

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Wednesday 16th December 2009

The House met at 2.20 p.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Good morning, hon. Members. I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 15th December 2009.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

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

Alleged Wrongful Dismissal by WEMA Bank Plc

Hon. Kayode Idowu (Odo-Otin/Ifedayo/Boripe): Mr. Speaker I have a Petition from Mr. Balorinwa Kamilu Adewale, one of my constituents, believed to have been wrongly dismissed from office. He is pleading with this House that he should be reinstated on the basis of the facts presented here.

If I have the authority of Mr. Speaker, may I lay the Petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Go ahead.

(Petition laid)

The Speaker: Is there any other Petition please?
(No response)

The Petition is referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

(Petition accordingly referred to the Committee on Public Petitions)

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The Level of Accident along Lokoja-Abuja Road

Hon. Umar Buba Jibrin (Lokoja/Kogi): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker. This Point of Order is predicated on Order VIII, Rule 4 of our Standing Orders dealing with Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

The Speaker: Did you discuss the matter with me?

Hon. Umar Buba Jibrin: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Could you approach the Chair, please.

(Hon. Umar Buba Jibrin accordingly approached the Chair)

Hon. Umar Buba Jibrin: Mr. Speaker, I seek the permission of the House to consider this as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance because time is not on our side.

The Speaker: Can you tell us the matter?

Hon. Umar Buba Jibrin: The matter is about the level of accident along Lokoja-Abuja Road and the urgent need for FERMA and the Federal Road Safety Commission to redress the issues in order to reduce the alarming rate of accident on that road particularly now that we are in the festive period.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the matter concerning the alarming rate of accident along Lokoja-Abuja Road as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance to be taken on the next Legislative Day.

ANNOUNCEMENT

**Additional Responsibilities for the
House Chief Whip and Minority Whip**

The Speaker: Before we move to the next order of the day, I would like to make this announcement.

Hon. Members are to take note that the Chief Whip and the Minority Whip are to undertake the following additional responsibilities forthwith:

- (i) They shall be responsible for the welfare of Hon. Members;
- (ii) They shall ensure Chamber comfort and discipline.
- (iii) They shall recommend Members of the Majority Party and Minority Parties to the Presiding Officers for official international and national engagements; and
- (iv) They shall supervise House Committees on Ethics and Privileges, Internal Security and House Services.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Need for the Federal Government to Take Over and Complete the Construction of Zik Centre, Zungeru

The Speaker: The first Order of the Day is a Motion on the need for the Federal Government to take over and complete the construction of Zik Centre, Zungeru, Niger State standing in the name of Hon. Bala Kuta and 17 others.

Hon. Kuta, you are invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Bala Adamu Kuta (Shiroro/Rafi Munyan): Mr. Speaker, with your kind permission, I move that the House:

Notes that in 1980, the Federal Government and some individuals initiated an Institution at Zungeru, the birthplace of late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe to be known as ZIK MEMORIAL CENTRE;

Further notes that the late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe will always be remembered and respected by all Nigerians and indeed Africans as a leader;

Aware that Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe was a patriotic politician, an intellectual icon, an appreciable Statesman and a great nationalist;

Further aware that the objective was not only to immortalise the name of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe but also to appreciate, study and emulate our great past political leaders;

Cognizant that during the foundation laying ceremony, the late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe himself was physically present and pleaded that the project be completed to serve its purpose;

Worried that the construction of this great and magnificent edifice of political research and learning has been abandoned half way and the structure has now turned out to be an abode for reptiles and hoodlums.

Resolves to:

- (i) Recognise immense contributions of late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe to the development and progress of Nigeria, urge the Federal Government to takeover and complete the project in pursuance of the ideals of the great leader;

- (ii) Rename the centre, ZIK CENTRE FOR GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATIVE STUDIES when completed as one time President of the Senate.

Hon. Ado Dogo Audu (Jemaa/Sanga): I rise to second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Bala Adamu Kuta.

Hon. Bala Adamu Kuta: In my appeal for this House to support this Motion on the need for the Federal Government to takeover and complete the construction of Zik Centre at Zungeru, it is necessary to point out that the project was initiated by some patriotic and prominent Nigerians. That is to say that it was a non-governmental project but it has not been able to see the light of day due to financial constraints.

That project was headed by the then Dr. Sunday Awoniyi but due to financial constraints, this project has not been completed up till now and it has been lying down despite all the beauty of the initiation.

The purpose of this project is to serve as an institution for political research and learning and it was sited at the birthplace of late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe at Zungeru in Niger State.

As we are all aware, late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe was a patriotic politician, an intellectual symbol, an appreciable Statesman and a great nationalist. He was a leader who would continue to be remembered not only in Nigeria but the whole of Africa. However, with the intention of our leaders and the initiators, this project, as I said earlier, was abandoned halfway.

During the foundation laying ceremony in which late Azikiwe was physically present, he pleaded that the project be completed so that it would serve the intended purpose which was not only to immortalise the name of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe but to also appreciate, study and emulate our past great political leaders.

It is my humble prayers that in recognition of his immense contribution to the development and progress of Nigeria, the Federal Government should take over the project and complete it in pursuance of the ideals of this great leader. The project should when completed be renamed as Zik Centre for Legislative Studies.

The Speaker: Is any hon. Member against this Motion. *(No response)*

I will now put the question on the Motion.

Main Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in 1980, the Federal Government and some individuals initiated an Institution at Zungeru, the birthplace of late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe to be known as ZIK MEMORIAL CENTRE;

Further noted that the late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe would always be remembered and respected by all Nigerians and indeed Africans as a leader;

Aware that Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe was a patriotic politician, an intellectual icon, an appreciable Statesman and a great nationalist;

Further aware that the objective was not only to immortalise the name of Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe but also to appreciate, study and emulate our great past political leaders;

Cognizant that during the foundation laying ceremony, the late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe himself was physically present and pleaded that the project be completed to serve its purpose;

Worried that the construction of this great and magnificent edifice of political research and learning had been abandoned halfway and the structure had now turned out to be an abode for reptiles and hoodlums.

