

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

(Signed)
Ayo Ademola,
Chairman

Wednesday, 11th November, 2009

The House met at 2:25 p.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker: I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday 10th November, 2009.

OATHS

**Oath of Allegiance
And
Oath of Membership**

The Deputy Speaker: If there is any member elect to take Oaths can, please, come forward to take his Oaths.

Thereupon the following Member-Elect took and subscribed the Oaths or made and subscribed the Affirmations required by law:

Hon. Kokori-Abdul Suleiman Itopa (Okene/Ogori-Magogo)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2010 Budget Briefing

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, listen to these announcements please. This announcement is to all Chairmen of Committees, Deputy Chairmen, Members of Appropriation and Finance Committee and Members of all Standing Committees.

This is to invite all the Chairmen, Deputies and Members of the House of Representatives to the 2010 Budget Briefing with the Hon. Minister of Finance, Director of Budget Office of the Federation and the Special Adviser to the President on the Economic matters today Wednesday 11th November, 2009 at the Conference Room 028 New Building of the House of Representatives. Time is 4:30p.m.

Election of Hon. Binta Mercy Garba as the Vice President of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarian

The Deputy Speaker: This is another milestone by the House of Representatives. Our Member has been elected by the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarian into the post of Vice President of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarian at the 3rd CWP African Region Conference in Cameroun from the 28th to 30th October, 2009.

I write to inform you that at the 3rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Africa Region held in Cameroun from 28th to 30th October 2009, I was elected to fill the post of the Vice President of the Commonwealth Zonal Parliamentarians Africa Region on the 29th of October, 2009 while the post of the President was given to Uganda.

The conduct of the election was done successfully as was stated in the adopted Constitution.

Please accept my assurances for my highest esteem.

Signed
Hon. Binta Mercy Garba

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Binta Mercy Garba, congratulations (Applauses)

Students on Excursion

The Deputy Speaker: Seated in the Gallery today, we have students from School of Vocational and Technical Education, Kaduna State College of Education, Gidan Waya. Can you please rise up for recognition?

(Students rose for recognition) (Applause)

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you; you are welcome.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITION

The Deputy Speaker: Any member who has petition to the House may please rise to do so. (No response).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Swine Flu Influenza in Nigeria

Hon. Sama'ila A. Mohammed (Bassa/Jos North): Mr. Speaker, this Motion is entitled: *Swine Flu Influenza in Nigeria*. The House:

Notes that the pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009, otherwise known as Swine Flu has been reported and confirmed to have affected at least two people in Lagos, Nigeria;

Aware that as at 25th October, 2009, there were more than 440,000 laboratories confirmed cases of pandemic influenza and over 6,000 deaths have been reported by World Health Organization (WHO) across the world;

Concerned that as at 27th October, 2009, the African continent recorded over 14,000 laboratory confirmed human cases including 76 deaths;

Worried that in the West African sub-region, a record of confirmed laboratory cases in our neighboring countries in Cameroun, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Sao Tome and Principe amounting up to 28 cases;

Disturbed that the seasonal harmattan is just around the corner and our hospitals at Federal, State and Local Government Area Levels are inadequately staffed and equipped to handle the most basic of illnesses;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministry of Health to:

- (i) activate and implement its National pandemic influenza preparedness and response plans;
- (ii) create National, State and Local Government Area level control and command centres;
- (iii) set up transparent and effective communication system to inform the public on a timely and regular basis on prevention treatment, emergency medical cases available and availability of vaccines and antiviral drugs;
- (iv) immediately assess, at any time, if external assistance is required to assist us to contain the spread of the disease and to act accordingly; and finally

(v) mandate the Committee on Health to ensure that the above measures are complied with.

I so move.

Hon. Emmanuel Jime (Makurdi/Guma): Mr. Speaker, I most humbly rise to second the Motion as ably moved by hon. Sama'ila Mohammed.

Question proposed.

Hon. Sama'ila A. Mohammed: This is a very straightforward Motion. In April, 2009, the first reported case of the influenza A. pandemic (H1N1) was reported in the United State of America. After that period, there was a massive influenza rate in Mexico leading to the closure of almost virtually all public places with each toll on the economy. In Africa, there are no reported deaths but as at 1st November, 2009, there were over 20,000 reported cases including the two cases in Nigeria. The effect of the pandemic is such as to cause wide spread ailments and to affect the economic performance and livelihood of individuals.

The World Health Organization has set up mechanisms for reporting and controlling of this infectious disease. Therefore, I urge our hon. Colleagues to take this Motion very seriously and to pass it without debate in the light of all the resolutions envisage inside.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South East): The Motion that is presented by our Colleague is a wake up call for us as a people and as a Government to ensure that we do the right things at the right time.

Like he has said, this Pandemic is new to us and in the areas where it was discovered, particularly in Europe and America, they took such measures that today the solution is already on hand, even where this problem was discovered.

If you have travelled recently, in all their efforts, it is very conspicuously written what you are to do if you have the symptoms, the treatment you are to take and even in their Health Centres, provisions are also made to ensure that when you get in contact with this kind of problem, you know what to do. I believe that is the intendment of this whole Motion and our government particularly, the Ministry of Health, should ensure that they put the necessary measure in place because, as they say, *Prevention is Better than Cure*.

If all the prayers that he has carefully outlined are followed, I am sure that all of us here would be the happier for it. It is that time we behave like the developing countries because we can no longer hide our

heads like the ostrich that buried its head in the sand pretending that all is well.

I think we should give him the necessary support and where amendments are necessary we would so do to ensure that the intendment of the Motion is captured.

Hon. Khadija Buka Abba Ibrahim (Damaturu/Gujba/Gulani/Tarmuwa): I just want to state that this Motion is very timely as you all are well aware that the (H1N1) virus is wide spread all over the world; the cases have not yet been reported but so far as it is indicated in the Motion, there has been a couple of cases that have been reported. So before this thing gets rampant and wide spread, we should nip it in the bud. We should try and take action quickly in equipping all our hospitals both at States, Local and Federal Government levels with adequate vaccines which are now available for this virus.

