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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 15th October, 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 Wednesday, 14th October, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker: Please, listen to the following announcement. Will the following Members of House of Representatives, please, meet with me immediately after sitting today?

- 1) Hon. Stanley Ohajuruka - Abia State
- 2) Hon. Patty Etete O. Inemeh - Akwa-Ibom State
- 3) Hon. Ado Dogo Audu
- 4) Hon. Isibor Ifaluyi - Edo State
- 5) Hon. Bassey Edet Otu - Cross River State
- 6) Hon. Godfrey Gaiya - Kaduna State
- 7) Hon. Omo Isu Christopher - Ebonyi State
- 8) Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari - Sokoto State
- 9) Hon. Oladoyinbo Ojomo-Alaba - Ondo State
- 10) Hon. Jolaoye George Oyewole - Osun State
- 11) Hon. Masa Bodunrin
- 12) Hon. Abdul-Aziz Abubakar Yari
- 13) Hon. Mukhtar Ahmed - Niger State
- 14) Hon. Abba Adamu
- 15) Hon. Bashir Adamu
- 16) Hon. Goni Lawan
- 17) Hon. Isa Abubakar
- 18) Hon. Suleiman
- 19) Hon. Abdul-Aziz A. Tijani
- 20) Hon. Are Abayomi
- 21) Hon. Kabiru Kofa.

2009 Saudi Arabian Hajj Exercise

The Speaker: The Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs is informing Members who intend to undertake the 2009 Hajj Exercise to submit their international Passports and Passport photographs for Saudi Arabian Entry Visa to the Committee Clerk of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Room HB. 49, White House.

(Signed)

Hon. Umaru Bature
Chairman

**Special Event on Constituency Questioning
and Thanksgiving Service**

The Speaker: The Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business, is reminding Members who wish to attend his Special Event on Constituency Questioning and Thanksgiving Service this weekend on the travel arrangements.

Members who are going to attend are to, please, drop their names in Box 192 and I would also advise that their departure from Abuja or Lagos should be to Calabar Airport where arrangement has been made to take them up to Uyo as the New Akwa Ibom International Airport is billed to commence commercial operation by 15th November, 2009.

It is signed by Hon. Ita Enang, Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business.

**Visit of Legislative Staff of Ebonyi
State House of Assembly**

The Speaker: We have in the Gallery, Legislative Staff of the Ebonyi State House of Assembly, who are on attachment to the National Assembly.

Could you stand up for recognition, please?

(Visiting Legislative Staff of the Ebonyi State House of Assembly stood up for recognition)

**Membership of House Conference Committee with the
Senate on the Public Procurement (Amendment) Bill**

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, these are the names of the Members of the House who are going to participate in the Conference Committee with the Senate on the Public Procurement Amendment Bill:

1. Hon. Yusuf Maitama Tugar Chairman, Committee on Public Procurement
2. Hon. Ita Enang, Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business
3. Hon. Aminu Musa Koko
4. Hon. Buba Ahmed
5. Hon. Dr. Oke Udeh and
6. Hon George Jolaoye.

The Report of that Conference Committee should be submitted for consideration within the next seven days, please.

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In-House Retreat on Budget Performance and Implementation

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, last week I announced to the House that the Committee on Legislative Budget would be organising an in-house Retreat on Budget Performance and Implementation before we take on the 2010 Budget.

Hon. Chairman of the Committee should, please, brief the Members on what is going on with that.

Hon. Habeeb A. B. Fasinro (Eti-Osa): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My fellow Colleagues, what we are working on is the Sensitisation Workshop to be handled by the Committee on Legislative Budget and Research for Members particularly Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Committees on the activities of the National Assembly Budget Office and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

The whole idea is to get ourselves prepared for the 2010 Budget and to understand the processes we need to go through and what we need to understand and ask for from the line industries.

It is basically going to talk about Public Financial Management, the overview and evolution of the MTEF. We are going to talk about the Strategic Planning and how we are going to look at the process of input/output/outcome and basically holding those in the Executive and understanding what programmes that they need to deliver to Nigerians and being able to benchmark on them at the end of the day.

This is basically a review exercise to gear us up for the 2010 Budget.

The Speaker: Do you have any date?

Hon. Habeeb Fasinro: We are looking at first week in November. We have to be given enough time to prepare.

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, I am advising you to, please, make sure that you are available for this Retreat especially Chairmen and their Deputies. You have about two to three weeks notice. For those who do not attend, please, do not blame anybody but yourself if anything happens to your position as Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

Forceful Ejection by the Federal Ministry of

Housing and Urban Development

Hon. Dozie Agbakoba (Onitsha North/Onitsha

South): I have a Petition from one Miss Ada Ebeledike, a staff of the Nigeria Television Authority who was forcefully ejected from her flat by the authorities of the Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

This Lady was originally allocated this flat on the 14th of May 1992. She was ejected from the flat in 2005 and ever since she has neither been given a replacement nor paid any compensation. She is appealing to this honourable House to compel the Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to compensate her for ejecting her from the flat.

Mr. Speaker, do I have your permission to lay the Petition?

The Speaker: Please, proceed.

Petition laid.

Wrongful Dismissal from the Nigerian Army

Hon. James Joseph Idachaba (Idah/Ibaji/Igalamela/Ofu): I am presenting two Petitions from two of my constituents. One is from Private Abdullahi Danladi from Idah Local Government. He served in the Signal Division, 533 Brigade of the Nigerian Army in Yola.

He is praying this honourable House to intervene in his alleged wrongful dismissal from the service of the Nigerian Army and at the same time seeking for justice.

Wrongful Dismissal from the Nigerian Customs

The second Petition is from the Assistant Inspector of Customs, Mr. Ajodo A. Augustine from Ibaji Local Government. He was equally wrongfully dismissed from the services of the Nigerian Customs while serving in Benue State.

I seek your kind permission to lay these Petitions on the Table.

The Speaker: Please, proceed.

Petitions laid.