Resolved to:

- (i) Recognise immense contributions of late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe to the development and progress of Nigeria, urge the Federal Government to takeover and complete the project in pursuance of the ideals of the great leader;
- (ii) Rename the centre, ZIK CENTRE FOR GOVERNANCE AND LEGISLATIVE STUDIES when completed as one time President of the Senate.

West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and the National Examinations Council (NECO) Failure Rates and their Impact in Nigeria's Educational Future

The Speaker: The second Order of the Day is a Motion on West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and the National Examinations Council (NECO) Failure Rates and their Impact in Nigeria's

Educational Future standing in the name of Hon. Umaru Kurfi and seventeen others.

Hon. Kurfi please proceed.

Hon. Umaru Ibrahim Kurfi (Dutsinma/Kurfi):
The House:

Notes the significance of Education in the development of Nigeria;

Further notes the increasing failure rates in both West African Examinations (WAEC) and National Examinations Council (NECO), each year as admitted by some officials of the Examination Bodies;

Aware that the 2009 West African Examinations Council (WAEC) results released by its National Head Office indicates that only 356,981 out of 1,373,009 candidates representing 25.99 *per cent* obtained five (5) credits including English and Mathematics;

Worried that the statistics reveal a failure rate of 75 *per cent* in the case of West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and a similar percentage in National Examinations Council (NECO);

Disturbed that this ugly trend in the nation's most important sector is capable of preventing the realisation of Vision 20-20-20, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 7-Point Agenda if adequate, realistic and sincere measures are not taken;

Further disturbed by the very weak administrative mechanisms in the nation's educational regulatory authorities and the consequences which had resulted in mass failure in these examinations;

Resolves to:

- (i) *urge* the House to set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the cause(s) of such ridiculous mass failure in WAEC and NECO examinations and recommend appropriate measures to be taken against such an ugly trend and report to the House within one month;
- (ii) *further urge* the Hon. Minister of Education to inform the House on the level of provision of Information Communications Technology (ICT), Instructional Materials, facilities and other necessary equipment to the nation's unity schools.

I so move.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North/South East): I rise to second this very important Motion as moved by Hon. Kurfi.

Hon. Umaru Kurfi: We are all parents, leaders, members of this House and students of Nigeria. We are constitutionally empowered to respond to the recent and unfortunate WAEC and NECO failure rates affecting most of our students. The failure is massive, ridiculous and, therefore, intolerable.

We cannot imagine a situation where out of 1,400,000 candidates that sat for the examination only 356 candidates passed these examinations. Therefore, we must address this problem. We cannot allow this failure rate to continue because it is very ridiculous, unfortunate and it is affecting everybody.

We cannot fold our arms, close our eyes or keep mute on this sad state of affairs which is affecting our children because they are the leaders of tomorrow.

I want this House to look at this Motion and take a very drastic action in order to resolve this problem finally. I equally want us to understand that without this basic education we are all in trouble. This issue is affecting every one of us here.

Hon. Isah Idris Umaru (Igabi): I stand to support this very important Motion because as the mover of the Motion has said the education of our children is indeed the future of Nigeria. The mass failure as it is requires a thorough investigation to see whether or not the educational system itself is faulty and it has to be corrected for our children to have adequate and responsive education.

As it is, the mass failure cannot be ascertained whether the structure of examination itself is wrong or the system of education with regard to what our children acquire is actually far below the standard that they can pass this examination. It requires thorough investigations as the Motion has said and I concur and urge my Colleagues to support it in order that we can unravel the causes of mass failure in our educational sector this year.

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno (Monguno/Marte /Nganzai): I align myself with the submissions made by the mover of the Motion and the subsequent speaker and adopt the same as mine.

Let me add that no society can afford to toy with the education of its citizenry. As rightly pointed out,

the mass failure in the performance of our pupils in WAEC and other examinations is a replica of the decay in our educational system and as such it behoves on us as Parliament and representatives of the people to start asking questions, investigate and then find out the root causes of this mass failure in these two main examinations.

The education of our children should not be toyed with because they are the future leaders of this country. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to jealously guard and protect their education so that we will have well trained and educated leaders that will inherit us.

Hon. Beni Lar (Langtang North/Langtang South): I am very happy with this Motion and I commend the sponsor for bringing it to the Floor of this House. This is an issue, which this House should have addressed a long time ago but it is still not too late.

It is interesting to note that barely 26 *per cent* of those students who write the WAEC and NECO examinations pass. It amazes me that the curriculum has not changed. It is still the same curriculum that even some of us seated in this Chamber have probably used that is still being used today. Unfortunately, we have seen that a percentage of those who are able to pass an examination of this nature have dropped. That tells me that the educational system is not functioning the way it should and that something somewhere is wrong and it should be corrected.

I recall very vividly that in my state (Plateau State), the teachers have been on strike for a period of four to five months this year, if not more; these are primary school teachers. If the students do not have well-motivated teachers how do you expect them to perform well in their examinations?

Constant strikes, decay in the system, irregular payment of teachers' salaries, demand for implementation of Teachers Salaries Scale and many other issues that teachers grapple with are affecting these students adversely. That it is one of the key things we must look at.

I recommend that the Committee on Education should make it a yearly duty to check the results of public examinations and report to the House on the failure rate of students who sit for WAEC and NECO examinations.

The Speaker: Hon. Umaru Kurfi, do you have the data State-by-State?

Hon. Umaru Ibrahim Kurfi: Yes, I have it.

The Speaker: Do you have it here with you?

Hon. Umaru Ibrahim Kurfi: No, Sir.

The Speaker: Can you possibly get it across to me because I want to have the date e State by State so that members from those constituencies will know that these things are happening.

