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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 22nd July, 2009

The House met at 2.25 p.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 21st July, 2009.

OATHS

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

AND

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

The Speaker: There is a new Member Elect who wishes to be sworn in; could you please come forward?

Thereupon, Member-Elect Abdullahi I. Garba (Kontagora/Wushishi)(Niger State) took and subscribed the Oaths and Affirmation required by law.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Death of Hon. Gbenga Peter Makanjuola's Mother

The Speaker: This is from Hon. Gbenga Peter Makanjuola.

With deep sense of gratitude and absolute submission to the Will of Almighty God he most humbly informs the House of the passing away of his beloved mother, Lady Evangelist (Mrs.) Emiola Makanjuola who slept in the Lord on 16th July, 2009 at the glorious age of 79 years.

Can we, please, stand up for one minute silence?
(One minute silence observed in honour of the dead)

Birthday

The Speaker: Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah is 47 years old today, Congratulation!

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITION

The Speaker: Any Member who has a Petition to present on the Floor may please rise up to do so.

Unlawful Disengagement from Duty

Hon. Earnest Ibejiako (Owerri Municipal/North/West): I have a Petition from my constituent. He was an employee of the National University Commission. He was disengaged from his duty and he is seeking for justice and equity. Without boring you with the details, may I lay this Petition for consideration?

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Petition laid.

The Speaker: Any other Petition? Please go ahead sir.

Police Brutality on Alhaji Saheed Abiola

Hon. Ganiyu Olukolu (Amuwo Odofin): I have a Petition from one of my Constituents, he is writing through his Counsel Uche Udogaraya, Festac Town, Lagos. The Complainant is Alhaji Saheed Abiola, he is complaining about gun shot wounds he received as a result of Police brutality in Lagos for the past one year. He has severally tried to get redress from Police Authorities without success. So, he has decided to come to the House of Representatives for redress. His prayer is that the House looks into his case so that he can get justice and succor. May I, on the face of this presentation, lay the copy of the Petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Please Proceed.

Petition laid

Hon. Sanni Banki Gusau against Housing Alliance Limited

Hon. Waziri Aminu Tambuwal (Kebbe/Tambuwal): I have a Petition from a former Member of this House, Hon. Sanni Banki Gusau against Housing Alliance Limited on the Contract of the purchase of a parcel of land and to which he has not been granted or given access. He has petitioned this House seeking for remedy. His prayer is that this House do intervene in this matter to ensure that he gets back what belongs to him.

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

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Petition laid.

The Speaker: Are there any other petitions? (*No response*) All Petitions are referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Rise in Nigeria's External Debt

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

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

Hon. Halims Agoda: My Point of Order is Order VIII Rule (4): *Matter of Urgent Public Importance*. I do not know whether I should read it.

The Speaker: No! Just raise your points.

Hon. Halims Agoda: Mr. Speaker, briefly put, as the keepers of the nation's treasury, we are bound to be worried. Nigeria, for quite sometime, is going back to the position of being a debtor nation.

Last night, our government signed another sum of \$100,000,000 (One Hundred Million Dollar) loan. If you open to page 9 of *This Day Newspaper* of yesterday, titled *Nigeria's External Debt rises to US\$3.6 Billion - Minister of Finance* and you translate that to the present Naira rate, it is well over ₦500,000,000,000 (Five Hundred Billion Naira).

What offends me and that had made me to say that we should look into this loan and what we have used it for, is that some Ministers who were there when it was being signed said that the loan was very small and that we were going to take more of such loans.

We have come to a time where we need to look critically at the various foreign loans that we have been taking from the World Bank and other financial institutions, realizing where we came from and how we were able to exit from our former debts. If I am allowed, by tomorrow I would present a motion that

would allow this House to analyse the role of Parliament in the taking of loan by the government, the implication of the loan, what are the legal frame work, what are these loans used for and what are the future implications for the generation of Nigerians!

I want to urge your distinguished self and this honourable House to look into this matter so that I can present it tomorrow.

The Speaker: Should this matter be considered as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance?

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Rise in Nigeria's External Debt be considered a Matter of Urgent Public Importance to be taken tomorrow.

Grave Security Situation in Anambra State

Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): I come under Order VIII Rule (4): *Matter of Urgent Public Importance*. The matter I am raising under this Order borders on the grave security situation in Anambra State.

Under every government, whether military or democratic, the primary purpose of governance is security and welfare of the people. It is the irreducible minimum obligation of government to ensure protection of lives and properties of the citizenry. For quite some months now in Anambra State, the security situation has deteriorated from alarming to grave, to the extent that today, life is no more guaranteed. Armed bandits operate in broad day light without any proportionate and appropriate solution from the security agencies in the State.

Residence and visitors to Anambra State have started losing confidence in governance. It is the responsibility of this honourable House and government to reassure them that the Federal Government and indeed all the tiers of government in this country have the capacity to maintain law and order.

If this House considers this matter as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance, I will plead with the House and the Speaker that this matter should be taken today.

Hon. Darlington Onuabuchi Okereke: (Ivo/Ohaozara/Onitsha): My point of Order... (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: No. Do you have anything to contribute to this subject?

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Hon. Darlington Onuabuchi Okereke: Yes, I have.

The Speaker: Then you can contribute, please.

Hon. Darlington Onuabuchi Okereke: Like my Colleague had rightly said, the state of insecurity of lives and properties is not only in Anambra State but in the entire South-East geopolitical zone and it is alarming. With statistics, I want to urge our Colleagues (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: You are not debating; I am only giving you the Floor because of the special condition that has to do with a Member from your State.

The Speaker: Should we consider this as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance?

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the issue of grave insecurity in Anambra State be considered a Matter of Urgent Public Importance to be taken today.

The Speaker: Could you move the Motion for it to be considered today?

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi: I do move that the House do suspend the relevant rule of the House especially Sub Rule 3 to have this matter taken today.

The Speaker: Hon. Darlington, do you want to second?

Hon. Darlington Onuabuchi Okereke: Yes, I rise to second this Motion.

The Speaker: Hon. Ozomgbachi, you may now move your Motion.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi: The House:

Notes that pursuant to Section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of governance; and at Section 11(1) the National Assembly may make laws for the Federation or any part thereof with respect to maintenance and securing of public safety and public order;

Worried that for several months now, the security situation in Anambra State has so much deteriorated to

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the level where public safety and public order is in grave danger and can no longer be guaranteed;

Alarmed by the horrific incident in recent times in which armed bandits have laid siege on major cities of Awka, Onitsha, Nnewi and environs for several hours, almost every other day, robbing banks, offices, homes, shooting and killing innocent civilians, attacking Police stations and killing some of its officers and men;

Concerned that the bravado and impunity with which these hoodlums have been carrying out their nefarious act of terror, looting and killing without appropriate and proportionate response or solution from the Nigeria Police and other security agencies is unacceptable and must be addressed decisively, in order to curtail spill over to other neighbouring States and reassure residents and visitors to Anambra State of the capability of the Federal Government to ensure the security and welfare of the people;

Resolves to mandate the Joint Committees on Police Affairs and National Security and Intelligence to meet with the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General of State Security Services to come up with immediate and appropriate extraordinary emergency measures that would guarantee public safety and order in Anambra State and report back to the House in three days.

Hon. Darlington Onuabuchi Okereke: I rise to second the Motion ably moved by my Colleague.

Question Proposed.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi: Mr. Speaker, the security situation in Anambra State has become a subject matter of national and international concern because of the magnitude and level of terror, banditry, shooting and looting in broad day light by armed gangs. They carry on with this unrestrained without any appropriate and proportionate solution by the Security Agencies and the Police.

Anambra State is under siege today. This situation has gotten out of hand that for any average Anambra man or a visitor to go to Anambra he needs a contingent, a battalion of police men. Even that does not guarantee safety for that individual because it does appear that the sight of policemen or armed security men provoke these armed gangs who are better armed than even the conventional security men to even engage the more brutal and ferocious acts of banditry.

As I said earlier, it is the irreducible minimum responsibility of the State to ensure security of lives and

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property. But in a situation where residents and visitors to Anambra State have lost confidence in the ability of the State to secure itself is dangerous for our democracy.

The reason this House should take a decisive action on this matter is not only just to secure lives and property of people of Anambra State but also to ensure that there is no spill over of what is happening in Anambra State and the neighbouring States.

Let me go into history and tell this House that initially in Anambra State, the boiling point as far as security issues was concerned was Onitsha, the commercial nerve centre of South-East State. During that period the security situation in Onitsha in the 1970s was so bad up to a point that there was popular uprising against criminal activities in Anambra State.

The popular rebellion by people against armed organised crime was carried out under what was known as *Boys Boye*. Ordinary residents, having lost confidence in the ability of the Security Agency to protect their lives and property, took to the street and carried out instant justice on every perceived and known criminals in Onitsha. After that, there was quiet in Onitsha. But some of the remnants now returned to the neighbouring communities and cities are resided there. That was the beginning or spread of armed banditry beyond the confines of Onitsha.