Alleged Injustice by Shell Petroleum Development Company

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Hon. Henry Dickson (Ekeremor/Sagbama): I rise to present a Petition by my constituent Mr. Finidi Jaddess. He is petitioning this hallowed Chamber for redress. His complaint is on oppression; the usual oppression stories against oil companies and in this particular case, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC).

Without boring us about the details of the complaint, may I at this point seek your leave to lay the Petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Petition laid.

Wrongful Disengagement – Age limit

Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale (Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben): My Petition is from R. A. Oguejiofor. He is petitioning the House because he believes in the capacity and ability of this House of Representatives representing the people to administer justice at all times.

The summary of this Petition has to do with the flagrant disregard by the authority of Auchu Polytechnic. There was a Trade Union disputes some time ago as it affects the age limit of the Polytechnic workers particularly, the academic staff. The Federal Government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding and the issue was properly addressed to raise the bar of retirement age from 60 years to 65 years as it is obtainable in the universities.

It is unfortunate that the Rector of that school decided to do something contrary to the agreement. The Prayers of this Petition is that those of them, sixteen in number, who have been discharged of their duties on ground of age limit and who have not gotten to 65 years which is the statutory age limit be reinstated.

With your permission, I beg to lay the Petition on the Table.

The Speaker: You may do so.

Petition laid.

Wrongful Termination of Employment

Hon. Ita Solomon J. Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): This is a Petition from Mr. Okon Essien Edet, my constituent. He was until his wrongful termination in 2004, a staff of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency under the Ministry of Aviation.

Thereafter, a Ministerial Committee was set up and it was recommended that he should be reinstated in October 2004. He has not been reinstated till date. He is therefore appealing to this honourable House to, please, intervene so that justice can be done to his case.

I seek your leave to lay the Petition on the Table.

Petition laid.

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, is there any other Petition?

Several Hon. Members: None.

The Speaker: In absence of any other Petition, all Petitions are referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Report of the Committee on Federal Character on Federal Character Commission Act No. 34 of 1996 (Amendment) Bill, 2009

The Speaker: The next Business of the Day is the Presentation on the Report of the Committee – *(Interruption)*

Hon. John Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: What is the Point of Order, Hon Agoda?

Hon. Halims Agoda: With due humility and sense of responsibility, let me refer to Order VIII, Rule 6 which is on page 26 and Rule 8 on page 28. With your permission, I read:

Notice of Motion

Order VIII, Rule 8 says: *Unless the Rules otherwise direct, notice shall be given of any Motion or Amendment which is proposed to be moved with the exception of the following:*

(i) A Motion or Amendment made or offered in Committee of the Whole House;

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(ii) *A Motion for the Adjournment of the House or of any debate;*

(iii) *A Motion that the Report of a Select Committee be referred to a Committee of the Whole House;*

(iv) *A motion for the withdrawal of strangers;*

(v) *A Motion for the suspension of a Member;*

(vii) *A Motion arising out of the Business of the Day made immediately after that business is disposed of and before any fresh matter is entered upon; and*

(viii) *An Amendment to a Motion which has been moved without notice either under this Rule or under Rule 14.*

Order VIII, Rule 6(1) states that an Order of the Day is a Bill or other matter which the House has ordered to be taken into consideration on a particular day. An earlier day cannot be substituted for the day so appointed.

Mr. Speaker, I submitted a Motion and it was slated for Notice which is covered by the Sections I have just read. From the Notice Paper, the Motion was slated to come up today. By the provisions of Order VIII, Rules 8 and 6(1), I want to sincerely urge the hon. Speaker and honourable Chamber that I should be given the opportunity to move my Motion.

The Speaker: Hon. Halims Agoda, I have been notified of this development by the Chairman of Rules and Business Committee. I understand that we have a Supplementary Order Paper which is going to be distributed any moment from now which includes what you are making the point about. So, you shall be allowed to take it today.

The Speaker: Dear Colleagues, as I earlier said, the next Business of the Day is Presentation of the Report of the Committee on Federal Character on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act No. 34 of 1996 to include Certain Provisions necessary to ensure greater efficiency in the Performance and Exercise of the Duties and Functions of the Commission and Provide for other Matters Relating Thereto, 2009.

This is standing in the name of Hon. Abdulwahab Isa. Members would recall that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Thursday, 17th January, 2008.

Hon. Isa is invited to present the Report.

Hon. Abdulwahab Isa (Ilorin East/Ilorin South): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that this House do

receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Character on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act No. 34 of 1996 to include Certain Provisions necessary to ensure greater efficiency in the Performance and Exercise of the Duties and Functions of the Commission and Provide for other Matters Relating Thereto, 2009.

Hon. Samuel Whesu Sejoro: (Badagry): I rise to second the Motion as moved by Hon. Abdulwahab Isa.

Question put and agreed to.

Petition laid.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Non-Payment of the Salaries and Allowances of the Staff of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited: Its Disastrous Effects on Innocent Nigerians

The Speaker: The First Order of the Day is a Motion on the Non-Payment of the Salaries and Allowances of the Staff of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and its Disastrous Effects on Innocent Nigerians, standing in the name of Hon. Paul O. Eze.

Hon. Eze is invited to move his Motion, please.

Hon. Patrick A Ikhariale (Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: Hon. Patrick Ikhariale, which Point of Order?

Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale: Mr. Speaker, my Point of Order is Order IX, Rule 6, on page 35 of our Standing Orders dealing with Dilatory Motion.

The Motion that the House is about to consider, to all intents and purposes, has been taken care of by the Federal Government. I have gone through the contents and the Prayers of the Motion. If you listened to Network News yesterday and even in today's Dailies the subject matter that is epitomised in this Motion has been taken care of because the issue borders essentially on the Salaries and Allowances of the workers in those institutions.

The Federal Government yesterday give a directive in line with the Motion we are about to discuss now. Therefore, it will amount to wasting the time of the House. I take into consideration and cognizance that at

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the time that the Motion possibly was filed, this action had not taken place.

