

0385

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 25th March, 2009

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 24th March, 2009.

ANNOUCEMENT

**Visit of Students of Government Senior
Secondary School, Araga, Kafanchan**

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, Sitting in the Gallery today are students from the Government Senior Secondary School, Araga, Kafanchan.

Can you please rise for recognition?

(Students accordingly rose for recognition)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITION

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

Wrongful Dismissal from Service

Hon. Joseph M. Gumbari (Kauru): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from one of my constituents, DSP Haruna D. Ganama.

He has written a Petition to the House against his wrongful dismissal from the Nigeria Police Force. He therefore wants this honourable House to do justice to the matter.

One of his prayers in the petition is that he should be reinstated to the only profession that he has always cherished most; that is, the Nigeria Police Force.

I wish to lay the Petition on the Table.

(Petition laid on the Table.)

0386

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

The Petition is hereby referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

(Petition accordingly referred to the Committee on Public Petition)

Hon. Raphael Samson Osagie (Orhionmwon Uhumwode): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Deputy Speaker: Order what?

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**The Untold Hardship and Sufferings of
Nigerians in Libya**

Hon. Raphael Samson Osagie: Order VIII, Rule 4, under Matter of Urgent Public Importance. The issue this afternoon is anchored on the untold hardship and sufferings that hundreds of Nigerians are going through in Libya, as we speak.

Mr. Speaker, following the successful focus of this House on the plight of Nigerians, within and outside the country, I have been inundated with a lot of calls and requests which I have also confirmed from the Nigerian Commission in Libya that hundreds of Nigerians are being held in various deportation camps with conditions that are very unbearable and unacceptable.

I wish to bring this matter up tomorrow with a view to discussing it and resolving to ask the appropriate government organ to take urgent step to salvage Nigerians who are being held hostage in Libya.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the untold hardship and sufferings of Nigerians in Libya be taken as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance in the next legislative date.

Hon. Bitrus B. Kaze (Jos South/East): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Deputy Speaker: Order what?

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

**Leakage of the Report of the
Ad-hoc Committee on Jos Crisis to the Press**

Hon. Bitrus B. Kaze: Mr. Speaker, Order V, Rule 4, page 12, - Matter of Privilege.

0387

0388

You will recall that on Thursday, the 19th of March, 2009, this House did receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Jos Crisis and it was laid on this Table. Up till this moment that I am speaking, Members are yet to be served with a copy of the Report. While we wait for the Report to be served, somehow Mr. Speaker, the Report found its way in the Newspapers, particularly the Daily Trust and the Punch Newspapers of Monday, 23rd and yesterday Tuesday, 24th of March, 2009.

I believe this is improper; it is a breach of our privilege as well as being unethical. I am of the strong opinion that it is important for this House to find how this Report got to the Public even before the House got it.

Hon. Abdulrahman Suleiman (Sumaila/Takai): Mr. Speaker, I think whenever a Report is laid before this House, it becomes a public document. Any Nigerian has a right to access the Report. I think there is nothing wrong if some Daily Newspapers publish the said Report.

The Deputy Speaker: I do not think that the Daily Newspapers are supposed to get the Report before the Members. That is the question that Hon. Kaze has raised, not that it is a secret. It is something that we are supposed to see first before any other person or group.

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Mr. Speaker, this Report has been laid on the Table but it is not yet a public document unless and until it is reproduced and circulated to Members for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I read the Daily Trust Newspaper and I saw on the front page where they said they were going to serialise the Report. In the presence of the Clerk of the House, I met an important Member of this House, and I asked him about it, but we could not answer each other.

I will prayer that we should take the matter up in a Closed Session later with the Leadership, Sir. It is a matter that has raised concern and I raised this question to that Member yesterday on how the Report could get to the Press even to the extent of it being serialized.

The Deputy Speaker: Well, I think that it is the responsibility of the House Committee on Ethics and Privilege to find out how this Report leaked out to the Press. Therefore, may I on this note direct the Ethics and Privilege Committee to find out how this Report leaked out to the Press.

(Matter of the leakage of Report to the Press referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges)

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the first Business of the day is presentation of four Bills.

The Clerk is invited to read the short Titles of the Bills.

HIV and AIDS Anti-Discrimination Bill, 2009

HIV and AIDS Anti-Discrimination Bill, 2009 (HB.196) - (Executive Bill) – *read the First Time*

State of the Nation Address Bill, 2009

State of the Nation Address Bill, 2009 (HB.187, sponsored by Hon. Christopher S. Eta – *read the First Time*.

Federal Capital Territory Public Service Commission Bill, 2009

Federal Capital Territory Public Service Commission Bill, 2009 (HB, 189) sponsored by Hon. Emmanuel Bello – *read the First Time*.

Cassava Flour (Mandatory Inclusion in Flour Production) Bill, 2009

Cassava Flour (Mandatory Inclusion in Flour Production) Bill, 2009 (HB, 197) (Hon. Olakunle Salako) – *read the First Time*.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): Mr. Speaker, Point of Order.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, what is your point of Order?

Hon. Okuweh Ogor: My point of Order borders on Order XII Rule 14 page 59, which is arising from the Bills the Clerk has just read. It reads:

More than one Bill on the same subject matter may be introduced, but where the second reading of a Bill has been agreed to or negated, which is the basis of this issue, the question shall not be proposed for the second reading of another Bill of the same subject matter during the same session. On the order of the day relating to such a Bill being read, the Speaker shall direct that the Bill be withdrawn.

My respected Speaker, you are aware that we have gone through a second reading of a Bill which is HIV and AIDS Anti-Discrimination Bill, which was a

0389

Private Member's Bill. I have always commended hon. Members for being able to introduce Bills.

Unfortunately, this is the same subject matter that is coming. The problem here is that we cannot even merge this Bill now because of the House Rule as clearly directed because we have finished the second reading of the first Bill.

Arising from the House then, it becomes pertinent and important that since that Bill is already in the Committee of the House, it therefore means that this first Bill will have to, one way or the other, be withdrawn. Except we are going to suspend that rule to allow us to still waste the materials that we need to use for other subject issues.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Leo Ogor, *the question shall not be proposed for the second reading of another Bill of the same subject matter.*

Hon. Leo Ogor: Mr. Speaker, you need to go through first reading before you go to second reading.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, but our Rule is talking about second reading. When we get to that bridge, then you can tell us how to cross it.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Review of the Recommendations of the Power Probe Report

The Deputy Speaker: The second Business of the Day is presentation of the Report of an Ad-hoc Committee to Review the recommendations of the Report of the Committee on Power, standing in the name of Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal.

Hon. Members will recall that on Thursday 19th of March, 2009 this honourable House at an Executive Session mandated the Committee to revisit the recommendations and draw up recommendations that will enable the House reach a consensus on the matter.

The Report is now ready for presentation. Hon. Tambuwal is invited to present the Report.

Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal (Kebbe/Tambuwal): Mr. Speaker, it is true that the House mandated the Ad-hoc Committee on Power to present its Report latest today, this afternoon; I am sure we will all appreciate the fact that the work of this Committee is enormous and we have had to request from certain agencies of government, which include Ministry of Power, Central Bank of Nigeria, PHCN,

0390

Institute of Bankers, documents that are necessary for our work to come to a fruitful conclusion.

The Institute of Bankers had responded, PHCN only responded this morning, the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Ministry of Power are yet to respond.

The documents we requested from them, in the opinion of members of the Committee, are vital to the workings of the Committee. Based on this, it is our prayer that this House shall grant us an extension of time by another one week.

God willing, we shall be able to present our Report.

I so submit.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, he has asked for additional one week.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Ad-hoc Committee to review the recommendations of the Report of the Committee on Power Probe be granted additional one week to present its Report.

Report of the Committee on Women Affairs

The Deputy Speaker: The third Business of the Day is presentation of a Report of the Committee on Women Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Establish a Trust Fund for the Physically Challenged in Nigeria and for other matters connected therewith, 2008 and a Bill for an Act to ensure full Integration of Nigerians with Disability into the Society and to Establish a National Commission for Persons with Disability and Vest it with the Responsibilities for their Education, Healthcare and Protection of their Social, Economic, Civil and Political Rights and for other matters connected therewith, 2008, standing in the name of Hon. Binta Masi Garba.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Thursday 17th April, 2008. The Report is now ready for presentation.

Hon. Garba is invited to present her Report.

Hon. Binta Mashi Garba (Madagali/Michika): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Women Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Establish a Trust Fund for the Physically Challenged in Nigeria and for other Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 and a Bill for an Act to Ensure full

0391

Integration of Nigerians with Disability into the Society and to Establish a National Commission for Persons with Disability and vest it with the Responsibilities for their Education, Healthcare and Protection of their Social, Economic, Civil and Political Rights and for other matters Connected Therewith, 2008 (HB 38 & 36).

I so move.

Hon. Ado Dodo Audu (Jemaa/Sanga): Mr. Speaker, I stand to second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Binta Mashu Garba.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

Mid-Sessional Reports:-

Committee on Gas Resources

The Deputy Speaker: The third Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Gas Resources. The Report is standing in the name of Hon. Igochukwu N. Aguma.

Hon. Aguma is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Igochukwu N. Aguma (Port Harcourt I): Mr. Speaker, may I move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Gas Resources.

I so move.

Hon. Peace Uzoamaka Nnaji (Nkanu East/Nkanu West): Mr. Speaker, I hereby second the Motion as moved by the Chairman, House Committee on Gas Resources.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

Committee on Education

The Deputy Speaker: The fourth Business of the Day is Presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Education. The Report is standing in the name of Hon. Farouk M. Lawan.

Hon. Farouk Lawan is invited to present his Report.

0392

Hon. Farouk M. Lawan (Shanono/Bagwai): Mr. Speaker, our Report has been prepared and we are meeting as a Committee to finalize it. I plead that we be given one more week to present the Report.

The Deputy Speaker: Chairman, House Committee on Rules & Business, the House is giving the Committee on Education one more week.

(One week accordingly granted the Committee on Education within which to present its Mid-Sessional Report)

Committee on Information and National Orientation

The Deputy Speaker: The fifth Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Information and National Orientation, standing in the name of Hon. Dino Daniel Melaye.

Hon. Melaye or his Deputy is invited to present the Report.

Hon. Ita Enang, please contact Hon. Dino Melaye. I understand that yesterday the Report was in the Order Paper but it was not presented. Call him and find out what the problem is.

Hon. Ita Enang: Yesterday, the Report was on the Order Paper but he came in after it was called for presentation. We told him he will present it today but I can not explain why he is not here. We can stand it down for presentation next week

(Report by leave of the House stood down)

Committee on Solid Minerals

The Deputy Speaker: The sixth Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Solid Minerals, standing in the name of Hon. Yakubu Umaru Barde.

Hon. Barde is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Yakubu Umaru Barde (Kajuru/Chikun): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Solid Minerals.

I so move.

Hon. Godfrey A. Gaiya (Jaba/Zangon Kataf): Mr. Speaker, I am standing to second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Umaru Barde.

0393

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

Committee on Land Transport

The Deputy Speaker: The seventh Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Land Transport, standing in the name of Hon. Bernard Udoh.

Hon. Udoh is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Christopher Sunday Eta (Boki/Ikom): Mr. Speaker, Hon. Udoh is not in the Chamber now. I wish to stand in for him and to move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Land Transport.

I so move.

Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo (Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as moved by the Deputy Chairman of Committee on Land Transport.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations

The Deputy Speaker: The eighth Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations, standing in the name of Hon. Sada Soli Jibia.

Hon. Jibia is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Sada Soli Jibia (Jibia/Kaita): Mr. Speaker, may I move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations.

I so move.

Hon. Elizabeth O. Ogbaga (Ohaukwu/Ebonyi): I second the Motion as ably moved.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

The Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 54th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

0394

The Deputy Speaker The ninth Business of the Day is presentation of Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 54th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 1st – 10th August, 2008, standing in the name of Hon. Sada Soli Jibia.

Hon. Jibia is invited to present the Report.

Hon. Sada Soli Jibia (Jibia/Kaita): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of the House Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 54th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the 1st -10th August, 2008.

Hon. Austin Nwachukwu (Ehime Mbano/Ihite Uboma/Obowo): Hon. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to

Report laid.

Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the African Parliamentary Union (APU) 53rd Executive Committee

The Deputy Speaker: The tenth Business of the Day is presentation of Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the African Parliamentary Union (APU) 53rd Session of the Executive Committee, Kampala, Uganda, 26 and 27 November, 2008. The Report is standing in the name of Hon. Sada Soli Jibia.

Hon. Jibia is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Sada Soli Jibia: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of the House Committee on the Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the African Parliamentary Union (APU) 53rd Session of the Executive Committee, Kampala, Uganda, 26 and 27 November, 2008

Hon. Uche Ekwunife (Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on a Conference on Education and Inter-Cultural Dialogue

0395

The Deputy Speaker: The eleventh Business of the Day is presentation of Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on a Conference on Education and Inter-Cultural Dialogue at Praia, Cape Verde between 30th October – November 1, 2008, standing in the name of Hon. Sada Soli Jibia.