You will recall Mr. Speaker that in 1999 and early 2000 there was the return of that type of mass uprising by the people of Anambra State under the auspices of Bakassi. It was meant to exterminate and also remove criminal elements from Onitsha. After that, due to the fact that the Security Agencies do not follow up and consolidate on the measures of the successes achieved by these popular uprising, these criminal elements remained and have now spread all over Anambra State. Today, in Anambra State nobody is secured.

Just recently two instances readily come to mine; on the 12th of June this year, armed bandits numbering about 25 to 30 invaded Akwa the Capital of Anambra State ransacking banks, moving from office to office and sacked the Eke-Awka Market, the biggest market in the city. The city was just like a city that was under air raid. People were scampering for their safety. At the end of that operation, more than one dozen people were killed. (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: How long did the operation last?

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Hon. Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): Well, according to information from various sources it lasted for about three to four hours.

The Speaker: Four hours?

Hon. Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): Three to four hours. (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: In one town, Akwa; who is the representative from that area?

Hon Uche Ekwunife (Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia): The Representative is Hon. Emma Ucheze but he is not here (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: I know where he is; he is on an assignment. Please continue.

Hon. Ozomgbachi: Now even banks are closing shops in Akwa. They do not even ferry money into Akwa because the sight of a Bullion Van is an invitation to armed bandits to take over the city. So the security situation is too bad.

Just on Thursday last week, the Members of South-East caucus resolved that we were going to attend the burial ceremony of the father of the National Vice Chairman of PDP, Olisametu. One of our Colleagues left here on that Thursday to attend the wake-keep. At broad day light around 2:00 p.m., at Nnobi Junction after leaving Akwa he was accosted by a gang that was driving in three vehicles who stopped his convoy and started firing at his convoy mercilessly. In the process one of our Colleagues, Hon. Collins Ugwuagu was seriously injured. He is lying critically ill in the hospital today. Four other persons were killed in his convoy including two of his Police Orderlies and two of his political associates, two prominent men from Ebonyi State.

Another gang operating also within the same vicinity killed a UK-based Nigerian who came also for the burial. Almost the same day, another group struck at Akwa, again raiding banks killing people. A day later, another group went to Onitsha and stormed the estate of one business tycoon called Bishop Okonkwo and abducted him; I do not know whether he has been found today.

The spill over effect was that the following day after that, the same gang crossed over from Akwa to Uzuwani and from Uzuwani to Nsukka stormed the

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bank there after raiding about two banks, they went to the Police Station and bombed the Police Station and escaped from Nsukka through Uzuwani back to Anambra.

So this is unacceptable. It is the responsibility of this House and indeed Federal Government to ensure that there is restoration of law and order in Anambra State. It is our responsibility to make sure that there is maintenance of public safety and public order. We cannot shy away from this. If we do not take action residents and visitors to Akwa will lose confidence in the capability of Federal Government to secure their lives. If we do not take action now the spill-over effect will affect other neighbouring States in the South-East and you can guess what would happen.

I am calling on this Hon. House to take a decisive action now so that we can stem the tide of insecurity in Akwa so that the grave insecurity situation in Akwa should be quarantined within Akwa and completely eliminated so that people of Anambra State can now do their normal businesses without let or hindrance.

Hon. Darlington Onuabuchi Okereke: I want to align myself to what the mover of this Motion has just said. I also want to urge my Colleagues to strongly support this Motion as it bothers on the lives of our people. Like he said, I want to say that it is not only in Anambra State that the spate of insecurity, armed robbery, kidnapping and assassination is heard. It cuts across the entire South-East Zone.

From what he has said, it was not quite long a serving Senator from Abia State was equally attacked with his team of policemen and one of the policemen was killed. It was not quite long, a Director in the Federal Inland Revenue Service in Enugu and his wife were attacked and burnt alive in a car by hoodlums. *(Interruption)*

From armed robbery to kidnapping to assassinations; the South East is not safe. Last Saturday, the leaders of South East who were there witnessed it and they all rushed to Abuja. How long will we continue like this? You rush to Abuja because you are afraid to go to your home. We cannot even go to our constituencies because of fear of being kidnapped, fear of being killed and fear of being assassinated. It has gotten to a stage that this House must put a stop to it.

If you look at today's *Leadership* Newspapers on page 8, the Minister of Police Affairs in his Report said: *512 kidnapped incidents were recorded in 18 months.* And within this number, 110 were recorded in Abia State, 58 in Imo State, 44 in Delta State and 40 in Akwa

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Ibom State. This shows the state of insecurity in the South East. I want to say that this is terrorism; we are in fears and we cannot go home. Something has to be done urgently.

The Speaker: It is all right. I understand Hon. Uche Ekwunife you raised this matter a few months ago.

Hon. Uche Ekwunife (Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Let me first thank my Colleague and brother Hon. Ozomgbachi for bringing up this Motion on the Floor of this House this afternoon. All of us here are aware of what happened to our Colleague, Hon. Igwe, who tried to go to Anambra State to pay a condolence visit to PDP National Vice Chairman, Olisametu but who is now in the hospital.

I recalled that two months ago I brought a Motion on this subject matter and this House unanimously supported that Motion. After that the security situation in Anambra State is still in a very bad state. It is not just Anambra State but also the entire South East. In Anambra, specifically Awka, if it is not kidnapping in the morning, it would be armed robbery in the afternoon. It is so bad that people do not even visit home anymore.

The people of Anambra State are in bondage, security wise. In fact, people are now migrating from Anambra to other States. We are the representatives of the people here, if we cannot visit home to see the people we are representing, where are we going to meet them.

It is not just about our Colleague but the situation in Anambra is so bad that Anambra State is like a State without a government. We have a Governor in the State but when you mention it, people will tell you that it is politically motivated. If the problem in Anambra State is politically motivated, the Governor should look for politically motivated solution! There is nothing under the earth that does not have solution. Everything has solution except death. That is why we are trying to stop people dying in the hands of armed robbers.

The banks in Anambra State do not operate anymore. If you send somebody to the bank, the person will come back to tell you that the banks have closed because in a situation where an armed robber *(Interruption)*

The Speaker: Hon. Uche, are you saying to us now that banks in Awka are not open?

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Hon. Uche Ekwunife: Yes! They will tell you to come in through the back door because they do not know when the armed robbers will attack. You can imagine a State where the armed robbers would come in the morning and operate for one hour and nobody would stop them. In the evening, the same set of armed robbers would do the same.

The Speaker: Hon. Uche, please take your seat.

Hon. Uche Ekwunife: Sir I have not finished. I really want the House to appreciate the problem we have on ground in Anambra State. It is not exaggeration. I have more than 50 newspapers in my office. Everyday the papers will report an armed robbery incident. If it is not at Nnewi it will be at Awka; if it is not Awka it will be in Enugu. They would drive from Awka to Enugu to rob and then come back to Awka and go down to the village. Nobody is sleeping anymore. No businessman can go to Anambra and

spend the night there; even our Colleagues go to Anambra with chartered vehicles when they have vehicles that can take them to the State.

What I am trying to say is that the situation on hand is no longer that of the police. Police do not have the sophisticated weapons to fight these people. Time has come when we need to go further even if it means to invite the Army or joint Military/Police intervention in the State. That is the only way we can save the situation. You cannot imagine a policeman with a small gun to challenge an armed robber who has a machine gun. What I am trying to say is that we have police presence there but they are not equipped enough to fight the armed robbers.

I want to amend this Motion by also urging the State Governments in the entire South East to go all out to provide bulletproof vests and helmet for the police. One bulletproof vest can cost only ₦25,000 Naira. They can provide ₦5,000 for every policeman because they are also human beings. You do not expect somebody that is not equipped to go and fight an armed robber that is sophisticatedly equipped.

The Speaker: Hon. Uche, please sit down.

My dear Colleague mentioned four particular States there. Can I have a Member from Delta State? Hon. Overah Joyce, can you authenticate the information given to us on Delta State?

Hon. Overah O. Joyce (Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie): The issue of armed robbery and kidnapping in the entire South East and maybe part of South-South is not new

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but the statistics given by Hon. Darlington as far as Delta State is concerned is wrong.

The Speaker: Do you say that it is wrong?

Hon. Overah Joyce: Yes, it is very wrong.

The Speaker: But Hon. Darlington said 50, right?

Hon. Overah Joyce: He mentioned 40.

The Speaker: Please, sit down.

Hon. Overah Joyce: We have not gotten that fact in Delta State. Many of us are aware of this problem. People will stand up and talk. The only problem that we need to actually start looking at now is, how do we conquer, how do we overcome, how do we address this situation.

We have heard it from all quarters. I am suggesting very strongly that for us to be rid of armed robbery in Nigeria let us, as a matter of urgency, introduce State Police and Local Government Police. I am saying this because the Nigeria Police is ill-equipped; they are not properly trained and funded. If we have State Police, we will be able to equip them.

The Speaker: Hon. Overah Joyce when it comes to Amendment you can amend and see how far that goes.

Can we hear from Hon. Ukeje concerning the situation in Abia State?

Hon. Nnenna Elendu Ukeje: (Bende): First and foremost I would like to commend Hon. Uche Ekwunife for her passion in discussing this matter, but in discussing it very passionately, I shall also say that I share her passion as a Member from Abia State. Unlike Hon. Joyce Overah, I want to disagree with the numbers quoted in the paper on the basis that I do not believe that those numbers are correct. The numbers with Abia State are far higher.