The Speaker: Can any Member authenticate that?

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any such development. This is because there has not been any communication between me and the Hon. Minister or the Ministry at all. With due respect to my Colleague, I would like to read Order IX, Rules 6 of our Standing Orders that Hon. Patrick Ikhariale cited. It states:

It shall be out of Order to attempt to consider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive Motion for rescission.

This Rule is irrelevant to this issue.

The Speaker: Before I rule on that, Hon. Shagari, let us hear Hon. Shehu Matazu.

Hon. Shehu Garba Matazu (Matazu/Musawa): Mr. Speaker, I want to confirm what my Hon. Colleague had said. This matter has been taken care of. In yesterday's Federal Executive Council meeting, monies were approved and the Minister in charge of that Ministry was directed to pay this money immediately. It was also relayed on the Network News. Even this morning I watched the 7.00 a.m. News (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, Hon. Matazu has the Floor.

Hon. Shehu Garba Matazu: Hon. Colleagues, I listened to the Network News yesterday and this morning. I also listened to Radio Nigeria Network News at 7.00 a.m. This issue has been confirmed beyond reasonable doubt. Therefore, it is unnecessary for us to waste the time of this House to deliberate on this issue. I rest my case.

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, I have always said that we should not ultimately rely on information that we read in the newspapers. Therefore, I would direct the Chairman of the Committee on Steel to, please, authenticate officially the actions taken by the Executive Arm of the Government and report back to the House.

However, until that is done, the House would give the Floor to Hon. Eze.

Hon. Paul Okwudili Eze (Igbo Etiti/Uzo-Uwani): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Motion is on Non-Payment of Salaries and Allowances of the Staff of

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Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and its Disastrous Effects on Innocent Nigerians.

This House:

Notes that salaries and allowances of the Staff of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited have not been paid for a long period of time;

Aware that over ₦3 billion has been provided in the 2009 Supplementary Budget passed recently to settle the arrears but payment is yet to be effected despite the release of the money to the relevant Ministry. I was reliably informed that money was released since August this year.

Worried that the members of staff are finding it extremely difficult to feed and sustain their families;

Disturbed that the said members of Staff now resort to harassing innocent Nigerians who ply the Federal Highway that traverses Ajaokuta to Lokoja in Kogi State;

Further disturbed that safety of lives and properties and economic activities are being threatened by this ugly development;

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the relevant Ministry and Agencies to act without delay and pay the salaries and allowances of the suffering workers;
- (ii) Mandate the Joint Committee on Steel and Labour, Employment and Productivity to investigate the cause or cause(s) of non-payment of the salaries and allowances to the affected workers and report back to the House within two weeks.

Hon. Ihiabe Samson Positive (Dekina/Bassa): I rise to second the Motion as ably moved by my Colleague.

Question put and negatived.

Hon. Ita Enang: I seek the leave of Mr. Speaker and the indulgence of my Colleagues that we now go into the Supplementary Order Paper which we have just circulated before we go to the originating Order Paper. We will take the Motion and the Bill on it before we go to the next Bill on the originating Order Paper.

Hon. John Halims O. Agoda (Ethiophe East/Ethiophe West): Mr. Speaker, let me thank the Chairman of Rules and Business who has been working very hard. I have

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seen the Motion that is written here but I want to take permission to read fully the text of the Motion Paper that I have given out so that my Colleagues can fully appreciate my nationalistic views that I have on the Motion.

Several Hon. Members: No. (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: Hon. Halims Agoda, in view of the rules of the House, the Committee on Rules and Business has done its own aspect of the job and, therefore, we are constrained to limit ourselves to what is in the Papers as submitted by the Rules and Business Committee.

However, you are allowed to include in your debate all those relevant points that in your opinion have been omitted by the Rules and Business Committee which will give us the nationalistic posture in which you intend to debate. Otherwise, you have the option of withdrawing this Motion today and compel the Committee on Rules and Business to present an Order Paper which will be fully inclusive of what you desire; but we cannot move outside what is on the Order Paper today.

Therefore, Hon. Halims, you have the Floor.

Hon. Halims Agoda: Mr. Speaker, we learn everyday and whatever precedence we lay here we are all aware that we have Houses of Assembly lower than this. It will be painful that if one has taken his time to draft what he intended to achieve and he submits it to the Committee on Rules and Business, it will be altered by the Committee. I do not think that they have the power to reduce or alter it; it is the entire House that should do so. They should bring my rubbish that I have given to them and let the House decide whether it is rubbish or not.

If we lay precedence here today because of me, it will also be binding on the entire House. We lay precedence for tomorrow. I reject the summary of my Motion in its entirety and if the House is of the view that I should take another day for the Rules and Business to bring my Motion in full, I have no choice.

The Speaker: The decision is yours Hon. Halims.

Hon. Halims Agoda: No, I have no choice otherwise. I wanted a situation where the House should listen to what I have given to the Rules and Business.

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, this is a very simple thing to sort out. Hon. Halims Agoda, are you choosing to have exactly what you submitted to the Rules and Business Committee so that we can take this on the next Plenary date? Is that what you want?

Hon. Halims Agoda: I have no choice; I will do so because I want my paper to be presented.

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Hon. Shuaibu H. Abdullahi (Awe/Doma/Keana):
Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

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

Hon. Shuaibu Abdullahi: Mr. Speaker, my Point of Order is Order VIII, Rule 9 of our Standing Orders which deals with Motions and Amendments. It is on page 29.

