare of the people to be the primary purpose of government;

Appreciates that the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has sent a Bill to the National Assembly which is expected to liberalise land acquisition throughout Nigeria;

Aware that these rich countries and trans-national companies generally rely on diplomatic immunities and privileges to take over community and public lands;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to draw the attention of the African Union to this new form of imperialism and to take measures which will protect our lands and societies from these predators;
- (ii) Further urge the Federal, State and Local Government in Nigeria to devise proactive measures against this land grab by rich countries and Trans-national Companies;
- (iii) Mandate the Committee on Governmental Affairs to liaise with all tiers of Government in Nigeria to resist the temptation to donate public lands to foreign interest under any guise whatsoever.

I so move.

Hon. Muhammed Umar Jega (Gwandu/Aliero/Jega): Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the Motion ably moved by my colleague Hon. Samaila.

Hon. Abdullahi Samaila: I thank Mr. Speaker for asking me to lead the debate on this very timely and important Motion. I am no doubt aware that the involvement of Africa in the Motion is likely to make some of my Colleagues to develop cold feet over the Motion. But I urge you to appreciate the fact that this problem affects the African Continent as a whole and Nigeria is a Member of the African Union.

As the lead debater, I intend to highlight the main issues that are critical to this Motion subject to your support or modification of the prayers contained therein. Indeed, Africa is the second largest continent and its population of one billion is the second largest in the world.

The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) assesses that we have over 3,600 million hectares of land out of which about 600 million hectares which are arable can support either agriculture or pastoralism. Out of these 600 million hectares, we have about 200 million hectares of land that is actually being farmed according to the FAO but then this issue of 200 million hectares of land is debatable because it has not taken into account the actual mode of farming on the African continent which the FAO believes to be shifting cultivation.

Secondly, it has also not taken into account the use of land by other uses, for example, pastoralism and hunting. So the actual quantity of land available is less than what the FAO said.

The so-called developed economies have consistently denied access to our agricultural products while at the same time granting heavy subsidies to their farmers to produce the same products at uncompetitive cost and these things have impacted heavily on agricultural development in Africa. The central message of this Motion is that these massive land transactions in Africa are bad for Africa and for Nigeria.

As at December 2009, over five million hectares of land have been leased or sold to such companies in countries as Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Mali, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sudan, Tanzania and Nigeria.

What is the evidence of this massive land acquisition? Early last month after I had submitted this Motion, the Chairman of the African Union and Libyan

Leader, Muammar Ghaddafi, stated this at the Summit on Food Security in Rome on the 16th of November, 2009. He said rich countries are now buying land in Africa. They are cheating African people out of their rights. The Libyan leader also told the Summit that it is also going to happen in Latin America. He also said that small farmers are being bereft of their own land thanks to new form of feudal power coming from outside Africa and buying off land very cheaply.

I am concerned that foreign companies coming to Africa. If you go to Mali, you will discover that Libya has gone into Mali and has already acquired over 500,000 hectares of prime agricultural land which the people of Mali are using to produce rice.

Secondly, evidence is that South Africa has entered into contract with Republic of Congo and has acquired 10 million hectares of land in Congo and is going to send white farmers into Congo.

India has budgeted \$5 billion and has given it to over eighty companies and they have gone into Ethiopia and these companies have practically bought 50 *per cent* of fertile lands in Ethiopia.

Again if you go to Madagascar about four hundred and fifty thousand hectares of land have been leased to South Korean companies for bio-fuel production. The people of Madagascar had to protest and that led to a change in government in Madagascar because of this practice. Why is this bad for Africa and Nigeria? These are my reasons:

1. The negotiations and the ultimate disposal of these lands are done secretly and they are not subjected to minimum democratic requirements of accountability.
2. Small-time farmers, peasant farmers, pastoralists and local fishermen and communities who have no legally recognised but still valid cultural and traditional pre-existing claims on these lands are not involved in the transactions.
3. The contract processes and terms are usually poorly negotiated with all the usual safeguards not incorporated.
4. The claimed benefits of employment, increased local production, technological advancement and transfer, better infrastructure and economic growth remain hollow and unenforceable promises.
5. These activities squeeze out small farmers and make life hell for them on earth by turning the lucky ones among them into daily paid labourers.

The worst thing is that all these activities of large trans-national corporations on the African continent lead to intensive commercial agriculture with its huge environmental degradation in terms of devastated soils, dry aquifers, and ruined ecology from chemical infestations. Finally, it leads to crisis.

What do we need to do? What we need to do are as outlined in my Motion and I do not want to waste your time by restating them.

The Speaker: Hon. Samaila, how many acres of land have been bought by these people in Nigeria?

Hon. Abdullahi Samaila: Over 10,000 hectares of land have been bought by these companies and they are planning to acquire more in Nassarawa, Kwara and Niger States.

The Speaker: How many people have these trans-national companies employed? I know they have employed quite a lot in Kwara State.

Hon Takori Mohammed Sani: I am speaking for the Motion but I want to raise certain legal matters. The Motion transcends beyond the powers of this Parliament. *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Please, restrict yourself to that which concerns Nigeria.

Hon Takori Mohammed Sani: What I am saying is that certain matters that Hon. Samaila mentioned in this Motion are within the competence of this Parliament particularly where he mentioned the issue of States and Local Government but let me draw the attention of Hon. Samaila that land acquisition is regulated by Land Use Act which is part of our Constitution today.

The Speaker: I thought you said you are speaking for the Motion?

Hon Takori Mohammed Sani: I am raising certain legal issues. What I am saying is that the Land Use Act empowers State Governors to act as trustees of their people and, therefore, they hold these land in trust for their indigenes. Therefore part of Hon. Samaila's Motion is good but the other part of it transcends the powers of this Parliament.

Hon. Alex Ukam (Akampa/Biase): I am speaking for the Motion. I know that from the views of my Colleagues, it sounds like the Motion is dead on

arrival. We can propose some remedial measures. As the last speaker has said, the prayers and framework of the Motion go beyond the territory of Nigeria which this House has power over. But then part of the ingredient which we can propose for remedial action towards this Motion to save it is probably calling on the sponsor of this Motion to amend it by stopping the sale of Nigerian land on the border area with other countries and that communities or States that share border with other communities should only lease land and not to sell to avoid laying the foundation for tomorrow's war between our country with another country. That is the only area that I think we can remedy this Motion.

Hon. Gbenga Gbajabiamila (Surulere I): I am speaking against this Motion. Unfortunately, this Motion has no remedy. It is like going on a wild goose chase or embarking on an exercise in futility. First of all, this is not an African Parliament; this is Nigerian House of Representatives and we are guided solely by our Constitution.

What the other speakers have said is very clear. This Motion touches on two subjects; land and agriculture. Land is under the preserve of the States, whether it is borderline or not, it is still within the jurisdiction of the States and we cannot legislate on that.

Agriculture is in the Concurrent Legislative List. Therefore, we may seize the opportunity to legislate on it but where the States have already pre-empted such legislation and had entered into some bilateral agreements with another state or country, then our jurisdiction is foreclosed.

Rather than waste the time of this honourable House, I would suggest we leave this matter. There is no redrafting; it is out of our hand and jurisdiction.