Two months ago, on October 1st 2009, it was launched in India. You could see that even in India, they have the vaccines to adequately cater for this ailment. Nigeria should also start thinking of equipping all her hospitals with this particular vaccine and anything that has to do with health should not be taken lightly. Now that we have the Hajji coming up, I know some of our pilgrims have not been vaccinated with this H1N1 virus vaccine but I heard that, once in Saudi, they would be asked to take the vaccine. At least, we should not allow that to happen for somebody else doing this for us. We should actually effect this ourselves as a country and as a developing Nation.

I am emphasizing that government should make the vaccine available as soon as possible to avoid further spread of this ailment so that in effect it would cut down on the numbers that could be affected in due course.

Hon. Okey Ude (Orumba North/South): Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on this motion. I commend the mover of this motion because we are discussing a matter that I feel that enough attention has not actually been paid by our authorities.

The common belief is that we do not have enough cases of swine flu in Nigeria. You are aware that our neighbouring countries have already identified cases of swine flu. You then ask why is it that Nigerians are immune to swam flu. It is simple to believe that we are immune because we have not had many cases.

We have a population of more than 150 million people and Nigerians are among the most widely travelled individuals in this world. And by the way this disease spreads it then baffles the Epidemiologist why we are not picking this disease in Nigeria. The truth is that there are more cases of swine flu in Nigeria than we

have reported. However, the issue is that our surveillance mechanism is not very active; the mechanism needs to be reenergised to be able to pick up these cases. One of the reasons we are not picking up the correct data, if you talk with them, is that there is not enough fund being provided for all the things they need to do.

I am aware that the Ministry of Health has a very sound plan with which to tackle this epidemic or pandemic but the issue is that there is poor appropriation; there is poor funding. That is why I believe that as a preventive measure Nigeria should declare the issue of swine flu as one of their national priorities for the reasons I have enumerated now.

We are all aware that in United States of America that President Obama has declared a national emergency on this problem. We are well aware also that there is active search for vaccination against this disease; this is because the disease has not passed through a season when they expect that it will be worse and that is the winter period.

There is active vaccine search and vaccination going on in Europe. Why do I say this? We know that this particular virus that has been identified as causing swine flu is similar to the same virus that caused a pandemic in 1918. Historians will tell you that in 1918 immediately after the First World War there was influenza; a pandemic that killed more than 100 million people all over the world.

We say that we are living in a global village; we travel around so much and if an influenza virus H1N1, similar to that of the 1918, because that one was also called H1N1, which killed about 100 million people then, how much do you think this can affect the world population now if the virus mutates? This is because scientists have said that this virus is still low virulent now, but the danger is that if it is not being picked and treated like we suspect in Nigeria the chances are that the virus can become very virulent and very active and may start killing people in numbers.

Mr. Speaker, we are going for Hajj, we, as legislators, travel a lot and we sit in a Chamber where people sit together; tomorrow Hon. Ibn Na'Allah might start coughing and he is so close to me. Sorry, I do not mean that you have it. (*Laughter*)

So, my amendment to this is that I want our government to declare or to take this matter as a case of national priority.

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu (Alkaleri/Kirfi): Mr. Speaker, my modest contribution on this issue in support of this motion is that we had cause to be very alarmed about three weeks ago where two kids belonging to my friend came back from school in the

afternoon with running nose, cough with a lot of symptoms which were akin to that of the H1N1 infection that is the swine flu and my friend traveled. Therefore, my wife called me in the afternoon and I had to rush back home and we took the children to the hospital.

They were treated but for five consecutive days the thing was just getting worse; I got worried. We went to three hospitals here in Abuja and all of them were saying that they do not have the testing materials; they do not have the testing facilities for H1N1 in Abuja. We even went to the National Hospital but we could not get any solution. However, thank God and glory be to Him; it was not H1N1. The kids are back to school and they are all right. However, the point that I am making here is that our state of preparedness is zero if in Abuja you go to three hospitals including our national pride, the National Hospital and they say they do not have a testing facility; it is terribly bad.

Secondly, the education and the enlightenment programmes regarding this pandemic is just like when we started the problem of AIDS; people are really not properly enlightened regarding this issue and that is why there is under-reporting or even recognizing that there is pandemic. I believe that if we have the testing centres, if we have the facilities all over and if people are properly enlightened many cases would have been reported because the Nigerian public is one of the most travelled ones and also whenever you come back from anywhere you see foreigners coming in.

Therefore, with this kind of interaction globally we are not immune to it; we are not protected from it and there is the need for our Ministry of Health really to be very serious on this. We have had the rhetorics, but they are so feeble. I support this motion that this House should be serious to take a resolution in such a way that we urge the Ministry of Health to take this issue seriously in view of all the reasons Members have corroborated here.

The Speaker: We are now going to take those who want to speak against the Motion. (*No response*). We have one amendment from Hon. Okey Udeh. Can you please move your amendment?

Hon. Okey Udeh: My amendment is that we *call on the government to treat the prevention and containment activities of influenza H1N1 as a matter of National priority.*

I so move.

Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha (Isuikwuato/Umunneochi): I rise to second the amendment as moved by Hon. Okey Udeh.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Motion as amended put and agreed to.

Noted that the Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 otherwise known as swine flu has been reported and confirmed to have affected at least 2 people in Lagos, Nigeria;

Aware: that as at 25th October, 2009 there were more than 440,000 laboratory confirmed cases of Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 and over 5,700 deaths reported by World Health Organization (WHO) across the world.

Concerned that as at 27th October, 2009, the African continent recorded 14,109 laboratories confirmed human cases of Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 including 76 deaths;

Worried that in the West African sub-region a record of confirmed laboratory cases in our neighbouring countries Cameroun, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Sao Tome and Principe amounting up to 28 cases;

Disturbed that the seasonal harmattan is just around the corner and our hospitals at Federal State and Local Government Area Levels are inadequately staffed and equipped to handle the most basic illnesses;

Resolved to:

Urge the Federal Ministry of Health to:

- (i) activate and implement its National pandemic influenza preparedness and response plans;
- (ii) create National, State and Local Government Area level control and command centres;
- (iii) set up transparent and effective communication system to inform the public on a timely and regular basis on prevention treatment, emergency medical cases available and availability of vaccines and antiviral drugs;
- (iv) immediately assess, at any time, if external assistance is required to assist us to contain the spread of the disease and to act accordingly; and finally
- (v) mandate the Committee on Health to ensure that the above measures are complied with.