Hon. Sada is invited to present the Report.

Hon. Sada Soli Jibia: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of the House Committee on Inter-Parliamentary relations on a Conference on Education and Inter-Cultural Dialogue at Praia, Cape Verde between 30th October –November 1, 2008.

I so move.

Hon. Nnenna Ijeoma E. Ukeje (Bende): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to

Report laid.

Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 11th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Deputy Speaker: The twelfth Business of the Day is Presentation of Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 119th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Geneva, Switzerland, between 13th -15th October, 2008. The Report is standing in the name of Hon. Sada Soli Jibia.

Hon. Jibia is invited to present the Report

Hon. Sada Soli Jibia: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of the House Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 119th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Geneva, Switzerland, between 13th - 15th October, 2008.

I so move.

Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha (Isuikwuato/Umunneochi): Hon. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

Report of the House Committee on

0396

Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 31st

Conference of the African Parliamentary Union

Deputy Speaker: The fourteenth Business of the Day is presentation of Report of the House Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 31st Conference of the African Parliamentary Union, Kampala, Uganda, between 29 – 30th November, 2008, standing in the name of Hon. Sada Soli Jibia.

Hon. Jibia is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Sada Soli Jibia (Jibia/Kaita): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of the House Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 31st Conference of the African Parliamentary Union, Kampala, Uganda, between 29th and 30th November, 2008.

I so moved.

Hon. Halima Hassan Tukur (Yauri/Shanga/Ngaski): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by my Colleague, Hon. Sada Soli Jibia.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Fire Spitting Volcanic Eruption in Dzuma Town

Deputy Speaker: The first Order of the Day is a Motion on Fire Spitting Volcanic Eruption in Dzuma Town in Hong Local Government Area of Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency of Adamawa State, standing in the name of Hon. Emmanuel Bello and 79 others. Hon. Emmanuel Bello is invited to move his Motion.

Hon. Emmanuel Bello (Gombi/Hong): I move that:

The House

Notes the recent fire spitting volcanic eruption in Dzuma town in Hong Local Government Area of Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency of Adamawa State;

Further notes that Dzuma town is situated between two mountains which aggravated the intensity of the volcanic activity and spate of destruction;

0397

Concerned that many people sustained first degree fire injuries while homes and properties worth Millions of Naira were either completely destroyed or lost as a result of the volcanic activity;

Worried that unless immediate steps are taken by Agencies of Government to forecast volcanic activity in order to enable people take precautionary measures, we may in future experience more of such inferno;

Resolved:

(i) To urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims;

(ii) Urge the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), do liaise with the Office of the Adviser on National Security and other

relevant agencies of Government to proffer solutions as to how future volcanic activity can be checkmated;

(iii) Mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to report actions taken and findings to the House within 8 weeks

I so move.

Hon. Binta Masi Garba (Madagali/Michika): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as moved by my Colleague, Hon. Emmanuel Bello.

Question proposed

Hon. Emmanuel Bello: Mr. Speaker, this is a straightforward Motion. The first time this incident was recorded was in 1963; it occurred again in 1982 but it was not as damaging as it is now. It was just spit of fire coming from the two mountains.

Like I said yesterday, legend had it that it is the spirit of the two mountains that were fighting. But scientific evidence of this century suggests that it must have been caused by some activities underground. This particular fire has caused very serious damage to about 100 houses in Dzuma town. As at today, four people have sustained first degree injuries while others have been treated and discharged from Mubi General Hospital and the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, respectively.

The incident is so serious that we felt that the Federal Government has to intervene because no

0398

scientific investigation has been able to find out exactly what is happening in Dzuma Mountains. Dzuma Mountains are linked to the Cameroon Mountains and they are about 160km away from the volcanic activities that was reported last year in Cameroon.

It is important that our government intervenes. That is my reason for moving this Motion and to make it to the attention of Nigerians so that our government can take steps to identify other areas that are prone to this kind of activities.

I urge my Colleagues to support the Motion and allow it scale through.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, as the mover of the Motion said, Hong is located on the border between Nigeria and Cameroon. Like he said, the volcanic activity is some distance of about 160 km away from the non-volcanic eruption that happened in Cameroon but that is not the major concern. The major concern is that the volcanic eruption in that area is known to have been producing poisonous gas. In Cameroon, it led to the death of so many people.

The incident is not something that should be left like that. In today's development, it is expected that the Federal Government would have been pro-active so that before this event happens the people in that community would have been evacuated and that would have avoided the problem that we had. Since the incident has already occurred, it does not mean that there is no likelihood of such event reoccurring.

As he said, this is now the third time that such incident has been recorded. The first time was in 1962. The second time was in 1983 and now it has happened in 2009. This Motion is very important. The Federal Government would take some measures to actually study the situation there so that the reoccurrence of such event would either be known and pro-active measures taken.

In view of this, Mr. Speaker, I urge our Colleagues to support this Motion and to re-emphasize that the Federal Government actually needs to do something pro-actively.

The Deputy Speaker: I want to recognize those who want to speak for the Motion.

Hon. Godfrey Ali Gaiya (Jaba/Zangon Kataf): Mr. Speaker, I need to first of all commend the mover of this Motion, Hon. Emmanuel Bello and I also wish to support him. However, in supporting it I want to speak from the position of a professional Geologist.

0399

0400

These adjoining States to Cameroon, namely, Borno, Adamawa, Taraba, Benue and Cross-River, share some geological affinity with Cameroon. This is because they are linked by what we call the Cameroonian Mountain chain.

In the past, these areas were considered geologically stable. But of recent, we have noticed some volcanic activities and the one that readily comes to mind is the Lake Nyos eruption that took place some years ago where several people lost their lives.

In this House, Hon. Chile Igbawua brought a Motion similar to that of Hon. Emmanuel Bello, about a building eruption that could have wiped away a section of Benue State and such prayers were also raised. But for me, I do not believe in cosmetic solution to this problem, that is, calling on NEMA here and there is not the ideal thing that we should do.

Natural disasters must happen because they are natural; we cannot stop them. But it is possible to predict when they will occur because they are also science oriented. The very advanced geologically advanced countries have developed technologies where such areas prone to volcanic eruptions are monitored so that they give information long before the actual occurrence to enable people to be evacuated and taken to safe areas before the eruption.

It is good to call on NEMA for immediate relief but it is more permanent if the relevant Government Agencies are equipped properly to be able to monitor those areas so that they are known long before they occur to avert what happened at Dzuma Village.

Therefore, in addition to supporting the prayers raised by Hon. Emmanuel Bello, I want to add that the Geological Survey Department, the organ of Government responsible for monitoring these occurrences, should be better equipped and strengthened so that they can deploy their equipment to such sensitive geological areas for effective monitoring.

As I said, Adamawa, Taraba, Borno, Cross River and Benue, are areas very close to the mountains. We should deploy Geological Survey Department to set their geological equipment in such areas so as to predict such eruptions before their occurrence. Whether we like it or not, these areas are sitting on a volcanic time bomb. If they happen, we cannot be here to talk about remedies because it would be so disastrous. We cannot be talking about NEMA because it cannot be the solution.

Let us be very pro-active in dealing with this natural disaster so that when they happen we, as a nation, should be prepared to tackle them headlong.

The Deputy Speaker: I would give chance to those who want to speak against the Motion.

Hon. Colleagues, before I put the question, if you look at Prayer 2, based on what Hon. Gaiya has said professionally, there is no way we can checkmate this activity. If they are natural, we cannot control them. Therefore, I do not know whether Hon. Emmanuel Bello or any other person can move for the deletion of Prayer 2 because you cannot checkmate this activity.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, with respect Sir, this is the most appropriate Prayer. This is because if you look at page 112 of our Standing Order which shows the functions of the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, it is absolutely the functions of the Committee to study pre-emptive matters. I want to read just one or two of them.

The Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness is to develop policies on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness.

To develop Pre-emptive Policies and Programmes for Search and Rescue Operations in the Maritime and Air Transport Industries.

This Committee was not initially designed to cover NEMA; it was later that NEMA was even added to it. This Committee on Emergency Preparedness is to study pre-emptive matters; to study and warn us in advance as it is done in the United States when a disaster is expected. I pray that this Prayer be accepted as it is on the Order Paper.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ita Enang, it says: *how future volcanic activities can be checkmated*. How can you checkmate it?

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, when you detect it in advance, you can advise and warn the people.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Ita Enang. Hon. Farouk, you have the Floor.

Hon. Farouk M. Lawan (Shanono/Bagwai): Mr. Speaker, I want to move for an amendment to Prayer 2. And it goes this way:

To ask the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) liaises with the Office of Adviser on National Security and other relevant Agencies of Government to proffer solution as to how future volcanic

0401

activities can be predicted and its adverse effect limited.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any Seconder to that? Hon. Emmanuel Bello, you have the Floor.

Hon. Emmanuel Bello: I rise to second the Motion as amended.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Hon. Uche Ekwunife (Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia): Mr. Speaker, since this is a natural disaster, I think it needs God's intervention. We do not have control over natural disasters. I want to add to the Prayer that Hon. Emma Bello should organise his people for fasting and prayer to stop the volcanic eruption. *(Laughter)*

It is important. I am sorry that some of them do not go to church; they do not know the powers of God. This is a natural disaster and somebody who is an expert has said that it has no control. What do we do? Two gods are fighting and we have a God that is above all gods. Therefore, Emma Bello should call his people to go into fasting and prayer to stop this from happening again.

The Deputy Speaker: Is that an additional Prayer?

Hon. Uche Ekwunife: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Suleiman Moh'd Bello (Akko): I rise to second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Uche Ekwunife.

Amendment put and negated.

Main Motion as Amended put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent fire-spitting volcanic eruption in Dzuma town in Hong Local Government Area of Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency of Adamawa State;

Further noted that Dzuma town is situated between two mountains which aggravated the intensity of the volcanic activity and spate of destruction;

Concerned that many people sustained first degree fire injuries, while homes and properties worth millions of Naira were either completely destroyed or lost as a result of the volcanic activity;

0402

Worried that unless immediate steps are taken by Agencies of Government to forecast volcanic activity in order to enable people take precautionary measures, we may in future experience more of such infernos.

Resolved to:

(i) *Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to sent relief materials to the victims;*

(ii) *To ask the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) liaises with the Office of Adviser on National Security and other relevant Agencies of Government to proffer solution as to how future volcanic activities can be predicted and its adverse effect limited*

(iii) *Mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to report action(s) taken and findings to the House within 8 weeks.*

Outbreak of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (CSM) in Kano and Other parts of the Country

The Deputy Speaker: The Second Order of the Day is a Motion on outbreak of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (CSM) in Kano State and other parts of the country standing in the name of Hon. Farouk M. Lawan and forty-seven others.

Hon. Farouk M. Lawan is invited to move his Motion.

Hon. Farouk M. Lawan (Shanono/Bagwai): Mr. Speaker;

The House:

Notes the outbreak of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis in Kano and other parts of the country;

Further notes that Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria called Neisseria Meningitis which affects mainly the brain and spinal cord;

Disturbed that so far, statistics has it that over two thousand (2000) cases have already been reported from the 44 local government areas of the State while, reported cases of infections are on the increase in other parts of the country;

0403

0404

Aware that the epidemic disease can be prevented through immunisation and decongesting crowded areas;

Worried that if the spread of the epidemic disease is not curtailed, the people would be put at greater risk;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government in collaboration with the affected State Governments to provide free drugs and other medical items to patients affected by the outbreak.
- (ii) Further urge the Federal Government to assist affected States to carry out immunisation exercises, enlightenment campaigns as well as the training of Health workers in the management of the condition.

I so move.

Hon. Danlami Hamza (Fagge): Mr. Speaker, I do second the Motion as ably moved by Hon. Lawan Farouk.

Question proposed.

Hon. Farouk M. Lawan: This Motion once again calls for the attention of this honourable House and the Federal Government to act on a matter that is so serious and that has the potential of determining the life and death of a very important segment of the population of this country. We must begin to put greater premium and attention to matters that are very critical and important especially that which affects human health and lives.

The issue of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (CSM) is an issue that has over the years created serious problems not only in Kano State but also in other States in the North and generally across the length and breath of this country. This time around, the state of the disease has become so alarming that it calls for us to collectively act so that we can address this disease that is currently ravaging a very important segment of our society.

Precisely on Monday when I was putting together this particular Motion, the official statistics from Kano State then was that 2,000 people were infected with this disease. If you read the newspapers today, the statistics indicates that precisely 2,999 people were reported by the Commissioner of Health of Kano State to have been affected by the disease. What that means is that within the last two days, we have had an increase of almost 1,000 people even from the official statistics released by the government. Of course, we know that it is not all the time that our statistics truly reflects the situation on ground.