It has become impossible for people to go to Abia State. There is a self imposed dusk to dawn curfew. At seven o'clock the entire State shuts down. Banks in Aba went out of operation for over two weeks. The level of insecurity is unbelievable. A couple of days ago, five police men in their Police Van were burnt to death by fleeing kidnappers. It is impossible for us who live here to go back to the South East. They shoot at your police orderly first; even when you have Security they take out the Security before they take the people.

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The situation in the South East has reached epidemic proportion. We have had meetings with our State Governor who is trying to proffer solution but it is not working. I think that today this Parliament should sit down and come up with a reason. We need help in the South East.

Hon. Mayor Chukwudi Eze (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East): To add to what they have said, the level of insecurity in Imo State, South East and South South has got to an alarming level.

In my Local Government, Orlu, three weeks ago, armed robbers operated for three hours un-interrupted and killed five persons on the spot. It was reported in the newspapers. Before you go to Imo State now as an Hon. Member, if you are not sure of four or five mobile policemen even your people would tell you please, do not come home. It has got to an alarming level that it is even cheaper for you to send something across to your people than going there physically and we are talking about the next election.

We know that in social contract the most important aspect of social contract is Security of lives and property. That is why nobody and even in this Parliament we never think twice in taking steps that would guarantee security not only in the South East but the entire Nigeria.

Hon. Ini Udoka (Ini/Ikono): I listened to Hon. Okereke. I want to say that initially, the situation in Akwa Ibom was very alarming but recently through the effort of the Governor, we now have a joint Patrol Team.

The Speaker: Hon. Member this is not a political issue but about lives. So the situation is reducing in Akwa Ibom State?

Hon. Ini Udoka: In Akwa Ibom, the new Commissioner of Police has put in place measures to check the excesses of these people and the situation is not as alarming as we have been made to hear in Akwa Ibom.

Hon. Abdul A. Ningi (Ningi/Warji): I have, with keen interest, listened to various contributions by Members. I think before we get into the matter of whether the Police are doing what they are supposed to do, whether they have the capacity, the ability, the capability to do what they are supposed to do, we need to ask ourselves some very germane questions.

Firstly, how many police men do we have in this country as at today? The answer is that we have less

than 368,000 Police men to police 150,000,000 Nigerians.

Secondly, when you take the budget, for example, and look at the Appropriation Laws beginning from 1999 and compare appropriations to the police money as it relates to the Army, the Navy and the Air-force you would discover that for the last nine or ten years, what we have borrowed from Military has been subsumed into our psyche. We tend to neglect the basic requirements of the Police vis-à-vis the specific role of the Military versus the Police. While the Police are doing a general thing, the Army, the Navy and the Air-force are doing some specific things. But if you compare the money given to the Military made up of the Army, the Navy and the Air-force compared with the Police you will now agree that we have brought in the Military psyche of giving much money to Defence, Navy, and the Air-force but relegating the important segment of the Nigerian Security System which is the Police.

I am not in any way saying that we should not fund the Military in terms of their functions but we should look ahead and try to institutionalise what these problems are. The Police as we have in Nigeria today are incapable of meeting the security requirements of Nigeria. I think they are not only meeting half way, they can only meet thirty percent of the security requirements. You ask me why? The reason is because ... (interruption)

The Speaker: Chairman Police, while I understand your line of debate, we have a specific problem in Anambra State and in perhaps two or three other States in that region of Nigeria. And this Motion is looking for a way to look for at least a short time solution so that Banks can open, people can visit their Constituencies, families can visit their members within capitals in that area.

Hon. Abdul A. Ningi: I will tell you why we have a national security problem nation-wide but we have more acute problem in the South East and the South-South Zone. One of the reasons is that the proliferation of arms through the Niger Delta has been the prevailing single factor of the ability of the armed robbers to overwhelm the Nigeria Police.

The Speaker: My Chairman, please this is not a two- or three-year problem and in order not to waste our time Sir, we will need you to take us to the area that we are talking about because this problem is peculiar.

Hon. Abdul A. Ningi: I am coming to that, if you would allow me to do that. The proliferation of sophisticated arms are more in the South East and South

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South and that is why for you to be able to meet up the demands of the Nigeria Police to counter those armed robbers who use highly sophisticated weapons, you would need to currently give the Police equal opportunity to higher fire power to be able to meet up those demands; any other thing outside of this, is just story. All we need to do is to equip the Police with sophisticated arms. Right now the armed robbers are not even running away from the Police but they are looking for the Police! They go from Barracks to Barracks, Police Station to Police Station to chase them and get them killed (*interruption*)

The Speaker: Did you just say that the armed robbers are looking for policemen?

Hon. Abdul A. Ningi: Yes. And they get them killed every day. That is the plain truth. They are looking for them and the Police are running away. It is a very tragic issue.

Hon. Ali Mohammed Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, Section (14)(2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution on the Fundamental Objective and Directive of Principles of a State Policy states that:

The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purposed of government.

Sections 33 – 34 of our Constitution state the fundamental rights of Nigerian citizen that includes:

Right to life, right to human dignity, right to personal liberty, right to fair hearing, private and family life, freedom of thought functions and religion, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, freedom of movement, freedom from discrimination and freedom to acquire and own immovable property.

I want to still take our Colleagues back to the fundamental reasons for even government and that is, Security and Welfare of citizens. Here we are; this government cannot provide and take care of the primary purpose of government. It boils down to the fact that this government under its present leadership cannot take care of the primary purpose of government.

Let us not take this thing lightly; much as I sympathised with the people from South East, just yesterday in the North East and in my State particularly, armed robbers waylaid passengers numbering eight who were coming from Kano. They asked them to lie face down, unfortunately an on-coming trailer ran over them and the eight died instantly.

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We went to Port Harcourt with you and for us to move safely, we had more number of security men than the number of the Principal Officers combined with the Members in that convoy. We cannot take this very lightly; our Colleagues from the South East for now are feeling the pain but it has already started moving to North Central, it has already moved to North East. Therefore, the security situation is not only that of South East, it is more serious in South East but it is equally serious in other parts of the country.

This House must rise up to this challenge and tell this President either to abide by the provision of Section (14)(2)(b) of the Constitution to provide security for her citizens. If he can not do that, then he should quit because the primary purpose of the government is to provide security and welfare but if this President can not provide security and welfare for the citizens of Nigeria he should quit.

The Speaker: Thank you. Please Members we are looking for solutions.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba (Gboko/Tarka): Mr. Speaker, what is happening today, particularly in Anambra and Abia State, shows the decay in our society and our lust for money. Anambra State boasts of the highest number of motor garages outside Lagos because of this, they have the highest number of road transport workers, and the Association we learnt is banned in Anambra State and these people are jobless.

In Lagos the Governor has re-christened it LASMA and they provided job for this group of people whom we know what they do. In Ibadan, they were under the command of one Alhaji Tokyo. These people are free in Anambra State and they have no jobs and these are the kind of people who have turned around to provide these services and because of the lust for money, they rob banks and look for politicians and rich individuals to extort money from them.

I disagree with the Minority Leader's views. For your information, PPA and APGA control these States and this is a failure of Government at the State level. Benue State borders with Ebonyi, Anambra and Enugu; armed robbery is gradually creeping into Benue State and each time these people were killed by our security outfit, we discover that they are from either Anambra State or Ebonyi State.

My prayer is that the Federal Government should declare a state of emergency on security in the South East and particularly in Abia and Anambra States so that those of us who have taken care of our motor park touts and the National Union of Road Transport Workers, would not have a feel of this.

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I implore the government of Anambra State to do everything possible to take care of the road transport workers who have been thrown out without jobs.

The Speaker: All right Hon. Colleagues, we need to move on; I have some amendment here. Hon. Darlington Okereke can you move your amendment please.

Hon. Darlington Okereke (Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha): My Amendment is this:

To urge the Governors of North East Zone to design and implement a common security strategy to combat the rising crime wave in the Geo-Political Zone.

The Speaker: Is there any Seconder, please?

Hon. Ado Dogo Audu (Jama'a/Sanga): I stand to second the Motion.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Hon. Uche Ekwunife (Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia): Mr. Speaker, my amendment is:

To urge the South East Governors to support the police by providing at least 10,000 bullet proof vest and 10,000 helmets into the Police Force as a way of supplement.

The Speaker: Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Emmanuel Yisa. O. Jev. (Buruku): I second the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South East): Mr. Speaker, my amendment is to the effect that:

The House should urge the Anambra State Governor to immediately constitute a joint task force of the Military and the Police to address the crisis in Anambra State.

The Speaker: Is there any seconder please.

Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun (Ife Central/Ife East/North/South): I rise to second the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

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The Speaker: The next amendment is from Hon. Ernest Ibejiako.

Hon. Ernest Ibejiako (Owerri Municipal/North/West): Mr. Speaker, my amendment is:

That the Inspector-General of Police deploys more Police Officers, arms and ammunitions to Imo State since Imo State is the only State that is housing all the refugees from Anambra, Bayelsa, Abia ...