The Speaker: I will give the Floor to speakers in favour of this Motion

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia (Jibia/Kaita): I disagree with the Minority Leader on this issue. This House has the legitimacy to talk about any issue of Africa.

One, we are a Member of the PAN African Parliament and we bring issues that have been discussed at the PAN African Parliament to this Floor. Therefore we have all the legitimacy to talk about Africa.

We should handle this Motion with care; it is looking at the way Africa is being short-changed by

this wealthy trans-national companies and wealthy western countries because they have no land. They are looking for space to continue to exploit the weaker ones. This Motion is just saying let us look at how these lands are being grabbed; let us open up the agreement and be transparent because it is a public land.

The Land Use Act is undergoing the process of amendment that will transfer the ownership of land to people so that they can create wealth and yet we are taking the most arable lands given to people and then they would ask the owners of those lands to farm for them.

What Hon. Samaila is saying is that let us involve all the government agencies. If the States are not equipped enough the Federal Government is there; Boundary Commission and other agencies are there to see how these lands are acquired legally, fairly and sensibly.

Hon. Abdullahi Umar Farouk (Birnin Kebbi/Kalgo/Bunza): Indeed we have the constitutional right to discuss any issue that promotes Nigeria's interest and the interest of Member States of the African Union. Nigeria, in fact, is the leading country in Africa.

Not quite long one of our slogans is that Africa is the centrepiece of our foreign policy. Whatever happens to African nations is our own consideration and interest. The same thing is applicable within our country, Nigeria.

In Zimbabwe there was the problem of land grab and we know the consequences of that. Are we going to allow that when Zimbabwe has just succeeded in solving their problem in their own way with all the western nations' condemnation in that country and with all the support they got from countries like Nigeria? Are we going to fall victim to that kind of scenario? The answer is no.

I wholeheartedly agree with the spirit of this Motion and I pray that we allow it to go.

Hon. Bala Adamu Kuta (Shiroro/Rafi/Munyan): I rise to support this Motion simply because it spells out the new form of imperialism trying to rear its ugly head into Nigeria.

I would like to cite a specific example of how this new form of imperialism of acquiring farmland has penetrated Niger State where South African farmers acquired large acres of farm land in Mokwa in

particular thereby discouraging our local farmers from exhibiting their own form of farm produce into this country.

I would like the hon. Members to support this Motion. The Federal Government, rather than encourage our farmers to embark on mechanised farming, is encouraging our foreign partners to come into the country to invest and exploit our farm areas.

I urge my hon. Colleagues to allow this Motion to pass through.

Hon. Mohammed Samaila (Bassa/Jos North): Point of Order!

The Speaker: Which Point of Order?

Hon. Mohammed Samaila: It is Order IX, Rule 11 of our Standing Orders at page 32. With your permission I read:

Rules of Debate

No member shall speak more than once on the same question without leave of the House, unless he be the mover, proposer or sponsor or introducer of the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply but not until those chosen to speak shall have spoken.

Those chosen to speak have spoken and I would like to ask for a right of reply.

The Speaker: You are asking for a right of reply. Three Members have spoken for and three against. You have your right of reply.

I will put the question on the Motion after your right of reply.

Hon. Mohammed Samaila: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not wish to appropriate the right of this House to decide this Motion in any other way. However, there is need to disabuse the mind of the House from one particular fact and that is the fact that this legislature does not have the competence to consider this question.

If you look at Section V on the legislative competence of this House, the issue of land, by virtue of the fact that the Land Use Act has been included in the Constitution of which only the Federal Government has exclusive competence, means that this House has legislative competence on matters of land overall in Nigeria. That is why the President of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria has brought a Bill which we are now considering. No State Government has the power to consider land matters in respect of Amendment or any change to the Land Use Act. Secondly, we are beginning another process of democratisation and consolidation in this country. We are a Member of the African Union. How does the African Union get its input if this Parliament cannot give its recommendation to the African Union through the Federal Government? Are we going to allow only the Executive to submit its input to the African Union?

I say no; this legislature has the power to submit its recommendations through the Executive Arm to the African Union.

Question put and agreed to.

Main question accordingly put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that enormous tracts of land on the African Continent have been bought or leased by countries and trans-national companies under the guise of agricultural development;

Further noted that markets access has been denied to African and Nigerian Agricultural products in developed countries;

Aware that Agricultural subsidies in developed countries have serious and negative impact on African agriculture and accentuated poverty and underdeveloped the countries;

Further aware that the use of food plant as bio fuel has resulted in unprecedented increase in food prices creating food insecurity in many African countries including Nigeria;

Worried that those large tracts of fertile farmlands in Nigeria are being targeted by these trans-national companies;

Further worried that this new form of imperialism driven by agro-business in the name of development threatens livelihoods, endanger ecological balance and portends new forms of resources conflict and crisis in Nigeria and Africa as a whole;

Cognizant that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 has made the security and welfare of the people to be the primary purpose of government;

Appreciated that the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has sent a Bill to the National Assembly which is expected to liberalise land acquisition throughout Nigeria;

Aware that these rich countries and trans-national companies generally rely on diplomatic immunities and privileges to take over community and public lands;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to draw the attention of the African Union to this new form of imperialism and to take measures which will protect Africa's lands and Societies from these predators;
- (ii) Further urge the Federal, State and Local Government in Nigeria to devise proactive measures against this land grab by rich countries and Trans-national Companies;
- (iii) Mandate the Committee on Governmental Affairs to liaise with all tiers of Government in Nigeria to resist the temptation to donate public lands to foreign interest under any guise whatsoever

The State of Sanitation in the Federal Capital City, Abuja and its Satellite Towns

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, the second Order of the Day is a Motion on the State of Sanitation in the Federal Capital City of Abuja and its Satellite town standing in the name of Hon. Halims Agoda.

Hon. John Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): Mr. Speaker, with due humility, I will read my Motion.

The House:

Notes the deteriorating state of sanitation in the Federal Capital City, Abuja and its Satellite towns;

Concerned that the general descent of the Nation's capital city to a state of slum is an indictment on the nation's ability to evolve a value reorientation that emphasises the culture of cleanliness, order and civility;

Worried that the incremental despoliation of the sanitation of Abuja is a contradiction of the well-intentioned objective of government at all times, be guided by the Master Plan of the Federal Capital Territory;

Further worried that the resurgence of filth and destitutes on the Abuja environment, motor, cycle taxis otherwise known as *Okada* or *one-chance* are resurfacing in the metropolis thereby giving the impression that there had been a public reversal to allow them return to Abuja streets when indeed the contrary may be the case;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to take all necessary steps in its oversight functions, to obtain explanations from the Minister and other stakeholders why filth, destitutes and *Okada* riders are gradually returning to the streets of the Abuja Metropolis.

I beg to move.

Hon. Gbenga O. Elegbeleye (Akoko North East/West): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as moved by Hon. Halims Agoda.

Hon. John Halims Agoda: Mr. Speaker, as my very good Friends here have said there is a legal maxim which says *res ipsa loquitur*; the fact of anything speaks for itself.