- (vi) call on the government to treat the prevention and containment activities of influenza H1N1 as a matter of National priority.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

National Cancer Institute for Research (Establishment) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Cancer Institute to be the Nation's Principal Agency for Cancer Research; to Coordinate a National Research Programme on Cancer Causes, Prevention, Detection, Diagnosis and Treatment through various Research projects and Clinical Trails, and for Matters Related Thereto, 2009

Order for second reading

The Speaker: The Second Order of the day is commencement of on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Cancer Institute to be the Nation's Principal Agency for Cancer Research; to Coordinate a National Research Programme on Cancer Causes, Prevention, Detection, Diagnosis and Treatment through various Research projects and Clinical Trails, and for Matters Related Thereto, 2009.

Honourable Members will recall that the Bill was read for the first time on Tuesday, 21st July 2009. I now invite Hon. Abubakar Shehu Bunu to move that the Bill be now read the second time.

Hon. Abubakar Shehu Bunu (Bungudu/Maru): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Cancer Institute to be the Nation's Principal Agency for Cancer Research; Coordinate a National Research Programme on Cancer Causes, Prevention, Detection, Diagnosis and Treatment through our various Research projects and Clinical Trails and for Matters Related Thereto, 2009 be read the Second time.

Hon. David Idoko (Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu): I do second the Motion as moved by my Hon. Colleague.

Question Proposed:

Hon. Abubakar Shehu Bunu: Mr. Speaker, presently, among the various diseases we have in this country or in the world, cancer is a great challenge. It is a killer disease that comes and ravages a family and plunders them into social economic predicament. Cancer constitutes a great burden to our family and the cost of the treatment is often very expensive. Both the drugs and the diagnosis in our clinics and our hospitals are mostly very costly and expensive. Even the drugs that somebody can take for cancer are costly.

In terms of the treatment, a single dose for treatment of cancer will cost about ₦45,000.00 to make any treatment or ortho-therapy of a gland tumor cancer and a patient may require it for three to five times in managing this tumor cancer. Importantly, most of the drugs have side effects.

The cost of the laboratory and investigation of all these cancer diseases are most expensive in Nigeria. For example, if you want to do any blood count, urine test or any electrolyte on cancer, you need to have about ₦150,000.00 to ₦200,000.00 to do all those investigations.

The United Nation's Report on Nigeria revealed that on the average, majority of Nigerians who belong to lower social economic sector live his life for less than \$1 a day. You cannot imagine somebody living in this state of poverty to be able to afford any treatment on cancer. Cancer patients often require huge blood count. An average of any blood count that a cancer patient can require will be higher than any other diseases or sickness that anybody can undergo for any surgery.

Even the food we are eating will cause a lot of diseases that are related to cancer. If we may take as an example, the kind of chicken barbeques and other foods we are eating will generate either the stomach, liver or other cancers and other cancers that are causing our diseases in Nigeria. There is no doubt that the medical proficiency will be enhanced if an Act can be established to support any research for an Institute in this country. A research for an Institute can indeed assist the Nigerian people who are suffering from these kinds of diseases.

We have different kinds of cancers both for men and women and we hope that if this Bill can be established into an Act, it will help to enhance any discovery or clinical trails and diagnosis of cancer treatment in Nigeria. By and large, an idea of having Research Institute in the six geo-political zones across the country would be felt all over Nigeria.

My honourable Colleagues, with these few remarks, I urge you to support this Bill for a second reading. I so submit.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Abubakar Bunu from Zamfara State.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, I stand to commend and support the mover of this very important Bill. I am sure most of my Colleagues will agree with me and the sponsor of this Bill that Cancer has become so prevalent and in fact now known in this Country more than ever. The cancer that is mostly published is

the cancer common with women, the Breast Cancer. We all know especially in the North that cancer is a disease that is prevalent in our society and commonly referred to in Hausa as *Dadi*.

Our people know that there is hardly any orthodox treatment for that and therefore they resort to the traditional treatment which usually is not very effective. This is very common among our people. It is very painful to see especially the skin cancer that starts with a small boil but keeps on expanding and painfully killing the patient without much to be done.

In this country, we established National Space Institute and deferred US\$1.9 million Dollars that we do not know where it is now. I am sure that since we can afford that kind of resource, with an investment of US\$1.9 million, we can have a very effective Cancer Research Institute which is very important and essential to our development.

It is very disheartening to know that some of these basic medical facilities are not made available and most painfully is that, if you travel to America, United Kingdom and other countries that have these facilities, you would find out that they are mostly Nigerians who have the skills and manpower to run the Research Institution; yet in their own country, they do not have the basic facilities or the amenities to avail themselves of those knowledge they acquired.

I am happy that the sponsor of the Bill is bringing up this and the wife of the President has made some moves to get a lot of money from people to establish a Centre like that. As I am not opposing that, Government should put in place an Institute where such moneys, instead of being donated to the wife of the President, can be donated to that Institute.

The Deputy Speaker: The money was not donated to the wife of the President.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: All right, it was donated to the project of the wife of the President. So, it can be donated to Nigerians so that we can have a place that is going to be our own.

The Deputy Speaker: The moneys were donated for the benefit of Nigerians.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Yes, I am saying that the money was donated for the project of the wife of the President for Nigerians but it would have been better for the money to be donated to Nigerians without it passing through the wife of the President's project. With the establishment of such Institute, it is very timely and very important.

I therefore, call on my Colleagues to support this very noble and important Bill so that it would pass through the Second Reading.

Hon. Jerimon S. Manwe (Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola): I want to first of all commend and associate myself with Hon. Bunu who is a friend and associate for deeming it fit to come out with a very laudable Bill which, to my mind, is something that does not need us sitting down here and arguing too much about. Cancer, as we all know, is a silent killer whether it is breast, skin or whatever name you may call it.

All along, several efforts have been made to get this thing curtailed. In most cases, the wife of the President, in her wisdom through her charity organisation, launched an Appeal Fund; the money was not given to her, but to an organization and the intention was to make sure this menace is touched and all efforts that would be put in place by any well meaning Nigerians, should be supported.

It is on that note that I call my Colleagues to, without further waste of time, allow this Bill to scale through a Second Reading so that we would move ahead.