The Speaker: What do you mean by refugees?

Hon. Ibejiako I. Ernest: All the people that ran away from all these states are now resident in Imo State.

The Speaker: All right.

Hon. Ernest Ibejiako: Secondly,

That the Federal Government should grant special security fund to Imo State Government to contend with all these spilled over problems from all the neighbouring states.

That is my amendment.

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu (Alkalari/Kirfi): Mr. Speaker, I do second the amendments as proposed by Hon. Ernest Ibejiako to help the refugees.

Question put and negatived.

Hon. Chukwuegbo Ofor (Enugu North/Enugu South): My amendment is to mandate the Joint Committee on Police Affairs and National Security and Intelligence to meet with the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General State Security Services and come up with appropriate extra-ordinary measures and report back to the House.

The Speaker: That is the Prayer, why are you repeating the Prayer.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba, can you move your amendment, please.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba: My amendment is thus:

Urge the Federal Government to declare a State of Emergency on Security in the

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*South Eastern State of Nigeria
particularly in Anambra and Abia States.*

Hon. Samuel Whesu Sejoro (Badagry): Mr. Speaker I rise to second the amendment as moved by Hon. Tsegba.

Question put and negatived.

Hon. Igochukwu N. Aguma (Port Harcourt 1): Mr. Speaker, my amendment is:

*That the Federal Government should
declare a state of emergency in
Anambra State and an Administrator
appointed for the State.*

The Speaker: Any seconder, please?

Several Hon. Members: No.

The Speaker: No seconder? All right no seconder.

Main Motion as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) To mandate the Joint Committee on Police Affairs and National Security and Intelligence to meet with the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General State Security Services and come up with appropriate extra-ordinary measures and report back to the House.
- (ii) To urge the Governors of North East Zone to design and implement a common security strategy to combat the rising crime wave in the Geo-Political Zone.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, the next Business of the Day is presentation of 13 (Thirteen) Bills. The Clerk is invited to read the Short Titles of the Bills.

Indigenous Oil Companies (Regulation and Fiscal Terms) Bill, 2009 (HB.251)

A Bill for an Act to Establish Indigenous Oil Companies (Regulation and Fiscal Terms) Bill, 2009

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presented by Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko-Edo): – *Read the first Time*

Legislative Houses, Powers and Privileges Act (Amendment) Bill 2009 (HB.242)

A Bill for an Act to amend Legislative Houses, Powers and Privileges Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 presented by Hon. Henry Seriake Dickson (Ekeremor/Sagbama): – *Read the First Time*

National Vocation Training Commission (Establishment and Development) Bill, 2009 (HB.243)

A Bill for an Act to Establish National Vocation Training Commission (Establishment and Development) Presented by Hon. Idris Alhaji Isah (Nasarawa): – *Read the First Time*

Federal Character Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB.245)

A Bill for an Act to amend Federal Character Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 presented by Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta (Ukwa East/West): – *Read the First Time*

National Judicial Institute Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB.269)

A Bill for an Act to amend National Judicial Institute Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 presented by Hon. Agoro Lanre Adeniran (Ogbomosho North/South/Orire): – *First Reading*

Public Private Partnership Bill, 2009 (HB.270)

A Bill for an Act to Establish Public Private Partnership Bill 2009 presented Hon. Agoro Lanre Adeniran (Ogbomosho North/South/Orire) – *Read the First Time*

Crime Victims Compensation Bill, 2009 (HB.271)

A Bill for an Act to Establish Crime Victims Compensation Bill, 2009 Hon. Agoro Lanre Adeniran (Ogbomosho North/South/Orire): – *Read the First Time*

Roads Sector Reform Bill, 2009 (HB.273)

A Bill for an Act to Establish Roads Sector Reform Bill, 2009 presented by Chukwudi Leonard Mayor Eze (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East): – *Read the First Time*

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Railway Bill, 2009 (HB.274)

A Bill for an Act to Establish Railway Bill, 2009 presented by Chukwudi Leonard Mayor Eze (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East):- *Read the First Time*

Construction and Maintenance Bill, 2009 (HB.280)

A Bill for an Act to Establish Construction and Maintenance Bill, 2009 presented by Austin Nwachukwu (Ehime Mbano/Ihite Uboma/Obowo) - *Read the First Time*

National Human Rights Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 236)

A Bill for an Act to amend National Human Rights Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 presented by Hon. Samuel Whesu Sejoro (Badagry):- *Read the First Time.*

National Housing Trust Fund Bill (HB. 246)

A Bill for an Act to Establish National Housing Trust Fund, 2009 presented by Hon. Daniel O. Reyenieju (Warri North/Warri South/Warri West) - *Read the First Time*

Abuja Geographic Information System Agency Bill, 2009 (HB. 247)

A Bill for an Act to Establish Abuja Geographic Information System Agency, 2009 presented by Hon. Philip Tanimu Aduda (Amac/Bwari): - *Read the First time.*

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Report of the House Committee on Health on Compulsory and Immediate Treatment and Care for the Victims of Bullet Wounds and Establishment of Bullet Wound Trust Fund Bill, 2009

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the Second Business of the Day is presentation of Report of the Committee on Health on *a Bill for an Act to prescribe for the Compulsory and Immediate Treatment and Care for the Victims of Bullet wounds and Establishment of Bullet Wound Trust Fund and Other Related Matters Connected Therewith, 2009* standing in the name of Hon. Ojomo-Alaba Oladoyinbo.

Hon. Members you will recall that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Thursday 10th July, 2008. The Report is now ready for presentation.

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Hon. Ojomo-Alaba Oladoyinbo is now invited to present the Report.

Hon Alaba O. Ojomo (Owo/Ose): Mr. Speaker, may I move that this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health on a Bill for an Act to prescribe for the Compulsory and Immediate Treatment and Care for the Victims of Bullet Wounds and Establishment of Bullet Wound Trust Fund and Other Related Matters Connected Therewith, 2009.

Hon. Elizabeth O. Ogbaga (Ebonyi/Ohaukwu): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

Report of the Committee on Gas Resources on Associated Gas Re-Injection Act, No.99 of 1979, Cap A25 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, (Amendment) Bill, 2008

The Deputy Speaker: The Third Order of the Day is the presentation of Report of the Committee on Gas Resources on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Associated Gas Re-Injection Act, No.99 of 1979, Cap A25 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, 2008 standing in the name of Hon. Igo Aguma.

Hon. Members would recall that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Tuesday 18th September, 2008. The Report is now ready for presentation. The Chairman or his Deputy is invited to present the Report. *(No response)*

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, he submitted the Report and was here few minutes ago but I am surprised he is no longer here.

The Deputy Speaker: In that case, we would stand down the Bill

(Bill by the leave of the House stood down).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Adoption of the Joint Conference Committee on National Health Bill, 2009

The Deputy Speaker: The First Order of the Day is a Motion for the Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on the National Health Bill 2009

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standing in the name of Hon. Alaba Ojomo. Clean copies of the Report have been circulated to members.

Hon. Alaba Ojomo is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Alaba Ojomo (Owo/Ose): May I move that this House do receive and adopt the Report of the Joint Conference Committee of the Senate and the House Committee on the National Health Bill.

Hon Abba Anas Adamu (Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as moved by the Chairman, Committee on Health.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do receive and adopt the report of the Joint Conference Committee of the Senate and the House Committee on the National Health Bill, 2009

Need to Resuscitate Makurdi, Enugu and Aba Pipeline Products and Marketing Company (PPMC) Depots to Functional Capacity

The Deputy Speaker: The Second Order of the Day is a Motion on the need to Resuscitate Makurdi, Enugu and Aba Pipeline Products and Marketing Company (PPMC) Depots to Functional Capacity, standing in the name of Hon. Peace Nnaji and 90 others.

Hon. Peace Nnaji is invited to move her Motion.

Hon Peace U. Nnaji (Nkanu East/Nkanu West): Mr. Speaker, this Motion is on the need to Resuscitate Makurdi, Enugu and Aba Pipeline Products and Marketing Company (PPMC) Depots to its Functional Capacity.

The House:

Notes that for some time now, the PPMC Depots in Makurdi, Enugu and Aba respectively have become non-functional in the supply and loading of petroleum products;

Aware that these depots were meant to supply petroleum products to States in the South East and Middle Belt regions;

Concerned that the non-functioning of these Depots has resulted in consistent artificial scarcity and selling of petroleum products at a higher pump prices in this region;

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Worried that the higher cost of these petroleum products has invariably resulted in higher cost of goods and services causing untold hardship to the people of these zones;

Disturbed that unless these Depots are resuscitated Petroleum Dealers in the area will continue to use it as a ploy to hoard and sell petroleum products at higher prices than the Government approved prices;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government through the relevant Parastatals particularly the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Petroleum Product Marketing Company (PPMC) to urgently resuscitate the Enugu, Aba and Makurdi Depots;
- (ii) Further urge the security agents especially the Inspector-General of Police and Commandant-General of the Civil Defence Corps to intensify surveillance on pipeline from Port Harcourt refineries to Aba, Enugu and Makurdi depots to avoid further vandalism;
- (iii) Also urge the Federal Government through the relevant parastatals to ensure adequate supply of Petroleum products to the affected States at a subsidized cost to avoid further untold hardship on the people.