The Motion this morning is essentially in furtherance of our duties as National Assembly to legislate for the good governance, the cleanliness and the aspiration of the Federal Capital City of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Motion is to redirect the attention of public policy makers, particularly the FCT administration towards environmental renewal of this important capital city of our dear nation. There is need to say that Abuja represents the pride and the soul of our nation. It is the window and indeed mirror to the outside world. In fact, if Abuja is now dirty and in disorderly manner, then the country is sick.

Let me take us back to memory lane when the then administration of Mallam El-Rufai was in place. There is no doubt that the Abuja Master Plan was copiously followed in terms of initiating new projects and making sure that the Master Plan was followed.

What we have at the moment is that it does appear that the man in power has gone to sleep. What do we have in place? Traders who are squatters and motorcycle riders have taken over all the streets in Abuja.

I want to say with all amount of sincerity that the only achievement that I have noticed in the present administration of Abuja is the increment of the land fee and the installation of road bumps. Other than these two, the current administration under the leadership of Minister Ailero has done nothing tangible to this great city.

This is the House that legislates for this great and important capital city. When El-Rufai was in place, in spite of his shortcomings, you will see the transport system that was put in place; the era of the long buses and the green cabs of Abuja.

When I drive along the streets of Abuja and I watch these buses and the cabs now going out of place and there is no step to replace them, it gives me worry that what is Senator Ailero and his team doing? What is the Environmental Sector of the FCT doing? Is Parliament as represented by us today not appropriating money for FCT over the years? The answer is yes. For you to have good result, you need leadership with initiative.

I do expect the present leadership of FCT to travel to world capitals. What I expect the administration of FCT to do is to come up with new initiatives; either the railway system, either the health sector or either the roads but what we do we have? There is nothing to show for it.

This is the House that can call that administration to order because if this capital that is the mirror of this great country is allowed to become what we have like Ajegunle in those days in Lagos, then what will be the impression of foreign investors?

(Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila stood up)

The Speaker: Hon. Halims, hold on please.

Hon. Leader of Action Congress, do you want to say something about Ajegunle?

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila (Surulere D): Mr. Speaker, I just want tell Hon. Halims Agoda to stick to the relevance of the Motion. Ajegunle has nothing to do with this Motion.

Hon. Halims Agoda: I selected my words; I said *in those days*. Now, if the present Governor of Lagos State with the population and slum of those days can now turn Lagos around; a beautiful garden as Lagos is why will Abuja not be the same?

We must be alive to our responsibility. If this honourable House in its wisdom can appropriate large sum of money for the maintenance and development of Abuja and those who are supposed to execute and use this money cannot, then this House will have a responsibility. Either those who are in charge should live up to their expectation or they should be ready to throw in the towel and leave the issue of governance because we have many qualified Nigerians who are ready to work and lead this great city and to be compared to many great cities of the world like New York, Washington and the rest. This is the text of my Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Main question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the deteriorating state of sanitation in the Federal Capital City, Abuja and its Satellite towns;

Concerned that the general descent of the Nation's capital city to a state of slum is an indictment on the nation's ability to evolve a value reorientation that emphasises the culture of cleanliness, order and civility;

Worried that the incremental despoliation of the sanitation of Abuja is a contradiction of the well-intentioned objective of government at all times, be guided by the Master Plan of the Federal Capital Territory;

Further worried that the resurgence of filth and destitutes on the Abuja environment, motor, cycle taxis otherwise known as *Okada* or *one-chance* are resurfacing in the metropolis thereby giving the impression that there had been a public reversal to allow them return to Abuja streets when indeed the contrary may be the case;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to take all necessary steps in its oversight functions, to obtain explanations from the Minister and other stakeholders why filth, destitutes

and Okada riders are gradually returning to the streets of the Abuja Metropolis.

Violation of the 1999 Constitution and the Appropriation Act of 2009 as Passed by the National Assembly

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is a Motion on the Violation of the 1999 Constitution and the Appropriation Act of 2009 as passed by the National Assembly standing in the name of Hon. Leo Ogor.

Hon. Leo Ogor is invited to move his Motion.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): Mr. Speaker, the Motion reads as follow:

The House:

Notes the Circular issued by the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, stating guidelines for processing of all local and foreign travels;

Further notes that the Circular directed all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to aggregate and domicile all travel votes to the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation by creating a centralised travel vote;

I intend to correct a mistake that was made there.

Aware that this directive takes effect from 1st December, 2009, not 31st December 2009;

Worried that this directive is an abuse of Section 81(2) of the 1999 Constitution, which states that Heads of Expenditure contained in the estimates shall be included in a Bill to be known as an Appropriation Bill;

Further worried that this action is a clear usurpation of the powers of the National Assembly and modification of the Appropriation Act as passed by the National Assembly;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation to suspend Circular HCSF/061/S.1/111/245 dated 30th November, 2009;
- (ii) Mandate the House Committee on Appropriation to investigate this alleged violation of the 1999 Constitution, the Public Procurement

Act and the Appropriation Act and report to the House within one week.

I so move.

The Speaker: We have it on good authority that this particular policy was totally rejected by the Government at the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting yesterday. So, there may be no need for us to move on it.

Hon. Leo Ogor has volunteered to stand the Motion down and double check against Tuesday next week, 15th December, 2009.

Motion with the leave of the House accordingly stood down.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Federal Capital Territory Education Resources Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2009

The next Order of the Day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Centre and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009.

Members would recall that the House adopted the Report of the Committee in the Committee of the Whole on the Bill on Tuesday, 17th November, 2009. The Clean copies have been circulated to enable hon. Members to peruse its contents.

I therefore call on the Leader of the House to move that the Bill be read the Third Time.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): I move that a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Centre and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 be now read the Third Time.

Hon. Nnanna Uzor Kalu (Aba North/Aba South): I hereby second the Motion as ably moved by the Deputy Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

National Boundary Commission Act, 2006 No. 12 (Amendment) Bill, 2009

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to amend the

National Boundary Commission (Amendment) Act, 2006, No. 12 so as to make Appointment of some Members of the Commission to be full-time and as Commissioners and for Matters Related Thereto, 2009.

Members would recall that the House adopted the Report of the Committee of the Whole on the Bill on Tuesday, 17th November 2009. You have the clean copies.

I therefore call on the Leader of the House to move that Bill be read the Third Time.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: I move that a Bill for an Act to amend the National Boundary Commission (Amendment) Act, 2006, No. 12 so as to make Appointment of some Members of the Commission to be full-time and as Commissioners and for Matters Related Thereto, 2009.

Hon. Yusuf Shitu Galambi (Gwaram): I hereby second the Motion as moved by the Deputy Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

The Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is the Consideration of a Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria for the Registration and Discipline of Certified Secretaries and Reporters and Provide for a Governing Board Charged with the Responsibility, among other things, for Formulation of Policies for the Institute, and for Related Purposes, 2009. Members would recall that this Bill was committed to the Committee of Whole on Wednesday, 28th October, 2009.

I now invite the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business, Hon. Ita Enang, to move for the consideration of this Report.

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): I move that the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria for the Registration and Discipline of Certified Secretaries and Reporters and Provide for the Governing Board Charged with the Responsibility, among other things,

for Formulation of Policies for the Institute and for Related Purposes.