In most cases, what you have is only a fraction of the reality that is on ground. So, if within a period of about two days, we could have an increase of the infection rate of over 1,000 people, I believe that we must act now.

Already from the same statistics, about 78 people have already lost their lives. Why should we allow a disease that is infectious but preventable to continue to spread? And because it is infectious, it has the potentials of spreading to more people if one person gets it. The more people suffer from it, the more people are likely to lose their lives.

It is important that as a House, call on the Federal Government to quickly intervene by providing the necessary vaccinations and drugs, as well as taking those steps that are necessary to reduce the infectious rate of CSM not only in Kano State but in other States of the Federation.

The prayer of this Motion simply calls on all of us to support the Motion and to urge the Federal Government to intervene and do something as quickly as possible. In most of the rural areas in Kano and other States in the Northern part of the country, the disease is spreading like wild fire. It is bringing serious hardship to the families of those who are affected. It is creating risks on the rate of the survival of the people. It is also putting additional burden and pressure not only on government, but especially on people who live in the rural areas and who can scarcely meet up their daily needs.

I therefore call on my colleagues to support this Motion so that the Federal Government can intervene by way of providing the necessary drugs and also ensuring that steps are taken to prevent the future occurrence of the spread of CSM.

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

The Speaker: What Order?

Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale: My Order is Order IX, Rule 6 on page 37 of the Standing Orders of the House, which borders on Dilatory Motions. It says: *No dilatory Motion shall be entertained by the Speaker.*

You will recall that the prayers contained in this Motion are not in any way far from the prayers that this House passed about three weeks ago when I first raised the issue of Lassa fever and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis outbreak in Nigeria.

0405

It was considered carefully and the House passed the prayers of that Motion as prayed. I am afraid that this Motion by all standards to all intent and purposes amounts to repeating what this House decided on.

The Deputy Speaker: What was the Motion about on that day?

Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale: Lassa fever and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis put together. The Rules and Business Committee should have taken note of this.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious oversight. What Hon. Ikhariale raised is very correct and I sincerely apologize.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/D/Wasagu): Mr. Speaker, with due respect, the Order raised by my Colleague does not apply to this Motion as far as Dilatory Motion is concerned. I am seriously surprised that the Rules and Business Committee Chairman will see that as an oversight.

There is what is called *particularized issues* that are urgent and compelling. We have had this Motion passed in the last two weeks as said by Hon. Ikhariale, but the statistics that Hon. Lawan is referring to is just three days ago. By my ordinary understanding, two weeks means fourteen days ago, while three days means three days ago.

If that is the situation, there is no way you can treat this as a Dilatory Motion. This is something on ground that is urgent and affecting the lives of Nigerians.

Hon. John Halims O. Agoda (Ethiopia East/West): Mr. Speaker, we are quite in sympathy with the Motion that Hon. Lawan argued on the Floor of the House today. Also, I have taken cognisance of what Hon. Ikhariale said

The summary of it all is that we are really in serious danger as far as this issue is concerned. There is a local proverb in my area that when there is a crisis that is not of much magnitude, particularly that affects a woman, she runs and moves with *yanga*; she does not bother. But if it is of much magnitude, she runs without covering what God gave to her. That is the situation we are in.

Taking the Motion that he brought, we emphasise the current danger we are in and the position of the House to the plight of the Nigerian people. My worry is that let us emphasise the issue of compliance. To what

0406

extent has the earlier Motion ably moved and argued by this honourable Parliament been complied with?

This House should direct the Compliance Committee, either weekly or otherwise to report to this House the extent to which they have pursued compliance based on our various Resolutions. We can equally take it. It will help to add value to what we have done but the Compliance Committee should come back and be mandated by this House to report to this House what they have done.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I do not think we should argue much on this issue. The emphasis on the first Motion was on Laser Fever. The emphasis today is on meningitis. They are two different diseases. The former was attached to the Laser Fever while this one is the subject matter.

Having come from the North, I know if there is an outbreak of this disease, you hardly see children going out from their houses. It is something that has a very limited time so we need urgent and prompt response from the government. It is different from moving a Motion and using this one as an attachment to that Motion.

This is something that is very urgent which I believe will not in anyway diminish the credit of the Motion earlier passed before the House. In addition, it will even ginger those who are responsible for the implementation of this Motion to go ahead and implement the earlier Motion that we have considered.

Let us allow few hon. Members to contribute to the Motion, probably to see the difference between the two Motions.

Hon. Sulaiman Abdulrahman (Sumaila/Takai): Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the mover of this Motion and commend him for what he has done to the good people of Kano State and some parts of Nigeria.

From the report we have been getting especially since Monday to date in my constituency and home town, Sumaila Local Government, more than 50 to 70 people are presently in the hospital and the number keep increasing. The problem on the ground actually requires the attention of this House.

We are therefore, urging this House to support the Motion and give it smooth passage so that the Federal Government will intervene since the prayer of the Motion is clear and understandable. Although the State and Local Governments are doing their best to arrest the

0407

situation but we need urgent intervention of the Federal Government.

Hon. Olugbenga Onigbogi (Atakunmosa East/Atakunmosa West/Ilesa): Mr. Speaker, what we should hammer on at this point is to direct the Federal Government to provide vaccination. It is more or less an infectious disease and there must be vaccination to checkmate it. At the beginning of the dry season of each year, since it is a reoccurring decimal, if people are vaccinated, definitely we can avoid this type of problem.

To urge the Federal Government to start running helter-skelter after the event is counter productive. I learnt that the vaccination of this type of disease can be kept for two years. It should be made compulsory so that everybody will be free during the dry season.

Hon. Andrew Uchendu (Ikwerre/Emohua): Mr. Speaker, obviously from the views expressed so far, it is important that we support this very important Motion. About 25 to 26 years ago, I came in contact with knowledge of this very disease during my youth corps days.

It is surprising listening to the Sponsor of this Motion, reeling out statistics that are very disturbing. Why must we at all times be caught hands down? Why must we be caught napping? We know that this is the season and that we must prepare ahead of time. We must be proactive. It borders me.

We should not at all times be faced with this situation when we know that during this season it must come. Therefore, I am requesting that we amend Prayer Two. We also said that Federal Government is taking up a lot of responsibility that ordinary they should not take. We want devolution of power yet we inadvertently continue to assign responsibilities to them.

Can I therefore move that we amend Prayer two by saying that:

Disease prone States should carry out routine immunisation exercise, enlightenment campaign as well as training of health workers in the management of this condition.

The point I am making is that we should charge the State Government to carry out that responsibility.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Uchendu, we have budgeted for this in the Federal Budget. We have some figures budgeted for this type of disease. What are you going to do with the money? They are meant for intervention and that is the reason the mover of the

0408

Motion is calling for the Federal Government to intervene knowing that there was a figure budgeted for that.

Hon. Andrew Uchendu: Mr. Speaker, we are saying the same thing. We need to be informed that the Federal Government is reluctant in releasing those funds. More provisions must be made to urge the Federal Government to release those funds. The State Governments must mount pressure on the Federal Government to ensure that funds are regularly released to take care of our brothers and sisters.

Hon. Alaba Ojomo (Owo/Ose): Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the Motion inasmuch as it will make the work of the Federal Ministry of Health in this regard better. This is because through my Committee, I am aware that the Federal Ministry of Health has provided vaccines and drugs and has actually ordered for Chloramphenicol used in treating CSM.

I am also aware that health is a Concurrent matter and that State Governments are not up and doing. Yesterday, the Minister told us of a particular Local Government where Vaccines sent to them were just kept in bundles and not utilized.

We should, as hon. Members and Members from endemic areas, enquire from our various Local and State Governments what role they are playing in this fight.

Hon. Jumoke Okoya-Thomas (Lagos Island 1): Mr. Speaker, I want to come from a different angle on this matter. It is like we have all these deadly diseases in the country right now. I believe that if the Ministry of Health had been up and doing, we would not be in this present situation.

The Ministry of Health should have been able to see the seasons before now and I had expected that before we enter into this dry season, there would have been public enlightenment that would educate the people on where to collect the vaccines. There is no point carrying vaccines from one State to the other and the people that are supposed to collect the vaccines do not even know the reasons they should collect the vaccines.

There is so much misinformation out there and sometimes it could be political. Some people will tell others not to go and take the vaccines whereas they do not know that it is for their own good. I therefore, believe that the Ministry of Health should be up and doing. They have the responsibility of taking care of the citizenry.

0409

0410

The Deputy Speaker: Are there those who want to speak against the Motion? *(No Response)*

Hon. Abba Anas Adamu (Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma): Mr. Speaker, I want to make this submission as an additional Prayer and with your permission, I read:

Urge the Kano State Government to embark on a massive campaign as to the causes, prevention and cure of the disease.

The Deputy Speaker: Any Seconder to this Motion?

Hon. Agoro Lanre Adeniran (Irepo/Orelope/Olorunsogo): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. Gbenga Onigbogi (Atakunmosa East/West/Ilesa): Mr. Speaker, I would prefer States that are prone to this problem to be included in the prayer and not just Kano State alone. All the States in the arid zone are prone to it. Therefore, it would be right to make it all the States that are prone to this problem should embark on a massive campaign and vaccination.

I believe that would be a better prayer.

The Deputy Speaker: It is in Prayer No. 2: *Further ask the Federal Government to assist the affected States.* That has taken care of your suggestion.

Hon. Rufus Omeire (Ideato North/South): Mr. Speaker, knowing that this is a disease that we can prevent, my amendment is:

That the House mandates its House Committee on Health to liaise with the Ministry of Health to work out preventive measures to prevent future outbreak of the disease and report to the House.

Hon. Isah Idris Umaru (Igabi): I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and negatived.

Question on Main Motion put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the outbreak of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis in Kano and other parts of the country;

Further noted that Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria called Neisseria Meningitis which affects mainly the brain and spinal cord;

Disturbed that so far, statistics has it that over two thousand (2000) cases have already been reported from the 44 local government areas of the State while, reported cases of infections are on the increase in other parts of the country;

Aware that the epidemic disease can be prevented through immunisation and decongesting crowded areas;

Worried that if the spread of the epidemic disease is not curtailed, the people would be put at greater risk;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government in collaboration with the affected State Governments to provide free drugs and other medical items to patients affected by the outbreak.*
- (ii) Further urge the Federal Government to assist affected States to carry out immunisation exercises, enlightenment campaigns as well as the training of Health workers in the management of the condition.*

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act 2003 (Repeal and Re-Establishment) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act No. 18 of 2003 and to Re-Enact the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act 2008, to establish the Debt Management Office and for Related Matters, 2009 (HB.171) –

Order for Second Reading

The Deputy Speaker: The third Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act No. 18 of 2003 and to Re-Enact the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act, 2008, to establish the Debt Management Office and for Related Matters, 2009.

0411

The Bill was read for the first time on Wednesday, 21st January, 2009. I now invite Hon. Tunde Akogun to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko-Edo): Hon. Speaker, I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act No. 18 of 2003 and to Re-Enact the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act, 2008, to establish the Debt Management Office and for Related Matters, 2009, be read the Second Time.

I so move.

Hon. Farouk M. Lawan (Shanono/Bagwai): Mr. Speaker, I wish to second the Motion moved by the House Leader, Hon. Tunde Akogun.

I so second

Question proposed

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, the Debt Management Office is established to carry out preparation and implementation of plan for the efficient and sustainable management of the country's external and domestic debt obligations. Since its establishment, the Debt Management Office (DMO) has achieved significant milestone in its relatively short existence.

The historical debt relief deal with Paris Club of Creditors is the biggest debts write-off recorded for any Sub-Saharan country in Africa. These debts buy-back which is below the face value enabled the feed funds from Debt Service to be channeled towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The take over of the Domestic Debt Management functions has of course helped to align domestic debt management objectives with micro economic objectives and this is geared towards ending monetary financing in favour of capital market financing of fiscal deficits. Equally, the Office has generated technical framework to guide against excessive and uncoordinated borrowing and thereby prevent future build up of debts.

After existing the Paris Club of Creditors, much of deficit financing have been funded by Debt Management Office through the Capital Market. This has not only helped to restrict the government's domestic debt portfolio but has also enhanced and helped in reducing the cost and risks. It has also helped in sustaining the Domestic Capital Market. With government long term bonds, individuals and corporate bodies are now encouraged to issue debt instruments for long term investments. Foreign re-strategy means to use debt management proactively, leverage

0412

development for the country in view of the Debt Management Office Act, has become very imperative. This is more so considering the need to align debt management with contemporary realities as presented by the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Essentially this emphasizes domestic debt management as against the hitherto fixation on foreign debt overhang where it persisted.

The Bill seeks to compliment the Fiscal Responsibility Act by avoiding a relapsed into debt unsustainability, thus it proposes general guidelines for regulation of external and domestic borrowing by Federal, State and Local Governments.