Hon. Asadu Patrick Oziokoja (Nsukka/Igboeze South): I want to support this laudable Bill because Nigeria as you notice now, is developing and in any developing economy, the social status, the food contents of what a nutrition is, even the awareness about disease patterns, do change.

Cancer, which in the past was not such a very topical issue and was not within the first ten top killers, is gradually getting to catch up with us. Any attempt or efforts to make sure that we do not just know about our cancer status as at today but have Institutions around that could monitor cancer issues, develop cancer responses and make sure we have adequate data on the types of cancer Nigerians are exposed to and how Nigerians would react to the challenge, is very welcome.

Our food value and our nutrition is changing as we go from the primarily raw and agrarian food we are eating to more refined foods and as our own ability to diagnose our ailments improves we are going to get a lot more Reports about cancer of different organs in the body. I think that an Institute of this nature that is dedicated purely to Cancer Research is long over due.

I also want to commend the efforts of the First Lady because what she has done is to bring cancer and cancer related challenges to the front burner. So whether we are taking her Institutes or Cancer Centre as

the focus of the proposed National Cancer Institute that this Bill intends to establish or we are setting up a new Agency, I think such efforts, however the money is raised, must be encouraged. The Institute is established for Nigerians; those who are in the Medical Profession or and Allied Professions to come and research on Cancer and come up with mistakes that have been made which have caused Nigerians dearly. Through this they could create regiments for managing Cancer in future.

I support that this Bill be passed to the next stage and eventually made into Law so that the Institute could be established.

Hon. Daniel Dino Melaye (Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu): The issue of cancer cannot be over emphasized. As I speak to you, cancer as a disease in Nigeria was made prevalent because there was no early detection by the citizens of this country. This is because every year monies are appropriated to the Federal Ministry of Health for enlightenments campaign but the magnitude and intensity of the enlightenment campaign on Cancer and other contagious diseases in this country is not commensurate to the amount being voted.

If the Federal Ministry of Health will set up their enlightenment and orientation campaign on early detection of these diseases, more importantly to the one in question, it would help to reduce the calamity from the disease. We must as a matter of utmost necessity also use the opportunity to call on the Federal Government to equip our hospitals so that they can graduate from mere consulting clinics to Hospitals where facilities would be available for early dictation and counselling.

Most of the Counselling Departments of our Hospitals including the comatose National Hospitals is either not functioning or not effective. Before we begin to talk about an Institute to research and even discuss the issue of cancer, we must as a matter of basics go back to rudimentary disposition of making sure that Counselling, prevention, early detection and Public enlightenment program is taken seriously as monies are voted yearly and there is no positive impact.

The Deputy Speaker: I have a note from Hon. Sani Abdu that he wants to contribute on this Bill because his wife died of cancer at the National Cancer Hospital in Indonesia. Is it correct? I will give you only one minute.

Hon. Muhammad Sani Abdu (Alkalari/Kirfi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I felt emotional in support of this particular Bill because my wife of 16 years with four children died of breast cancer in Indonesia.

I was working in Nigeria when in Jos she was diagnosed to have lumps in her breast. We went to Lagos, Ibadan, Igbinedion University during that spell

of strikes. I had to sell my house to send her to London. At the end of it all, the Professor who was treating her in Mahammer Smith Hospital in London moved back to his country in Indonesia and I had to follow her.

The beauty is that they have National Cancer Hospital. It was an endowment by Darmesh the wife of Suharto the First Lady of Indonesia; just like Hajiya Turei is doing now in Nigeria. She also had an Appeal Fund; she raised the Fund, she built National Cancer Hospital and it has three stages: those which are discounted for the public, then they have grades A and B. If you are a foreigner you will pay in Dollars; if you are an Indonesian you will pay in their local currency.

We got very good treatment until she died and I felt that we should share this because we have the efforts of the First Lady already on ground. We have this Bill, if this two can be tied together, it will do very well for this country because not all hospitals can afford to have Oncology Department. It is very expensive and very difficult to set up and more so that we do not have all the expertise.

So if we concentrate and have a Centre of Excellence we will really get somewhere because many people will have early detection and cancer would be preventable. There will also be Centre for Excellence for the enlightenment of people. I believe this is a noble course and this Bill will help us. I felt I should share this with you.

The Deputy Speaker: I will now put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Health.

Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Provide for the Engagement of Nigerians in Diaspora in the Policies, Projects and Participation in the Development of Nigeria and for the Purpose of Utilising the Human, Capital and Material Resources of Nigerians in Diaspora towards the overall Socio-economic, Cultural and Political Development of Nigeria; and for Matters Related Thereto, 2009.

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The Third Order of the Day is the Commencement of debate on the General Principle of A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Provide for the Engagement of Nigerians in Diaspora in the Policies, Projects and

Participation in the Development of Nigeria and for the Purpose of Utilising the Human, Capital and Material Resources of Nigerians in Diaspora towards the overall Socio-economic, Cultural and Political Development of Nigeria; and for Matters Related Thereto, 2009.

Honourable Members would recall that the Bill was read for the First Time on Tuesday 20th October, 2009. I now invite Hon. Abike Dabiri to move that the Bill be now read for the Second Time.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South East): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Rule what?

Hon. Itulah: My Point of Order is Order XII Rule 3 (1) and (2) at page 47.

The Deputy Speaker: Read it.

Hon. Friday Itulah: Rule 3(1) says:

Every Bill shall receive three readings previous to its passage, which readings shall be in three different days, unless the House unanimously directs otherwise and the Speaker shall give notice at each reading whether it is first, second or third.

(2) *At the conclusion of the proceedings on the first reading or on any subsequent stage of a Bill, a day to be named by the Committee on Rules and Business shall be appointed for next stage.*

Consequent upon this we have Notice Paper every week that is given by the Committee on Rules and Business. We have one here; Notice Paper for Monday 9th November to Friday 13th November 2009. And for Wednesday the Bills that are slated are:

- (1) A Bill for an act to repeal the Workmen Compensation Act.
- (2) A Bill for an Act to establish the Public Service of Nigeria;
- (3) A Bill for an Act to establish the National Cancer Institute.

As sure as I did every member here is prepared for any of the Bills that we have, that is why it is essential to give notice. We should not be ambushing ourselves; we made this rule to enable us to prepare for Bills. The second stage of every Bill is very important because it serves as notice to the Committee that the Bill will be

referred to, to know what to expect and it will prepare them to be informed if they will have a Public Hearing.