Hon. Waheed Aderemi Gbede (Ipokia): I do second the Motion as ably moved by Hon. Ita Enang, Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria for the Registration and Discipline of Certified Secretaries and Reporters and Provide for the Governing Board Charged with the Responsibility, among other things, for the Formulation of Policies for the Institute and for Related Purposes, 2009.

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

The Speaker: The next Orders 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 for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2008. This Report was laid on Tuesday, 28th of April, 2009.

Hon. Akinlade Abiodun Isiaq will now move for the consideration of the Report.

Hon. Abiodun Isiaq Akinlade (Egbado South/Ipokia): I move that this House do consider 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 for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 and approve the recommendations therein.

Hon. Rufus Omeire (Ideato North/Ideato South): I hereby second the Motion as ably moved by Hon. Akinlade Abiodun Isiaq.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider 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 for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 and approve the recommendations therein.

Hon. Ita Enang: In view of brief assignment you assigned the Deputy Speaker, I move that the House do invoke the provisions of Order VII, Rule 2(1) which states that: *In the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker shall perform all the duties and functions of the Speaker.*

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: I rise to second the Motion that the House do invoke the provisions of Order VII, Rule 2(1) of our Standing Orders.

Question put and agreed to.

(The Speaker took his leave)

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

The Deputy Speaker: House Leader, move for us to resolve into Committee of the Whole to consider the two Reports.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: I move that the House do resolve into Committee of the Whole to consider the two Reports.

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe (Konshisha/Vandekiya): I rise to humbly second the Motion that the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do resolve into Committee of the Whole to consider the two Reports.

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria for the Registration and Discipline of Certified Secretaries and Reporters and Provide for a Governing Board Charged with the Responsibility, Among Other Things, for Formulation of Policies for the Institute and for Related Purposes 2009 (HB.250) - CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, the first report we are considering is on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria for the Registration and Discipline of Certified Secretaries and Reporters and Provide for a Governing Board Charged with the Responsibility,

Among Other Things, for Formulation of Policies for the Institute and for Related Purposes 2009. (HB.250)

Hon. Ita Enang, I guess it is your Bill or it is a Bill that was committed to the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: In that case, you are the one who will introduce the Bill to the House. Please go ahead.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, hon. Colleagues, this is a Bill which was introduced in the last term of the House and the Bill was passed but it could not complete legislative circle to get the assent of Mr. President and on the basis of that it was re-introduced in the Floor of this House under Order XV, Rule 8 by the House Leader, Hon. Tunde Akogun.

Thereafter the Bill was committed to the Committee of the Whole. Nothing has been added to what has been passed by the last House.

I commend this Bill that hon. Members do pass it passionately and allow several Clauses to pass as directed by the Chairman. Thank you.

The Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Colleagues, this is a Bill that was passed by the House and there is no addition or subtraction from what has been passed in the last House.

If there is no objection to the Bill, I will call the Clauses one by one. Bear in mind that this Bill was passed by the same House. Therefore you do not criticise because this is our work; this is the work of the House of Representatives.

Clause 1 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED SECRETARIES AND REPORTERS OF NIGERIA) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 – (FUNCTIONS OF THE INSTITUTE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 – (MEMBERSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 – (DESIGNATORY LETTERS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 – (PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD AND ITS COMPOSITION) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7 – (PRESIDENTS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8 – (RESIGNATION AND FILLING OF VACANCY) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9 – (FIRST SCHEDULE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 10 – (RULES AND REGULATIONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 11- (DELEGATION OF POWERS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 12 – (FUNDS OF THE INSTITUTE AND EXPENDITURE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 13 – (INVESTMENT OF THE INSTITUTE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 14 – (AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS, PROPER RECORDS ETC) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 15 – (TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 16 – (APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR AND OTHER STAFF OF THE INSTITUTE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17 – (REGISTER) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 18 – (CONTENTS OF THE REGISTER) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 19 - (RULES FOR MAINTENANCE OF REGISTER) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 20 – (CORRECTIONS, ALTERNATIONS ETC OF THE CONTENTS OF REGISTER) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 21 – (REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM THE REGISTER) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 22 – (PRINTING PUBLICATION ETC, OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 23 – (EVIDENCE OF REGISTRATION) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 24 – (CONDITIONS FOR ENROLMENT OR REGISTRATION) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 25 – (PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 26 – (APPROVAL OF QUALIFICATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 27 – WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 28 – (EFFECT OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 29 – (MONITORING OF EXAMINATIONS AND TRAINING) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 30 – (MONITORING COMMITTEE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 31 – (INVESTIGATING PANEL) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 32 – (DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 33 – (PENALTIES FOR PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 34 – (QUALIFIED BUT UN-ENROLLED PERSONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 35 – (PRIVATE PRACTICE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 36 – (TRAINING SUBSCRIPTION ETC OF MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 37 – (OFFENCES AND PENALTIES) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 38 – (LIBRARY RESEARCH ETC) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 39 (SEAL) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 40 – (DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 41 – (SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 42 – (AMENDMENT)

Question Proposed.

Hon. Ita Enang: Please may I draw the attention of the House, with the leave of the Chairman, to Clause 42 of the Bill? Clause 42 says:

Any member seeking an Amendment to this Act shall propose such Amendment at an Annual General Meeting of the Institute and if approved by two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, the proposed Amendment shall be sent to the National Assembly.

This is unconstitutional. It is wrong and I pray that this provision be deleted because it is getting into the power of the National Assembly or any member to propose an amendment to any existing law.

The Chairman: Hon. Ita Enang, as a citizen of Nigeria do I not have a right to propose amendment on any matter including the Constitution?

Hon. Ita Enang: You have the right, Sir. It is that right that I am protecting.

The Chairman: Are you opposing the two third?

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono): No. I am opposed to the entire provision because my submission is that it is not the prerogative of members of that Institute to propose amendment to this Act. It is the prerogative of the legislature, that is, any member of the House of the Legislature wishing an amendment can propose but it cannot limit anybody from proposing an amendment because it is only a person elected from the Floor of the House that can propose Amendment to a Bill, not from outside. I pray that this provision be just be deleted.

Hon. Waziri Aminu Tambunwal (Kebbe/Tambunwal): Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw our attention to the fact that this provision seeks only to address issue of Amendment being raised by members of the Institute, not members of the Parliament. So we should be properly guided; it is members of the Institute.

What they are doing is proscribing to themselves the way and manner through which their members can generate amendment, not members of this Parliament.

The Chairman: I think we have no problem with that.

Clause 42 – (AMENDMENT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 43 – (INTERPRETATION) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 44 – (CITATION) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

FIRST SCHEDULE

1. The Board may make standing orders regulating the proceedings of meetings of the Institute and the Board.
2. Any –
 - (a) Question proposed for decision in the meeting of the Board or the Institute shall be determined by a simple majority of those present and voting; and
 - (b) Person presiding in any of these meetings shall not cast a vote on any issue except when there is a tie.
3. The quorum for any meeting of the Board shall be seven members and that of the meeting of the Institute shall be 25 per cent of the registered Members of the Institute.
4. The Board may form Committees for the discharge of its functions and it may co-opt into a Committee any person whose advice it desires to obtain but such person shall not vote on any question and the quorum for any committee shall be as set out in the Standing Orders mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Schedule but the decision of any Committee is subject to ratification by the Board.
5. The Board shall convene the Annual General Meeting of the Institute on or before 30th April in every year or on such other day that the Board may appoint so that if an Annual General Meeting not held within one year after the previous one, not more than fifteen months shall elapse between the respective dates of the two meetings.
6. An extraordinary general meeting may be convened by the Chairman of the Board, if not less, than 20 persons of the Members of the Institute requires it by notice in writing addressed to the Registrar of the Institute setting out the objects of the proposed meeting.
7. The Board shall meet whenever summoned by the Chairman and if not less than seven

members by notice in writing to the Chairman require him to convene a meeting, he shall do so within seven days from the day which the notice was given.