I so move.

Hon. Patrick Asadu (Nsukka/Igboeze South): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Hon. Peace U. Nnaji: Mr. Speaker, a section of this Nation is being neglected and this section is groaning under this neglect. I am speaking about the Makurdi PPMC Depot, the Enugu PPMC Depot and the Aba PPMC Depot. These Depots were shut down in 2003, 2005 and in 2007.

When these depots were functional, they supplied fuel to eight States of the Federation, which include Enugu, Ebonyi, Anambra, Abia, Imo, Cross River, Kogi, and Benue States. Since the closure of these depots the people from these area have suffered untold hardship because the Independent Petroleum Marketers have to go as far as Lagos and its environs to procure

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petroleum product at the detriment of the masses we represent here.

The Federal Government, we would all recall, reduced the pump price of petroleum product from ~~₦~~70.00 to ~~₦~~65.00 but people from these area are yet to benefit from this. Each time the law enforcement agencies try to shut down petrol stations that sell above pump price, they go under to hoard the fuel and create artificial scarcity to the detriment of the masses.

The bane of the economy of this nation depends on the oil sector. It is a duty and the responsibility on every one of us to make sure that the facilities and other infrastructures that provide for easy distribution of the products of this oil sector are properly put in place.

A lot of presentations have been made to make sure that these depots are re-opened including that of the South-East Zone and that of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association, all to no avail. I believe that the Federal Government through the instrumentality of the NNPC and the PPMC could resuscitate these depots. Nobody should support the activities of these black marketers.

I now call on my Colleagues to support this Motion. The Government has set up the taskforce on pipeline vandalisation but in spite of that no known case has been prosecuted in spite of the fact that so many arrest have been made. The PPMC should go a step further to make sure that they lay these pipes very deep in a way that people cannot get into it rather than this shallow situation that we have now.

I humbly submit that this is a very serious Motion and that since this bites on the masses that we represent, I believe that my hon. Colleagues will give me kudos and help me to make this Motion stay.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Peace Nnaji. I now call those who want to speak for this Motion.

Hon. Solomon U. Agidani (Apa/Agatu): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favour of this Motion because like the last Motion we took on the rate of crime in South-East and South-South Geopolitical zones of this country Members will agree that the prevalence of crime has a lot to do with the level of our unemployment. These Depots mentioned in this Motion from Aba to Enugu to Makurdi and to Yola, that is, the line that takes care of petroleum distributions for North-Central and North-East zones of this country. For upwards of eight years this line has been ideal; the Depots also have been ideal. You can see the multiplier

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effect of the level of unemployment created as a result of the non-functioning of this pipeline which supplies petroleum products to these Depots.

If you attend a particular depot for instance the Makurdi Depot on a busy day you will see a number of people who come in there to make their livelihood out of the kind of business they involved themselves on a day to day basis as part of the fallout of the benefits of this product passing through these Depots in the States where they reside. Because of the absence of the activities of these Depots so many people have lost their investments and because they have lost their means of livelihood some of them have even died in the process.

If you look at what is happening in our country since 1980's production has been on a down turn as well as manufacturing. Productive and manufacturing activities that used to account for over 700,000 jobs, today, can only account for less than 100,000. And so if our infrastructures continue to breakdown at the rate we are going and we do not look back and resuscitate them, we would be sitting on a time bomb.

We are sitting on a time bomb because when the larger population of Nigerians continue to loose their sources of livelihood at the rate at which we are going, if care is not taken the rest of us who believe that we come in here to come and presides over the affairs of this country through the process of law making and other activities of government will not have any hiding place when there is a revolution in this country.

Concerted and conscious efforts should be made between the governors of Adamawa, Benue, Kogi, Taraba, Enugu and Abia with the NNPC and PPMC should meet with the relevant Committees of this House to fashion out ways and means of resuscitating these Depots because so many jobs are at stake and they have been lying ideal for over seven years.

This is a very good Motion. I urge Members to support it and conscious efforts should be made to restore the activities at these Depots.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South East): I want to say from the outset that this Motion sponsored by Hon. Princess Peace and others is a very beautiful one and a very good one for that matter.

I recall what we suffered in Edo State when the PPMC Depot was not functional. Very many of our stations had to go as far as Rivers State to enable them procure petroleum products for use in the State. The areas we are talking about now span beyond two geo-political regions of this country. You can imagine what

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it will take for petroleum products to get to these places. They have to go as far as Lagos State, some even to Warri in Delta State and Port Harcourt to be able to bring petroleum products to these geo-political zones. The cost implication of that considering that there is partial privatization is enormous on our people.

If you go to these areas, the cost of procuring petroleum products is higher than what obtains in other places where these products are easily accessible. Therefore this Motion is one that all of us should support.

Then the issue of thinking that because of the breakage in pipelines that this is not possible but I want to say that this Motion will serve as a clarion call on those who are concerned to put the necessary machinery in place to ensure that things are done properly.

The only aspect of it that we might take a second look at is the third Prayer that is, requesting that the product be subsidised for use by this people. Government is thinking of complete deregulation as it is regarding petroleum products. Therefore we cannot be asking for further subsidy in this area. Say for this minor amendment, I think the Motion is very beautiful and it is one that all of us should support without any single dissent.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any Member who wants to speak against the Motion? (*No response*) I would now put the Question.

Question put and agreed to

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government through the relevant Parastatals particularly the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Petroleum Product Marketing Company (PPMC) to urgently resuscitate the Enugu, Aba and Makurdi Depots;
- (ii) Further urge the security agents especially the Inspector-General of Police and Commandant-General of the Civil Defence Corps to intensify surveillance on pipeline from Port Harcourt refineries to Aba, Enugu and Makurdi depots to avoid further vandalisation;
- (iii) Also urge the Federal Government through the relevant parastatals to ensure adequate supply of Petroleum products to the affected

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States at a subsidized cost to avoid further untold hardship on the people.

Crisis in the Republic of Niger: A call for the Restoration of Constitutional Order

The Deputy Speaker: The third Order of the Day is a Motion on Crisis in the Republic of Niger: A call for the Restoration of Constitutional Order standing in the name of Hon. Samson Osagie and 22 others.

Hon. Samson Osagie is now invited to now move his Motion.

Hon. Samson R. Osagie (Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode): Mr. Speaker my Motion is on the Crisis in the Republic of Niger and a call for the Restoration of Constitutional Order.

This House:

Notes that Nigeria's Foreign Policy promotes African Integration and advocates the tenets of Good Governance, Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law within the Polity and the African Continent;

Disturbed that the Constitutional crisis in the Republic of Niger is an immediate challenge to Nigeria as a Neighbouring Country;

Worried that President Tandja Mamadou's dissolution of Democratic Institutions and the suspension of the Constitution to enable him rule by decree is undemocratic and despotic;

Concerned that if the crisis is allowed to degenerate into anarchy, the attendant consequences for neighbouring countries like Nigeria will be enormous;

Acknowledges that the United States of America has unequivocally denounced President Tandja Mamadou's bid, to undermine Democracy in the Republic of Niger.

Resolves to:

- (i) Condemn the undemocratic and unconstitutional actions of President Tandja Mamadou of the Republic of Niger;
- (ii) Urge the Federal government of Nigeria to impress on the African Union (AU) and the Economic

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Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to prevail on President Tandja Mamadou to restore Constitutional Order.

I beg to move.

Hon. Jakada Ubale Kiru (Bebeji/Kiru): Point of Order?

Deputy Speaker: Yes, Hon. Ubale Kiru, which Order?

Hon. Jakada Ubale Kiru: I am requesting the kind consideration of the Hon. Speaker to refer to Section 19 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. That Section is talking about Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy. With your kind permission may I read the relevant section; it says;

The foreign policy objectives shall be:

(a) *Promotion and protection of the national interest;*

(b) *Promotion of African integration and support for African unity;*

(c) *Promotion of international co-operation for the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect among all nations and the elimination of discrimination in all its manifestations;*

(d) *Respect for international law and treaty obligations as well as the seeking of settlement of international disputes by negotiations, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication; and*

(e) *Promotion of a just world economic order.*

If Nigeria is to support African integration, it should consider what is happening in Niger as purely internal issue to Niger Republic. Therefore, it is Nigerians who should decide on how best they could govern themselves and not Nigeria.

Secondly, if Nigeria is to promote African integration through support for African unity, then we should not be seen to be condemning our neighbours.

The moment we start condemning them, and they start condemning us, I do not know how we achieve unity.

The Deputy Speaker: Are we condemning them by this Motion?

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Hon. Jakada Ubale Kiru: I am contending that this Motion is not appropriate for the consideration of this honourable House. It is purely the internal affairs of Niger Republic and I believe this honourable House should not delve into it.

In any case, the President of this country had made some form of intervention earlier on; it was disregarded by the government of Niger Republic. France did a similar thing; they disregarded it. Every other nations of the world had done it, but they disregarded all of these. Why should we involve ourselves in the internal affairs of other countries especially our neighbours with whom we have been in perfect peace for several decades, when we have more important thing to do in the Niger Delta.