Hon. Kurfi: I will try and get it for you, Sir.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): We all know the importance of this Motion and you have almost stepped into what I want to emphasise and that is strengthening this particular Motion. This is one of the fundamental things that we really need to take a look at and address because a society that is not well educated is a society that is exposed to all sorts of criminality, bad temptations.

I want to state further that if you take a look at the 26 *per cent* that passed, you will discover that majority of them are coming from the private schools, that is, those that sat from the private schools. It means that the failure rate is more in public schools, which unfortunately again are more in number compared to the private schools that we have in our society. That equally means that it is the poor or those that cannot afford sending their children to private schools in this country today that do send their wards to public schools. Unless this House or the country takes a drastic step as quickly as possible to stem this tide, what it inevitably means is that the gap between the poor and the well-to-do is further expanded and it continues. Consequently, the animosity, criminality and all those bad vices in the society will continue to increase. A country that does not take its education very seriously is a country that is doomed to fail.

As the mover of the Motion said, the three programmes that this government is always emphasising on, that is, Vision 20-20-20, MDGs and the 7-Point Agenda cannot be achieved if serious attention is not given to education.

I therefore urge my Colleagues to strongly support this Motion and if possible even strengthen the Motion by way of looking at possible amendments.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East /South East): There is a saying that examination is a true test of knowledge. I believe that based on the Motion before us we have every cause to be worried as to the direction we are going as far as the education sector is concerned. We also know that without education, a

country's desire to attain any development whatsoever is something that is imaginary.

We have just been told that the standard of education in Nigeria has fallen and the WAEC result that we have is an indicator of the extent that we have fallen as far as education is concerned.

The mover of this Motion is indeed a very patriotic Nigerian and that he has shown by drawing the attention of the people's Parliament to this direction. It is for us to take the gullet from where he has stopped and that is to ensure that we do something positive in this direction. The failure to do this will amount to admitting that all of us are not able to carry ourselves to the direction that we should go as far as education is concerned.

I feel that we should even call for the Executive to declare an emergency status in the education sector so that something very serious is done to address the issue at hand. That calls to mind the need for us to take a second look at the composition of the Executive Council. It is only fair and proper that we put a round peg in a round hole.

With the way the standard of education has fallen, we require somebody who will be able to take proper action based on what we are saying. I dare say that we should consider people like Professor Dora Akunyili who has been able to perform anywhere she is placed by bringing them to rescue us. People like her that are known to be performers wherever they are sent to rescue us in disaster areas.

In summary what I am saying is that at the stage that we are we need somebody who has what it takes to help us because we are in an emergency level as far as education is concerned in this country.

The Speaker: Can a Member of the Education Committee take the Floor, please?

Hon. Samson Osagie (Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode): This Motion could not have come at a better time and as a member of the Committee on Education, the issues raised are not beyond the knowledge of the Education Committee of this honourable House.

In fact, it is on a daily basis that one has to grapple with the challenges faced by the decaying educational structure but I want to say that the level of education we are talking about is the level of education we are talking about is the level of education that is on the Concurrent Legislative List, that is, Secondary and

Primary Education. In this case the responsibility for a viral educational system that would guarantee merit and excellence at the secondary level is a shared responsibility between the Federal, the States and the Local Government.

It is therefore imperative that there will be a synergy of policies on the educational sector in that particular front. For example, the UBE law that was passed which was subsequently domesticated by so many States have not been properly utilised to guarantee the necessary free and compulsory education at that level of government. If we are to measure the performance and impact of that Bill today you will agree with me that a lot is still left to be desired. Many States cannot access the funds provided under the UBE for the purpose of ensuring that there is free and compulsory education at both primary and junior secondary school levels.

This is the foundation that secondary school students must build upon in order for them to be able to excel in their final examinations. Imagine if the requirements that are needed at the foundation are not given it become worrisome. As at the last count over seventeen States have not been able to access the UBE funds for the past five years. What is responsible for this? It is either due to bureaucratic bottlenecks or the inability of such States to meet their counterpart funding so as to access the Federal counterpart funding.

These are all the problems besetting that particular level of Government. It is not the laws that have been made; it is the implementation of these laws by the various tiers and organs of government responsible for implementing sound education policies that have been encapsulated into various legislations that have been made. It is therefore our collective responsibility that we find a way to unwind some of these bottlenecks that are militating against access to funds and provision of basic educational and instructional materials for our primary and junior secondary schools levels so that public schools can meet up with the standard the private schools are using and that makes private schools graduates do better than their counterparts in public schools.

Hon. Ita Enang: In educational system, it is garbage-in garbage-out. I want us to approach a solution to this problem from the point of view of the quality of teachers. This is because the quality of teachers that teach these children and the motivation that we give to these teachers at that level is crucial to the productivity.

I am aware that most of the private schools in some cases do not pay as much as the public schools pay to teachers but again the quality of teachers is another issue entirely. I want to say that we have left out the training of teachers in the educational system. We just allow people to come from secondary schools; we just give them about one year in training. It is not the kind of training that some of us had as teachers. I want to plead that we should reintroduce the five years training that we used to give teachers. From primary school you get into teachers training for five years and you pass out and perhaps you go to the university to be trained for five years as a teacher and that would improve the quality.

I was trained for five years as a teacher. Thereafter, I proceeded to the university.

The Speaker: Hon. Ita Enang, you were trained for five years as a teacher before you went to University?

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: Hon. Ita Enang, when did you finish at the Law School? What age were you?

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, I went from Primary School to Teachers Training College; Teacher Training College was my secondary school.

That was a good time when teachers were trained for a long time. From the first year at the Teacher Training College, you are given all the principles of education. We should think of reintroducing that kind of system.