The Bill also seeks to incorporate yearly borrowing programmes into the Appropriation Act. This essentially secures legislative control over borrowing thereby enhancing the oversight responsibilities of the National Assembly on the Government borrowing.

Other specific amendments proposed in the Bill include the use of appropriate nomenclature to capture the priceless effort on debt instruments. While this encompasses other forms of debt instruments other than loans that Debt Management Office deals with, it also gives the office wider latitude within which to operate.

In order to strengthen the DMO in ensuring that no unfavourable debts instruments are obtained by all the tiers of government, the Bill proposes collaboration between the Debt Management Office and the Ministry of Finance in the negotiation and acquisition of external debts.

With an articulate borrowing programme, the Bill proposes a proper coordination of all debt instruments of all tiers of governments thus making for efficient and sustainable debt management.

The Debt Management Office therefore has substantially achieved its objectives. The proposed amendments would therefore enable it to achieve even more.

Therefore, honourable Members, I urge you to support this Bill for Second Reading.

Hon. John Enoh (Obubra/Etung): Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly in support of this Bill. I believe that never in the history of our country has the issue of public debt management become relevant as it is in today's Nigeria from the last Paris debt relief to the continuing issues of domestic debt and the sustainability of domestic debts.

0413

I believe that the imagination of government has continuously been taxed; and for a country, I think that the Debt Management Office has remained the agency that is the driving force in all these. Day in day out, the issues of continuing debts either for the Federal, the State or the Local Governments remains an increasing concern. I think even in terms of simple economics and simple financial management, debts in themselves are not regarded as totally negative. I think it is the sustainability of these debts that becomes the issue. Since the last time the Debt Management Office Act was established there has become so many other areas that I think that the Act needs to be amended to expand and accommodate more functions for the Debt Management Office.

After the foreign debt exit, local debts have become much more critical. As a result, for our country receiving the local debts should have the potency and the capacity to really increase growth.

So, this Parliament should be willing and ready to support anything that can assist the Debt Management Office to properly manage local debts and get our country to what we want to be. The amendment that is being sought by this Bill is to enable the Debt Management Office to expand its capacity and its scope.

A lot of States are actually presently burdened by so much debts, and in order to be able to allow the Debt Management Office to even assist States in terms of setting up the structures that are required for this to be achieved, we would need to amend the Bill.

So, I support it.

Hon. Abubakar Abdul-Aziz Yari (Anka/Talata Mafara): Mr. Speaker, this Bill for Amendment to uphold the Debt Management Office is timely. We know the importance of Debt Management when it came into being in the year 2000. They worked more especially on the cancellation of the Paris Club debt. They are now working in the various States to establish Debt Management Offices as well as carrying out work to establish the Institute of Public Debt Management.

I therefore canvass for the support of my colleagues for the passage of this Bill for Second Reading.

Hon. Friday Itulah: Mr. Speaker, I rise with all sense of responsibility to support the passage of this Bill which is seeking the Repeal of the Debt Management Office Act of 2003 and the Re-enactment of the Debt Management Office Act, 2008. I urge

0414

every member of this great Assembly to support the Bill.

As it has been canvassed, we are all aware of the enormous job that this Office has been doing in terms of debt management for our dear nation. When the Office was established in 2003, there were some responsibilities that it was given and because of its existence, we have come to realize that we needed to streamline some of those functions to enable the Office perform better. For example, at the establishment of the Office, the National Planning Office was not involved. Today, by the amendment that is being sought, the Minister of National Planning is going to be part of the Board. We also know that before now the National Assembly was not taken into cognisance in the area of Debt Portfolio of this country.

Today, there is a proposal in this Bill that the National Assembly must give approval of the framework and intended level of debt that the Nigerian nation intends to embark upon in the coming financial year. Therefore, what is being proposed is like democratising the Agency as it were so that the representatives of the people will have a major role to play.

We also have in the proposal where the President may, as a result of the exigencies on ground, grant loan to either foreign bodies or foreign countries or agencies for that matter. After that, it will need to come to the National Assembly for ratification.

Like many Members have also said, we do know the role that the Debt Management Office has played in the past in helping us to exit from the Paris Club and the London Club. Today, we are all enjoying that benefit. It is from this fund that we are able to do the quick work that we have in our constituency projects and many other assistance that this Office is giving to the State Governments.

I will further implore the Committee that this Bill would be referred to, to ensure that we change the nomenclature because the functions of the Office have gone beyond that of just a Debt Management Office to that of an Agency of government. The name it has now does not reflect the status of the Office. So, in the course of the Committee work, we shall be requesting that the name be changed from Debt Management Office to Debt Management Agency so that the work that it is doing currently can be properly reflected.

Hon. Farouk M. Lawan: Mr. Speaker, this amendment is quite timely. It is an amendment that we should have undertaken since four years ago.

0415

I recall that in 2005 this National Assembly was represented by some of us in the campaign for Debt Relief, especially as it related to our indebtedness in the Paris Club. Some of the very important decisions that were taken together with the International Community were for us to develop our Debt Management Office to the level where it can address the issue of domestic debts more critically and in a manner that will help develop the Capital Market in Nigeria.

I recall that as far back as 2005, the domestic debt was within the tune of about ₦1.3 Trillion. I believe that in the last three to four years, we have been running Deficit Budgets. We have engaged more in borrowing from the domestic environment. So, I believe that the heavy burden that is currently on the government of this country is more on the management of domestic debts than on the foreign debts.

Therefore, we should do whatever we need to do to enhance the capacity of the Debt Management Office in order to effectively handle the management of our debts in a manner that would facilitate, create and enhance the domestic borrowing portfolio and to also ensure that whatever we borrow from the domestic sources will not be such that would aggravate the economic situation of our people and the country.

We also need to encourage particularly the issuance of local facilities, bonds and securities by government as a way of catalyzing other institutions in doing so, so that the domestic debt market could be created in a manner that it will be a positive development of our economy.

I urge my Colleagues to support it so that the Debt Management Office can effectively manage the existing debt; continue to play its role of facilitating and enhancing debt management abilities and to assist the States because there are some States that have used borrowing facilities to fund their budgets.

I recalled that a few years ago, Lagos State issued out bonds and either Edo or Delta State did the same thing. We need a viable and effective Debt Management office that will enhance the work of the States in managing debts so that at the end of the day States would not go borrowing. Government will come and go; but this burden remains on the people that they govern.

The Deputy Speaker: The question is that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Question put and agreed to.

0416

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. Speaker, I just want to make sure of what we are doing for record purposes.

The Clerk read that a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act No. 18 of 2003 and to Re-Enact the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act 2008, *to Establish the Debt Management Office* and for Related Matters; 2009 (HB. 171). That should be corrected.

The Deputy Speaker: It is a typographical error. Clerk, please effect the correction please.

The Bill is referred to the Joint Committee on Loans, Aid, Debt Management and Justice.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Loans, Aid, Debt Management and Justice.

Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act, No. 13 2007 (Amendment) Bill 2009

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment Act, No. 13 2007 to Empower the Accountant-General of the Federation to Enforce Remittance of Revenue to the Federation Account, provide for Penalties and for Matter Connected Therewith, 2009

Order for Second Reading

Deputy Speaker: The Fourth Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment Act, No. 13 2007 to Empower the Accountant-General of the Federation to Enforce Remittance of Revenue to the Federation Account, provide for Penalties and for Matter Connected Therewith, 2009 (HB. 147). The Bill was read for the First time on Tuesday, 11th November, 2008.

I now invite Hon. Leonard Ogor to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, Hon. Leonard Ogor is involved in an on-going public hearing now; maybe the Bill should be stood down.

Deputy Speaker: What is your prayer?

Hon. Ita Enang: My prayer is that the Bill be stood down.

0417

The Deputy Speaker: The Bill is hereby stood down till another legislative day.

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

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

Report of Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Finance

The Deputy Speaker: The Fifth Order of the Day is consideration of the Report of Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Finance.

Hon. Members would recall that the Report was laid on Thursday, 19th March, 2009.

I invite Hon. Ali A. Attai Adoko Usman, to move for the consideration of the Report.

Hon. Ali A. Attai Usman (Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do consider the Report of the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Federal Capital Area Councils and Finance on A Bill for an Act to Authorise the Issue from the Federal Capital Territory Administration Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration Account the Total Sum of ₦159,521,990,850.00 (One Hundred and Fifty-Nine Billion, Five Hundred and Twenty-one Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Eight Hundred and fifty Naira) only of which the Sum of ₦24,596,140,978.00 (Twenty-four Billion, Five Hundred and Ninety-Six Million, One Hundred and Forty Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy-eight Naira) only, is for Personnel Costs and the Sum of ₦16,321,165,871.00 (Sixteen Billion, Three Hundred and Twenty-one Million, One Hundred and Sixty-five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-one Naira) only, is for Overhead Costs, while the balance of ₦118,604,684,000.00 (One Hundred and Eighteen Billion, Six Hundred and Four Million, Six Hundred and Eighty-four Thousand Naira) only, is for Capital Projects for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the financial year commencing on 1st January and Ending 31st December, 2009 (HB. 169).

I so move.

Hon. David Onobi Idoko (Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the presentation of Budget as moved by Hon. Attai A. Ali Usman, Chairman Committee on FCT.

Question put and agreed to.

0418

Resolved: That the House do consider the Report of the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Federal Capital Area Councils and Finance.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko): Mr. Speaker, may I move that the House do resolve into the Committee of Supply to consider the Report.

Deputy Speaker: Move for the suspension of our Rules, because the Committee on Supply is supposed to be chaired by the Speaker; and in the absence of the Speaker we would need to suspend the Rule first.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko): Mr. Speaker, I move that we do suspend the relevant section of our Standing Order to enable the Deputy Speaker to preside over the Committee of Supply.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, with due respect, I would not want to second the Motion because in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker performs all his functions. It is not right for us to create precedence that if the Speaker is not here and you are presiding, we have to suspend our Rules, because in this case you are acting as the Speaker.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi (Ningi/Warji): Mr. Speaker, it is not correct; the Deputy Speaker, need the Rules to be suspended to enable him preside in the Committee of the Supply. The Speaker has been assigned the job as a Speaker; the Deputy Speaker is presiding for the Speaker. In order for him to preside at the Committee of Supply, he needs the Rules to be suspended. That has been the procedure for years.

Hon. Hashimu S. Abdullahi (Awe/Doma/Keana): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Order What?

Hon. Hashimu S. Abdullahi: Mr. Speaker, my Point of Order is taken from Order XII, Rule 5 Page 63. The Order makes it clear that we do not need to suspend any Rule. It reads:

The Speaker or in his absence, the Deputy Speaker shall preside over the Committee of Supply.

Therefore, we need not suspend any Rule. You are by right empowered by our Rules to Chair the Committee on Supply.

Hon. Tunde A. Akogun (Akoko-Edo): I hereby withdraw the Motion for suspension (*Laughter*).

0419

The Deputy Speaker: Let me allow you to withdraw it.

Hon. Tunde A. Akogun: All right, you can rule, please.

The Deputy Speaker: Leader, that power has not been given to you in the new Rules; it is still the former one that you are using. You have to wait until when you are recognised.

Hon. John Halims O. Agoda (Ethiopia East/Ethiopia West): Mr. Speaker, if that one is really in circulation now, are we actually using the new Rules as approved by this distinguished House or is it still within the conception of the Committee on Rules and Business? This is because what I have is entirely different from probably what you have.

The Deputy Speaker: Let me say that we are using the new Rules and that is why we have more than 72 Committees in place.

Hon. John Agoda: Well, has it been properly approved and directives given to give it to us because I do not have it.

The Deputy Speaker: We have approved the new Rules. I remember that I presided over the meeting.

Hon. John Agoda: It is an issue we have to address, Sir.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/D/Wasagu): Mr. Speaker, it is equally important to say that additional reason as to why the position of Dr. Abdullahi should be taken is that the rules states that *in the absence of the Speaker, the functions performed by him are assigned to his Deputy* and that was why the word *Deputy* not *Vice* was used. Therefore, that is why you are sitting on that Chair. Whatever functions he performs there, the moment you sit on that Chair, you are capable of performing the same functions.

However, when it comes to Committee of Supply, you are coming there in your capacity as the Deputy Speaker, having performed the functions of the Speaker. There is nothing contradictory about that. Once the Speaker is not around and you have stepped into his shoes, it is *Mutatis Mutandis*.

Hon. Agoro Lanre Adeniran (Irepo/Orelope/Olorunsogo): Mr. Speaker, I want to strengthen the argument of Hon. Na'Allah by going to

0420

Order VII, Rule 2, Page 16: *Duties of the Deputy Speaker:*

In the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker shall perform all the duties and functions of the Speaker.

Therefore, if the Speaker were to be seated on that seat today, he will Chair the meeting of Committee of Supply. And in his absence, given the supremacy of this particular Rule in this instance, you, as the Deputy Speaker presiding, will now perform those duties and functions ordinarily that the Speaker in his own right would have performed.