SECOND SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE AND INVESTIGATING PANEL

1. The quorum for the Disciplinary Committee shall be four members, two Certified Secretaries and two Certified Verbatim Reports, while the quorum for the investigating Panel shall be three members.
2. The Board shall make standing orders to regulate the modalities for the investigations.
3. No person shall be a member of both the Disciplinary Committee and the Investigating Panel on the same case.
4. The expenses incurred by both the Disciplinary Committee and the Investigating panel shall be defrayed from the Institute's Fund.

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi (Ningi/Warji): Mr. Chairman, Item 1 of the Second Schedule says:

The quorum for the Disciplinary Committee shall be four members; two Certified Secretaries and two Certified Verbatim Reporters while the quorum for the investigating Panel shall be three members.

If you are having a quorum, you must start it with odd number where there will be majority and minority. If at a particular time they are two on both sides, that is a draw.

The Chairman: The last one is all right because it has three members and the first one has four members.

You are making a valid point because if you have even number it will be very difficult to take decision but if it is an odd number you will always have a higher figure. If it is five, who are we going to add, that is the question? Do we include the Chairman there or do we make it three Certified Secretaries and two Verbatim Reporters? That means that at any given time, the Secretaries wish will prevail. That is why they put at two each.

A hon. Member: Mr. Chairman, the quorum for the Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the Chairman and four other members who include two certified Secretaries and two certified Verbatim Reporters for equity.

The Chairman: If the Chairman is a Certified Secretary, is he entitled to cast his vote?

A hon. Member: Yes, he is the Chairman.

The Chairman: I will put the question on the Amendment that the Chairman be included to make it number five.

Amendment put and agreed to.

First Schedule, agreed to.

Second Schedule, agreed to.

Long Title – (A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED SECRETARIES AND REPORTERS OF NIGERIA FOR THE REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE OF CERTIFIED SECRETARIES AND REPORTERS AND PROVIDE FOR A GOVERNING BOARD CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR FORMULATION OF POLICIES FOR THE INSTITUTE AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES, 2009 - agreed to.

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 for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Chairman: The next is 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 for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 (HB. 92).

Chairman, Science and Technology, can you brief the House on this Report?

Hon. Abiodun Isiaq Akinlade: Mr. Chairman this Report has been circulated to Members on more than three occasions and it is just the Convention Bill to which Nigeria is a signatory.

The Bill is in two parts. The first part is basically to prohibit the production and usage of chemical weapons without authority while the second part is talking about the establishment of the National Authority for the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Committees are in agreement with the Principal Act.

Clauses 7, 9, 27 and 33 are the only areas where the Committee made our own recommendations.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, do we take the Report now Clause by Clause?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Part 1 (NATIONAL AUTHORITY ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION)

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, Clause 1 (2) is very restrictive and naked. It says:

The National Authority on Chemical Weapons Convention shall be located in the Office of the Secretary to Government of the Federation with the Permanent Secretary, Political Affairs Office, as the Chairman.

This is not a very normal and reasonable way of making a law. This is a kind of law we called a law made for a person. It is unreasonable and I pray that we delete this section. I propose amendment as follows.

The Chairman: Before your amendment, let us hear from the Chairman the wisdom of having the office in the Office of the Secretary to the Government.

Hon. Ita Enang: May I conclude before he answer? First, I oppose that it should be in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF). Secondly, it is even worse to say that the Permanent Secretary, Political Affairs Office in the SGF's Office shall be the Chairman.

If, in the future, we abolish Office of the Secretary to the Government or we do not have a Secretary or Permanent Secretary in charge of Political Affairs in the Office of the Secretary to Government, what happens? If we move the office of Permanent Secretary, Political Affairs to the Office of the Political Affairs to the President? It is unreasonable and I oppose it.

The Chairman: Chairman, what is the wisdom of having that office in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation with the Permanent Secretary, Political Affairs Office, as the Chairman?

Hon. Abiodun Isiaq Akinlade: It is a Convention Bill. Even if we no longer have the Office of the Secretary to the Government there will still be somebody that will be acting in that capacity. It is not about the person; it is about the office.

The Chairman: Is the Convention the same every where in the world?

Hon. Abiodun Isiaq Akinlade: Yes.

The Chairman: The Convention is that this office should be under the Office of the Secretary to the Government. It is a Convention?

Hon. Abiodun Akinlade: Yes, it is a Convention.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, the way that convention is practised should be made known to us but this is Nigeria.

What Hon. Akinlade is saying is that this is a matter relating to Convention on Chemical Weapons and not that it is a Convention to domicile it in the Office of the Secretary to the Government. In other countries parties to this Convention may not even have Office of Secretary to the Government.

That being so, I have a big problem with this law. The problem I have is that if we are talking about Convention, we should first come with a Bill for the ratification of that Convention. The Act seeking to domicile the Bill in two or three of the clauses will indicate who the members of that implementation agency are but as it is here, I find it difficult to agree.

Since we have gotten this far, I would propose that instead of having this office domiciled in the Office of Secretary to the Government, let it be domiciled in the Ministry of Defence with the Minister of Defence as the Chairman. That is the Amendment I am proposing to the section.

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia (Jibia/Kaita): Mr. Chairman, we have the procedure of ratifying Treaties. If it is a multilateral or bilateral, we need to have the protocol attached to this Bill.

The Chairman: Is it a Treaty, Chairman?

Hon. Abiodun Isiaq Akinlade: Yes, it is a Treaty.

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia: If it is a Treaty, we would want to know if the Treaty was brought in this form or it is the Committee that drafted this. This is because if it is a Treaty, the Committee has no right to add one word because there is Amendment Clause in the Treaty which is usually given a period of time and the Amendment is deposited in the Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations. What we can do if we disagree with any Clause of the Treaty it is for the Parliament to ratify it with our observation or to return it *in toto*.

It is a little bit confusing because I can see the preponderance of the Parliament here. We would want to know if we can have the attached protocol to this Treaty so as to guide us properly.

Hon. Alex Ukam (Akamkpa/Biase): Mr. Chairman, as the last Speaker has just said, that is another measure we can take.

Truly, if what we are treating here is a Treaty, then we have nothing to add or to subtract. The Chairman of the Committee through whom this Report is made available to us here can confirm whether it is a Treaty or not. If it is not a Treaty, we can add and if we are to add, I will differ a little bit from Hon. Ita Enang said with regard to appointment of who presides over it and not where the office should be.

I know very well that it will take many decades before the Office of the Secretary to the Government would be abolished in our country but for that of Political Affairs Office, that one may be abolished.