As regards funding, much of the funding goes to building of schools. When you go to most States, the greatest investment that is made in education is renovation of the Primary Schools; not much is given to the school pupils, their training and the ICT facilities. Much of what is given in the education sector is only for the purpose of providing contract for the businessmen and not the real interest of the child. I am very sorry about it but I am being honest that if you look at what is invested in education, about 80 *per cent* is devoted to providing physical structure.

I want us to do real orientation on what we give to the real child. Otherwise the quality will still go down.

Hon. Abike Dabriri Erewa (Ikorodu): I want to say that statistic of this year's result actually should not be too surprising. It has been happening over the years. Why we are having this low statistics is because NECO

and WAEC actually worked at reducing examination cheats.

The results everywhere have been alarming. It is that we have had a lot of cheating in NECO and WEAC examinations where candidates cheat and scored more than five credits in the examination but the fellows in NECO and WEAC did a great job this year and ensured that that reduced; that is one.

Secondly, our fallen standard of education, as we have all said in this Chamber gives every one cause for concern. We are toying with our future as a nation.

We are the mothers of the nation and whatever the case, we are looking at the total breakdown in our moral values and our attitudes. I do not think we need a special Committee to do this job. I think the Committees on Education and the Women Affairs should work together and report back to this House within one month on the Motion as proposed in this Bill.

Hon. Jumoke Okoya Thomas (Lagos Island I): I commend our Colleague that brought this Motion to the Floor. What he has brought to this Floor is really scandalous.

It is very difficult for me as a mother to stand here and look at this information before me that our children are really failing. The future of our children in the public schools is being tampered with. It is common knowledge that some of the proprietors of private schools opened these schools for the purpose of making profit. I really feel very sorry for most of the children in the public schools. Once they get back from schools, we have what we call the Child Right Act which is under implementation and I believe if it is well implemented and an Agency is set up to look into the problems of these children, then they would be monitored so that they will not be roaming the streets when they should be reading after school.

When we were abroad, there are certain times of the day that you hardly see children on the streets but in Nigeria once they get back home, their parents will put trays on their heads to start selling to feed the family just because of the problems starring us in Nigeria today We should go back to the drawing board so that we can take care of the future of these children.

As Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa said, it is not the future of the children alone but the future of the country because they are going to be leaders of tomorrow. Unfortunately they are not getting the good

education that they deserve; it is an opportunity for them and they must be allowed.

I support the Motion and all the prayers therein.

Hon. Betty Apiafi (Ahoada East/Abua/Odual): I rise to support the Motion as moved by my Colleague. As most of the speakers have said, there is so much we have to do in the Education Sector starting with the Nigerian Curriculum, which needs to be updated. The teaching method needs to be more hands on and teachers need to know how to mark examinations.

If there is a Marking Scheme for WAEC and the Teachers do not know what is expected, the students will not know what to write in the examinations. There seems to be a disconnect between what the teachers in the classrooms are doing and what the examiners are doing and that has to be corrected.

A lot of infrastructure is being developed in the Education sector in terms of classrooms, books and the manpower which is a big issue. There is need for our teachers to know what is current.

Up till today, WAEC does not offer Information and Communication Technology. They are still offering courses in Typewriting and Shorthand which are really of no use to anybody; ICT can solve those problems.

There is a need for a revamp of the curricula of all the schools. WAEC is an examination that is written all over West Africa and if our students are not well prepared as is the case with other West African countries, there is really nothing we can do.

It is necessary for the Committee on Education to really sit down and take a critical look at the problem. I have a lot of knowledge about Education and I would like to mention one or two things. We have an Education Research Institute. I have personally gone there and discussed with them on the need to upgrade the curriculum of the Education sector and focus more attention to the training of teachers.

The Speaker: We will take Amendments now.

Hon. Mustapha Ahmed (Bauchi): This is an excellent Motion but I would like to make an Amendment to the effect that instead of mandating an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the matter let it be the Committee on Education with power to co-opt any Member that has vast knowledge in Education.

Hon. Okechukwu Ude (Orumba North/South): Actually, I submitted an Amendment along the same line. Therefore, I beg to second this Amendment.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Hon. Beni Lar: My Amendment is that the Committee on Education should make a yearly review of the rate of failure and report back to the House on that.

Hon. Nimota O. Suleiman (Ilorin West/Asa): I do second the Amendment ably moved by Hon. Beni Lar.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/Esan South East): My Amendment is on Prayer (ii) which is urging the Hon. Minister of Education to inform the House on the level of provision of Information Communication Technology (ICT), Instructional Materials, facilities and other necessary equipment to the nation's unity schools.

The Speaker: Hon. Friday Itulah, this Motion is seeking for an investigation. Obviously, that will be part of it.

Hon. Friday Itulah: That is what I am saying. There is no need for the second one. It is already implied in Prayer (i). Therefore, it should be deleted.

Hon. Bala Bantex (Kaura): I second the Amendment ably moved by Hon. Friday Itulah.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Speaker: The last Amendment is from Hon. Ita Enang.

Hon. Ita Enang: I rise to move an Amendment that we re-introduce the dedicated Teacher Training Programme for the teachers in this country.

Hon. Nnenna Ijeoma E. Ukeje (Bende): I do second the Amendment ably moved by Hon. Ita Enang.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Motion as amended put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the significance of Education in the development of Nigeria;

Further noted the increasing failure rates in both West African Examinations (WAEC) and National Examinations Council (NECO), each year as admitted by some officials of the Examination Bodies;

Aware that the 2009 West African Examinations Council (WAEC) results released by its National Head Office indicates that only 356,981 out of 1,373,009 candidates representing 25.99 per cent obtained five (5) credits including English and Mathematics;

Worried that the statistics reveal a failure rate of 75 per cent in the case of West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and a similar percentage in National Examinations Council (NECO);

Disturbed that this ugly trend in the nation's most important sector was capable of preventing the realisation of Vision 20-20-20, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 7-Point Agenda if adequate, realistic and sincere measures are not taken;