Therefore, we do not need the suspension of the Rule.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, I just want to appeal to the Lawyers to stop creating confusion in the Chambers. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Friday Itulah: Mr. Speaker, if you look at our Rule book under the relevant section he quoted a while ago. *(Interruptions)*

I am looking at Order VII, Rule 2 at Page 16. It reads:

The Deputy Speaker shall be the Chairman of Committee of the Whole House, save when the House goes into the Committee of Supply or Ways and Means.

That is the argument of the former House Leader. But if you also go into the same Rule at page 63, which is Order XII, Rule 16 (5), it reads: *The Speaker, or in his absence, the Deputy Speaker shall preside over the Committee of Supply.*

These two positions appear to be contradicting one another. *(Interruptions)*

The Deputy Speaker: Can you repeat yourself, please?

Hon. Friday Itulah: I read Order VII, Rule 2(2) at Page 16 that says:

The Deputy Speaker shall preside in the Committee of the Whole save when the House goes into the Committee of Supply or Ways and Means.

0421

If you go to the same Rule, Order XII, Rule 16 (5), it reads:

The Speaker, in his absence, the Deputy Speaker shall preside over the Committee of Supply.

That is why I am saying that those who are saying that we need to suspend the Rule could have their relevance under the functions assigned to the Deputy Speaker. However, if you juxtapose this against Rule XII (16)5, it gives the power to the Deputy to preside over the Committee of Supply in the absence of the Speaker.

So, either way, we are right. We can move to suspend the Rule, referring to the earlier position or you just see it as you are already making reference to the later Order that I have quoted.

The Deputy Speaker: Honourable Colleagues, you see, we have two Rules or two versions in the same Rules that are contradicting. *(Interruptions)*

I am reading the Order also. If we go by this Rule, *the Deputy Speaker shall be the Chairman of Committee of the Whole House, save when the House goes into the Committee of Supply or Ways and Means.*

If we go by this one, then we have to suspend our Rules for the Deputy Speaker to preside. However, if we go by another one which is on page 63, you do not need to suspend the Rule of the House.

Hon. Na'Allah, do not forget what Hon. Ndume said that you Lawyers should stop confusing us. *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah: No Sir. Interpreting this Rule is simple. Where one thing is mentioned and subsequently another one is mentioned, the mention of the subsequent one excludes the former. *(Interruptions)*

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Bala, you are protected.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah: I have not finished Sir, because it is important to guide the House. This is a general rule of interpretation. If one thing is mentioned, and subsequently another is mentioned, the mentioning of the subsequent one is presumed to have deleted the former and that is the position.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleague, hold on please.

0422

For the purpose of this exercise, the Order that is on page 63, Order XII, Rule 16 (5) is sustained.

Leader, move the Motion.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do resolve into the Committee of Supply to consider the Report.

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): I second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to

Resolved: That the House do resolve into the Committee of Supply to consider the Report.

Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Finance – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, the Report that we are taking is the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Finance on a Bill for an Act to authorise the issuance from the Federal Capital Territory Administration Revenue Funds of the Federal Capital Territory Administration Account the total sum of ₦159,521,990,850.00 (One Hundred and fifty-nine Billion, Five Hundred and Twenty-one Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Eight Hundred and fifty Naira) only.

We are going to suspend Clauses 1 – 7 and start with Part A, which is the Schedule.

Hon. Abdullahi Shuaibu Hashimu (Awe/Doma/Keana): Mr. Chairman, from the beginning of the Schedule there is this line which says: Federal Capital Territory First Line Charge.

I do not know whether that should be there. I thought it is just Part 'A' Recurrent Non-Debt Expenditure.

What is first line charge doing there? I want to know.

The Chairman: The Schedule is Part A, Recurrent Non-Debt Expenditure, Federal Capital Territory Expenditure first line charge.

Hon. Abdullahi Shuaibu Hashimu: Mr. Chairman, we want to know why there should be that

0423

first line charge and what does it represent as no figure is attached to it.

The Chairman: Hon. Ali Atai do we need to have the first line charge there?

Hon. Ali A. Atai Usman: I do not think that it is going to add any thing but it is just to explain that Recurrent Expenditures are first line charges. But if it does not add any value, we can remove it.

The Chairman: I do not think that it is relevant.

Hon. Ali Ndume Mohammed: I am not very sure but normally the overhead cost and others which are related to the Judiciary in each of the States just like the Federal Capital Territory, is indicated as a first line charge.

I think that there is need to clarify this issue because I know that Current and Non-Recurrent Debt Expenditure Federal Capital Territory first line charge is normally related to Judiciary.

The Chairman: If you go down you will see that it is not only the Judiciary.

Hon. Ali Ndume Mohammed: That is why I said there is need for clarification.

The Chairman: There is no need for the clarification. The only thing is that we will delete it.

Hon. John Halims O. Agoda (Ethiopia East/West): Mr. Chairman, let me say that I am glad now to see the breakdown of the presentation of the FCT budget as it is currently before us for final consideration.

When it was first presented before us, I must record here very sincerely that I was touched that they abused the process of budgeting by not providing the details for Parliament to know how the money will be spent or how the previous money appropriated by this Parliament was spent.

All that I am saying is that I am commending the Committee for coming out very clearly to do a very thorough work.

The Chairman: Is it not too early hon. Agoda to commend the Committee?

HEAD 1 - FEDERAL CAPITAL ADMINISTRATION

0424

Question proposed that ₦2,187,402,094 for Head 1 – Federal Capital Administration – stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman: Hon. Friday, do you have any observation on Head 1 – Federal Capital Territory Administration?

Hon. Friday Itulah: Mr. Chairman, these papers are not brought to us for fun. We must understand that we should carry out our responsibility. Personnel cost has to do with salaries, allowances and wages as it were. Overhead cost is meant to run the offices that we have. The people that are supposed to make use of the Overhead are those who are involved in Personnel. Why do we have a situation where the Overhead is higher than that of the Personnel cost? We must do our best to ensure that we go down on Overhead. They are not wages and salaries.

The Chairman: We do understand. In the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), there are so many Task Forces that are not staff of that Ministry and they must be paid. For example, if you want to clear the hawkers around Zone 6, you need to bring in the Police, the Civil Defence and so on. You also need to buy fuel and give them allowances. When you put these together, you will discover that it may be higher than those who are working in that market.

₦15,402,094 for Head 1 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦2,172,000,000 for Head 1 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 2 – PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT

Question proposed that ₦750, 840,590 for Head 2 – Protocol Department – stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman: The next one is that of the Protocol Department of the Federal Capital Territory.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, I find it very difficult to have a justification on how we can have Protocol Department of the Federal Capital Territory spend ₦750,840,590. I have looked at the breakdown here in the booklet; over 100 have sub-heads. What is miscellaneous under Protocol Department of the FCT ₦520 million in a situation where some State government budgets are less than ₦20 billion?

I find that to be very unreasonable and should not be allowed to pass.

0425

The Chairman: Hon. Ita Enang, just make your observation. Do not term it to be unreasonable until when it is proved unreasonable. For instance, when the President of Finland was in Nigeria, everything about protocol was shouldered by the FCT. I also remember when the German President visited Nigeria; it was the FCT Protocol that took him round.

So, you cannot just jump into conclusion and say that it is unreasonable. Just make your observation, allow them to speak and when the House is not convinced, then it may become unreasonable.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to that explanation. It means that if the President of another country comes and the Federal Capital Territory is the hosting State, what happens to the Appropriation that we have given to the State House for such purposes? It means that there is an allocation to the Presidency and another allocation to the Federal Capital Territory for the same purpose. Therefore, there is double allocation.

The Chairman: I will not be defending the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory but let me call on Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdul to throw more light.

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdul (Alkalari/Kirfi): I want our honourable Colleagues to remember that FCT is the host of almost all Federal Protocols. Indeed, the accommodation of some specialised Multi-lateral and Bi-lateral Agencies are catered for by the FCT. All the expenditure on the entire Protocol arrangements of most of the Diplomats are shouldered by the FCT. With this explanation, I am sure it is not unreasonable. If anybody feels strongly that there is something, let him go into the main data of the presentation and I am sure this position will be vindicated.

The Chairman: If you look at the budget of FCT of ₦159 billion, ₦24 billion was for Personnel cost, ₦16 billion for Overhead and over ₦118 billion for Capital.

Hon. Abdul Ningi (Ningi/Warji): We are talking of a State! If Hon. Ita Enang will recall, he is from Akwa Ibom, he will find out that Appropriation under Protocol in Akwa Ibom is more than ₦5 billion. So, this is a State and you must take cognisance of that fact. We are not talking of a Unit. We are talking of a State that houses the Federal Administration.

The Chairman: It is not an ordinary State but a specialised State.

HEAD 2 – PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT

0426

₦23,840,590 for Head 2 – Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦727,000,000 for Head 2 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 3 – SECURITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

₦12,093,960 for Head 3 - Personnel Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦324,821,600 for Head 3 - Overhead Cost - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 4 - TREASURY

₦1,562,224,506 for Head 4 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦3,934,229,961 for Head 4 - Overhead Cost - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 5 – FCT ESTABLISHMENT AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

₦612,821,509 for Head 5 - Personnel Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦1,475,896,005 for Head 5 - Overhead Cost - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 6 - FCT AUDIT DEPARTMENT

₦104,491,240 for Head 6 - Personnel Costs - ordered to stand part of the Scheduled.

₦31,200,000 for Head 6 - Overhead Cost - ordered to stand part of the schedule.

HEAD 7 – DEPARTMENT OF MONITORING AND INSPECTION

₦19,735,213 for Head 7 - Personnel Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦13,120,000 for Head 7 -Overhead Cost – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 8 – LAND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

₦263,023,313 for Head 8 -Personnel Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

0427

₦92,400,000 for Head 8 - Overhead Cost – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 9 - PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

₦16,446,507 for Head 9 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦ 17,480,000 for Head 9 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 10 - FCDA ADMINISTRATION

₦18,186,391 for Head 10 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦284,000,000 for Head 10 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 11 - FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

₦549,587,306 for Head 11 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦67,200,000 for Head 11 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 12 - ENGINEERING SERVICES

₦390,927,810 for Head 12 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦ 42,240,000 for Head 12 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 13 - PUBLIC BUILDING

₦278,504,746 for Head 13 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦18,400,000 for Head 13 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 14 - RESETTLEMENT AND COMPENSATION DEPARTMENT

₦75,425,380 for Head 14 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦7,200,000 for Head 14 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 15 - URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

0428

₦98,281,600 for Head 15 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦19,090,000 for Head 15 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 16 - SURVEY AND MAPPING

₦65,617,777 for Head 16 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦21,600,000 for Head 16 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 17 - SATELLITE TOWNS INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

₦85,885,949 for Head 17 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦38,880,000 for Head 17 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 18 - MASS HOUSING DEPARTMENT

₦24,024,236 for Head 18 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦38,960,000 for Head 18 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia (Jibia/Kaita): Mr. Chairman, we have Procurement Department as No. 9 on page 528; and No. 19 on page 529.

The Chairman: Mr. Chairman, FCT and Finance, could you shed more light on that?

Hon. Ali A. Atai-Idoko Usman: Mr. Chairman, the first one is for FCDA while the other one is for FCT.

HEAD 19 - PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT (FCT)

₦14,092,740 for Head 19 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦43,680,000 for Head 19 - Overhead Cost – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan (Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari): Mr. Chairman, I need clarification on No. 20 and No. 6, FCT Audit Department and Internal Audit. What is the difference?

0429

The Chairman: FCT Audit Department and Internal Audit? Chairman could you throw more light on that?

Hon. Ali A. Atai-Idoko Usman: It is the same situation, FCT and FCDA. The details are there on the paper. We have Audit for the Department of the FCDA and Audit Department for FCT.

Hon. Abdu Muhammad Sani (Alkalari/Kirfi): Mr. Chairman, let me explain the repetition. There are two institutions working together. If you remember, there used to be MFCT; that is, the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory, which has been replaced with FCTA, Federal Capital Territory Administration. So, where you see the nomenclature Internal Audit; the nomenclature is in consonance with the Ministry where the Permanent Secretary is the Accounting Officer.

FCDA is under the Executive Secretary; it is an institution by law. It is just a Parastatal of the FCTA and it is in charge of the Federal Capital Territory only; the FCDA.

The Chairman: Hon. Goni, are you all right with that explanation?

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: Mr. Chairman, I was a Commissioner of Lands and Survey for four years. We have two types of Audit, Internal and External Audit. He should explain why the two Departments of Audit and Internal Audit are there.

The Chairman: You were a Commissioner in the State, Hon. Goni. This is FCT. They want to show the difference between FCT and FCDA.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: Mr. Chairman, I think we have only one Federal Capital Territory.