A Bill as important as this ought to have been given a notice so that every member here will be present to take part in it. Now, here we are, no such notice was given and this Bill is being brought before us. We should follow our Standing Rules, please.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mohammed Sama'ila Abdullahi (Bassa/Jos North): What my hon. Colleague has said is correct but in line with our convention in this House, I move that we suspend this Rule so that we can debate this very important Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: This is hand written convention.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/D/Wasagu): Mr. Speaker, the observation raised by Hon. Itulah is correct to the extent of what the Rule has provided. In the Rules and Business Committee, the Order Paper supersedes the Notice because of exigencies. For example, if one of the Members who is supposed to present a Bill today is not going to be around, we cannot sit down and say because we have given notice that the House should not sit and we have a lot of work to do. So, we take these Bills in the Order of their importance and insert in the Order Paper. We all know that in all Parliaments, the Order Paper supersedes the Notice.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah, thank you for that beautiful explanation but how I wish it was contained in our Rules. If it has not been covered by our Rules and like he said, this is a very important Bill that Members may need to make some research or maybe make comparison from other jurisdiction before they can come to the Floor. But if it is the wish of the House that we take it, I have no objection to that.

Hon. Ihiabe Samson Positive (Dekina/Bassa): Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order in reference to what my Colleague Hon. Itulah has presented. Order 1 Rule 1 reads:

The Proceedings in the House of Representatives and in all Committees of the House shall be conducted in accordance with these Standing Orders.

In the light of that, going by what is stipulated clearly in Order 1 Rule 1, Hon. Itulah has presented this matter but the presentation is not in accordance with the Standing Rules.

The Speaker: Hon. Friday Itulah, Order sustained.

Hon. Ita Enang, the second Bill for Second Reading sponsored by Hon. Abike was not on the Notice Paper. They have read what is contained in our Notice Paper for Wednesday and it is not there and a Point of Order was raised by a Member that it is out of Order for us to take that Bill.

Hon. Ita Enang: I leave it to the discretion of the House, Sir. *(Laughter)*

The Speaker: Very well, we have ruled on that then. Hon. Ita Enang, try and put it on the Notice Paper for next week so that Members would see it.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, I apologise to the House for that.

(Bill accordingly stood down)

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

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

The Speaker: The First Order of the Day is resumption of Consideration of the Report of the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, 2005 and for Matters Connected Therewith 2008.

Members will recall that on Tuesday, 10th November, the House approved clauses 1 to 8 and deferred consideration of the Report till next legislative day. I now invite the Leader of the House to move that the debate may now resume.

Hon. Shehu Baba Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that this House do resolve into Committee of Whole to resume consideration of the Report on Banking and Currency and Justice; and to consider the Report of the Joint Committee on Rules and Business and Justice.

I so move.

The Speaker: Hon. Baba Shehu, I think we may not be able to take more than one Report, so we would just take the first one.

Hon. Ita Enang: I second the Motion for the consideration of the Report as moved by the Leader of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do resolve into Committee of Whole to resume consideration of the Report of the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency and Justice.

Report of the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, 2005 and for Matters Connected Therewith 2008 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

(The Chairman in the Chair)

The Chairman: We will start with the consideration of Clause 9.

Clause 9 - (APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY AND OTHER STAFF) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 10 - (CAPITAL AND FUNDS OF THE CORPORATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 11- (CAPITAL) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 12 – (GENERAL RESERVE FUND) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 13 – (BANK ACCOUNT AND INVESTMENT OF FUNDS OF THE CORPORATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 14 – (EXPENDITURE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 15 – (PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 16 – (INSURANCE DEPOSIT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17 – (ASSESSMENT OF INSURED INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION) –

Question proposed:

Hon. Ita Enang: I think there is a duplication on the amendment on Clause 17, that is, on Committee's recommendation. It reads:

Every insured institution not being a licensed bank or deposit taking financial institution to which this Act relates, shall be obliged to pay the Corporation, a premium which shall not be less than 1 per cent per annum for licensed

banks and not than ½ percent, or 2 per cent per annum for other deposit taking financial institutions of the total deposit liabilities standing in its books as at 31st December of the preceding year in the following manner -

Chairman, it is not clear as to whether it is ½ or 2 per cent?

The Chairman: Chairman, Committee on Capital Market, we are considering a Bill on NDIC which I believe has a lot to do with the Capital Market. The Chairman and his Deputy Chairman are not here; it would not be appropriate to treat the Bill in their absence. This is a Bill on financial matters and it relates to Capital Market. If you do not have the Report you can ask for it and it will be given to you.

It reads: *Every insured institution not being licensed bank or deposit taking financial institution to which this Act relates, shall be obliged to pay to the Corporation, a premium which shall not be less than 1 per cent per annum for licensed banks and not less than ½ per cent.*

Hon. Ita Enang, this is not 2 please, it is 1 over 2. I think it is a mistake because it is only in figure that they put the 2 there.

Clause 17 – (ASSESSMENT OF INSURED INSTITUTIONS AND SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION) – as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 18 – (PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS BY INSURED INSTITUTIONS WHILE IN DEFAULT OF ASSESSMENT): - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 19 – (PROHIBITION OF SET OFF) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 20 – (MAXIMUM CLAIM) – Is it N10 million, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South East): Proposal should be on percentage, not a definite amount.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): You will recall that on this matter, there was a little contention. The Committee held further meeting with the Managing Director and Officials of NDIC on this matter. We intimated them with the feeling of the House regarding the percentage payment that was given. They came up with their own position and defense which I have already communicated to you. Their position was that they sent in a letter to us on the proposed Amendment of NDIC which was an increase in the deposit insurance coverage.

They said that any increase, even the recommendation of the Committee, would be very difficult to sustain; that the Deposit Insurance Fund has in their vault about ₦235 billion as at June 30th 2009 against insured deposit of about ₦1.4 trillion. What they have in Insurance Deposit vault is just ₦235 billion but the insured deposit stands at ₦1.4 trillion, and that is 60.7 per cent at the present coverage level of ₦200,000:00. We are now saying that Deposit Financial Institution (DFI) is therefore inadequate to cover the Corporation's risk in question; increased coverage can only compound the situation. They are even kicking against any increase because what they pay is from the Deposit Insurance Vault and what they have there is ₦235 billion.