For centuries we have never had any problem with Niger Republic; we have never condemned them, they have never condemned us and all of a sudden we will begin to introduce a system of condemning one another. I believe this is a wrong approach to it.

In my opinion, it contradicts the provisions of Section 19 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ubale. Anyway that is your opinion and I believe you are entitled to your own opinion. In my own opinion, there is nothing wrong with this Motion. Yes, Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/Wasagu): Let me respectfully say that I do appreciate the position of Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru on this matter but with the greatest respect, I would say that it arose from gross misunderstanding of the necessary intendment of this Motion. Let us equally fault his own opinion from the same Constitution that he quoted. He said the foreign policy objectives, that is, objectives of Nigeria shall be; promotion and protection of national interest. Let us first query: is it in the interest of Nigeria that our neighbour Niger degenerates into a crisis where we will bear the consequence?

The Deputy Speaker: The answer is no.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah: Thank you very much. Then let me ask another question. Subsection (b) says: *promotion of African integration and support for African unity*. Is it our collective resolve as Africans to continue to imbibe the culture of democracy in the various countries that we operate?

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The Deputy Speaker: The answer is no.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah: Thank you very much. Therefore, if these are the issues it appears that the position from which Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru is coming arose from the gross misunderstanding of the necessary intendment of Section 19 vis-a-vis the intendment of this Motion.

I will therefore respectfully urge my Colleagues to see that we are not contravening the provision of Section 19 in any material form. Rather what we are doing as a country is to say that whatever happens to our neighbours the consequences are that it will rob on us and it will not be on overall interest of Nigeria to see things going wrong and that we do not say that they are going wrong for the purpose of at least putting on record that we never, as a Parliament, disregarded what is happening in Niger.

Do not forget that Niger has a Parliament and they are Members of the International Parliamentary Union to which we are Members. They are Members of the ECOWAS Parliament to which we are members yet you say that we cannot talk. I do not think that is a necessary position to take.

The Deputy Speaker: Well if it is on this matter, I thing we have to rule there Sir. We are going to take that Motion and that contribution by Hon. Jakada Ubale Kiru is well understood. Yes, Hon. Samson Osagie, have you finished moving your Motion.

Hon. Samson Osagie: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any Seconder to the Motion please?

Who is closer to the border, between Minjibir and Shanono? What of Jigawa State? Who is from Kebbi? Is there no Member from Kebbi State? If you know you are the closest Member to Niger Republic, please second the Motion. Yes, Hon. Abbas is the closest Member to Niger Republic because I have been to his town and I know that it is in Jigawa State.

Hon. Abbas Anas Adamu (Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma): I stand to second the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon Abbas Anas Adamu. Hon. Osagie, very briefly, talk to us on your Motion.

Question proposed.

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Hon. Samson Osagie: I want to thank you for this traditional indulgence. This Motion has been brought pursuant to the foreign policy objectives of Nigeria as an independent and sovereign nation and also against the backdrop of the fact that the new world global order is such that issues and matters that are likely to have serious subsequences in other parts of the world must attract the attention of other nations. They must be discussed and solution proffered in such a way as they will not be allowed to snowball into what can adversely affect the interest of not only those nation but international interest of all nations.

If the Niger Delta issue can be a subject of discourse at a sub-committee in the United State Congress, how much more is the issue of the Republic of Niger that is our neighbour? I beg to submit that today the President of Nigeria is the Chairman of ECOWAS and as such have great influence to propagate not just the foreign policy objectives of his own nation but to ensure that democratic ideals and tenets are promoted and propagated throughout the length and breadth of Africa.

The matter in the Republic of Niger is within our common knowledge. President Mamadou Tandja was first elected in 1999 by seven coalition parties. He was re-elected in 2004 and he is about to spend the maximum of 10 years in office. He has decided to sack all democratic institutions.

Nigeria has an experience in this dimension but not in this cavalier and despotic manner. This National Assembly saved this country from such an act likened to this in 2006 but not in such a cavalier manner as for an elected president, a president of a democratic nation transmuting himself into a despot after serving his two terms in office. It deserved to be condemned by all well meaning nations and all the parliamentarians across the world. Not even when the 113 Members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Niger have been dissolved.

The contribution of my colleague Hon. Ibn Na Allah has done a lot to lay the very foundation for this Motion. It is our duty because the attendant refugee crisis that would engulf Nigeria should there be uproar in the Republic of Niger can better be imagined than described. Nigeria cannot close its eyes and continue to say it is a giant of Africa. What is our role in promoting democracy in Africa if we cannot rise up to the occasion in a matter like this? Happily enough, the President condemned the coup that took place in Guinea Bissau; why did we not tell him that it was an internal affair of Guinea Bissau. The President had taken such steps to protect the national interest in South Africa when Nigerians were being dealt with.

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It is even more imperative today, that the constitutional crises that is about to engulf the Republic of Niger must attract our attention. Our fellow Parliamentarians who are members of African Parliamentary Union have been sacked and we sit down here to say that it is not our business? It is as much as our business as if it is an internal matter. I beg to submit that we owe the African continent a duty to rise up to the occasion, condemn what this president is doing and do anything humanly possible to ensure that constitutional order and democracy triumphed in the Republic of Niger.

The Deputy Speaker: I think we should try to assist the Niger Republic to kill the tenure elongation that is manifesting in their Republic.

Hon. Farouk Mohammed Lawan (Shanono/Bagwai): I think we should unanimously adopt the prayers of this Motion in the interest of sustaining democracy in Niger. In the interest of peace and stability in Niger and Nigeria and the rest of the West African Sub-Region, we have a responsibility to nip this particular issue in the bud.

A couple of months ago, we were having the session of the ECOWAS Parliament and incidentally the Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament is the Speaker of the Parliament of Niger. While he was presiding over the Parliament of which Members of this House are Members, the Parliament of Niger Republic was dissolved without any recourse to the constitution, without any desire to protect the interest of the constitution, stability and tenets of democracy in Niger. I believe that as neighbours, as a country that is responsive and responsible especially to our neighbours and other countries within the West African Sub Region, we have the responsibility to act and also the moral responsibility to make our position clear on this matter.

Any crisis in Niger would affect Nigeria. Nigeria over the last 15 years has lost so many lives and resources in peace-keeping operations in Liberia, Sere Leone, Guinea, Darfur and most of those crises came about because of unconstitutional actions by power hungry leaders who try to sustain themselves in positions of authority. If what is happening in Niger today is allowed to continue, it portends great danger to Nigeria and West African sub-region. In the end, it is the people of Nigeria who would bear the consequences of illegality and unconstitutionality that is taking place in Niger today.

We have a moral, political and ideological responsibility to take a position and act so that we can stem the tide of what is happening in Niger.

Unfortunately, in the desperation for power, the present President of Niger has thrown caution to the wind by clearly acting in a manner that is likely going to undermine democracy, create chaos and lead to crisis in the Republic of Niger.

My fellow colleagues, I believe that a threat to democracy anywhere, is a threat to democracy everywhere. We have the responsibility in this case to act just like we did in 2006 when this House and the Senate rose in unison and stopped the tenure elongation of equally a president who wanted to lead this country into crises. Now we have a responsibility to speak out, act and I call on all of you to support the prayers of this Motion.

I so submit.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Like one Hausa singer from Niger who said that whatever touches the nose touches the eyes. This will help describe the relationship between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Niger.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na' Allah (Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/D Wasagu): I think what is fundamental here is that I am happy my brother and friend Hon. Farouk Lawan has recounted the contribution of this House as far as issues regarding unconstitutional acts of leaders are concerned. Except for few of us who are here, we knew the trauma we went through when someone said he want to be president for the third term against the constitutional provision of this country in the last session.

We must understand the fundamental differences between autocracy and democracy. If people yearn for democracy, it is for the simple fact that they know that leaders would have authority while powers still remain with them. If it is autocracy, leaders would have both authority and power.

In Niger they have opted for democracy; the authority is with the President while the power is with people. So for an individual to go against the will of the entire nation which has potential to throw that nation into confusion and human crisis that would adversely affect this country then we have a moral responsibility to equally say no to that position and where possible spin on it.

Franks Connor has once said that the future will have no pity for those men who possess the exceptional privilege to speak the word of truth to their oppressors but have sought in their complicity to refuse to do so. Therefore, I believe that we have a responsibility to adopt the entire Prayers in this Motion and to stand

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against the undemocratic action of the President of Niger Republic and as far as I am concerned the unlawful President of Niger Republic as it stands today because he has acted outside the Oath of his Office to protect the Constitution of Niger Republic.

Hon. Fatimat Raji-Rasaki (Ado Ekiti/Irepodun/Ifelodun): I wish to commend the mover of the Motion for bringing it at the time Nigeria is also going through reforms in our electoral process.

The situation in Niger Republic can be likened to a coup on the sovereignty of the people of Niger. This Parliament needs to support this Motion with a strong voice because of the danger and the effect that the situation may likely have on Nigeria. A coup on the sovereignty of the people is likely to result into anarchy and rebellion. Nigeria being the next-door neighbour will be adversely affected by the influx of Niger citizens seeking refuge in Nigeria if it happens. As a Parliament, we must call on the President of Niger Republic to restore constitutional order by first restoring the Constitutional Court he sacked and further refrain from the 1st of August Referendum that he intends to conduct.