The Chairman: Hon. Goni, from the naming, one is called Internal Audit while the other group called theirs Audit Department. I think there are two Institutions; the FCDA and the FCT.

Hon. Sokonte H. Davies (Degema/Bonny): Mr. Chairman, the problem we are facing here is not Goni's making but the making of those who have brought these documents. This is because if you go through them, there are so many repetitions and it would have been simpler for them to place them under different headings to avoid this kind of problem. Apart from this one, you would find so many others. For example, we have repetitions in Secretariat, Legal Department and Litigation Department.

0430

The Chairman: I understand what you are saying. Hon. Colleagues, we are now in March and it is about to end. Wherever two items appears to be the same, one is for FCT and the other is for FCDA. But when you have more than two, there must be a problem.

Hon. Chinyere E. Igwe (Port Harcourt II): Mr. Chairman, if we want to take the analysis you have just drawn, you would agree with me that there are so many repetitions. Just like Hon. Sokonte Davies said, the drafters of the document did not do a good job. For instance, where you have two Procurement Departments, which one is he referring to? Is it FCDA or FCT, which one are they giving a particular Budget heading? For instance, in Procurement you have ₦33 million and on the other side it is ₦57 million. Which is which; is it the FCT to take the higher one because it is the Federal Capital and FCDA the lower because it is Local Government? These are simple questions that we are asking.

The Chairman: Thank you. Your question is simple and it could be answered simply.

Already these figures that you are seeing are in details. The details have everything there and they were circulated yesterday. If you open your detail you will see whether it belongs to FCTA or FCDA

HEAD 20 - INTERNAL AUDIT

₦14,111,692.00 for Head 20 – Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦8,338,275.00 for Head 20 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 21 – PUBLIC RELATIONS

₦34,688,788.00 for Head 21 – Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦17,440,000.00 for Head 21 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. Ibrahim Umar Ballah (Kumbotso): Mr. Chairman, I just want to know the difference between Public Relations and Corporate Service Department, which is on Item 24.

The Chairman: We are on 21, when we reach 24 then you can talk on that.

Hon. Ibrahim Umar Ballah: Yes, we are on item 21 but I want to know the difference between items 21 and 24.

0431

The Chairman: We are not yet on item 24. When we get there you can then make your observations.

Hon. Ibrahim Umar Ballah: All right, Sir.

HEAD 22 - FCT LEGAL SECRETARIAT

~~₦~~28,186,733.00 for Head 22 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~258,000,000.00 for Head 22 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. Khadija Bukar A. Ibrahim (Damaturu/Gujba/Gulani/Tarmuwa): Mr. Chairman, mine is just an observation. Litigation should be under Legal Services.

The Chairman: I believe what it means is just like the way I explained earlier; it is just two departments for two organizations.

Hon. Ali A. Atai Usman (Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro): Mr. Chairman, in the past, FCT Legal Department was a department but right now it is a Secretariat and it has different departments. That is the purpose of this one.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/D/Wasagu): Mr. Chairman, additional explanation is that it was necessitated by the fact that there are many cases against FCDA now based on what happened in the last administration. Therefore, it necessitated the creation of a Legal Services Department Secretariat for that purpose.

The Chairman: I can remember that particular issue was discussed last year on this Floor

HEAD 23 - LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~44,587,763.00 for Head 23 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~24,960,000.00 for Head 23 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 24 - CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Hon. Ibrahim Umar Ballah: I want to know the difference between the Corporate Service Department and Public Relations. (*Interruptions*). Let the Chairman tell us the difference. The Public Relations ought to be

0432

under the Corporate Services Department. Why are they dividing it into two?

The Chairman: Public Relations is PRO.

Hon. Ibrahim Umar Ballah: Let the Chairman, Committee on Federal Capital Territory explain.

Hon. Ali A. Atai Usman: Public Relations Department is the Public Relations that you know while the Corporate Services Department is under the Legal Secretariat and it is different from Public Relations.

~~₦~~11,798,931.00 for Head 24 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~17,360,000.00 for Head 24 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 25 - DEPARTMENT OF DRAFTING

~~₦~~12,915,342.00 for Head 25 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~22,560,000.00 for Head 25 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 26 - ADVISORY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~10,087,301.00 for Head 26 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~22,560,000.00 for Head 26 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 27 - AREA COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

Question proposed that ~~₦~~110,118,826.00 for Head 27- Personnel Costs – and

~~₦~~90,140,000.00 for Head 27 – Overhead Costs – stand part of the Schedule.

Hon Abdul-Aziz. Abubakar Yari (Anka/Talata Mafara); Mr. Chairman, the Personnel Costs here is, nil and Overhead Cost is ₦61,800,000.00

The Chairman: Chairman, Committee on FCT, do you have an explanation for that?

Hon. Ali A. Atai Usman: They do not have Personnel Cost because their staff draw their salaries from the Area Council Secretariat. The Overhead Costs are for the Graded Chiefs in FCT.

0433

The Chairman: Are you convinced, Hon. Ballah?

Hon. Ibrahim Umar Ballah: I am convinced, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, with respect Sir, I think I would want further clarification from the Chairman, Committee on Federal Capital because if the Council of Graded Chiefs operate in the Area Councils, how come that they are not paid by Area Councils? Why are they all provided for here by the FCT itself if we do not have provisions for salaries here?

Hon. David Onobi Idoko (Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Area Council Secretariat is like the Ministry of Local Government and the Personnel Cost of the Chiefs flow in there. The Overhead cost is taken care of there.

It is not the Area Councils that pays; it is the Area Council Secretariat that pays the salaries of the graded Chiefs, but the Area Council Secretariat oversees them.

The Chairman: Let me explain so that you may be convinced. Like in my State the Local Government pays all the Emirs and Chiefs but there is what they called Council of Emirs and Chiefs at the State level. The Council has its Secretariat. The State Government caters for that Secretariat.

₦110,118,826.00 for Head 27- Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule

₦90,140,000.00 for Head 27 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 28 - COUNCIL OF GRADED CHIEFS

₦61,800,000.00 for Head 28 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 29 - TRANSPORT SECRETARIAT

₦153,151,757.00 for Head 29 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦27,840,000.00 for Head 29 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 30 -ROAD TRAFFIC SERVICES

₦567,240,625.00 for Head 30 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

0434

₦238,499,200.00 for Head 30 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 31 - EDUCATION SECRETARIAT

₦584,455,286.00 for Head 31 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦162,850,000.00 for Head 31 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 32 - AGENCY FOR MASS EDUCATION

₦418,509,252.00 for Head 32 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦43,400,000.00 for Head 32 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Bill

HEAD 33 - FCT EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE

₦193,232,506.00 for Head 33 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦131,455,000.00 for Head 33 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 34 - FCT UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION

₦4,071,529,783.00 for Head 34 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦515,939,9000.00 for Head 34 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 35 - FCT SECONDARY EDUCATION BOARD

₦3,076,847,532.00 for Head 35 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦367,869,043.00 for Head 35 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 36 - FCT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ZUBA

₦465,000,003.00 for Head 36 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

0435

0436

~~₦~~62,330,000.00 for Head 36 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~507,330,003.00 – Sub-Total – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 37 - FCT AGENCY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

~~₦~~131,507,138.00 for Head 37 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~140,400,000.00 for Head 37 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 38 - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~410,145,012.00 for Head 38 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~946,012,000.00 for Head 38 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 39 - SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

~~₦~~190,734,418.00 for Head 39 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~20,525,000.00 for Head 39 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 40 - HEALTH MANAGEMENT BOARD

~~₦~~4,303,584,760.00 for Head 40 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~40,120,000.00 for Head 40 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 41 - PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~252, 517.037 – Personnel Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~15,040.000 - Overhead Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~267, 557,037 - Sub-Total - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 42 - AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

~~₦~~527, 531,394 - Personnel Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~60,800,000 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~588, 331,394 - Sub-Total - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 43 - FCT AGRIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

~~₦~~197, 115,777 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~19, 200,000 - Overhead Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~216, 315,777 - Sub-Total - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 44 - SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

~~₦~~42,251,491 - Personnel Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~41,830,000 - Overhead Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~84,081,491 - Sub-Total – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 45 - FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

~~₦~~176,154,360 - Personnel Costs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~71,374,000 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~247,528,360 - Sub-Total – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 46 - WELFARE DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~82,888, 962 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~ 9, 600,000 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

0437

₦92, 488, 962 - Sub-Total – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 47 - SPORTS DEPARTMENT

₦77,494,541 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦55,660,000 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦133,154,541 – Sub-Total – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 48 - TOURISM DEPARTMENT

₦57,535,099 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦16,300,000 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦73,835,099 - Sub-Total –ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 49 - GENDER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, that is just to say Ministry of Women Affairs. That is what it means.

₦81,353,752 - Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦11,480,000 - Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦92,833,752 - Sub-Total – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 50 - ARTS AND CULTURE

₦85,924,830 – Personnel Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦19,240,000 – Overhead Costs – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦105,164,830 – Sub-Total – ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman: Abuja Metropolitan Management Council?

0438

Hon. Chinyere Emmanuel Igwe (Port Harcourt II): Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the repetitions are beginning to manifest very clearly. We have Federal Capital Territory Administration, Area Councils and now, we have Abuja Metropolitan Management Council. Mr. Chairman please, you would do us well and Nigerians back home to enlighten us on the difference between Abuja Metropolitan Management Council, FCT and Area Council?

The Chairman: Hon. Chairman of Committee on FCT can you please, enlighten those who want to be enlightened on these issues.

Hon. Ali A. Atai Usman: Hon. Chairman Sir, the Abuja Metropolitan Management Council is a Secretariat that overseas the other agencies like Development Control, Parks and Recreation and Environmental Protection Board. All these are grouped under one Secretariat. Abuja is now created like a Ministry, you have Secretariat, Health, Education, Metropolitan etc., they are headed by Secretariat and they have Commissioners, the Secretaries *et cetera* that overseas them. So Abuja Metropolitan is the umbrella for Parks and Recreation and some of those other departments.

The Chairman: For more information, let us hear from Hon. Sani Abdul.

Hon. Muhammad Sani Abdul (Alkaleri/Kirfi): Yes, he has said the right thing; the only difference is that it used to be called AMAC that is Abuja Metropolitan Management Agency. Now it is invigorated because of the law they brought for Legislation, so it becomes a Municipal Council, taking care of all other services that is why it called Management Council, as distinct from Area Council and others.

Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Mukhtar (Gurara/Suleja/Tafa): Mr. Chairman, the Abuja AMAC is a standard practice every where in the world and it is supposed to be charged with the City Management and that is why you have departments like Development Control, Environmental and others. It is the same thing all over the world. Whereas, the Area Council which they are talking about, deals with only the Local Governments, which does not necessarily include the City.

The Chairman: Are you all right, Hon. Chinyere?

Hon. Chinyere: Yes it is cleared.

0439

HEAD 51 - ABUJA METROPOLITAN MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

₦81, 616,281 – Personnel Costs – *ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

₦100, 650,000 – Overhead Costs – *ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

₦182,266,281 - Sub-Total – *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

HEAD 52 - PARKS AND RECREATIONS

₦250,000,000 -Personnel Costs – *ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

₦153,495,000 – Overhead Costs – *ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

₦403,495,000 – Sub-Total – *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

HEAD 53 - FACILITIES MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

₦339, 091,694 – Personnel Costs – *ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

₦99,200,000 - Overhead Costs – *ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

₦438, 291,694 – Sub-Total – *ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South East):
Facilities, Water and Sewage.

The Chairman: Facilities Maintenance and Management, but you know FCT has facilities. All right, let me mention few. This building belongs to the Federal Capital Territory, International Conference Centre and many others.

HEAD 54 - FCT URBAN AFFAIRS

₦540, 466,742 – Personnel Costs – *ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

₦56,740,000 - Overhead Costs – *ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

₦597, 206,742 - Sub-Total – *ordered to stand part of the Schedule.*

0440

Hon. Ibrahim Umar Ballah (Kumbotso): Mr. Chairman, please we want the Chairman of the FCT to explain what is FCT Urban Affairs?

The Chairman: Hon. Ballah, do you want explanation or you want the Chairman to explain?

Hon. Ballah: I want the Chairman to explain.

The Chairman: Anybody can explain, Members can explain as well.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na’Allah (Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/D/Wasagu): It is important for my colleagues to understand the fact that this House passed the Bill of the FCT in the last Session detailing all these departments as clearly stated, based on their necessities. It was passed in this House Clause by Clause. So those details are attached for that purpose and for the records.

The Chairman: Hon. Agoda, can you please explain what Urban Affairs is?

