

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Wednesday, 25th November 2009

The House met at 11.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the House is called to Order. I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 24th November, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting of Hon. Members with the Speaker

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, please listen to this announcement. The following Members should, please, meet with me immediately after sitting:

Hon. Maimunat Adaji (Kwara State)
Hon. Mohammed Saleh (Kaduna State)
Hon. Gabasawa (Kano State)
Hon. Stanley Ohajuruka (Abia State)
Hon. Patty Etete (Akwa Ibom State)
Hon. Suleiman Abdulrahman (Kano State)
Hon. Kalba Adamu (Gombe State)
Hon. Oguakwa K. Graham-Bur (Enugu State)

Let me quickly go through some of the things that we may need to deal with immediately. Hon. Kalba Adamu, there is growing apprehension of over shortage of anti-snake venom at the General Hospital in Kaltungo, Gombe State. You may need to get in touch with the relevant authorities to make sure that this is sorted out.

Hon. Stanley Ohajuruka and Hon. Patty Etete, there is threat of inter-communal clash over a boundary dispute between those two constituencies that you represent. You need to intervene quickly.

In Kano State, Hon. Garbasawa, you need to play a leading role vis-à-vis the Councillors in Gabasawa Local Government. You seem to be having serious issues with the Chairman.

Hon. Mohammed Saleh, in your constituency they have issues with the activities of the cottage industries that may lead to breakdown of law and order if not quickly arrested.

Hon. Maimunat Adaji, you need to get involved with the Christian Community of Baruten Local Government of Kwara State. There seem to be one or two issues that may be quickly arrested.

Chairman, Committee on Culture and Tourism, there is a National War Museum in Umuahia, Abia State that is apparently getting into a pathetic condition. I trust that your intervention will solve the apprehension over that.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

Any Member who has a Petition to present may, please, rise to do so now. *(No response)*

Hon. Dino Daniel Melaye (Kabba/ Bunu/Ijumu): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

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

Hon. Dino Melaye: Mr. Speaker, I draw inspiration from Order VIII, Rule 5 of our Standing Orders dealing with Personal Explanation.

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Personal Explanation

Hon. Dino Melaye: I raised a matter as regards the \$300 million loan and it was debated on this Floor thrice.

The first time I raised this matter, Hon. Ita Enang brought a clog to it by saying that it is part of the \$500 million Loan. That was clarified yesterday. Yesterday, Hon. Ita Enang said that I should be given leave to present my case.

On this basis, Mr. Speaker, we met with you and he called me and asked for the Motion to be submitted to him and I did. That Motion was even tagged as the first Motion this morning only for Hon. Ita Enang to tell me this morning that the Motion is not coming up again and I ran to Mr. Speaker only to discover that he told Mr. Speaker that I have not submitted my Motion.

The Speaker: Do not quote me and do not bring me into this matter. Just state your position.

Hon. Dino Melaye: I am sorry, Sir. Mr. Speaker, the relationship between Hon. Ita Enang as Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business of this House is not a headmaster/pupil relationship. If I have been asked to submit my Motion this morning and it was typed and

on his order he asked the Secretariat of the Rules and Business Committee to revert that decision and asked me to bring it back today I am afraid that based on the way he has been antagonising this Motion, he has an interior motive. It was clearly stated on this Floor that it is not part of it. So, I had expected my Motion to come up this morning.

I am shocked to see that my Motion is not on the Order Paper this morning.

Hon. Igochukwu N. Aguma (Port Harcourt I): Whereas Hon. Dino Melaye has a genuine and germane case but there was a ruling of the Chair yesterday. The ruling was that all Motions and other matters would have to be suspended today in order for us to take the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill.

So, I believe Hon. Gbajabiamila still has enough time to do that.

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

The Speaker: Hold on, Hon. Gbajabiamila. I need to rule on this Order first. If you want to make a contribution you can do so but not reference to an Order because I need to rule on this one.

Do you want to contribute?

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila: Yes.

The Speaker: Please proceed.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila: What Hon. Igo Aguma has said cannot be accepted in the House because the Votes and Proceedings is the only document upon which this House can go by to determine whatever ruling or decision made by the House. That is not reflected in the Votes and Proceedings which we have adopted.