Further disturbed by the very weak administrative mechanisms in the nation's educational regulatory authorities and the consequences which had resulted in mass failure in these examinations;

Resolves to:

- (i) *urge the House to set up an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the cause(s) of such ridiculous mass failure in WAEC and NECO examinations and recommend appropriate measures to be taken against such an ugly trend and report to the House within one month;*
- (ii) *Further urge the Hon. Minister of Education to inform the House on the level of provision of Information Communications Technology (ICT), Instructional Materials, facilities and other necessary equipment to the nation's unity schools.*

(The Speaker departed)

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria for the purpose of

efficiently resolving the Non-Performing Loan Assets of Banks in Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2009 (HB.348) -

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The third Order of the Day is the consideration of a Bill for an Act to Establish the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria for the purpose of efficiently resolving the Non-Performing Loan Assets of Banks in Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2009 (HB.348). Hon. Members would recall that the Bill was read for the First Time on Thursday, 10th December, 2009.

I now invite Hon. Tunde Akogun to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila (Surulere I): Point of Order Mr. Speaker!

The Deputy Speaker: What Point of Order?

Procedure on Bills

Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila: It is Order XII, Rule 1 of our Standing Orders at page 46 dealing with Procedure on Bills. It says:

Notice of presentation of a Government Bill shall be given by publication of the provisions proposed to be embodied in such Bill in an issue of the Official Gazette or House Journal of which a copy shall have been sent to every Member.

I believe this is a very important Bill. I do not believe that we have copies of this Bill and if we do it might have been circulated yesterday or this morning. Members have not been given enough time to study such an important Bill so as to be well informed and contribute from an informed angle on the debate of this Bill.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko Edo): I am not very sure that what Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila said is very correct because I have a copy of the publication of this Bill here with me and I guess my Colleagues have read through it.

Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila (Surulere I): I have no doubt that the Leader has a copy of the Bill as he is expected to but I do not know that Members have a copy and if they do the time when they received the copy is important. Members should be given enough notice to study the Bill.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie): The Chairman Committee on Rules and Business confirmed that it was circulated yesterday and the remaining Bills are being circulated this morning.

I think most of us have copies.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Gbajabiamila, you are ruled out of Order.

Leader, please move your Motion.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria for the purpose of efficiently resolving the Non-Performing Loan Assets of Banks in Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2009 be read a Second Time.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by the Leader that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria for the purpose of efficiently resolving the Non-Performing Loan Assets of Banks in Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2009 be read a Second Time.

Question proposed.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: The Asset Management Corporation Bill is a product of wide consultations amongst such institutional stakeholders as PENCOM, SEC, NDIC and CBN and it seeks to consolidate the primary system stability achieved so far in the wake of the recent banking crisis in the country.

The Bill is essentially proposed to statutorily empower a financial institution to acquire non-performing assets in the banking industry.

The establishment of the Asset Management Corporation (AMC) would enhance liquidity, profitability and properly position banks for credit provision to real sector.

The corporation would indeed play a critical role to the restoration of waning confidence in the banking industry. The concept of resolution mechanism for troubled financial institutions is a tested and highly recommended global best practice for efficient management of eligible and non-performing bank assets.

The Asset Management Corporation is anticipated by the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation Act as a vehicle through which non-performing assets would be

acquired thus its establishment provides a level playing field for all banks with bad assets to dispose of these assets in a sustainable manner. This, in effect, facilitates immediate loan recovery and enhances business operations.

It should be pointed out also that the Asset Management Corporation is expected to be financed through Ministry of Finance guaranteed bonds to the public. This is a creative approach at using the market mechanism to recover investors' confidence in the financial sector, thus having no significant effects on the National Budget.

About 60 *per cent* of the stocks in the Capital Market are banking stocks. While this is unwholesome for the market, the establishment of the AMC would play a critical role in shoring up the current lull in the market which is due to the bank crisis. This would ultimately attract the listing of other major stocks like telecommunications, energy and so on to restructure the percentage of sectoral stock distribution on the Capital Market.

The AMC is proposed to have a compact administrative structure with seasoned experts. It dispenses with heavy bureaucracy thereby making for efficient acquisition on management of non-performing and eligible assets of banks. The Bill is a significant legislative monetary approach to resolving the distress in the financial services industry.

I therefore, call on my hon. Colleagues to support this Bill as a matter of national importance.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, I speak in support of this Bill. I had opposed some measures that were proposed in the past to bail out the Stock Market but this is one of the measures which are reasonable in intent and the concept as proposed in the Bill is laudable.

Every country that runs into any economic crisis or problem normally creates a special purpose vehicle for exiting from such problem and the Asset Management Corporation proposed by this Bill is the special purpose vehicle designed by the Government for the purpose of getting Nigeria and Nigerians in particular who had invested in assets, which assets have become toxic and cannot be realised to come out of it.

I will make specific reference to Clause 5 of the Bill which provides for the object of the Corporation and one of the objects of the Corporation is to assist eligible financial institutions to efficiently dispose of eligible bank assets in accordance with the provisions

of this Bill and efficiently manage and dispose of eligible bank assets acquired by the Corporation. It is intended by the provisions of this Bill to create the Asset Management Corporation to acquire assets of banks and other institutions which the owners or mortgagees of these assets have not been able to realise the value of it or sell, own it, warehouse it and then sell it for the purpose of realising money and by so doing tackling some of the problems besetting some of these financial institutions.

I commend my Colleagues and pray that given the simple nature of this Bill and the fact that we will hear the public on it that we do allow this Bill to be read the Second Time.

Hon. Igochukwu Aguma (Port Harcourt I): I am so happy that this Bill is coming up today. It is probably by sheer divine providence that indeed we are a responsive National Assembly especially House of Representatives. Only yesterday during the round table of the Economic Summit, this was in fact the first question that was asked.