When a Motion is presented, Rule 9(3) states that *the Speaker shall cause such notices of Motions to be numbered and published in the "Schedule of Notices of Motions" and assigned to the relevant Committees not later than seven days after the publication in the Schedule.*

Rule 9(4) says that *the Committee shall examine the substance of all Motions referred to it and if approved for presentation to the House shall forward its recommendations to the Rules and Business Committee for scheduling.*

Therefore, there is nothing in our Rules that says that if a Member submits a Motion it must be brought to the House in its entirety. We are required to submit it to Standing Committees for vetting and for approval before it is scheduled for presentation. So, I do not think that any Member can insist that what he presented must be put there.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi (Ningi/Warji): We are dealing with a matter that is very crucial. It is imperative for all of us to understand the role of the Rules and Business Committee. If any Member brings a Motion before the Rules and Business Committee, that Committee has no powers whatsoever to change a word in that Motion. (*Interruptions*)

The Rules and Business Committee is not a regulatory Committee. If this tradition is changed it therefore means that we are laying precedence and there has always been precedence. I have never seen a Motion brought before Rules and Business Committee that has been changed. I have a full 5-page Motion as brought by Hon. Halims Agoda and all that the Business and Rules Committee did was to take one side of the Motion from the 5-page Motion. It is very unfair, immoral and unethical.

The Rules and Business Committee is not a regulatory Committee. It is the entire House that will allow his Prayers and recommendations, not the Committee. What the Committee is doing is rejecting some of the Prayers without Members hearing it. The Members of the House must be allowed to hear him in

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completely and that is the substance of the Motion. If not, then we would all sit and allow the Rules and Business Committee to draft Motions and Bills for us.

That is the intendment of Members bringing Motions and Bills. The Rules and Business Committee has only its own idea. The Chairman of the Committee is only one person; he cannot provide my ideas. I should be allowed to sell my ideas to my Colleagues. If they accept or reject it, so be it. *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, please, sheath your swords. I am forced to rule on the Order brought by Hon. Abdullahi. We need to just calm down a little bit.

Hon. Halims Agoda, Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Business and the Members of the Committee, please, sit together today and come out with something that we would all agree to take on the Floor of House the next day. That is my ruling on that.

If you have a Point of Order, I sincerely hope that it has nothing to do with what I have ruled on.

Hon Emmanuel Deeyah (Gokana/Khana): I want to draw the attention of the House to Order VIII, Rule (5) of our Standing Orders at page 26. It says:

By the indulgence of the House and the leave of the Speaker, a Member may make a Personal Explanation although there be no question before the House but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the explanation. The terms of the proposed statement shall be submitted in extensor to the Speaker when his leave to make it is sought.

The Speaker: Hon. Deeyah, please, you have not submitted anything.

Hon Emmanuel Deeyah: Can I explain?

The Speaker: You cannot because it says you must submit. Can you approach the Chair please?

Hon Emmanuel Deeyah: It is all right, Sir.

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, these Orders are meant to guide us.

National Office of Government Performance, Audit and Accountability (Establishment) Bill, 2008

A Bill for an Act to make Provisions for the Creation of the National Office of Government Performance, Audit and Accountability and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 -

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Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The Next Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to make Provisions for the Creation of the National Office of Government Performance, Audit and Accountability and for Matters Connected Therewith. Members would recall that the Bill was read for the First Time on Wednesday, 23rd July, 2008.

Since I am the Sponsor of this Bill, I will step down for the Deputy Speaker to preside.

(The Speaker accordingly stepped down)

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the second Order of the Day is the Commencement of debate on the general principle of a Bill for an Act to make Provisions for the Creation of the National Office of Government Performance, Audit and Accountability and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008. Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read for the First Time on Wednesday, 23rd July, 2008.

I now invite Hon. Dimeji Bankole to move for the Second Reading of this Bill.

Hon. Dimeji Bankole (Abeokuta South): Mr. Speaker - *(Interruption)*

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Deputy Speaker: Hold on, Hon. Dimeji Bankole. A Member is raising a Point of Order.

The Deputy Speaker: What Point of Order, Hon. Shagari?

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: It is Order IV, Rule 2 of our Standing Orders on page 7. I read: *A Member may only speak from the seat allotted to him.* Hon. Bankole is not speaking from his seat.

The Deputy Speaker: What Hon. Shagari is trying to say is that I am not sitting on my seat. Yes, that is what it means. That is his seat.

Hon. Shagari, you are ruled out of Order.

Hon. Dimeji Bankole: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the protection.

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Before I move for the Bill to be read the Second Time, I must inform the House of my observation on the consequences that the name of a former Member, Hon Salik has been included here. Perhaps I believe Hon. Mohammed Salik was a Member of the House when this Bill was read the First Time and that explains the situation.

May I, please, move for the debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to make provisions for the Creation of the National Office of Government Performance, Audit and Accountability and for Matters Connected Therewith.

Hon. Waziri Aminu Tambuwal (Kebbe/Tambuwal): I do second the Motion as moved by Hon. Dimeji Bankole.

Question proposed.

Hon. Dimeji Bankole: Mr. Speaker, hon. Members, this Office, which is also going to be known as Government Accountability Office is meant to be an independent, non-partisan Agency that works specifically for the National Assembly. It is meant to be the National Assembly watchdog, so to speak. The Office seeks to investigate exactly how the Federal Government spends Nigeria's Revenue.

The mission of the organisation is to support the National Assembly in meeting its constitutional responsibility and to help improve the performance and ensure the accountability of the Federal Government for the benefit of the Nigerian people.

The office will provide the National Assembly with timely information that is objective, fact-based, non-partisan, non-ideological, fair and ultimately valid. This office is to support the National Assembly's oversight functions by auditing agencies and determining whether or not Federal funds are being efficiently and effectively used. This in itself will give backing to the works of the Public Accounts Committee of the House.

The office is also meant to investigate allegations of illegal and improper activities. For example, this House has been known for the landmark achievements on recovery of unspent funds and funds that have to do with revenue remittance. If such an organisation existed in the first place this abnormality and illegal activities would have been observed earlier on and information passed to the Public Accounts Committee or the relevant Committee of the House to attend to before we get to the critical stage that we found ourselves in the last couple of years. Of course, it would also make us to take into account those functions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

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The office is also meant to report on how well government programmes and polices are meeting their objective. For example, the President sent the medium term expenditure framework to the House which is supposed to be over three years to five years. Government policies and objectives are set within this profile and it is broken down to years, quarters of the year, months and weeks. When government policies and objectives are not being met at an early stage within the month or a quarter such an organisation would gives us information and will begin to make and take corrective measures before they get out of hand.