Hon. Betty Apiafi H. (Ahoada East/Abia/Odual): I support what Hon. Itulah has just said, that we should look at the percentages. This is because in most cases big organisations and the government are the biggest losers when you have bank failures in the Banking Industry.

For instance if you have ₦1 billion in a bank as government money, what happens to it when you have to take only ₦10 million? We should look at percentages rather than fixing amounts and the Deposit Insurance Company should be able to work at it because Banks are supposed to have assets they are supposed to dispose off to pay for the insurance.

Hon. Aliyu Ahmed Wadada (Keffi/Karu/Kokona): This is a very sensitive aspect of our financial life. Sensitive in the sense that what an individual or organisation has with a Bank must be looked into squarely. The nature of the organisation should be taken into cognisance in paying back whatever the organisation loses. I would not want to say neither amount nor percentage but the determinant should be what the organisation is.

Is it public sector organisation or a private sector organisation? If it is a public sector organisation, what is the role of that organisation within the entire polity? If it is a private sector organisation, what is the role of that organisation within the polity? Why I am saying this is because it is not what affects Wadada as an individual or as an organisation that may necessarily as much as it should be, impact on the entire polity as to what affect Hon. Na'Allah as an organisation. The effect of the lost of organisations in relation to the impact on the polity must have to be taken into cognisance, then that will determine the way forward.

That is my submission.

Hon. Ita Enang: This provision is unquestionable in that the way Mr. President sent it before was the way the Committee has recommended. In the proposal of the

President, it was said that a depositor shall receive from the Corporation as provided under this, a maximum of ₦20 million.

The Chairman: Is it ₦20 million? It is ₦200,000.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): You are referring to the proposed amendment as proposed by the sponsors of the motion, Hon. Olaka and others. They proposed payments of ₦20 million as minimum.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman the original Bill provided for ₦20 million and ₦10 million but what the Committee recommended ₦10 million and ₦1million. Assuming that the Capital vote of Ministry of Works which sometimes exceeds ₦50 billion is paid into a bank or MDG for instance, which is having problems with some banks now on the Millennium Development Goals Fund which exceeds ₦40 or ₦50 billion is paid in and you said that if the bank is failing what the NDIC is expected to pay is about ₦10 million and that is maximum not even minimum.

We should take example from the experience that we had in this House with Societe Generale Bank. After the failing, the provision should allow a maximum percentage. This is because we have increased the premium that the NDIC is to pay, from 1/5 to 1% which is very high and which will ultimately be charged by the banks. The banks would now increase their charges by passing it to the customer.

Whether a bank fails or not the NDIC at every time will still be getting Premium. Therefore, we should make it a minimum of 50% of the sum that was standing to the credit of any customer or depositor.

Hon. Peter Linus Umoh (Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/ Urue Offong Oruku): I am suggesting that we stand down this particular Clause and give the Committee more time to consider the mathematical effect of either carrying on with percentage or a fixed amount and then report back to the House.

The Chairman: Chairman Capital Market, it is not the bank that would pay this figure that we are talking about that money, it is the NDIC. The Banks are expected to pay a premium to the NDIC. What is the total amount that these banks pay to the NDIC? If you compute the entire amount being paid to the NDIC by the 24 banks we have, NDIC funds cannot even pay half of one bank in case there is failure.

If you put it at ₦10 million or in percentage, you are virtually saying that NDIC should not even pay because they do not have the capacity. That is what it means; NDIC has no capacity to pay more than may be

₦300,000 at most. This is because if you put all the money being paid by the Banks as premium it is not a big amount compared to the amount that is being deposited in the Banks.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi: To buttress what the Chairman has just said, in a communication from NDIC, taking a typical Bank for illustration, they said that the Bank had a deposit liabilities of ₦542 billion as at 30th September, 2009 out of which ₦427 billion being 79% is insured at the present coverage of ₦200,000 per depositor. If the Banks were to fail, it will wipe out the deposit insurance fund which today stands at ₦235 billion, the balance of ₦192 billion would have to be sourced through national treasury. They have to come to the National Assembly for appropriation to pay this ₦200,000 to people who are entitled in the event of this particular Bank in Nigeria failing tomorrow.

The Chairman: That is on ₦200,000; what happens if you increase it beyond that? Moreover, the banks are insuring only ₦200,000. Why should NDIC pay for ₦10 million? The said money is only for ₦200,000. If you raise it, there would be cost of funds in the bank again as bank would charge more interest. That is the implication of that.

Hon. Solomon U. Agidani (Apa/Agatu): Mr. Chairman, I do not think we should be in a hurry to pass this legislation. I say so because if NDIC means National Deposit Insurance Corporation and the man who puts his money as a depositor in the bank is not assured that he is enjoying that deposit insurance, then this law does not make any sense

The Chairman: There is nowhere in the world where everything is being insured. It is just a portion that is insured in case there is failure. Do not forget that after the liquidation, money would be realized and would be given back to the depositors. This is just an emergency measure for small depositors such that if there is a failure in the bank, you would give him his small deposit.

Hon. Solomon U. Agidani: Mr. Chairman, I am talking from experience. Societe Generale Bank liquidated and up till this moment that we are speaking, we know how much of National Assembly and Members' money that is involved and ₦50,000 was the redemption by NDIC.

The Chairman: It has been cleared.

Hon. Solomon U. Agidani: It has not, Sir.

The Chairman: I am also a victim and I have collected my own money. Hon. Ita Enang went with me and we collected money.

Hon. Solomon U. Agidani: Why have I not collected my own money?

Hon. Ita Enang: On the refund of the monies that were lost in Societe Generale Bank, I was affected but I collected a greater part of my money at Aminu Kano Crescent.

The Chairman: The problem here is that if we increase it from ₦200,000 to any figure, NDIC may not be able to pay. You can increase the premium and on that one, NDIC will get more money but the problem is that this increase would come back on us as those who go and look for credit in the banks.

Hon. Igochukwu N. Aguma (Port Harcourt I): NDIC as an agency is not supposed to collect money and keep. That is why it is an insurance company and you cannot be risk perverse if you are an insurance company. If there is a major crisis today such that it can not be paid, that is what is called re-insurance. So, I believe that the NDIC should be able to do its work by re-distributing the risks. It is not fair that people who are victims of unfortunate incidences like bank indiscretion in management of their funds leading to closure would have to wait for recovering of assets. Most of the assets at that time were not even being recovered at full value.