I so submit.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Farouk, who is the Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament now?

Hon. Farouk Lawan: There is no Speaker.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba (Gboko/Tarka): Let me start by saying that it took America to send their service men to Haiti to restore a democratically elected government who was ousted by this kind of person. Here in Nigeria we have inelastic way to forgive. Ordinarily, we would not have, today, been talking to some of the people who tried to subvert democracy. Some of them are the biggest beneficiaries of the rule of law today which was fought very hard by men and women of honour that we saw in this Chamber. People like Chief Emeka Ihedioha, Farouk Lawan, Bala Na'Allah, Solomon Agidani, Abdul Ningi, Maifata, Kawu, Hon. Tsegba and Bayero Nafada.

It is unfortunate today some of the people who tried to subvert democracy in this country today are the biggest beneficiaries of democracy, including some people in this Chamber. This does not mean that we, as Parliamentarian and as men of honour, must condemn Hon. Ndume as not being part of people of honour.

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What is happening in Niger today is that the people in that country may not have that capacity to forgive like Nigerians. You will recall that this same group of people was the people who aided Gen. Sanni Abacha to continue in his leadership position forever and that he was God sent. These people found themselves in the corridors of power when President Obasanjo was in power. Some of these people are contractors; they are supplying so many things to Niger. They have exported this Nigeria's system to Niger today.

We must stand to condemn all these people including some of them who are sitting here with us in this hallowed Chamber. I am not sure of what would have happened in this country if the very few men of honour were not here. This is because out of 360 Members in the Chamber it got to a point when we were only 122 who were opposed to the President elongating his tenure. *(Interruptions)*

The Deputy Speaker: We were 121 not 122.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba: What we needed was just to stop that Third Term bid. Some people joined because of providence or where they came from. My Friend, Hon. Ita Enang said he was going to sign for them but that he would not take their money. *(Laughter)* I salute his courage even though he signed for it.

We have men of honour; I cannot see some of them behind because they are not here. Hon. Attai was not with us but it was because of the place he came from but he could have rejected the money like Hon. Ita Enang.

As a country, we are seeing what is happening in Sudan today it is happening because of individuals trying to monopolise power at the expense of the people. This is why democracy is good because people have an opportunity to change leadership at the appointed time. Therefore, whatever people do, people buy time and say, no when it gets to the time we will change this person.

When you close the political space for people not to contest, not to have ability to change their leadership, then that is not democracy. This is why such people try to go through the back door by subverting the Constitution to change the rule of the game so that they can continue forever. What is happening in Niger should also guide us to look out for such people in this country; people who will always try to tell the President

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to continue even when there is ample evidence that our leaders are not doing well.

Well, my neighbour is raising his hand may be he will tell us about democracy more even though he is not a believer in it. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): The issue of Niger is a serious issue that this honourable House needs to strongly stand against. This House is known for standing against injustice and other things that are anti-people and this is one of the issues that are anti-people.

For the information to my Colleagues, the current President of Niger is 71 years old and he wants another term. When somebody is 71 years, his usefulness, his efficiency, his thinking to the society start to diminish. This is a serious issue. This African mentality of our Heads of State or Presidents sitting in power *till death do us part* is not good for the country. That is why Africa, a well endowed continent with almost everything, God-given, because of bad leadership it is still underdeveloped and in fact it is degenerating.

This House should stand against what is happening in Niger and we should send a very clear signal to them. If we address this issue now it will equally help us in addressing the issue that is cropping up in this country. For PDP trying to rule for 60 years is also a problem. So if we are going to send a right signal ... *(Interruption)*

The Deputy Speaker: Minority Leader, can you please confine yourself within the topic under discussion?

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Yes Mr. Speaker. The President of Niger ruled Niger for 10 years, PDP has equally ruled for 10 years.

The Deputy Speaker: We are not talking about PDP now please.

Hon. Abdul Ningi (Ningi/Warji): What about ANPP in Borno? How many years?

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Eight years.

Hon. Abdul Ningi: What is the difference?

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: We are leaving immediately after this. We are giving it to PDP.

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The Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much Hon. Ali Ndume.

Hon. Ali Ndume: I hope PDP will retire after this period.

Hon. Abdul Ningi: Mr. Speaker, let me commend the effort of the Sponsor and Co-sponsor of this Motion. And through you, we should also show appreciation at a time when our moral is really low. This Motion has once again brought to bare the foresight and the vision of some of our Parliamentary Members. Mr. Osagie today has done this Chamber proud for bringing an issue that is in the front banner within the International comity of Nations.

I have listened to my friend, Hon. Ubale on the technicalities raised. These are no times for technicalities, these are times for realities. We all thought that when the former President could not get what he wanted through Parliament, the elongation virus has stopped permanently in Nigeria. But this elongation has a virus that spreads across the continent. You recall that immediately an attempt was made in Nigeria, Cameroon adopted the same method and succeeded; Uganda adopted the same method and succeeded; Niger is trying to borrow what Uganda and Cameroon used to also succeed. And they succeeded in Uganda and Cameroon and possibly in Niger because they are very small nations. The leaders are stronger than the nations. That we have told Obasanjo flatly that Nigeria is stronger than him; we thought it is a message that is clearly sent to other African nations.

The centre piece of Nigerian Foreign Policy is Africa. That means that whatever happens to an African country is closely related to what is in the Nigerian interest. Because of the connection with Niger, not only in history, but also the language and culture, it is imperative that whatever is happening in Niger should have our watch clearly set in. This is because if eventually there is anarchy, which will certainly come if Tandja Mamadou succeeded in elongating his term, with 20% of Nigériens now living in Nigeria, 70% of Niger population will definitely relocate to Nigeria!

Therefore, when an issue of this nature arises, I think we should say the truth. We are going to use every diplomatic means possible in making sure Tandja Mamadou did not succeed in this bid. But let me emphasise, if we fail to use diplomatic means, we must use force against Tandja Mamadou. For now, Tandja Mamadou has dissolved the Parliament. The Parliament took the case to the Constitutional Court. As soon as the

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Parliament took the case to the Constitutional Court, he also dissolved the Constitutional Court.

The President of Niger is a danger to Africa. He is a dangerous virus and we must use any means possible to stop him. For now it is diplomacy but later it could be force.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you but that virus can be killed with simple procaine.

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir (Minjibir/Ungogo): I would like to start by saying that the situation in Niger portends a great danger for the peace, stability and security of the people in that country. And I might also like to add that whatever threatens the security and stability of our neighbours is bound to have similar effect to whatever level within our shores.

I recall almost a year ago, a resolution against leaders who try to perpetrate themselves in power unconstitutionally was passed in the Pan-African Parliament in South Africa and it was unanimously endorsed by the entire member countries present including Niger Republic. And here at the ECOWAS Parliament as Hon. Faruk Lawan said earlier, we deliberated extensively in our Committee on this issue where on this issue where serious questions we raised on President Tandja's attempt to perpetuate himself in power beyond what was constitutionally required of him. I would like to ask this question: what are the benefits to the African Continent of Leaders who try to stay well beyond their terms of office? Is it the numerous wars that the various countries have been plunged into? Is it the famine? Is it the prevalence of diseases? There is no benefit whatsoever in this venture that is being callously undertaken by the President of Niger.

This Parliament must rise up and do what is right. If all our entreaties to make him see sense fail then we can use the apparatus of the ECOWAS to make sure that member nations bring the necessary force to bear on him so that sanity would be returned to the Niger Republic.

The Deputy Speaker: Let us hear from those who want to speak against the Motion.

Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru: Mr. Speaker, indeed this honourable House needs to identify the appropriate framework around which this issue is being debated. We are talking about International Relations and Foreign Policy issues. I believe that there is a difference between Foreign Policy objectives and practical strategies for achieving those objectives.

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Under no circumstances and nowhere have we ever heard of condemnations being used as an appropriate diplomatic instrument. Is it in International Relations or is it in International Politics? In International Diplomacy, you do not single out someone, condemn him, and assume he would continue to be with you. If our national interest is to achieve Africa's integration and Africa's unity, the best way for Nigeria to pursue this objective is not by condemning any of our neighbours, or by condemning any African Leader.

Secondly, if the Constitution of Niger Republic allows the President to dissolve Parliament, it is not for us in the Nigerian Parliament to amend that Constitution or to enforce whatever wishes we believe the Nigériens would have.

Let us go through history; it is a matter of mutual respect. In 1967 when Nigeria started its civil war, we are all living witnesses to the fact that Niger Republic instead of either condemning our Leaders or condemning Nigeria as a nation chose to use diplomacy in helping us solve our problems then.

During President Obasanjo's administration, there was this talk about tenure elongations, Niger Republic did not choose to condemn Obasanjo, they did not choose to condemn Nigeria as a nation, they chose to go through diplomatic methods to make sure that this crisis was peacefully and amicable resolved. I believe, therefore, that if this was the appropriate channel used by Niger Republic in helping us, Nigeria should learn to reciprocate this kind gesture. I do not believe that condemning is an appropriate instrument in International diplomacy.