So if we have a plan of five years in the medium term expenditure profile that can be rolled up to 2020 to give us what we intend to achieve as a nation, when those targets are not being met at an early age before disaster strikes, this kind of organisation will inform us so that we can take corrective measures on them.

This organisation is also supposed to show performing policy analysis and outline options for National Assembly consideration. As I said, if those targets are not being met, this organisation will give us alternative options to tackle whatever problems that may arise. You are all aware that most ministries, departments and agencies sometimes give those figures that only come from them. If we do not have an alternative organisation to give us figures to compare with what we were given, we may be forced to take their figures which may not give us the accurate situation of performance in budget implementation and the rest of them.

This office is also to advise the National Assembly and heads of Executive agencies about ways to make government more efficient, effective, ethical, equitable and responsive. It is also meant to issue legal positions and opinions such as bids protest rulings and reports on agency rule. For example, the Public Procurement Office; we have different companies who write petitions on so many activities that are going on in there with reference to bids which they submitted but which was changed by some individuals or alleged changes by some individuals. Such actions will be taken immediately by this Agency and forwarded to the House to advise us on how to take the necessary actions.

The job of the organisation also leads to laws and Acts that improve government operations and by so doing save government and taxpayers billions of Naira. I understand an Hon. Member from Delta State brought a Bill which passed Second Reading on those laws that commit Ministries, Agencies who collects funds on behalf of the Federal Government and not remit to the Federation Account. Such a Bill was meant to stop such activities so that we can properly appropriate and include such funds in the National Planning of the nation. If such

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an organisation exists, such a Bill would have been brought to the forefront years ago before we discovered the calamity that is going on as far as un-remitted fund is concerned.

In conclusion, the Head of this organisation is appointed to a 15-year term by the President of the Federation based on only those nominations from the National Assembly.

My dear Colleagues, I plead with you that you support this Bill to pass Second Reading so that it will give support to the work of the National Assembly on government accountability.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru (Bebeji/Kiru): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker! I am referring to Order XII, Rule 2 of our Standing Orders on page 46. The Order reads as follows:

Any member who wishes to move a Motion for leave to bring in Bill shall give notice of provisions proposed to be embodied in the Bill to the Clerk, who shall cause them to be published in the Official Gazette or House journal and shall send a copy of the first of such issues to every member.

I do not think hon. Members will be in a position to debate this Bill because what I have before me is a sheet of paper titled *Information on Speaker's Bill, Office of the Government Accountability* and nothing more. Besides, it does not state the details of the Bill. So it is like members do not know exactly what is contained in the Bill. This is all I have. Beyond this, I do not have anything. So, I am not in a position to debate the issue.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ubale Kiru, the paper you are holding is an additional work that was done from the Office of the Speaker. The Bill was gazetted and circulated in 2008.

Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru: I do not have a copy, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Normally when Bills are gazetted and circulated, they are posted into our pigeonholes. Members are holding their own. Maybe the person who is responsible for picking your documents from your pigeonhole has not picked this one or he has thrown it somewhere.

Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru: Mr. Speaker, I personally pack mails in my box daily and I have not seen this Bill.

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The Deputy Speaker: Maybe in the course of putting them together you missed that one. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Farouk M. Lawan (Shanono/Bagwai): Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that this is one of the most important pieces of legislation that this National Assembly would be passing. In the last ten years most of the key constitutional responsibilities of this National Assembly and the State Assemblies have been hampered by our inability to obtain authentic, independent and correct information on some of the most important responsibilities that we have been constitutionally assigned to discharge.

The most fundamental responsibility of any Parliament anywhere in the world is the control or management of the funds on behalf of the people. It is our responsibility as a Parliament to hold in trust on behalf of the Nigerian people the funds that are available for the improvement of the quality of lives of Nigerians.

In the last ten years, we have, in several instances, not been able to fully utilise or discharge our constitutional responsibility simply because of absence of an independent body that can provide us with the expert data and information that we require to discharge our responsibility.

Our Democracy is modelled along that of the United States of America and we are aware that even though the US Congress has been there for more than two hundred years but that Congress essentially relies on two key offices to discharge its responsibilities; the Legislative Budget Office, that is, the Congressional Budget Office as well as Accountability Office. Therefore, it is important that while we have been working on the establishment of National Assembly Legislative Budget and Research Office that will complement the establishment of that office by equally establishing the Government Accountability Office. What does the Government Accountability Office tends to do for us? It is this office that would independently provide us with the data that we require to discharge our oversight responsibilities.

I recall that over the years, we have always had problems in getting proper data and my Colleague Chairman of Finance will confirm and I recall when I was the Chairman of the Committee on Finance for the period that I was there, anytime you seek for details of Revenue from the relevant government agencies, you will never get figures that will agree from the various government agencies. The Federal Inland Revenue Service will give you different figures, NNPC will give you different figures, Federal Ministry of Finance will give you different figures, the Budget Office of the Federation will give you different figures, the CBN will give you different figures, the Office of the Accountant General of

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the Federation will give you different figures and the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission will give you different figures. What that means is that sometimes these figures are given deliberately to confuse us so that we fail to adequately and properly discharge our responsibilities.

Now with an office like this, we would no longer be relying on executive agencies to provide us with this information. We would rely on an independent body that is made of experts and that will conduct the research and give us information that we can use as tools to discharge our responsibilities. I believe that we must do this for the purpose of facilitating our own work and for the purpose of discharging that responsibility which we swore to discharge to the Nigerian people.