The Speaker: Hon. Gbajabiamila, Hon. Aguma is not contesting the Votes and Proceedings; he is saying that the Speaker made an announcement and an appeal that we should concentrate on the Appropriation and virement today; it is only an appeal.

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): My Colleague, Hon. Dino Melaye, submitted his Motion yesterday. We worked on it and I have given him a copy of what we typed.

When a matter is raised under Order VIII, Rule 4, there must be an Order of the House that the House has

agreed that the matter be taken as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance. That must be reflected in the Votes and Proceedings. Then there will be an Order from the Chair that you either move that the House suspend the Rule or that the matter is stood down to the next adjourned date.

On Wednesday last week, Hon. Gbajabiamila raised the issue. The House on Wednesday and Thursday said we should get some clarification. We got the clarification and laid the Report yesterday.

As at today there is no resolution on the Votes and Proceedings of the House that the House has accepted that this matter should be taken as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

I now met Hon. Dino Melaye this morning and explained to him that considering that the House has not yet put a question on his request that the matter be taken as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance, it is improper for the matter to come on the Order Paper and that he should, please, raise the matter today on the Floor so that if the House agrees, the House can allow him to take it today or stand it over to another day.

I want to pray that we look at the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday and Thursday last week and today if there is any reflection that the question was put and the House has agreed that this matter be taken as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

I asked Hon. Dino Melaye today that, please, since the House has not yet taken that decision, raise it for the House to take the decision so that you can take it today. That is what I requested of him.

He said I should give him a copy of the Motion he submitted. I then gave him a copy of the Motion for him to move and for the House to say yes or no.

The Speaker: Hon. Dino, given the explanation of Hon. Ita Enang and based on what is on the Votes and Proceedings; we asked you to seek clarification with some Committee Members and that was done and the House was duly notified yesterday. May be you should now go ahead and move for this issue.

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Hon. Dino Melaye: Mr. Speaker, US\$300,000,000 loan was collected on behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria without recourse to the sacrosanct powers of the National Assembly. I want to appeal to my Colleagues that we take this matter as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance. I also ask for the

indulgence of my Colleagues to suspend relevant rules that will allow me to take the Motion today.

I so move.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South West): As Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business did say, you constituted a Committee Wednesday last week to look into this matter and yesterday he submitted the Report. Paragraph 5 of the Report he got yesterday expressly states that there was no intention to take a \$300,000,000 million loan by the Ministry of Finance. What we got yesterday by the Report we have is that what they did in the Executive Council was an anticipatory approval. It is after that that they will formally come to the House.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I am not sure whether you are trying to do justice to that or not. I will now put the Question that this matter be considered as one of Urgent Public Importance.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the matter be considered as one of Urgent Public Importance.

The Speaker: Hon. Dino Melaye, you need to move the Motion for the suspension that you have requested for.

Hon. Dino Melaye: Mr. Speaker, I move the Motion that we suspend Order VIII, Rule 4(3) of the Standing Orders of this House to allow me take this Motion.

Hon. Muhammed Asema Sadiq (Ajaokuta): I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Dino Melaye.

Question put and negatived.

The Speaker: The matter will now be considered at the next legislative day.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the matter be considered at the next legislative day.

Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo (Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: Which Order?

Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo: It is a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

The Speaker: No. You should have spoken to me beforehand.

Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned it to you yesterday.

The Speaker: What is it about?

Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo: It is about the use of barricade made of planks with nails by revenue collecting agents on our roads to the detriment of motorists. I am saying this because on the 13th of this month while I was returning home, at Odukpani junction, the revenue collectors used this and punctured the tyre of one trailer which resulted in the blockage of the road. For 48 hours nobody passed through. While I was coming I stayed there till 10 pm, I could not access the junction; I had to go back to Calabar and spend the night.

So many others were subjected to this hardship and this is happening in other locations.

The Speaker: It is all right. I will put the Question that this matter be considered as one of Urgent Public Importance.

Question put and negatived.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Report of the Committee on Public Procurement on M T Tuma Dry Dock Repairs

The Speaker: The only Business of Day is the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on Public Procurement on M T Tuma Dry Dock Repairs standing in the name of Hon. Maitama Yusuf Tuggar. Members would recall that the Committee carried out the investigation pursuant to its jurisdiction and in accordance with Order XVII, Rule 51(2) (d) and (e) of the Standing Orders of the House. The Report is ready.