Hon. John Halims O. Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): They are Members of the Committee; I am not a member, I am here to hear, to know and to learn. So, he asked the question and I told my very distinguished friend who wants to explain that singular item but who generalized it. I said no, reduced it to specifics as you were asked. So, Hon. Ningi our former Leader said yes, he knows something about it all right, so tell us. *(Laughter)*

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi (Ningi/Warji): Mr. Chairman, as much as I understand the reservation of members, because we are not treating FCT as a State, taking into cognizance what happens in each State, I want to remark that there is an Urban Development Board in each State of the Federation which takes care of the Urban stipulated areas of that particular State. In this regard, Abuja is an urban centre, Karu is an urban centre, Kubwa is an urban centre. There are about seven urban centres which this particular agency takes care of. That is just the intendment of the schedule.

The Chairman: Hon. Ningi, you have said your own and you have generalised everything. But Hon. Halims Agoda is saying that you should go to the specifics.

Hon Colleagues, we are on FCT Urban affairs.

0441

HEAD 54 – FCT URBAN AFFAIRS

~~₦~~540,466,742 for Head 54 – Personnel Cost –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~56,740,000 for Head 54 – Overhead costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 55 – DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
DEPARTMENT**

~~₦~~227,768,078 for Head 55 – Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~200,960,000 for Head 55 – Overhead Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Head 56 – FCT WATER BOARD

~~₦~~748,573,366 for Head 56 – Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~564,653,687 for Head 56 – Overhead costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule

**Head 57 - ABUJA ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION BOARD**

Hon. Ahmed Idris (Wase): Mr. Chairman, I am taking my comment from the explanation of the Chairman FCT. If you recall when an honourable Colleague asked a question about the difference between FCT, FCDA and Abuja Metropolitan Management Council, in his explanation he did say that Abuja Metropolitan Council is responsible for the following agencies: Abuja Environmental Protection Agency, Abuja Geographic Information System yet I see this repetition here. When we are giving out the explanation, I believe there is record of proceedings; he should give us the explanations that should be able to carry us along and engender better cooperation. *(Interruptions)*

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, as a Member he has a right to ask a question and he has a right to be given an answer. Hon. Ballah, if he will be referred to anything, it is not you that will refer him and you know that you have been saying that you want to direct the House in the right way and I know the right way is not for everybody to be directing him at the same time. So Hon. Chairman, what explanation do you have for him?

Hon. Ali A. Attai Usman: Mr. Chairman, this is very simple. The responsibility of Abuja Environmental Protection Board is very clear; it is cleaning the city and they have a supervising Secretariat which is the

0442

Metropolitan Agency. On the question of the difference, there is no contradiction at all because they are under Abuja Metropolitan Agency that supervises them and its function is very clear.

**Head 57 - ABUJA ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION BOARD**

~~₦~~192,453,044 for Head 57 – Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~943,840,000 for Head 57 – Overhead Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 58 – ABUJA GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

~~₦~~77,654,161 for Head 58 - Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~106,000,000 – for Head 58 – Overhead Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 59 - FCT DIRECTORATE OF MUSLIM
PILGRIMS AFFAIRS**

~~₦~~44,000,002 for Head 59 – Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule

~~₦~~197,600,000 for Head 59 – Overhead Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 60 - FCT DIRECTORATE OF CHRISTIAN
PILGRIMS AFFAIRS**

~~₦~~22,889,544 for Head 60 – Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~198,293,200 for Head 60 – Overhead Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 61 - FCT PENSION DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~1,027,282,743 for Head 61 – Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~280,000,000 for Head 61 – Overhead Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 62 - AREA COUNCIL SERVICE
COMMISSION**

~~₦~~120,306,683 for Head 62 – Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

0443

~~₦~~61,760,000 for Head 62 – Overhead Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, we have FCT Department which is responsible for the staff of the FCT. What is the function of the FCT Area Councils Staff Pension Board in the budget of the FCT as a State? The Pension matters of the Area Councils staff are handled by the Area Councils and the Pension Commission.

Chairman: Hon. Ita Enang, do you have Local Government Service Commission in your State budget?

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, please.

Chairman: What about that in the state budget?

Hon. Ita Enang: No, this is Area Councils Staff Pension Board.

Chairman: Yes, he has Local Government Service Commission in State budget.

Hon. Ita Enang: All right, I have seen the details, so I surrender.

HEAD 63 - FCT AREA COUNCILS STAFF PENSION BOARD

~~₦~~32,081,894 for Head 63 – Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~10,098,000 for Head 63 – Overhead Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 64 - OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR- GENERAL FOR FCT AREA COUNCILS

~~₦~~69,130,068 for Head 64 – Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~27,696,000 for Head 64 – Overhead Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 65 - ABUJA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT CENTRE (AIIC)

~~₦~~82,000,000 for Head 65 – Personnel Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~28,100,000 for Head 60 – Overhead Costs –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

0444

HEAD 66 - ASO RADIO AND TV SERVICES PLC

~~₦~~37,920,728 for Head 66 – Personnel Costs

~~₦~~303,740,000 for Head 66 – Overhead Costs

Question proposed.

Hon. Friday Itulah: Mr. Chairman, I am aware that we have ASO Radio but there is nothing like ASO Television Services, therefore, we cannot be appropriating for a body that is not in existence.

The Chairman: Honourable Colleagues, this is very simple. Hon. Itulah, if you want a road from your own town to another town you will need to budget for the road and that figure will appear on the budget.

Hon. Friday Itulah: Mr. Chairman, this is not capital budget. This is personnel cost which includes salary for people who are working and we also have overhead cost for the staffers of the place; how do you have personnel cost for a station which is not in existence.

The Chairman: Hon. Abubakar Yari has information on that.

Hon. Abubakar Abdul-Aziz Yari (Anka/Talata-Mafara): Mr. Chairman, for the ASO Radio and Television, it does not mean that because there is no TV functioning in the FCT that the Agency may not be called ASO Radio and Television. We have ASO Radio which is in existence and if the FCT is planning to have TV they can name it ASO Radio and TV and the personnel costs are there already.

Chairman: Before I recognise Hon. Abdul Ningi, let me say what Hon. Abdul-Aziz Yari means. He is saying that the name of the Station is ASO Radio Television.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi: For the purposes of clearance, Hon. Friday Itulah raised a good issue. I also raised the same issue when they were defending their Budget and they told me that they have this Department and in fact they have a licence. They can give television services but they cannot because of their inability to have funds. They were granted this licence early 2008. That was the answer they gave us. They pleaded that if we can give them some funds before the end of June they will have Aso TV on air.

The Chairman: Thank you, former Leader.

0445

0446

**HEAD 66 - ASO RADIO AND TV SERVICES
PLC**

~~₦~~37, 920,728 for Head 66 - Personnel Cost –
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~130 050,000 for Head 66 - Overhead Costs -
Ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~167, 970,7277 for Sub-total - ordered to stand
part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 67 - ABUJA ARCHIVES AND
HISTORICAL BUREAU**

~~₦~~18, 345,120 for Head 67 - Personnel Cost -
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~55,900,000 for Head 67 - Overhead Costs -
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~744,245,122 for Sub-Total - ordered to stand
part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 68 - FCT URBAN AND REGIONAL
PLANNING TRIBUNAL**

Question proposed.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): I just want to say that we asked for details and it seems we are getting more than we bargained for. If you look at Section 15, we have Urban and Regional Planning. That is just Urban and Regional Planning, then this one is Urban and Regional Tribunal. When you look at Section 22, we have FCT Legal Secretariat. I am just making a general statement and on 23, we have Litigation Department. If you go to Section 68, we have the Urban Tribunal; then we have in Section 25, the Drafting Tribunal. I know that these are different headings but you will save us a lot of trouble if you lump these things with money.

The Chairman: No way.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: Look at the time we have wasted now. People have been talking.

The Chairman: Hon. Shagari, I understand your concern because of time it has taken. May be that is the way we have passed the law.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: We could have just carried the details and go Clause by Clause. That is my humble submission Sir.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/D/Wasagu): Mr. Chairman, the additional reason as to why tribunals were inserted and now become part of FCDA is to prevent using unilateral power by the Minister to say, go and demolish this. It has to be determined by this Tribunal. That is the idea.

**HEAD 68 - FCT URBAN AND REGIONAL
PLANNING TRIBUNAL**

~~₦~~48,747,269 for Head 68 - Personnel Cost -
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~36,520,000 for Head 68 - Overhead Costs -
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

~~₦~~95,267,269 for sub total - ordered to stand part
of the Schedule

GENERAL SUMMARY

~~₦~~24, 596,140,977 - Total Personnel - Ordered to
stand part of the Schedule

~~₦~~16,321,165,871 - Total Overhead - Ordered to
stand part of the Schedule

~~₦~~40,917,306,848 - Total Recurrent - Ordered to
stand part of the Schedule

PART B – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

**HEAD 1 – FEDERAL CAPITAL
TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION**

~~₦~~3,110,000,000 for Head 1 - Federal Capital
Territory Administration - ordered to stand part of the
Schedule.

HEAD 2 – PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~15,500,000 for Head 2 - Protocol Department -
ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 3 – SECURITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~619,712,000 for Head 3 - Security Services
Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 4 – FCT TREASURY DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~1,131,000,000 for Head 4 - FCT Treasury
Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

0447

**HEAD 5 – FCT ESTABLISHMENT AND
TRAINING DEPARTMENT**

~~₦~~187, 000, 000 for Head 5 - FCT Establishment and Training Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 6 – FCT AUDIT DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~ 15, 000,000 for Head 6 - FCT Audit Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 7 – DEPARTMENT OF MONITORING
AND INSPECTION**

~~₦~~3, 000,000 for Head 7 - Department of Monitoring and Inspection - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 8 – LAND ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT**

~~₦~~103, 000,000 for Head 8 - Land Administration Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 9 – PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~15,500,000 for Head 9 - Procurement Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 10 – FCDA ADMINISTRATION

~~₦~~227,496,921 for Head 10 - FCDA Administration - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 11 – FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

~~₦~~25,000,000 for Head 11 - Finance and Administration - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 12 – ENGINEERING SERVICES

~~₦~~40,160,000,000 for Head 12 - Engineering Services - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 13 – PUBLIC BUILDING

~~₦~~4, 691,000,000 for head 13 - Public Building - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 14 – RESETTLEMENT AND
COMPENSATION DEPARTMENT**

0448

~~₦~~3,920,000,000 for Head 14 - Resettlement and Compensation Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 15 – URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

~~₦~~206, 000,000 for Head 15 - Urban and regional planning - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 16 - SURVEY AND MAPPING

~~₦~~495, 000,000 for Head 16 - Survey and Mapping - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 17 – SATELLITE TOWNS
INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT**

~~₦~~17,494,104,236 for Head 17 - Satellite Towns Infrastructure Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 18 – MASS HOUSING DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~23, 500,000 for Head 18 - Mass Housing Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 19 – PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

~~₦~~30, 730,546 for Head 19 - Procurement Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 20 – INTERNAL AUDIT

Zero ~~₦~~ for Head 20 - Internal Audit - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 21 – PUBLIC RELATIONS

Zero ~~₦~~ for Head 21 - Public Relations - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 22 – FCT LEGAL SECRETARIAT

~~₦~~232, 970,000 for Head 22 - FCT Legal Secretariat - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 23 – LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

Zero ~~₦~~ for Head 23 - Litigation Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 24 – CORPORATE SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**

0449

Zero ₦ for Head 24 - Corporate Services Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 25– DEPARTMENT OF DRAFTING

Zero ₦ for Head 25 - Department of Drafting - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 26 – ADVISORY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Zero ₦ for Head 26 - Advisory Services Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 27 – AREA COUNCIL SERVICES SECRETARIAT

₦202,524,000 for Head 27 - Area Councils Services Secretariat - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 28 – COUNCIL OF GRADED CHIEFS

Zero ₦ for Head 28 - Council of Graded Chiefs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule

HEAD 29 – TRANSPORT SECRETARIAT

₦8, 803,000,000 for Head 29 - Transport Secretariat - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 30 – ROAD TRAFFIC SERVICES

₦363,232,927 for Head 30 - Road Traffic Services - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 31 – EDUCATION SECRETARIAT

₦2,907,500,000 for Head 32 - Education Secretariat - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 32 – AGENCY FOR MASS EDUCATION

₦386,154,545 for Head 32 - Agency for mass Education - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 33 – FCT EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE

₦213, 985,000 for Head 33 - FCT Education Resource Centre - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

0450

HEAD 34 – UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION

₦3, 232,360,000 for Head 34 - Universal Basic Education - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 35 – FCT SECONDARY EDUCATION BOARD

₦3, 464,328,281 for Head 35 - FCT Secondary Education Board - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 36 – FCT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ZUBA

₦778, 000,000 for Head 36 - FCT College of Education, Zuba - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 37 – FCT AGENCY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

₦1,049,500,747 for Head 37 - FCT Agency for Science and Technology - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 38 – HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARIAT

₦9, 173,020,997 for Head 38 - Health and Human Services Secretariat - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 39 – SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Zero ₦ for Head 39 - School of Nursing and Midwifery - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 40 – HEALTH MANAGEMENT BOARD

Zero ₦ for Head 40 - had Health Management Board - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 41- PRIMARY HEALTHCARE DEPARTMENT