Hon. Mohammed Takori Sani (Gumi/Bukkuyum): I associate myself with the submission of Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru in opposing this Motion most especially on the premise of International Law and Diplomacy.

Whatever we think about African Charter regulating the conduct of States because we are signatory to it, or whatever we believe is the right of Nigeria to get involved on matters that relate to its neighbours, is strictly limited by the principle of Diplomacy and International Relation. As he rightly observed the word condemnation is very undiplomatic. We should have used and milder words in trying to assuage the authorities in Niger to see reason, if there is any.

Right now, even the proponents of this Motion were not able to give us the Constitution of Niger

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Republic whereby the power being evolved by Tandja has violated that Constitution.

Therefore, there is the need for the Parliament, while trying to do every thing possible to assist Niger Republic come out of her political problems, to also consider the limitations of International Relation and International Diplomacy.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, before I put the question, I have one amendment and that is the only amendment. It reads:

Nigeria should unilaterally resort to any measures against the Government of Niger Republic in the event that they rid the regime of success in its illegal bid to elongate its tenure.

That was an amendment by Hon. Rabe Nasir.

Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Attai A. Ali (Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro): I rise to second the amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question on the Main Motion put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Condemn the undemocratic and unconstitutional actions of President Tandja Mamadou of the Republic of Niger.
- (ii) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to impress on the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to prevail on President Tandja Mamadou to restore Constitutional Order.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Banks and other Financial Institutions Act 1991 (Repeal) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Banks and other Financial Institutions Act 1991 and to Re-enact the Banks and other Financial Institutions Act 2009.

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The Fourth Order of the Day is the commencement of Debate on the General

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Principle of a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Banks and other Financial Institutions Act 1991 and to Re-enact the Banks and other Financial Institutions Act 2009 and for Matters Connected Therewith 2009. The Bill was read for the time on Thursday 14th May, 2009.

I now invite Hon. Betty Apiafi to move that the Bill be now read for the Second Time.

Hon. Betty O. Apiafi (Ahoada East/Abua/Odual): I do move that a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Banks and other Financial Institutions Act 1991 and to Re-enact the Banks and other Financial Institutions Act 2009 and for other Matters Connected Therein should be read a Second Time.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Sokonte Davies (Degema/Bonny): I rise to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Hon. Betty O Apiafi: The global economic down turn has shown first hand what happens where a regulatory regime is weak or inadequate and where there is laxity on the part of regulators. This Bill seeks to make provisions extensively aimed at improving regulation and reinforcement of punishment for offenders.

The Bill is divided into three major parts; Part A of this Bill deals with Banks; Part B deals with other Financial Institutions and Part C deals with Miscellaneous and Supplementary provisions.

The Part A of the Bill is also sub-divided into six parts. The first of it, talks about Functions, Powers and Duties of the Central Bank, procedures to grant and revocation of license, restructuring, reorganizing, merging and disposal of Banks, minimum capital requirements, rights of shareholders and so on.

One of the major amendments on this part of the Bill is that the Principal Act did not make provisions for what CBN should do when there is a merger. In this section we have added seven new sub-sections which introduce and strengthen the process of restructuring, reorganizing and merging of banks. Some of these additions include:

That the CBN will approve agreements or arrangements to merge that are unlikely to cause a substantial restraint of competition or tend to create a monopoly in the banking industry; this was not in the Principle Act. Part B of it also provides a significant

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Shareholders and Directors of the bank that result from the said agreement or rearrangement and not to be Directors who are disqualified under Section 44 of this Act.

Also, one of the new additions is that any agreement or arrangement for merging must be consistent with public interest. There are so many other additions to the Amendment of this Act. I am sure Members will read when they go through the Bill.

The second part of part A talks about disclosures of interest by Directors, Managers and officials and sanctions thereof.

I would like to mention at this point that the Act that we are repealing has had sanctions that are quite outdated. We have a situation where in most of the Sections, sanctions range from ₦100 to may be ₦5,000 and with inflationary trend and the current situation in the economy and in the Nation, the global economic melt down and the situation in the financial sector, it is necessary that most of these sanctions be reviewed. So, we have accordingly reviewed the financial sanctions as well as increased most of the imprisonment terms for the Bill.

Part (3) of it talks about books and records of accounts that Banks are supposed to keep; returns to be regarded as confidential; publication of financial statement; contents and forms of account. It is also to know that the Principle Act makes provision for offences for rendering returns and information under this Act which range from ₦50, 000 to ₦100, 000 and what this Amendment has tried to do is to increase these, like I said earlier, to a penalty of ₦10, 000,000 per day for as long as the offence is committed and also to reduce the number of days banks are expected to render returns to the Central Banks from 28 days to 10 days.

Section (4) of the Principle Act has the Office of the Director of Banking Supervision. What we have also tried to do here is to expunge that office and ask the Central Bank Governor to appoint an examiner.

Deputy Speaker: Can you please rap up so that we can put the question.

Hon. Betty O. Apiafi: All right. A lot of work has been done to amend this Act because since 1996 when this Bill was passed, there have been several amendments. This is the first time a very comprehensive Amendment or a re-enactment of a new Bill is coming up.

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I would like to urge my Colleagues to support this new Bill so that we can get our Central Bank to be up in the arms to face the global recession and be able to keep banking industries functioning.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): The Amendment of (BOFIA) is over due because the (BOFIA ACT) is archaic and obsolete. There are too many things that need to be addressed. Given the current financial meltdown, it has become obvious that one thing or two things are important; one, regulation; two, openness otherwise known as disclosure without adequate regulation by the Regulatory Authorities, and openness and transparency in the conduct of banking business. God forbid, any economy is bound including Nigeria to witness failure of banks. So it is as a result of this that our Committee has been working also with the regulatory authority of the Central Bank under what they call the financial system strategy to articulate comprehensive amendments and provisions that have to be contained in a new (BOFIA ACT).

It is also gladdening that one of our Members Hon. Betty has come up with this proposed repeal of the Act. It is going to form the basic working paper into which the comprehensive work that is being done by the Committee and the regulatory authorities, CBN and so on would now be integrated into. So I as a person and Members of our Committee, we support the repeal of the (BOFIA ACT). We do hope that through the process that we are going to have a new banking code that would ensure that banking business is elevated to the level where it is practiced the way it is practised everywhere.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

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

The Deputy Speaker: The fifth 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 the Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Centre and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009. (HB. 256)

The Bill was read for the first time on Thursday, 16th July 2009. Hon. Ita Enang Bills from the Chairman, Federal Capital Territory always get your attention promptly. This Bill was read for the First Time on the 16th of July, 2009.

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Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Mr. Speaker, you will be my witness that many times Members quarrelled with me that they were not ready to do their Bill and sometimes we scout for Members who are prepared to take their Bills.

Let me say here that any other Member that had indicated that he is prepared to take his Bill but it was not listed should kindly indicate. Therefore, I want to praise with your leave the Chairman of FCT for agreeing to take his Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I will pray that you praise him for taking his Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: I now invite Hon. Attai Usman to now move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Attai Aidoko Ali (Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro): Mr. Speaker, may I move that a Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of the Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Centre and other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 be read a Second Time.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any seconder?

Hon. James Baitachi (Bosso/Paikoro): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Hon. Attai Aidoko Ali: Mr. Speaker, I will not waste the time of this honourable House. This Bill is straightforward. This Resource Centre has been in existence but what we seek to do like the previous Bill is to give it the backing of the law. The Resource Centre is responsible for liaising between the Central Education Bodies and the FCT Education Administration. It is also responsible for planning curriculum, library services and research for the education sector of the FCT.

Like the other previous Bills that had passed through the processes in the last House, this Bill has also passed through the Second Reading; it has passed through the Third Reading and even it has gone to the Senate for concurrence before the time of the previous National Assembly elapsed.

Therefore, I want to seek the leave of the house to take the benefit of Order XV Rule 8 to commit this Bill to the Committee of the Whole.

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Question put and agreed to.

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

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity on Labour Act, 1999 (Repeal) Bill, 2009

The Deputy Speaker: The Seventh Order of the Day is consideration of the Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Labour Act, 1999 and Make Comprehensive Provisions on Minimum Labour Standards for Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 and approve the Recommendation Therein.

Members would recall that the Bill was laid on Thursday 14th July, 2009. Hon. Ado Audu Dogo is now invited to move for the consideration of the Report. *(No Response)*

Hon. Ita Enang do we stand down this Report?

Hon. Ita Enang: We may stood down the Report Sir.

(Report with the leave of the House stood down).

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory Water Board and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009

The Deputy Speaker: The last Order of the Day is commencement of debate on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory Water Board and Matters Connected Therewith, 2009. The Bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole on Thursday 21st May, 2009.

I now invite Hon. Ita Enang to move for the consideration of the Report. Unfortunately, Hon. Ita Enang, if you move that Motion the Leader of the House is here to move for us to resolve into Committee of Whole but the Deputy Leader is not here to second his Motion.

Hon. Ita Enang: Sir, may everything on the Order Paper be stood down.

(All items on the Order Paper with leave of the House stood down).

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ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko-Edo): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do stand adjourned till Thursday 23rd July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

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

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Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Thursday 23rd July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 5.10 p.m.