Hon. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar is invited to present the Report.

Hon. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar (Gamawa): Against the backdrop of the ensuing debate on deregulation and perennial fuel shortage, I move that this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Procurement on M T Tuma Storage Vessel Dry Dock Repairs.

Hon. Olajumoke Okoya-Thomas (Lagos Island I): I rise to second the Motion as moved by Hon. Tuggar.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Federal Capital Territory College of Education (Establishment) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory College of Education, and other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 (HB.257) –

Order for Third Reading.

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, the next Order of the Day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory College of Education and other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009. Members would recall that the House adopted the Report of Committee of the Whole on the Bill on Thursday, 22nd October 2009. Clean copies of the Bill have been made available to Members to enable them peruse its contents.

I therefore call on the Leader of the House to move that the Bill be read the Third Time.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko-Edo): I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory College of Education and other Matters Connected Therewith be now read the Third Time.

Hon. Emeka Nkem Ihedioha (Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala): I do second the Motion as moved by the Leader of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

2010 Appropriation Bill

A Bill for an Act to authorise the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of ₦4,079,654,724,257 (Four Trillion, Seventy-Nine Billion, Six Hundred and Fifty-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty-Seven Naira) only, of which ₦180,279,158,994 (One Hundred and Eighty Billion, Two Hundred and Seventy-Nine Million, One Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four Naira) only is for Statutory Transfers,

₦517,071,827,452 (Five Hundred and Seventeen Billion, Seventy-One Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty-Two Naira) only is for Debt Services, ₦2,011,484,370,825 (Two Trillion, Eleven Billion, Four Hundred and Eighty-Four Million, Three Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Five Naira) only is for Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure while the balance of ₦1,370, 819, 366, 986 (One Trillion, Three Hundred and Seventy Billion, Eight Hundred and Nineteen Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six Naira) only is for contribution to the Development Fund for Capital Expenditure for the year ending on the 31st day of December, 2010 (HB. 349) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: My dear Colleagues, the second Order of the Day is the commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to authorise the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of ₦4,079,654,724,257 (Four Trillion, Seventy-Nine Billion, Six Hundred and Fifty-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty-Seven Naira) only, of which ₦180,279,158,994 (One Hundred and Eighty Billion, Two Hundred and Seventy-Nine Million, One Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four Naira) only is for Statutory Transfers, ₦517,071,827,452 (Five Hundred and Seventeen Billion, Seventy-One Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty-Two Naira) only is for Debt Services, ₦2,011,484,370,825 (Two Trillion, Eleven Billion, Four Hundred and Eighty-Four Million, Three Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Five Naira) only is for Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure while the balance of ₦1,370, 819, 366, 986 (One Trillion, Three Hundred and Seventy Billion, Eight Hundred and Nineteen Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six Naira) only is for contribution to the Development Fund for Capital Expenditure for the year ending on the 31st day of December, 2010. The Bill was read the First Time yesterday, the 24th of November, 2009.

I am inviting the Leader to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to authorise the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of ₦4,079,654,724,257 (Four Trillion, Seventy-Nine Billion, Six Hundred and Fifty-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Two Hundred

and Fifty-Seven Naira) only, of which, ~~₦~~180,279,158,994 (One Hundred and Eighty Billion, Two Hundred and Seventy-Nine Million, One Hundred and Fifty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four Naira) only is for Statutory Transfers, ~~₦~~517,071,827,452 (Five Hundred and Seventeen Billion, Seventy-One Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Fifty-Two Naira) only is for Debt Services, ~~₦~~2,011,484,370,825 (Two Trillion, Eleven Billion, Four Hundred and Eighty-Four Million, Three Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Five Naira) only is for Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure while the balance of ~~₦~~1,370, 819, 366, 986 (One Trillion, Three Hundred and Seventy Billion, Eight Hundred and Nineteen Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six Naira) only is for contribution to the Development Fund for Capital Expenditure for the year ending on the 31st day of December, 2010 be read the Second Time.