We learn from experience and the economy grows from the wealth of our knowledge. I know that indeed this is the first time we are trying to do this. Let us consider the principle and circumstance that led to our responding to that circumstance with this Bill which is the recent happening in the banking sector.

I must say that the realisable income from the disposal of these assets would be floated as bonds and other convertible securities. We do not pray for it; if peradventure a thing like this happens again, we may not need to print more money to respond to it because we would have already grown in assets to be able to respond to such a situation.

One singular problem that has arisen from this is the idea that the Government is going to use taxpayer's money to buy these toxic assets but they are going to buy these assets in exchange for the health of the banks and in exchange for the deposits of the investors and the depositors in those banks. However, in turn these assets would be resold and some of them would be converted to securities.

We know that the Government bond is the most attractive security in the market today. All banks and most Pension Funds are buying Government bonds today because they are more durable and more secure. That means the Government has credibility.

We will go to the public hearing and the Committee stage and come out with a higher quality

than this if need be but the idea and principle behind the Bill is germane and we should support it.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Joint Committees on Banking and Currency, Capital Market and Finance.

The Deputy Speaker: I believe Hon. Igochukwu Aguma has captured everything. The Federal Government is not to lose any money. In turn when these shares are recovered, the tendency is that the Federal Government or whoever invested in that is making a profit.

We have seen in the dailies how banks have posted provisional bad debts to the tune of over ₦300 billion and in some cases ₦400 billion. To rescue the economy we need to do something urgent. That is why I believe this Bill was forwarded to the National Assembly and I want to believe that if this Bill is passed into law it would help the economy and the banking industry will recover.

Annual State of the Nation Address Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Enshrine an Annual State of the Nation Address in the Laws of the Federation and Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2009 –

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The fourth Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Enshrine an Annual State of the Nation Address in the Laws of the Federation and Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2009. Hon. Members would note that the Bill had been passed by the Senate and it now requires the concurrence of the House. The Bill was read for the First Time on Tuesday, 28th July, 2009.

I now invite the Leader, Hon. Tunde Akogun to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill for an act to enshrine an Annual State of the Nation Address in the Laws of the Federation and Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2009 be read a Second Time.

Hon. Shehu Baba Agaie: Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion as moved by the House Leader.

Question proposed.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: As Mr. Speaker said, this is a Senate Bill transmitted to this honourable House for concurrence. It is a very short Bill and it states that the State of the Nation Address which the Bill seeks to enact into Law is without prejudice to the annual exercise of Mr. President when he presents the Annual Budget at Joint Session of the two Chambers.

This Bill, therefore, only seeks to get Mr. President to address a Joint Session of the two Chambers of Nigerian's Parliament in the National Assembly and to address and speak to very important issues like National Security, the Economy, Foreign Affairs and Social Justice.

I know that we all expect to be briefed in detail about the policies of the Nigerian Government as they affect the grassroots people whom we are representing. This State of the Nation Address which is more or less a global practice should be enacted into law so that every year, Mr. President comes to let us know the state of the nation.

As I said, this Bill is for concurrence but I believe that at the Committee of Whole when we are addressing the Bill, if there are any issue that we want added we will have a chance to do so. But for now, I urge my Colleagues that they should please support this Bill for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The Leader has said that this is a Bill from the Senate and it is just for concurrence and we would look into the Bill when we are considering it Clause by Clause. So, if you have anything to add to what he has said, you can go ahead.

Hon. Abike Dabiri Erewa (Ikorodu): Mr. Speaker, as you said, we will wait for the Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill but I believe that we should all support this Bill because it is about letting Nigerians know the state of the nation. I believe it is important to have a law backing this and it will actually help in deepening this democracy.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): It is important that I bring to the notice of the House that a Bill of this nature had been sponsored by this House and two weeks ago, we concluded Public Hearing in respect of this Bill. What we are waiting for is the Report that is coming out from the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

So, I would appeal that instead of us taking only a holistic look at this particular Bill, let us try and look at the possibility of marrying that Bill with the Bill that was actually moved from this Chamber of the House so that we do not end up having double functions in our hands.

Hon. Betty O. Apiafi (Ahoada East/Abua/Odual): I agree with my Colleague, Hon. Leo Ogor on the issue of merging the two Bills because we have one of such Bills emanating from this House. Unfortunately, the vexed issue of where we have to sit for the State of Nation address is still there; we have to resolve it. It is either we have to sit together or we do not have to. The President can always address the nation on radio or television on the state of nation.

Hon. John Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/West): The Bill under consideration before this honourable House is in line with Section 67(1) of the 1999 Constitution. Under this Section if I may read by your permission, the Marginal Note says: *Rights of Attendance of Mr. President.*

The President may attend any joint Meeting of the National Assembly or any meeting of either House of the National Assembly, either to deliver an address on national affairs, including fiscal measures, or to make such statement on the policy of government as he considers to be of national importance.

The Bill is in consonance with this copious Section of the 1999 Constitution. My worry is that there is a Supreme Court decision which I do not have immediately now which says that once the Constitution makes copious provisions the letters are very clear that the Parliament need not make laws relating to that issue as it is even though I have not seen the details of the law that we are about discussing.

However, we are playing our role as law making body and we are trying to give meaning to this very Section of the Constitution, which may spell out the conditionalities; when and how the President should go about this important national assignment. Also, the calendar as the case maybe should now be in the public domain and the nation will know that at such material time, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will come under the Joint Sitting of the two Chambers to address the state of the nation on critical issues of either fiscal policy or foreign directive and the position of government to the people of this great country.

As one of my Colleagues said, perhaps we will also define the venue as the need arises because it is a naughty issue that has to be resolved in the Bill itself so

that the President in his capacity will not have a problem of complying with this constitutional requirement.

Finally, we are doing our legitimate legislative responsibility as spelt out in this Section.