On that note, I can say in place of Political Affairs Office, we may add by saying in addition to Permanent Secretary a representative of the Secretary to the Government. If it is a Treaty, I will urge this House that there is no need to take much of our time. I will rather we refer it back to the Committee to furnish us with further information about this.

Hon. Waziri Aminu Tambunwal (Kebbe/Tambunwal): Point of Order, Mr. Chairman!

The Chairman: What is the Point of Order?

Hon. Waziri Aminu Tambunwal: I am coming under Order XVI, Rule 1 of our Standing Orders dealing with Proceedings on Treaties at page 76. It says:

When a Treaty shall be laid before the House of Representatives for ratification, it shall be read a first time and shall thereafter be subject to the procedure on

Bills as stated in Order XII of the Standing Orders of this House.

We are in order. I raised this Point of Order so that our Colleagues who have been raising the issue of Treaty not being considered the way we are considering it now should be properly guided.

The Chairman: Even if what we are doing is a Treaty, it can be done that way. If it is not a treaty, that is the normal way of taking a Bill. Therefore, the order is sustained.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba (Gboko/Tarka): What I was saying is that after the Treaty was signed by Nigeria, Nigeria was supposed to establish a body which was going to enforce the Treaty and that came about the establishment of this National Authority for Effective Implementation. It is this body when established that would enforce the provisions in the Treaty. So, it is not that we are considering the Treaty here; we are setting up a body to enforce the provisions in the Treaty.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi (Ningi/Warji): Mr. Chairman, I want to emphasise that this is not a Treaty. A Treaty is an internationally accepted norm that was accepted for a particular purpose.

If you go through the Bill, this is a domestic Bill that anticipates the ratification of the Treaty. Look at the composition of the National Authority which is so domesticated; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry of Housing and Environment; it is not every country that has it.

If you go further, you will see Customs, Nigeria Police and so on. This is a domestic Bill that anticipates the Treaty to be ratified. Therefore, it is not a Treaty, it is our own home-grown Bill.

Hon. Andrew I. Uchendu (Ikwerre/ Emohua): I am on all fours with what Hon. Ningi has said, not all Governments have Office of Secretary to the Government.

I will say that Hon. Akinlade should go back and confirm to us really whether this is a Treaty or not because as far as this submission is concerned, there is nothing to indicate that this is a Treaty. This is a domestic Bill.

Hon. Nasir Rabe (Bindawa/Mani): I am very happy that the issue in respect of Treaty has been comprehensively addressed by both Hon. Ningi and citation by the Acting Chief Whip.

However, I want to take us back to the original argument that brought all these issues about, that is to say the argument envisaged by the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business. Personally I do not see anything wrong with the provision in Clause 1(2). The fears expressed by Hon. Ita Enang are presumptuous which connotes if. Our response is, in the event that there is no such change, it stands.

There would hardly be a government in this country which will not have to sustain the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation. We do not envisage anything like that. Therefore, Hon. Enang's argument is presumptuous. I think we should run away from building a policy or formulating provision of law based on presumptuous thinking. If you think this could happen in the future, that would discourage us from legislating for the purposes of today. That is why we have the possibility of amending the provisions of laws.

With experience and time if there is need for us to amend any provision of law in the land, we can do so. That is why you have room to do it. As it is today, there is nothing wrong with this provision. This office should be appropriately located in the way that is provided for by this Bill.

Hon. Sokonte Davies (Degema/Bonny): The document we are dealing with is a Treaty. Actually in 2008, the Office of Permanent Secretary (Political Affairs) of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation held a Workshop on this Treaty and I was there. In fact, it was extensively attended by all the Departments of Government that are supposed to be there.

My only concern is why has that office chosen to bring it as its own Bill and not as the treaty the way it is for us to consider it as a Treaty but I want affirm that there is a Treaty on Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the need to establish the National Authority for effective implementation. So, I will join my voice to those who are asking the Committee to go back to the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to get us the real documents. I know there is a Treaty of this nature because I attended the Workshop.

The Chairman: We are all on the same page. We have agreed that there is a Treaty of that nature but this is a Bill to monitor the implementation of the Treaty. This Bill seeks to set up a Commission that will monitor the implementation of the Treaty.

The position being canvassed by Hon. Ita Enang is that instead of having the office in the Office of the Secretary to the Federal Government, it should be located in the Ministry of Defence.

I will put the question that we leave the provision the way it is.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba (Gboko/Tarka): Mr. Chairman, before we domesticate this Treaty, we should establish this Authority which will enforce the provisions in the Convention.

May I ask whether we have ratified that Convention before trying to put down this law?

The Chairman: The Clerk had confirmed to me that it has been ratified.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba: If you look at the presentation of the Committee, one of the major requirements in this Bill is that we should know those chemicals that are prohibited under the Convention. By the findings of the Committee, the Committee found that the Bill is a conventional Bill.

The Chairman: Which clause are you reading?

Hon. Terngu Tsegba: I am looking at the findings of the Committee generally. The Schedule mentioned in Clause 37(3) could not be found and they could not attach it.

I have gone through it; I was trying to look at those chemicals that are banned under this Act which attract penalties of ten million and one hundred million and the Schedule is not attached.

We may request the Chairman of the Committee to give us the latest information. In the alternative, he can advise when he thinks he can get the schedule with this Act attached so that we can proceed because it is very important to the Bill. We cannot pass a Bill prohibiting the use of Chemical Weapon when we do not even know what we are prohibiting against.

The Chairman: Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, could you respond, please?

Hon. Abiodun Akinlade: Mr. Chairman, if you look at the recommendation of the Committee on page 20, it is there. It says:

Toxic Chemical means any Chemical which through its Chemical action on life process can cause death, temporary incapacitation or permanent harm to human, plants or animals.

The Chairman: Are you all right with that, Hon. Tsegba?

Hon. Terngu Tsegba: I am not. That is not a Schedule to a Bill; that is an Explanatory Note. In any case, if we go for surgery, for example, the anaesthesia will put anaesthetic on you. It causes temporary incapacitation because you do not know what is happening to you thereafter.

The Chairman: What are you requesting from the Chairman to furnish the House with?

Hon. Terngu Tsegbe: If we look at the findings of the Report of the Committee at 27(3) on Page 12, line 3, the Schedule mentioned was not attached.

(Hon. Terngu Tsegba goes through his documents)

The Chairman: Let us wait until are ready.

Hon. Busayo Oluwale Oke (Obokun/ Oriade): Mr. Chairman, when we were assigned to do this job, we were given the impression that this is a mere Treaty that we should adopt. We took the document given to us the way it came. We never conducted Public Hearing on this Bill.

From the observation raised by the Deputy Chief Whip and my other ranking Colleagues, with due respect, I think we need to do a thorough job on this Bill. I will plead that the Bill be re-scrutinised.

The Chairman: That is why in every Joint Committee, we have the lead Committee and the lead Committee in this case is Science and Technology. The Chairman has not briefed this House on any thing of that nature.

Now that he is ready with his Report, it is now under consideration of the House. This Report has been laid on the Floor of the House and it is the Chairman, Committee of the Whole that is chairing this Report. It is only for reference that you are asking the Chairman of the Standing Committee but the Chairman of the Committee of Whole is the one chairing this Committee now.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba: Mr. Chairman, what I was referring to was misquoted by the Committee. Instead of Clause VIII, they said Clause IX. So, let us go to

Clause VIII. This Convention is hinged on the attachment of the chemicals listed which are supposed to be under Clause VIII.