Zero ₦ for head 41 - Primary Healthcare Department - Ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

0451

**HEAD 42 – AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT**

₦1, 965,000,000 for Head 42 - Agriculture and Rural Development Secretariat - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 43 – FCT AGRIC DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT**

₦187, 500,000 for Head 43 - FCT Agric Development Project - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 44 – SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
SECRETARIAT**

₦110, 000,000 for Head 44 - Social Development Secretariat - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 45 – FINANCE AND
ADMINISTRATION**

₦178, 000,000 for Head 45 - Finance and Administration - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 46 – WELFARE HEAD
DEPARTMENT**

₦103, 688,500 for Head 46 - Welfare Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 47 – SPORTS DEPARTMENT

₦1, 357,060,665 for Head 47 - Sports Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 48 – TOURISM DEPARTMENT

₦80, 242,000 for Head 48 - Tourism Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 49 – GENDER DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

N133, 040,000 for head 49 - Gender development Department - Ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 50 – ARTS AND CULTURE

₦246, 042,824 for Head 50 - Arts and Culture - Ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 51 – ABUJA METROPOLITAN
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

0452

₦515, 000,000 for Head 51 - Abuja Metropolitan Management Council - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 52 – PARKS AND RECREATION

₦3, 183,300,000 for Head 52 - Parks and Recreation - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 53 – FACILITIES MAINTENANCE
AND MANAGEMENT**

₦1, 589,080,944 for Head 53 - Facilities Maintenance and Management - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 54 – FCT URBAN AFFAIRS

₦960, 185,000 for Head 54 - FCT Urban Affairs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 55 – DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
DEPARTMENT**

₦923, 981,541 for Head 55 - Development Control Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 56 – FCT WATER BOARD

₦1, 593,627,000 for Head 56- FCT Water Board - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 57 – ABUJA ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION BOARD**

₦474, 000,001 for Head 57 - Abuja Environmental Protection Board - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 58 – ABUJA GEOGRAPHIC
INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

₦288, 473,271for Head 58 - Abuja Geographic Information Systems - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 59 – FCT DIRECTORATE OF MUSLIM
PILGRIMS AFFAIRS**

₦149, 000,001 for Head 59 - FCT Directorate of Muslim Pilgrims Affairs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

0453

**HEAD 60 – FCT DIRECTORATE OF
CHRISTIAN PILGRIMS AFFAIRS**

₦155, 500,001 for Head 60 - FCT Directorate of Christian Pilgrims Affairs - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

HEAD 61 – FCT PENSION DEPARTMENT

₦15, 000,000 for Head 61 - FCT Pension Department - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 62 – AREA COUNCIL SERVICE
COMMISSION**

₦25, 000,000 for Head 62 - Area Council Service Commission - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 63 – FCT AREA COUNCILS STAFF
PENSION BOARD**

₦30, 000,000 for Head 63 - FCT Area Councils Staff Pension Board - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 64 – OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-
GENERAL FOR
FCT AREA COUNCILS**

₦40, 000,000 for Head 64 - Office of the Auditor-General for FCT Area Councils - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 65 – ABUJA INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT CENTRE (AIIC)**

₦7, 000,000 for Head 65 - Abuja Infrastructure Investment Centre (AIIC) - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 66 – ASO RADIO AND TV SERVICES
PLC**

₦503, 842,799 for Head 66 - Aso Radio and TV Services Plc - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 67 – ABUJA ARCHIVES AND
HISTORICAL BUREAU**

₦12, 000,000 for Head 67 - Abuja Archives and Historical Bureau - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

**HEAD 68 – FCT URBAN AND REGIONAL
PLANNING TRIBUNAL**

0454

₦500, 000,000 for Head 68 - FCT Urban and Regional Planning Tribunal - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦118, 604,684,000 - Total Capital - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

₦159, 521,990,850 - Grand Total Recurrent and Capital - ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, we will go back to Clause 1.

Clause 1 - (COMMENCEMENT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 2 - (RELEASE OF FUNDS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 3 - (PAYMENT OF REVENUE INTO THE DEDICATED ACCOUNT)

Question proposed.

Hon. Abdullahi Shuaibu Hashimu (Awe/Doma/Keana): I want to ask for more explanation on that Clause because as it reads, if you say *other than statutory revenue distribution*, you are excluding for instance, things like Value Added Tax and Payment for Excess Crude Account. Therefore, I do not know the essence of putting this Clause other than the Statutory Revenue.

The Chairman: Let us read the Clause first. Clause 3 (1) reads:

All revenues accruing to the Territory other than the Statutory Revenue distribution shall be paid into a dedicated Account of Federal Capital Territory.

Hon. Abdullahi Shuaibu Hashimu: Does that mean internally generated revenue so that we can be cleared.

The Chairman: If you decide as a neighbour of FCT that you want to pay your salary into FCT Account, it will go into that Account directly.

Clause 3 - (PAYMENT OF REVENUE INTO THE DEDICATED ACCOUNT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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

0455

Clause 5 - (MONTHLY/QUARTERLY REPORT)

Question proposed.

Hon. Abdu Muhammad Sani (Alkaleri/Kirfi): Sir, I remember during a defence, they said they could render quarterly return not monthly. That it is not practical for them to give a Report of both revenues and expenditure each month. Therefore, they solicited for quarterly report. I am surprised that after it was fully debated, that particular request has not been taken into consideration. I do not know what the Chairman has to say but they said for practical purposes they could render quarterly reports.

The Chairman: That has been deleted in our Rules.

Hon. Abdu Muhammad Sani: It has not.

The Chairman: It has been deleted.

Leader, could you, please, move a Motion for the extension of time so that we can sit beyond 6.00 p.m?

Hon. Tunde A. Akogun (Akoko Edo): Mr. Chairman, pursuant to Order IV, Rule 2(4) I hereby move that we suspend all the relevant Rules to enable us sit beyond the statutory 6.00p.m.

The Chairman: Is there any seconder?

Hon. Ihedioha Emeka Nkem (Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala): Mr. Chairman, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the relevant Rules be suspended to enable the House sit beyond the statutory 6.00pm.

The Chairman: Yes, Hon. Atai, did you say that the Monthly Report was argued in the Committee and it was agreed that it should be reported quarterly because we are surprised that it appeared in the Bill again.

Hon. Ali A. Atai Usman: Mr. Chairman, my Colleague is correct because the issue was raised during the defence but we felt also that since we want to take

our oversight functions very seriously, it might not go necessarily the way they want it. That might not be a bad idea if we can get a Monthly Report from the FCT Treasury. That was why we inserted the Monthly Report.

0456

The Chairman: Hon. Sani Abdu are you convinced?

Hon. Abdu Muhammad Sani (Alkaleri/Kirfi): Mr. Chairman, no Sir. This is because they gave some valid reasons. They said: *a very complex organization like this with several departments, units and spread all over that it is not possible for them to continue with Monthly Reports.*

What time do they have to execute there job and what time do they have to sit down and bring report. Therefore, they pleaded. That is why I am not convinced.

Hon. John Halims O. Agoda: Mr. Chairman, I seem to agree with my brother who raised this issue because first and foremost I assume rightly that the Report the Minister or the Director of Treasury will be Reporting to the National Assembly should be the basis of Report that will flow from all other offices and Extra Ministerial Departments of the FCT. That is what is in Sub-Section 2.

If it is correct to say that the various offices and Extra Ministerial Departments will brief the Minister and upon which they will get there information, and if that one will be done bi-quarterly then it will be explicitly difficult for the Minister and the said Director to now have monthly briefing to the National Assembly.

It should correspond from the way I look at it.

Hon. Isah Idris Umaru (Igabi): Mr. Chairman, we did discuss this at the Committee level and we almost agreed with the argument of the FCT that monthly report is not practicably.

It is my humble view that the issue of oversight is the responsibility of the Committee. If at anytime the Committee wants information from any of the sections of the FCT, either to under take any activity, the Committee could ask and they will provide us with the information. For the fact that they argue over this and we agreed, this section should be deleted.

Hon Uche Ekwunife (Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia): Mr. Chairman, we are all talking about accounting and figures here. Agencies, Parastatals and Departments of Governments usually close there accounting book by the last day of that particular month and we have so many departments here. It is difficult for most of them to submit there accounting books before the end of every month.

And at the end of every month, all financial transactions of every department are balanced before

0457

submitting to the Department. So, that will even take them two weeks after that month to do that.

I therefore, support completely, what my Colleague had just said because this is not just any other Report; it is all about Financial Report of that department. It is something that needs much argument because they cannot achieve it.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Section dealing with Monthly Report be deleted.

The Chairman: Honourable Colleagues, let me say that it is not a difficult task to submit their Report monthly.

As Hon. Ekwunife has just said they can prepare their Report by the end of the Month and brief the Committee on the 15th of the following month, it will be monthly. The House has decided but I am saying that it is practicable.

Clause 5(2) (QUARTERLY REPORTS)

All Accounting Officers of the Federal Capital Territory Administration , Agencies, Parastatals and Extra Ministerial Departments who control heads of expenditure shall present to the National Assembly quarterly reports detailing the progress of implementation of the provision of this Act – *Agreed to.*

Clause 6 (WAIVER NOT TO INCUR EXPENDITURE)

Where, due to revenue shortfall, amounts appropriated under this Act cannot be funded, the Minister of Federal Capital Territory shall seek from the National Assembly a waiver not to incur such expenditure.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Chairman, please I would want to say that for three years now we have had this provision in this budget, it has never been practicable for it to be complied with and we have not sanctioned it.

It does not appear that it has ever been practicable. I want to plead that we delete this section because it does not really add much value to this legislation.

I would not use some words that are not complementary. If you say: *due to revenue shortfall, amounts appropriated under this Act cannot be funded, the Minister of Federal Capital Territory shall seek*

0458

from the National Assembly a waiver not to incur such expenditure.

As much as I can remember, we are in March, 2009. We have passed Appropriation Bill for 2008; not a single of the covenant we stated here, not even the report that was to be presented has been presented for the whole year not to talk of seeking a waiver not to incur expenditure. We are not even talking of laying the status of the implementation of the budget before us.

So, this is a waste of space and I pray that it should be deleted.

Hon. Muhammed Umar Jega (Gwandu/Aliero/Jega): Mr. Chairman, the cash flow would dictate the provision. So this provision should be expunged because it will be difficult to comply with.

Hon. Onyekwelu Charles (Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani): I think given the cash flow for this financial year revenue base, it is appropriate to leave that provision. Certain things are called surplusage; if you do not allow it and from what we are seeing now we are not able to meet with the revenue that is anticipated then where do you fall in? You would wish you had put it in.

So, I submit it should be left.

Clause 6 (WAIVER NOT TO INCUR EXPENDITURE) – agreed to.

Clause 7 (SHORT TITLE) – agreed to.

Long Title (A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AUTHORISE THE ISSUE FROM THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION REVENUE FUND OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT THE TOTAL SUM OF ₦159,521,990,850.00 (ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINE BILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY NAIRA) ONLY OF WHICH THE SUM OF ₦24,596,140,978.00 (TWENTY-FOUR BILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX MILLION, ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHT NAIRA) ONLY IS FOR PERSONNEL COSTS AND THE SUM OF ₦16,321,165,871.00 (SIXTEEN BILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-ONE NAIRA) ONLY IS FOR OVERHEAD COSTS, WHILE THE BALANCE OF ₦118,604,684,000.00 (ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN BILLION, SIX

0459

HUNRED AND FOUR MILLION, SIX HUNFED AND EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND NAIRA) ONLY IS FOR CAPTIAL PROJECTS FOR THE SERVICE OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA, FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR CODMMENCING ON 1ST JANUARY AND ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2009) – *agreed to.*

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko-Edo): Mr. Chairman, I move that the House do revert to plenary.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do revert to Plenary.

House In Plenary

The Deputy Speaker: The House in the Committee of Supply considered the report of the Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Finance of FCT Appropriation Bill 2009 and decided as follows:

Schedule Part A, Recurrent Non-Debt Expenditure items 1 – 68, Approved;

Part B, Capital Projects item 1 – 68, Approved;

Clause 1- 4 - Approved;

Clause 5(1) - Deleted;

0460

Clauses 5(2) – 7, Approved;

Long Title and the Short Title, Approved.

Adoption of Report

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Supply.

Hon. Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): Mr. Speaker, with due humility, I second the motion ably moved by the Leader of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

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

The Deputy Speaker: Let me thank hon. Members for sparing time to consider this all important Bill of FCT. I thank you very much and I hope if we have a similar Bill tomorrow Members will seat patiently to consider the Bill and do justice to it just the same way you have done justice to this one.

ADJOURNMENT

And it being after 6.00 p.m., The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until Thursday, 26th March, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. without Question put pursuant to Order IV, Rule 6 of the Standing Orders of the House.

The House adjourned accordingly at 6.20 p.m.