Hon. Jerimon S. Manwe (Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola): Mr. Speaker, I concur with what Hon. Farouk Lawan has just said. The effectiveness of any legislature depends on access to information. You cannot function well even in your oversight function unless you have detailed information about the place you are over-sighting and that has always been our problem.

If we have an organisation like this, it will serve as catalyst in providing data and information for effective performance of our legislative function.

The only thing I am quarrelling with is the Tenure of the Chairman of the Board. I will suggest that instead of fifteen years; let it be reduced to ten. This Bill is worth supporting and I do not think we need too much time on debating. Therefore, I demand that we put the question to get the Bill in order.

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu (Alkalari/Kirfi): My modest contribution in supporting the passage of this Bill is based on some of the highlights of the Bill to the extent that its non-partisanship means that it will be objective. To an extent that it will be investigative means we will have a reliable data base on all the finances of the government at our fingertips. To an extent that it will have policy analysis, it will assist us in quickly getting enough leverage to bolster our different Bills, Motions and oversight functions. The fact that it also has some legal input into it makes it easy for any of the Congressmen and the Senators here to quickly and efficiently do our jobs.

To that extent, I urge my Colleagues to assist in understanding the content and the input into the development of this Bill so that it becomes a law in this country and this particular agency is put in place quickly.

However, I have two problems which I would want the proponent of this Bill to clarify so that it will enrich

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and make it a sturdy one. We would want to see the detailed structure of the entire organisation. Secondly, we would want to know the cost of this. That will give us the confidence that it can come to stay. Otherwise, if it is bogus and the cost is overwhelming, it means it will compete with other government agencies over scarce resources and it may not be able to hold waters. To this extent, I support the Bill to go further and to ensure that we realise this Agency.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba (Gboko/Tarka): Mr. Speaker, why it is necessary to pass this Bill is that we still have to look at some clauses that may conflict with some existing laws and the Constitution.

Section 3(8) which deals with the powers of the Commission talks about establishing an accounting standard for the Federal Government. We know that in this Chamber this session, we passed the financial report which has been charged with the responsibility of setting the standard financial reporting for both the government and the private sector. When we come to details we will look at that.

The Bill also seeks to have the audit of federal programs and activities. That has been the constitutional duty given to the Auditor General of the Federation; we also have to look at the details of that.

Section 3(9) further states that the Commission will conduct, supervise and coordinate relationship between Federal, States and Local Government Agencies. Under the Constitution we cannot make laws for the State or Local Government except for the Area Councils in the FCT; that has also been decided by a court of law.

The Bill also seeks government administration at all levels, prevention and detection of fraud. That has been taken care of under the ICPC and the EFCC. These are some of the areas that we will be looking at when we are considering details of the Bill.

Under Powers of the Commission, Section 3(11), the Bill talks about a Joint Committee of Integrity and Efficiency. That Committee presently does not exist in the National Assembly and will be created. I thought that some of these Committees must have been created before this Bill will come into effect.

Also Section 4 under Powers of the Commission, it says: *The Commission deals on matters on environment and environmental impact of Federal Government's operations.* There is an agency of government that deals with the issues of environmental impact.

The Bills also seeks to protect civil liberties and constitutional rights of Nigerians. I know that we have

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the National Human Right Commission that deals with issues of human liberties of our people.

While I will quickly recommend that the House pass the Bill for Second Reading, when we come to the consideration of the Bill, since we do not have much time to go through the Bill, we would take it Clause by Clause and those Sections that conflict with the existing law or the Constitution, we will surely expunge them.

Hon. Ike Chinwo (Obio/Akpor): Let me commend Hon. Dimeji Bankole and the co-Sponsors of this Bill. We are practicing democracy and we all know that democracy is the best form of government because it engenders development to all nooks and crannies of any policy that is in question.

I do know too that democracy and indeed advanced democracies of the world have made progress because they have taken the issue of good governance seriously. Some of us have said in this country that we can only make progress under our democratic dispensation if we separate politics from governance.

What this Bill seeks to achieve is a step in that direction, that is, setting up institutions that would enhance the quality of our governance. If we do that we would have the much cherished dividends of democracy that our people are talking about.

For instance, since 1999 till date, we have stayed in this Chamber and appropriated so much money. The last case of the Power investigation is a case in point where so much money was expended yet there was not much to show for it. We have started again; this morning I was reading in the papers that over US\$4 billion have also been expended currently in the quest of achieving efficient Power supply. If we do not have consistent monitoring, consistent oversight, scrutinising where funds are taken to and how they have been utilised, I am sure that we would not achieve the end product.

Yesterday, we were told that the Federal Executive Council had considered and approved the document for Vision 20-2020. By the end of this year we would be talking about 2010 Appropriation; we should also begin to address our developmental quest in that direction. I am also of the opinion that until we establish institutions that will aid us in over-sighting these agencies and parastatals that are saddled with the responsibilities of achieving the much desired development; we would not go so far.

I want to urge our Colleagues that this Office of Accountability seeks to enrich our governance profile and if we pass it, it will help us greatly. Therefore, I urge all Members to, please, pass this Bill and let us go for the Second Reading.

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Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah (Gokana/Khana): Mr. Speaker, indeed, today is one of those days that I feel so good as a Member of Parliament because what is before us here is something that will not just to institutionalise the practice of democracy but it will also strengthen us. We came from different backgrounds into this institution, agencies as this nature if established will make the job here easier for us. When we are going into oversight, the accounting details and all of that should not be our business; this office will take the raw data, analyse it and put it before us in a very simple form so that our job will be very easy.

Fifteen years suggested there is lengthy; I would like it to be ten years as has been said earlier. I would pray that when this Bill is eventually passed, it would not be like the normal ordinary Nigerian institutions where, when people have been put in place, they see more of themselves than the institution and the country.

The interest of members or individuals should be diminished while we talk more of the institution and the nation. I do not want us to waste much time on this because the details of all these and other inputs would be made at the relevant stages. Today, we are only talking about the merits and the demerits and it is a question that demands everybody to stand behind it and let it go.