The Chairman: Only ₦200,000 is insured by the banks and you want NDIC to go and pay beyond the amount that is insured? What you are saying now is that the maximum money insured by the banks is only ₦200,000; that is what it is now. If we want NDIC to increase it from ₦200,000, then the banks have to insure more than ₦200,000 with NDIC, that is not the problem of NDIC. If the banks can insure everything, then NDIC at the end of the day would pay everything.

Hon. Igochukwu N. Aguma: There is a little comment I want to make. NDIC perform two roles; they are also a regulatory body and they regulate the risk element of the industry because they are statutory bodies. Therefore, it behoves on them to, from time to time, intermix with the environment in which they operate and know that they can, by regulation or even by the Act we are amending, make it possible that more than ₦200,000 should be insured.

The Chairman: That cannot only be done through this law and not from NDIC. The law here is saying *one per cent* and that *one per cent* would only take care of ₦200,000.

Hon. David Onobi Idoko (Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu): We may have a situation where we have multiple bank collapse. This situation is possible because of global economy down-turn and we should be able to have a situation where NDIC can

cope. I agreed with you that we should just leave it that way.

Hon. Chile Igbawua (Kwande/Ushongo): I think we are considering a statute that is obviously archaic at the time we are talking. I believe the figure that was put there then would have agreed with the volume and quantum of funds that were being withheld by the commercial banks at that time. The situation has since changed and the Chairman has just told us that an average Nigerian bank is keeping ₦552 billion. It is unreasonable that they should still be allowed to insure only such a small portion. We should allow what is payable to be in percentage so that if they later on increase the volume of insurance, that percentage would take care irrespective of what that level is. It is appropriate and imperative on us to ensure that banks insure a more reasonable sum than the pittance that we have now.

The Chairman: I agree with you but what would be the multiplying effect? If you increase the percentage from what it is now, it has a multiplying effect.

Hon. Chile Igbawua: Once you say percentage it becomes progressive. An investor would be happier to invest if he knows that a larger portion of his investment are secured and it should be a progressive system in which the more funds you have invested, the higher the burden you bear. The common investors we are talking about would not feel it that much but with people like you that the investment goes higher, you will bear it more.

Hon. Emmanuel Jime (Makurdi/Guma): I stood up earlier to inform us about the Communiqué. I do not know whether it is from the Bankers or the NDIC itself. With particular reference to this Clause, I think he mentioned there was a Communiqué that his Committee received with regard to this particular Clause and indeed what they think should be the proper thing to be done. Unfortunately, I did not really hear what the Communiqué was about. I was thinking if it is possible that we can still have the advantage of that particular Communiqué, I believe it will help us because we are actually regulating an Industry which I believe that the feelings of the Practitioners really must inform us as to the kind of input that we are making here.

So if the Chairman permits, it will be important that the Banking Chairman informs us further on what was the nature and content of that particular Communiqué.

Hon. Umaru Ibrahim Kurfi (Dutsin-Ma/Kurfi): Mr. Chairman, I want to add that in Insurance there is Insurer, Re-insurer and also an Agent. In a situation whereby the payment is paid to NDIC and there is no

way another payment could be given, that same NDIC could re-insure, that is, insuring the insurer. That is the only way out because they cannot pay another premium, except they are now re-insured. They are now insuring exactly the risk to be insured by transferring their own risk to Insurance Company.

The Chairman: Though we have not reached that stage, but if there is certain money somewhere, even in law, if NDIC has more than that amount, it has to be transferred to National treasury. So the money that are supposed to be used for re-insurance is the one that the Federal Government is now taking; that is the problem and we need to look at it again. But if they can be allowed to be accumulating their money without any limit, then they can re-insure the excess in another Company. But in the case of this Act, they are not allowed to keep beyond a certain amount; that is also another problem.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): Mr. Chairman, I think what Hon. Dimeji Bankole said will help. I want to crave the indulgence of Mr. Chairman to read this document from NDIC: *The proposed increase of deposit insurance cover, from ₦200,000.00 per Depositor of Universal Bank to ₦10 million per Depositor; that is what we are proposing.*

The current amount is ₦200,000.00. We are proposing ₦10 million and from ₦100,000 per Depositor of Micro-Finance Bank to ₦5 million is a matter of great concern to the Corporation for the following reasons:

Deposit Insurance seeks to cover a large population of Depositors which typically comprises more savers. The present coverage level of ₦300,000 covers at least 90 *per cent* of depositors, mainly small depositor, then the 10 *per cent* is the big depositor. The guaranteed sum of ₦200,000.00 which is derived from premium contributed by insured Institution is paid immediately from the Deposit Insurance Fund (DFR) in event of bank failure. Ability to pay guaranteed sum depends on adequacy of DFR. Therefore, unduly high coverage level such as ₦10 million per depositor proposed will erode or wipe out the DFR completely in no time thereby destroying the credibility of the Deposit Insurance Scheme.

Erosion of DFR could warrant charging high premium rate which will increase the cost of funds of insured banks; such a development will result in higher interest rates on bank credit facilities. High lending rate will hinder productive activities especially in the rent sector and slow down economic development. High level of coverage can create perverse incentive for bank Management for excessive risk taking in belief that deposit insurance will litigate the consequence of reckless mismanagement. Depositors too may not bother so much about how their banks are being

managed, thereby jeopardizing market discipline. NDIC, DFR aggregated ₦235 billion as at June, 30th 2009 against insured deposit of 1.4 trillion which is 16.7 *per cent* at the present coverage level of ₦200,000.00.

The Chairman: Thank you hon. Chairman. Please, make this copy available to the Chairman Rules and Business.

Chairman, Rules and Business, please ensure to make enough copies of this Communiqué that will go round for Members to peruse. And when we resume Consideration on this Report, I believe Members will be more informed on this issue.

Hon. Aliyu Ahmed Wadada Danyaya (Keffi/Karu/Kokona): Mr. Chairman, for the purpose of clarity and better understanding of what we are doing here, at the moment, I will want us to define a *customer* and after defining a customer, we categorize them and after that, we will now be able to determine the way it goes.