Hon. Emeka Ihedioha: I rise to second the Motion as moved by the Leader of the House that the 2010 Appropriation Bill be read a Second Time.

Question proposed.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: The 2010 Appropriation is conceived as a stimulus package to address the effect of credit tranche on the economy as well as reduce infrastructural problems.

This is based on the background of the global economic crisis and its aftermath and the need to drive the economy. The budget further seeks to advance the economic development goal of government within its Vision 20/2020 and of course the 7-Point Agenda.

In more specific terms, the important areas of the economy are prioritised for sustained economic growth and development and these include critical infrastructure, human capital development, land reform and food security, law and order and, of course, the Niger Delta.

Addressing the issue of critical infrastructure, power supply, road works, railways and dredging of the Lower Niger River are emphasised. The same is applicable to job creation, sustaining the new found peace in the Niger Delta and human capital development.

It is gratifying to note that pursuant to the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the micro-economic assumptions as captured within the medium term expenditure framework have already been passed by this House. It

provides us a generally acceptable background for the consideration of the respective expenditures on sectoral basis being a product of wide consultations among stakeholders.

Significantly, the Appropriation Bill seeks to adopt measures to save cost due to resource constraints. By so doing, it provides a policy of minimal procurement of utility vehicles, reduce provision of international transport and travel and reduce provision for workshops.

In conception and strategy, the budget is targeted as sustainable growth at manageable inflation rate. It is hoped that the implementing line of the MDAs would faithfully apply to these proposals when passed into law.

At this juncture, I would like to advise the Appropriation Committee that in considering this Bill, efforts should be made to ensure equitable distribution of projects among the geo-political zones. This would not only facilitate a wider spread of the desired impact of the budget but would also ensure even development of the country.

I therefore urge my hon. Colleagues to support the Second Reading of this Appropriation Bill.

I so submit.

Hon Emeka Ihedioha: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my constituents to support the Second Reading of the 2010 Budget as proposed to this House by Mr. President. I am enamoured greatly by the design of this budget in narrowing the gap between Recurrent expenditure and Capital expenditure. We have seen an increase in the proposals for the Capital expenditure which will touch on the critical sectors and on the lives of our people that will enhance the development of the nation. This is quite significant. This budget is making effort to reduce wastages in the current sector, *vis-à-vis* international and local travels and we have cause to encourage this.

In all, this budget proposal carries with it 31.5 *per cent* expansion over the 2009 Appropriation most of which is going into the Capital expenditure which is indeed very good for our economy because not only will it enhance job creation and development, it will also reduce crime in our country.

The efforts of this government in the area of meeting the needs and desires of the Niger Delta as exemplified by the post-amnesty programme of this

administration is underscored by the provision of this budget.

I am therefore, encouraged that Government is beginning to tackle with the Niger Delta issues head-on and we believe that the progress made so far would last for quite a while and I am very certain that the restiveness in that part of the country would be addressed by the provisions we see today.

The proposal to take head-on the power issue is welcomed. This budget proposes to attempt that by 2011 our generation capacity would have risen to 10,000 megawatts. I am very certain that if faithfully implemented as I believe would be passed by this House, it would go a long way to attaining the magic 10,000 megawatts by 2011 which will put our party, the Peoples Democratic Party, in good stead to once again seek and regain mandate to continue to give Nigerians a wonderful proactive leadership.

I am encouraged by the efforts to enhance road, rail and, of course, by-pass transportation. The government has begun the dredging of the lower-Niger River which would enhance transportation, create more jobs and improve food sufficiency.

Efforts are also being made in this budget to address the question of provision of food. This budget also takes critical interest in physical security, law and order which we need in our system.

I believe that if we pass this Budget through the Second Reading, the Committee on Appropriation and the Committee on Finance would re-examine the proposals by the Executive for us to have a benchmark of US\$57 per barrel and perhaps increase it to about US\$60 because we hoped that things can only get better. This would be achieved by the peace that exists today in the Niger Delta. That presupposes that oil production can only be on the increase.

I am therefore optimistic that the 2.088 million barrels per day proposed as envisaged in this budget could be increased and if that happens, we can only have a more buoyant budget that would not only enhance national development and food security but will also reduce crime wave in the country that would put PDP on the front burner to deliver to Nigerians good governance that the people so desire.