Hon. Danlami Hamza (Fagge): Let me start by expressing my happiness that such a Bill is seeing the light of the day. From the very first time we came to this House, this is one of the Bills that we proposed but for whatever reason it never came to light. I can see some of my older Colleagues shaking their heads.

When we went to the US, this office apparently proved to be the key to the success of the Congress. It is called the Congressional Budget Office. It is not meant to run our budget here. Whatever name Mr. Speaker chooses to call it, it should get our full support. Congratulations, Hon. Dimeji Bankole; temporary Floor Member.

Candidly, this Bill should be given enough teeth. It is good enough for the Congress to have such an office but if it does not have the teeth to force government departments to make necessary submissions of true certified copies of all expenditure and all policy proposals, we will not get the kind of service we are looking for.

So I wholeheartedly once again congratulate Mr. Speaker and I am sure we have very little time to waste on this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ubale, I do not know what information you have now to contribute to this Bill

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because you said you have not seen the details of the Bill. So, what have you deduced from what other Members have said?

Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru (Bebeji/Kiru): The basic principles, aims and objectives for which the office is going to be established are quite in order. They are timely and in line with the cardinal principles of the system of checks and balances that a democratic system is supposed to ensure. It is on this ground that I believe this Bill deserves the support of hon. Members.

Secondly, I do believe that much of what we do in our oversight activities will be assisted by the National Office of Government Performance and so on because a lot of it has to do with the Appropriation Act. There, we try to go through a number of things. If we could get basic data from this office even before we set out to go on our oversight functions, I am sure such data will go a long way to assist us to do our oversight responsibilities very well.

However, I want to observe that when it comes to the technicalities of the Bill, there are issues that would need to be addressed at the Committee level and I suggest that at that level we should be able to raise some of these issues and get them properly settled.

On this note, I support that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. Speaker, since we are discussing the general principles of this very important Bill, I want to point out some fundamental issues that I hope will be useful to whichever Committee this Bill is referred. (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the Minority Leader wants to raise some fundamental issues. Can you, please, listen?

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Hon. Tsegba has started touching on some of the fundamental issues that I want to address which is that whichever Committee that is going to look into the nitty-gritty of this Bill should take into cognisance these Constitutional matters. This Constitution is the grundnorm of all laws. As stated in Section 1(3) of the Constitution, any law that conflicts with any provision of the Constitution is null and void to the extent of the inconsistency.

Therefore, the intent of this Bill is very important and as National Assembly, we need an Office that will always provide us with the necessary tools that will enable us carry out our job as National Assembly Members effectively. For example, we always go on oversight function, which is our constitutional

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responsibility, but we go on that oversight duty empty-handed. We do not have adequate information.

Therefore, having an office that will do thorough research and get us information adequately on the performance of government, audit and accountability as such is very important for us to be able to achieve our constitutional role.

However, that job that we do or the person that we give that assignment to or the office must do it within the provisions of the Constitution. That is why I am suggesting the change of the title of the Bill to read: *National Assembly Office for Research on Government Performance, Audit and Accountability*.

On the Congressional Budget Office that my Hon. Colleague mentioned and the National Office on Accountability, if you look at the Constitution of the USA, which we are trying to copy, it has paved way for such performance to be effectively carried out. But here we have a little block. Therefore, we should find a way of going around that law and that is the provision in Section 1(3) of our Constitution.

For instance, auditing job is clearly the constitutional role of the Auditor-General of the Federation and the Public Account Committee in this House. That is not enough for us to have information and the necessary tools that we need to carry out our constitutional role particularly that of oversight. By the time the budget is brought to the National Assembly, for example, we do not have details as to how far the budget has truly been implemented because this information that we get are normally provided by the Ministry itself, which is likely to be biased.

So, if we have an office that is independent as the content of this Bill has spelt out, it will assist this House not only in performing its duties but the National Assembly generally. However, those areas that are likely to conflict or contravene the Constitution should be adequately taken care of at the Committee level so that we will come out with this law that is very important and necessary and it should be timely.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila (Surulere I): Mr. Speaker, I totally support this Bill. This Bill is not only welcome, it is long overdue. What it has done, as some speakers have said here, is that it has actually merged a lot of functions of what is otherwise known as Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office. It is actually a welcome development because in recent times we have had issues where, for instance, the Central Bank in injecting monies without approval has been in dispute. We have had issues and we are about to have issues regarding deregulation. These are areas where if we have experts who are independent and not partisan,

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they will actually be able to advise and we would be well-equipped to carry out this constitutional responsibility which we are obliged to perform. However, the language and the words in the bullet points presented by Mr. Speaker are very telling.

It talks about accountability and congressional watchdog. It becomes obvious that this body is supposed to work for the National Assembly and, therefore, for the people who we represent. That is the function of democracy but we have to get it right because within that function of democracy, we have the separation of powers and checks and balances and that is the only way this body can function properly if it is truly independent.

How can it be truly independent? I find it difficult within the Nigerian context to see how this body can discharge, without fear or favour, its responsibility towards the people and the National Assembly if one provision is not looked into. The provision to be looked into is the one that gives Mr. President the power to appoint the Chairman or the Head of this organisation. If truly this body is meant to be independent and work properly, where are the principle of checks and balances? It does not matter that the National Assembly is the one nominating members. The bottom-line is that the appointment of the head of that body or whoever is nominated owes his nomination and appointment to the grace of Mr. President.

The National Assembly does not appoint anybody for Mr. President and, therefore, I do not think Mr. President will appoint anybody for the National Assembly. This is my only reservation. Other than that, I believe this Bill is in order and all the provisions should be looked into at the Committee level.

Hon. Emeka Nkem Ihedioha: Mr. Speaker, from the first two speakers to the one that just spoke before me, everybody appreciates the need for the setting up of the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

I was privileged to be part of this House Delegation that accompanied the Hon. Speaker to the Congress of the United States of America where we had an opportunity to appreciate the desire for the Government's Accountability Office. As has been highlighted by Hon. Dimeji Bankole in his earlier presentation what this Bill seeks to do is to work in harmony side by side with the National Assembly.