It is necessary for us to proceed with this legislation. We must know the list of chemicals that we are seeking to make it unlawful for anybody to possess; that is not contained in this Bill and it is very paramount that that list be attached to this Bill for us to proceed.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi: Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer our Colleagues to the Long Title of this Bill. *A Bill for an Act to Prohibit Chemical Weapons and to establish the National Authority on Chemical Weapons*; that is the main crux of this Bill.

Specifically, the functions of this Bill has been summarised in Clause IV. The functions of the National Authority *shall be to serve as the national focal point for the effective liaison with the organisation and other third Parties to the Convention and to fulfil all of Nigeria's other obligations under the Convention.* That is the summary of what we are trying to do.

The Chairman: I believe Clause IV has taken care of everything.

We are on Clause 2.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, Clause 2 says: *The Council on National Authority on Chemical Weapons Convention.*

I want to please plead that on this Clause (2) we have a technical problem in this Bill. The whole Bill should be about just setting up the National Authority because the provisions in the Convention are already stated in the Treaty or Convention itself. So this Bill should not list the offences, chemicals or any other thing; it should just be setting up the authority and making a reference that that authority is simply - *(Interruptions)*

The Chairman: Does this Bill list the chemicals?

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, chemical weapons.

The Chairman: Where is the list?

Hon. Ita Enang: When we referred to Clause 8 we said, *it shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly produce, acquire or retain or use Schedule 1 chemicals.*

The Chairman: Are they listed?

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, they are listed. Clause 7 under Offences and Penalties says:

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly develop, produce, or otherwise acquire, stockpile or retain a chemical weapon.

This is a matter on which there is a convention and if they are stating this one, we should repeat it.

The Chairman: Hon. Ita Enang, chemical weapon is a general name. Is there anywhere in the Bill where these chemical weapons are listed?

Hon. Ita Enang: It is not listed; that is why we said may be it is listed in the Convention. So we should restrict ourselves from talking about - *(Interruptions)*

The Chairman: It is because they are listed in the Convention or Treaty; that is why they are not listed here.

Hon Ita Enang: Yes, that is why I am saying that we should not go to even mention offences, the chemicals and so on because this Bill is just to set up the implementation authority. We cannot repeat what it is in the Convention in this Bill because if there is another law stating a matter, in making a subsequent law, you do not need to repeat those matters in that subsequent law. We should restrict ourselves to setting up the implementing authority.

The Chairman: It all depends on how the Treaty was written.

Hon Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, let us make a copy of the Treaty available to every Member so that we can do a thorough job.

The Chairman: If the treaty gives every State the latitude to impose this punishment there is nothing wrong in putting it in this Bill.

Hon Ita Enang: I concede that but I am praying that we should consider this Bill alongside the ratified treaty so that we know the limitation of our power.

Hon. Waziri Aminu Tambunwal: Arising from the submission of Hon. Ita Enang, I can see two issues cropping up.

One, the Committee should confirm to us whether, in considering this Bill, they sighted the treaty or not.

Two, when you look at the entirety of Section 8 it has been making reference to a Schedule which as, Hon. Tsegba highlighted, is not attached to this particular Bill. If we pass this legislation, the presumption is that we have passed that particular Schedule which is not also available to this House at the moment.

I would advise that we clarify from the Committee whether or not they have actually sighted the Convention and two, take note of the provision of Section 8 while passing them if the answer from them is in the affirmative.

Hon. Abiodun Akinlade: The letter referred to us from the Clerk of this House stated that this is a Convention Bill and this was only what was forwarded to us.

The Chairman: The question is that the letter referred to you to consider this Bill from the Office of the Clerk is just giving you the authority to go ahead and consider the Bill.

Hon. Abiodun Akinlade: Yes.

The Chairman: In the course of considering the Bill, you cannot limit yourself to the Bill alone. Have you asked for the Treaty and have you seen the treaty? That is the question.

Hon. Abiodun Akinlade: Truly speaking, Sir, we have no seen the Treaty.

Hon. Oke Busayo Oluwole (Obokun/ Oriade): When we met we thought we could do Public Hearing and by so doing go into the nitty-gritty of this matter but we are made to understand that it is a mere Treaty.

From the discussion so far, it is very clear that we actually need to do a thorough work on this Bill. We are talking about chemical weapons. Which chemicals are we classifying as weapon? So we need to do a very thorough job on this.

Hon. Sada Soli Jibia: Mr. Chairman, I have the Treaty here. Incidentally, I wrote this Report on the Floor of the Senate after this Treaty was ratified by the House. It was communicated to the Senate. This is the Treaty. The Treaty actually allows a Member-State to establish an implementation authority within the organisation.

It is stated in Article 7 of the treaty: *National Implementation Measures - General understanding:*

Each State Party shall in accordance with its constitutional process adopt the necessary emergencies to implement its obligation under this convention.

The Bill is in order but the problem is that it is not in conformity with the Treaty.

The Chairman: I believe the reason is that they have not sighted the Treaty while they were doing their work on the Bill.

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia: I am sure if they had sighted the Treaty they would return this Bill. The organisation of Member States are enough to stand as overseers of where we have prohibited chemical weapons and where we can allow it operate because there are operating agencies within MDAs that they have in contact with the United Nations Agency that operates this Treaty. I have the treaty with all the chemicals, the conditions and what should be done and what should not be done.

The Chairman: It is inevitable that this Bill will be returned to the Committee and may be the Committee this time around will have to liaise with Hon. Sada Soli Jibia or the authorities to get the Treaty.

Hon. Tsegba Terngu: Point of Order, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Which Point of Order?

Hon. Tsegba Terngu: Mr. Chairman, my Point of Order is Section 12 of the 1999 Constitution. With your permission I will read:

No treaty between the Federation and any other country shall have the force of law except to the extent to which any such treaty has been enacted into law by the National Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, even if we have a treaty on this, it has not been domesticated here in our own laws. So we should not be talking about Treaty. If we want to create a National Authority which we are trying to do now, it has to be domesticated. That treaty has not been domesticated; we have not seen the law.

The Chairman: You have not seen the law because you have not asked for the law. Your Point of Order is out of Order.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Committee's intention is not well guided. This Bill should never have been a Bill for an Act to Prohibit Chemical Weapons; it should be: *A Bill for an*

Act to Establish the National Authority and Effective Implementation of the Chemical Weapons.

If the heading of the Bill was captured right, probably we would not have been in this mess. The Committee should be guided.

The Chairman: I believe that problem is not the problem of the Committee; it was a problem that started right from those who sent the Bill to the Legislature and in this case it is the problem of the Executive and to be specific, the Ministry of Justice.

Hon. Rabe Nasir: Honestly, this is really food for thought for all of us. I think when a matter is referred to a Joint Committee it is in the sincerity of purpose of the Members of those Committees concerned to do a thorough job and to make sure that they address all the relevant issues relating to the legislation as is being referred to them.