A customer of a bank is anybody that goes into bank premises, and even if it is an enquiry he or she goes to make, to say, do you run or accept deposit here; automatically by banking, such a person becomes a *customer*. So, if that is the definition of customers by banking, we would understand that customers are of categories. You have a depositor as a customer. A Current Account holder and a Savings Account holder are customers but of different categories. They do not enjoy the same benefits by the bank; that is when the going is good for the bank and the customers. By implication, when the going goes wrong, they cannot of course, morally enjoy the same benefits.

I want us to make a rule that will stand the test of time. And we must always take into cognisance that Nigeria is really and truly part of the global community. So, when we are making laws here we must look at things the way they obtain in other jurisdictions; that is why I am drawing the attention of my Colleagues to these salient angles of the law.

Hon. Olaka Nwogu (Elem/Oyigbo/Tai): Mr. Chairman, the issue we are dealing with; Protection of Deposits in Banks means a lot more than just the amount. It signifies even our own confidence in our banking system. It tells us in very plain language that should our banks go under, we understand that our financial system is strong enough to meet a certain level of depositor's funds.

The position we just heard from NDIC to me reflects the mental attitude and inefficiency of that Corporation. Quite recently, NDIC gave us the impression that all our banks are safe. It was the new

CBN Governor that told us that what we had was nothing other than rut in the system. And we have not heard the last of all of that. NDIC monitors but did not do any of that; they failed in their responsibility. They intend to keep insured funds very low so that whatever happens they can easily pay.

They claimed that ₦200,000 represents 90 *per cent* of our banking populace, it is a statistic I will dispute. This is because we have an emerging middle class. People are beginning to have higher deposits than they want to acknowledge and what they want is that if a bank fails they will just give you your ₦200,000 irrespective of what you have. What you are going to have is a situation where people would rather put their monies abroad in places where they are secured than in your economy or your banking system where you do not even have confidence to say I will protect your money.

We want Nigerians to be patriotic, to keep their funds at home but we live in a world now that is global, everybody knows what is happening elsewhere. When in the USA and other places are doing \$250,000, and some countries are doing 100 *per cent*; you are given just \$1,500 or less. The danger here is that the NDIC is expressing a lack of confidence in the Banks and therefore does not want to increase the treasury. In the very unlikely event that it happens in a very large part, depositors are safe. Is the regulator and the monitor coming to say that I trust what I am doing here?

Insurance is a factor of perception of risk; it does not have to be because you have 1 *per cent* to ₦200,000 and if you increase from ₦200,000 the increase will be promoted or a similar projection. No. If our Banking system is solid then the risk of failure is less, insurance becomes less the premium on value can go higher but the premium does not go higher. It is when we ask them to do their jobs and where there is a failure in your job the depositor who is the innocent person in the entire arrangement is protected. Ten million Naira to me, is just a low figure. For anybody to challenge ₦10 million is to tell us that our confidence is not there.

I want to close on this Sir by saying that I am surprised that the Chairman read the position of the NDIC here. I thought that, that was taken at the Public Hearing and the Committee has met and deliberated and taken a position. Therefore, I would think that this absurd and unacceptable position of the NDIC is something that even his Committee has gone beyond.

The Chairman: Hon. Olaka you were here when we started this discussion. It is just like you insuring your car whose worth is only ₦10 million and you are paying ₦200,000 every month and you are expecting that in case of an accident, a car of ₦30 million be bought for you, but you have insured for ₦10 million only but you are asking for ₦30 million in the event that

there is an accident with the car. That is exactly what you are saying. The banks are insuring only ₦200,000 and you are saying that NDIC should go ahead and pay more than ₦200,000 outside the provisions of the law.

If you want to change it then we have to effect an increase. Just as Hon. Igwe suggested, we have to increase the figure that is being insured by the banks. If you cannot do that, you cannot force the NDIC to pay because only ₦200,000 is being insured by the Banks and more so the money that is supposed to be reinsured in case there is no problem of any bank you know the money will be building up and the Federal Government will not allow NDIC to accumulate that money. They take the money from NDIC and it is also in the law. These are some of the issues that we are supposed to address in the law. If we address these issues then your position can stand. We cannot just say NDIC is doing its work.

It is good that they distribute this paper so that Members can argue from the point of the informed.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, I want to comment on the definition of customer as proffered by Hon. Wadada. I want to say that the Act we are considering is not Customer Insurance Corporation it is Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, we are insuring deposits and not customer.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank You Hon. Ita Enang, please do not join issues.

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

Hon. Ita Enang: I second the Motion as moved by the House Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

(The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Deputy Speaker: The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Joint Committee on Banking and Currency and Justice on the Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation, 2005 and approved the following Clauses:

Clause 1 – approved;
Clause 2 – approved;
Clause 3 – approved;
Clause 4 – approved;
Clause 5 – approved;
Clause 6 – approved;
Clause 7 – approved;
Clause 8 – approved;
Clause 9 – approved;

Clause 10 – approved;
Clause 11 – approved;
Clause 12 – approved;
Clause 13 – approved;
Clause 14 – approved;
Clause 15 – approved;
Clause 16 – approved;
Clause 17 – approved;
Clause 18 – approved; and
Clause 19 – approved.

The Committee differed consideration of the rest of the Report *sine die*.

Do you have a date for resumption?

Hon. Ita Enang: Sir, to adjourn consideration of the rest of the Report *sine die* is too strong a word to use (*interruption.*)

The Deputy Speaker: When do we adjourn to?

Hon. Ita Enang: We should adjourn consideration to Tuesday next week Sir. Let it not be *sine die* on record.

The Deputy Speaker: This is Parliamentary language; you can come back tomorrow to start reconsidering it.

Adoption of Report

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

Hon. Ita Enang: I second the Motion as moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Reminder on Budget 2010

The Chairman: Before we you move for adjournment, there would be a meeting of all Chairmen, Deputy Chairmen and Members of the House with the Minister of Finance on Budget 2010 proposals in Room 0.28, New Building.

Members are expected to be there by 4.30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Shehu Agaie: Mr. Speaker, I move that this honourable House do stand adjourned till Thursday, 12th November, 2009 at 10:00 p.m.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Thursday, 12th November, 2009 at 10:00 p.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 4:46 p.m.