It will assist the House in achieving its noble objectives. It is not going to be subordinated to either the Executive or the Legislature. It is supposed to be a watch-dog that will enhance corrective mechanisms in the system.

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Hon. Dimeji Bankole stated *ab initio* with the progress we have made so far in the House and the difficulties which our various House Committees encounter in getting some information from the Executive. This office would indeed help us to get such information at our fingertips.

There are issues that have been raised by some of my Colleagues making reference to some issues in the Constitution. When we get into the details and, of course, this will be done at the Committee levels, every Member has a responsibility and a right to throw in more light as he so wishes and desires and, of course, if there are conflicts with the Constitution, it is only normal that those conflicts are sorted out.

I would urge that our Members, from the support this Bill had gotten, are wonderful and because we aspire to grow our democracy in line with the democracy of the United States that we should all support the Bill to pass the Second Reading. At the Second Reading, if there are *t's* to be crossed and *i's* to be dotted, we should be able to do it.

I support the Bill and urge my Colleagues to pass it through Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. Ordinarily I am supposed to put the Question now but because we have not heard from the other side I will now allow Hon. Abike Dabiri to contribute on the Bill.

Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa (Ikorodu): Mr. Speaker, without wasting much time, I support the Bill in its entirety but as I go into the details there are some points that should be noted - the relationship with the States as stated in the Bill.

Secondly, the Bill precludes some people from certain appointments. For example, a retired military officer cannot head the Defence Department and things like that. Most importantly, information is very vital in this Bill. This Bill will rely on information; without information it is not going to succeed. That is why the Bill will work very well if we have the Freedom of Information Bill in place. Otherwise, this Bill may not be very effective.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Dimeji Bankole, you have the Floor.

Hon. Dimeji Bankole (Abeokuta South): If you look at page number C.2003 you will see item 26 there which refers to avoiding some duplication and I read:

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In carrying out the duties and responsibilities established under this Act, the Controller General may, if deem fit, give particular regard to the activities of the Office of the

Auditor General with a view towards avoiding undue duplication and ensuring effective coordination and cooperation.

This solves one of the problems that were raised earlier on but by the time it gets to the Committee Stage it would be referred to.

It is important I make mention of it particularly the challenge we have in government today which has to do with the implementation of budget and measuring the performance of government. Today, few of the things that are in the front burner of our country as we said is budget implementation and the serious issue of the Niger Delta.

As I am talking to you over ₦500 billion of Capital funds that have been approved by the Federal Executive Council for contracts to be awarded by Ministries have not been awarded and those monies are been kept in CBN today. If such an organisation existed we would not allow such funds to pile up and budget would have been implemented and we would be able to force the Civil Service of Nigeria to make sure that they perform their constitutional duty.

With reference to the Niger Delta, I must say that with the establishment of the Niger Delta Ministry last year the government of the day established this Ministry in support of solving the problems of Niger Delta. About ₦49 to ₦50 billion has been released – *(Interruptions)*

The Deputy Speaker: Fifty-nine billion Dollars was proposed.

Hon. Dimeji Bankole: Fifty-nine billion Dollars was proposed and I believe a lot more than that was approved by this National Assembly but till today, with all due respect to the Minister in charge of the Niger Delta Ministry who are of Niger Delta extraction, no single contract has been awarded to solve the problem of the Niger Delta areas. If such an organisation existed, we would have checked on this earlier on in the year and we would have solved that problem.

The Deputy Speaker: To place this on record, let me say that a Ministry has been established with two Ministers and budgetary allocation given to that Ministry. For over a year not a single project has been awarded in that Ministry. The Money allocated to this Ministry is lying in the Central Bank. I do not believe they impress

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the President by so doing. Mr. President wants the job to be executed, not just keeping the money.

I will now put the Question for the Second Reading of the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Joint Committee on Public Accounts, Justice and Public Service.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Commercial Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Reform the Law Relating to Commercial Arbitration and Conciliation, 2009 (HB. 285)

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The Third Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to reform the law relating to Commercial Arbitration and Conciliation, 2009.

Bill with the leave of the House stood down.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Finance on Chartered Institute of Accountants of Nigeria Act, 1965 (Amendment) Bill, 2008

The Deputy Speaker: Is Hon. John Enoch, Chairman, Committee on Finance here? *(No response)* He has been directed to represent the Speaker at an occasion.

Bill with the leave of the House stood down.

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

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Chairman, Committee on Banking and Finance, I would like to meet with you on the issue of NDIC so that you will give me the details of your findings before we continue with the consideration of the Report next week.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): It is all right, Sir.

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Consideration of Report, with the leave of the House, stood down.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deputy Speaker: With that we have exhausted what we have on the Order Paper. I call on the Leader to move for Adjournment but before doing so I have an announcement from Hon. Gbenga Makanjuola, Chairman, Committee on Agriculture. It reads:

The following hon. Members should, please, meet with Hon. Gbenga Makanjuola, Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture, immediately after Sitting.

- (1) Hon. Chima Ugo Innocent - Ebonyi State
- (2) Hon. Jibo Muhammed - Niger State
- (3) Hon. Agoro Lanre Adeniran - Oyo State
- (4) Hon. Bitrus Bulus Kaze - Plateau State
- (5) Hon. Sa'ad M.C. Tahir - Adamawa State
- (6) Hon. Sabo Usman Ibrahim - Bauchi State
- (7) Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu - Delta State

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(Signed)
Hon. Gbenga Makanjuola

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): I rise to move that this House do adjourn till Tuesday, 20th October 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Shehu Garba Matazu (Matazu/Musawa): I do sincerely second the Motion that this House do adjourn until Tuesday, 20th October, 2009 as ably moved by the Acting Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Tuesday 20th October, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.06 p.m.