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia (Jibia/Kaita): Mr. Speaker, the government must only talk to the people from whom it derives its powers. We should not just sit down and look forward to having free flow of information. Whenever an issue affecting the government is raised, we just react to information or certain comments from the general public. We need to go beyond annual or periodical statements from channels of government. The government must actually talk to the people at an appropriate time.

A democratic government is not a closed system; it is an open system. Therefore, we need to open up government with proactive releases of information, not just mere reaction or comments to issues.

When we institutionalise where the government will approach the country before a Parliament, that would be much more appropriate and the government will be seen to be sensible and reactive to the yearnings and aspirations of the people.

Hon. Chile Igbawua (Kwande/Ushongo): I rise to speak in support of this Bill requiring that the President addresses the nation on the state of the nation.

I agree with the submissions made by my Colleagues who had earlier spoken. As I look at the Bill, it does appear to me that whereas Section 67 of the Constitution makes a provision, which is discretionary, the Bill we seek to pass appears to make that duty mandatory on the President.

I was wondering if the removal of this constitutional provision from a discretionary one to a mandatory provision will not amount to Constitution amendment. That is the area we need to look at as we proceed with this Bill. In the end, it may amount to an amendment to that Section 67 of the Constitution, where we will now make that address mandatory on the President. That being the case we need to speedily refer the Bill to the Committee on Constitution Amendment so that it can be carried along. This is because I see some lacuna in removing a matter from a discretionary provision to a provision, which sounds mandatory in character.

Hon. Aminu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): This is a very straight forward Bill in the sense that it seeks to

make it mandatory for Mr. President to address the nation annually on issues of national security, economy, foreign affairs, and social justice etc.

It will help us in eliminating double standards. By this, I mean that it will eliminate instances where the government says one thing and does another thing. It will also help in checking the partial implementation of the Appropriation Act.

We should support this Bill because of the issues I have raised so far.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

**Nigerian Agency for Foreign Assistance
(Establishment) Bill, 2009**

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Agency for Foreign Assistance and for Related Matters, 2009 (HB.253) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The fifth Order of the day is the commencement of debate on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Agency for Foreign Assistance and for Related Matters, 2009, Hon. Members would note that the Bill had been passed by the Senate and it now requires the concurrence by the House. The Bill was read the First Time on Tuesday 21st July, 2009.

I now invite Hon. Tunde Akogun to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: This Bill is not ready, please. So I seek that it be stood down.

Bill with the leave of the House stood down.

**National Order of Precedence of Public Officers
(Establishment) Bill, 2009**

A Bill for an Act to Establish a National Order of Precedence of Public Officers and Other Persons in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2009 (HB.249) -

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The sixth Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Order of Precedence of Public Officers and Other Persons in the

Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2009. Hon. Members would recall that the Bill had been passed by the Senate and it now requires concurrence by the House. The Bill was read the First Time on Thursday 16th July, 2009.

I now invite Hon. Tunde Akogun to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): I have seen the title of the Bill. It is not an Amendment Bill; it is a fresh Bill because I know this Chamber had at one time passed this Order of Precedence Bill. So why are we saying concurring when we have passed the same Bill long ago and the title is not saying amendment. We should be properly guided, please.

Hon. Ita Enang: I think this is one of those Bills that were sponsored by late Senator Chuba Okadigbo and it went through a process but it was not assented to because when you look at the Laws of the Federation up till 2009 it is not there.

This is why it was re-introduced in the Senate and passed and now forwarded to us for concurrence but if we have doubt about it I pray that we stand it down so that we can bring a written position of the history of the Bill in the House and in the Senate on the matter. We will also bring copies and the forwarding letters to the President because it is one of those Bills that lapsed by effluxion of time.

On the other hand, we may also think of passing it and fix a date when we will commit it to a Committee. Nevertheless, this information can still be raised depending on what the House wants to do, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: I think the right thing to do is to stand the Bill down and find out what the position is now regarding the one that was passed in the first House and report back to the House tomorrow.

If, in the course of your investigation, you discover that it was not assented to, then you can put it on the Order Paper tomorrow but if you discover that it was assented to, there is no need bringing it up again. You just report to the House that there was a Bill that was signed and is now an Act of the National Assembly.

Hon. Ita Enang: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Bill with the leave of the House stood down.

**Federal Roads Maintenance Agency Act, 2007
(Amendment) Bill, 2009**

A Bill for Act to amend the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (Amendment) Act, 2007 and for Other Matters, 2009 (HB.293) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The seventh Order of the Day is the commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for Act to amend the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (Amendment) Act, 2007 and for Other Matters, 2009. Hon. Members would recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Thursday 16th July, 2009.

I now invite Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila to move that the Bill be read the Second Time. *(No response)*

In his absence I do not know whether a representative of the Minorities will move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila is on an assignment for the Hon. Speaker; it is an emergency, Sir. We are very sorry.

The Deputy Speaker: Should we stand the Bill down?

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, Sir.

Bill with the leave of the House stood down.

National Agency for Albinism and Hypo-Pigmentation (NAAH) (Establishment) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of National Agency for Albinism and Hypo-Pigmentation (NAAH), 2009 (HB. 210) -

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The eight Order of the Day is the commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of National Agency for Albinism and Hypo-Pigmentation (NAAH), 2009. Hon. Members would recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Thursday, 14th July, 2009.

I now invite Hon. Abass Braimah to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time. *(No response)*

Hon. Abass Braimah is not here. Is any co-sponsor of the Bill around?

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, Hon. Abass Braimah was fully aware of the Bill but I am sure he must have been held up in the Hearings on the Budget. Please, may the Bill be stood down, Sir?

Bill with the leave of the House stood down.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Joint Committee on Rules and Business and Justice on a Bill for the Mandatory Scrutiny and approval of Statutory Instrument by the National Assembly before it becomes enforceable

The Deputy Speaker: The next Order of the Day is consideration of Report. Hon. Ita Enang, are you ready for that?

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, I am ready for the Report.