It is very clear from what we have seen in respect of this Bill that the two Committees did not work together because I can see that the Chairman of the other Committee was claiming ignorance of what had happened.

The Chairman: But from what we can see he has signed the Report.

Hon. Rabe Nasir: Yes, he has signed the Report but he seems to be dissociating himself from part of the submission which is really not acceptable.

This House should view it very seriously that once a matter is referred to a Committee or a Joint Committee it should be thoroughly handled by both Committees and the two Committees should equally jointly defend what they have brought before the Whole House. This is how it should be especially when both the Chairmen signed.

Secondly, I align my views with the previous views already expressed that we would not go ahead with this. I think it should be referred to the Committees and then expand the membership of the Joint Committee so that it should be able to accommodate all the contending interests or those whose stake it is to partake in this.

The views of Hon. Tsegba who started talking about the citation or lack of it as they should be of the Schedule should also be taken into consideration because the Chairman himself confirmed it.

I cannot imagine a Joint Committee considering a piece of legislation over a Treaty which they have never even gone through because he confessed that they did not even look at it. How can you set up an authority over the provision of law the code of which you have not even seen? I think it is ridiculous.

The Chairman: I agree with you to some extent, Hon. Rabe Nasir. I do not think that the Chairmen are not working together. If you assign work to two Committees, usually the lead Chairman is the one who organises most of the activities. You will see that the other Chairman will show less interest in the work because he is not the lead Chairman. What we can see here is that both Chairmen signed. But what the other Chairman is saying is that he signed in the belief that this is not even a Bill but it was a Treaty.

Whenever two Committees are given assignment like this they should try to work together. The fact that you are not the lead Chairman does not mean that you are not part of the job. We cannot make them Co-Chairmen. There must be a Chairman and Vice Chairman so to say or the next Chairman. In this case, Hon. Akinlade Abiodun is the lead Chairman followed by Hon. Wole Oke. It is a Joint referral.

The Chief Whip who is in charge of discipline in the House said it is a joint referral and there is Chairman and a Co-Chairman. So, the Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, you have a Co-Chairman sitting behind you. You cannot take any decision without the Co-Chairman.

Hon. Alex Ukam: There is a lot of confusion in considering this Bill in view of other views and opinions that have come up particularly referring to that of Hon. Ningi. He has contradicted the framing of the title of this Bill. I do not see us the Committees probably doing a good work in terms of what is the philosophy behind the Sponsor of this Bill.

If it is an Executive Bill it is better to send the Bill back to them to reframe it and then send it back to us. It is unfortunate that they could send a Bill to us without attaching the Treaty itself to the Bill to enable the Committee to work on because if the copy of the treaty was attached that could have assisted the Committee in doing justice to this Bill we are now considering here.

My opinion is that if it is possible in view of all Members observations and contributions, we should send this Bill back to the Sponsor.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, both the Executive and the Legislature are working towards achieving the same goal. We have now discovered there is a problem with the heading and may be with some sections of the Bill. That is why we say all right, as a Committee go and have a Public Hearing. It is through that Public Hearing that you invite all the stakeholders including the Sponsors of the Bill to come. If you have any problem with the heading, as the Sponsor of this Bill this is our problem with the heading; can you please explain why the heading is like this? If he is unable to explain, then you can change the heading from the Public Hearing. That is the essence of the Public Hearing, not taking it back to the Sponsor. If you take this Bill back to the Sponsor it may take may take another one year or more before it gets to this stage. It is better that we do this at the point of Public Hearing rather than taking it back to the Sponsor.

Hon. Sokonte Davies: I think that there is a problem with the suggestion ruling you are trying to give because I told us that I attended a Workshop on this.

The Chairman: I did not rule on anything.

Hon. Sokonte Davies: In that workshop as at that time the present SGF was the Defence Minister and Defence people nearly walked out of the Workshop because they believed that they should handle this matter. Today, it has been moved from Defence to SGF and he has brought this Bill to be kept in his office. So, I think that it is important for us to go back to those who have brought this Bill.

The Chairman: How do you go back to them?

Hon. Sokonte Davies: We can refer it back to them, as Hon. Rabe has said.

The Chairman: This is your suggestion. Whatever input you want on the Bill can be done at the point of Public Hearing or when you are writing the Report.

If the present SGF is now a Minister you call him; he is a stakeholder and a Nigerian, he can come and explain. Anybody who has a problem with the Bill can come to the Public Hearing and explain. We have unlimited opportunities to change whatever we feel like in the Bill.

Hon. Patrick Ikhariale: Mr. Chairman, you are right. We are the law making body and a Bill can emanate from many institutions, individual or group in

a raw form but when it comes here, it is our responsibility to streamline it. So, we do not need to take it to the Executive. It will defeat the purpose.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, I seek your protection to raise an issue.

The Chairman: Go ahead.

Hon. Ita Enang: I want to please say that this will make an opportunity for this House to consider and think that the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation should take interest in legislation pending on the Floor of this House. This is because it is the Office of the Attorney General which perhaps originates it and cleanses it before it goes to Mr. President to forward to us.

Again, there is another problem with Presidential Liaison Officers. Part of what the Presidential Liaison Officers are supposed to do is to track every Bill; what is the stage of Public Hearing? Who is the Minister that is responsible? Have they made presentations to it? Is the Bill going according to what ought to be? So, please I want us to look at this.

Finally, this may be an opportunity for us to go back to a request I had made on the Floor of this House that for every Bill that we have let us attach a Legal Officer. There are several of them. They are not going to take over as Secretary but let there be a Legal Officer.

The Chairman: That is an internal arrangement; I believe the Clerk will take care of that. You do not need to discuss that on the Floor of the House. As rightly said, the Office of the Attorney General is the one responsible for all these.

You can even see one of the Bills that were sent to us on the Constitutional Review. As regards the Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, they were putting Electoral Act, 2004 and you know we worked on that Electoral Act in 2006 and they brought it here glaringly written Electoral Act, 2004 but we did not send it back because we know that is just a mess from the Ministry of Justice.

This Bill will be referred back to the Committee.

Bill, with the leave of the House, recommitted to the Joint Committee on Science and Technology and Defence for re-consideration.

Hon. Abiodun Akinlade: I want to appeal to you that you allow us conduct a public hearing on this Bill.

The Chairman: It has been referred back to you.

Hon. Abiodun Akinlade: Why I am making this appeal is that the last time it was referred to us we were asked not to conduct Public Hearing on it.

The Chairman: Whenever a Bill is referred to you, you have the right to conduct Public Hearing.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): I move that this honourable House do revert to Plenary.

Hon. Abiodun Akinlade: Mr. Chairman, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this honourable House do revert to Plenary.

(The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Deputy Speaker: The House in the Committee of the Whole considered a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria, 2009 and approved Clauses 1-44, approved the First Schedule, amended the Second Schedule and approved the Long Title of the Bill.

The House in the Committee of the Whole also considered 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 for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 and re-committed the Bill to the Joint Committee on Science and Technology and Defence for re-consideration.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: Mr. Speaker, may I move that this honourable House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambunwal: I second the Motion as moved by the Acting House Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that this honourable House do adjourn till Tuesday, 15th December 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Ita Enang: I do second the Motion that this House do adjourn till Tuesday, 15th December, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.30 p.m.