The Deputy Speaker: Is that the only Report that is ready?

Hon. Ita Enang: Others Reports are ready, Sir.

The Speaker: How many do you have in your name?

Hon. Ita Enang: I have only one.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, do you have the copies of the Report of Hon. Ita Enang?

Some hon. Members: We have just received it now.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ita Enang, it has become inevitable that we cannot take your report because you are just circulating it now and you know that Members have to read it after which it will be listed for consideration.

Hon. Ita Enang: As the Chair pleases.

The Deputy Speaker: We will stand the report down until the next Legislative Day.

Report with the leave of the House stood down till the next Legislative Day.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I was expecting that the Harmonisation Committee on Virement will submit their Report today but I do not know whether it is ready or not.

In any case, we need to look at what they have harmonised vis-à-vis the position of the House and that of the Senate on the Virement before they can lay their Report. We have to look at the figures that they have approved for the Virement.

I believe that Committees of the House have worked tirelessly to get the results that were sent for the Conference Committee. Therefore, we cannot afford to say that the work that has been done by the House is of no importance. Therefore, if the Committee has not finished with its work, it should quickly do so and make sure that all oppositions that are in Virement should, please, if not something that has to do with Constitutional issues should still remain as the Virement figures.

So there is no Report for Virement?

Hon. Halims Agoda (Ethiophe East/Ethiophe West): I have one.

The Deputy Speaker: As far as we are concerned, Hon. Halims Agoda, we have not seen the Report of the Virement. We cannot even talk about it now. When the Report is ready, please, let us know. Is any Member of the Harmonisation Committee here? *(No response)*

I am calling on Members of the Hamonisation Committee here to, please, go and fine-tune with your Colleagues in the Senate and submit the Report to the House tomorrow.

Hon. Igochukwu N. Aguma (Port Harcourt I): I could hear the Chair say that Members of the Hamonisation Committee here should go and fine-tune with their Colleagues in the Senate.

It may please the Chair to note that the Senate has just passed this now. The only thing is for us to follow the due process and then highlight those areas we still disagree in the Conference so that we would now mandate them to go back but then we have to follow the due process.

The Deputy Speaker: The procedure is for them to present their Report before the House. Unfortunately, neither the Chairman of Appropriation Committee who is a Member of that Committee nor his Deputy who also happens to be a Member of that Committee is here to present their report. I do not know why but the Report has to be presented tomorrow and we are going to deliberate on it tomorrow.

Hon. Emeka Nkem Ihedioha (Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala): I think we have variously talked about the creditability of the institution of the House. I really feel very pained that the House mandated some Members to go and represent it in a Conference Committee with the Senate. We saw copies of this Report being distributed to us and unfortunately the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriation who happens to chair the House Committee is not here; he disregarded us. I think he would have had the simple courtesy of being here to discuss with his Colleagues and present this report to this House.

I think this House should not just overlook this and believe that our Colleagues can just come and drop reports without the courtesy of talking to their Colleagues.

If we do not take an action on this other Members might similarly treat the House with disrespect. I just feel I have to make this observation.

Hon. Leonard O. Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): Mr. Speaker, let us be guided by procedure here. First, the Report has not been presented to us. It is important that as soon as we receive this Report we may have the privilege and the opportunity of deliberating on it.

Let me appeal to my highly respected Whip that it is important that we follow a standard procedure that we have set in this House which is that a Report must first and foremost be presented to the Floor of the House before it is deliberated upon.

Tomorrow is not far off. Let us give the opportunity of presenting this Report tomorrow then we will have the privilege of discussing it. All the issues that bother on the report definitely would be aired tomorrow. I would therefore appeal to you Mr. Speaker that let all of us be patient till tomorrow and we would be able to address this issue.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ita Enang.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, there is no Virement matter before the House because the Order Paper you have has ended and you did not introduce any Supplementary Order Paper. So there is nothing that the House is discussing on Virement. Everything we have discussed cannot get into the records.

The Deputy Speaker: I believe Members are agitated because they have seen the figures.

Hon. Igochukwu Aguma: Supplement to Order Paper is here under number 81.

A member of the Conference Committee is here. Let him formally lay the Report on the Table so that it becomes easier for us to send it back to them and dispense with this matter instead of waiting on end; it would not take more than two minutes. We would just send it back to them.

Hon. Abdul Ningi (Ningi/Warji): Mr Speaker, as you have rightly stated, there is no Report before this House as far as this House is concerned.

First and foremost, where the Report is ready the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Business must capture it in the Order Paper for the Report to be laid.

Secondly, a Member is trying to move a Motion and he is distributing fliers. The Supplementary Order Paper that I have seen has already been disowned by the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business.

What needs to be done is that tomorrow, the Chairman must put it in the Order Paper so that the report can be laid. When the Report is laid, on Tuesday (if there is going to be another Tuesday), we now consider the virement.

The Deputy Speaker: Of course we hope there will be another Tuesday. I think they can lay the Report tomorrow and we can consider the Report tomorrow.

I could hear some hon. Members say they have copies of the Report but these are not copies that we can rely upon because I do not know whether they are genuine copies or not.

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir (Minjibir/Ungogo): Mr. Speaker I thought you have already ruled that there is no virement before us.

The Deputy Speaker: No, I did not rule. I can only rule by the Gavel.

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir: Yes you did; you hit the Gavel.

The Deputy Speaker: I did not hit the Gavel.

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir: I am sitting right here opposite you; you ruled that there is no virement before us.

The Deputy Speaker: But I am discussing on what we are going to do on the virement tomorrow; that is allowed. If the Report is ready tomorrow, we will consider it tomorrow. You can now hear the Gavel.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, hon. Colleagues, I move that the House do adjourn till tomorrow 17th December 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie: I rise to second the Motion moved by the Leader that this honourable House do adjourn till tomorrow 17th December 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Thursday 17th December, 2009.

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.20 p.m.