Hon. Suleiman Abdulrahman Sumaila (Sumaila/Takai): From the presentation of the House Leader and the Chief Whip of the House, it clearly shows that we would be contracting ourselves if we allow this budget to be passed in this House.

In the course of debating the general principles of the supplementary budget on the Floor of this House and in our Committee meetings, we blamed the Executive for its refusal to implement successive budgets to the letter. The level of implementation of 2009 Budget up till date is not up to 30 *per cent*. This is a government that is preaching due process; a government that is trying to portray herself as the best government in Nigerian yet still we are experiencing this type of Executive rascality.

When we take a look at what is happening now -
(Interruptions)

The Speaker: Hon. Suleiman, your choice of words to describe hon. Ministers of the Executive Arm is totally inappropriate. I would advise you to moderate your choice of words.

Hon. Suleiman A. Sumaila: I apologise for the wrong use of words. Mr. Speaker. I do not think any Member here can justify our action if we pass this Budget into law. This is a government that promised to provide 6,000 megawatts of electricity to the generality of Nigerians before December, 2009 yet nothing has been done. There is high level of insecurity in Nigeria. The Government made a promise that they would put in place a pilot project on security in six or seven States. I am representing Kano State and Kano State is among the seven cities mentioned. Up till now nothing has been done.

When you examine the issue of poverty, disease and hunger in Nigeria you will discover that the government has failed in terms of implementing its policies - *(Interruptions)*

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

The Speaker: Hold on, Hon. Sumaila. Hon. Leo Ogor is raising a Point of Order.

What is the Order, Hon. Leo Ogor?

Hon. Leonard O. Ogor: I am relying on Order IX, Rule 1(4) of our Standing Orders at page 31. It states very clearly that *a Member must confine his contribution to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto*.

What we are discussing today is the general principles of this Bill that is before us and what we need to look at is the Bill that has been presented before us in terms of adding or subtracting to it. We should focus our attention on the Bill itself.

Some hon. Members: No!

The Speaker: Hon. Abdulrahman Sumaila, please proceed.

Hon. Suleiman A. Sumaila: Mr. Speaker, let us talk about wastage and corruption. I quite agree with the Chief Whip of the House when he was trying to justify the reason for agreeing with the Executive as regards this 2010 Budget. Let me give him an example of what happened this week. Recently, the Minister of Federal Ministry of Works on supervising of road projects all over Nigeria. In Kaduna, he gave an interview on the state of work on the Kaduna Eastern Bye-pass Road. They awarded the contract with a specified timeframe for completion of work and specific contract sum. For now, they keep increasing the cost of the project even though the level of work is not up to 50 *per cent*. Yesterday, we agreed that we would reject the virement from the Federal Ministry of Works. Are we not contradicting ourselves now?

My dear Colleagues, Nigerians are watching us. Election is coming. If we are doing all these because of our party, we have to go into our records. Let us see what happened in 2003 and 2007 and I know, it will repeat itself. People are watching and blaming us and it is our responsibility to make sure that we move this nation forward. We have already taken an oath to defend the Constitution and by implication, the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Who among us will embark on Constituency tour and say that things are all right in Nigeria? Are things all right?

Several hon. Members: No!

Hon. Suleiman A. Sumaila: Why are we then contradicting ourselves? I am therefore urging my Colleagues to reject these Budget proposals in its entirety. Let us concentrate on our legislative work as real representatives of the people. There was an instance that this House had to intervene. I will give an example. We have a project in Hadejia Jamaa're River Basin Development Authority.

Last year, the sum of ~~N~~2.8 billion was paid back to the Federal Government. If this House had not intervene the people of Kano, Jigawa, Bauchi and some parts of Yobe State would have lost almost ~~N~~4.7 billion simply for non-implementation of Budget; what we have agreed on and what Mr. President signed into law.

The Speaker: Hon. Suleiman Sumaila, I am glad you said that it was because of the intervention of the House that those things got done.

Hon Gbenga Oduwaiye (Ijebu-Ode/North East/Odogbolu): Mr. Speaker, I will not advocate that we throw out an Appropriation Bill.

However, on the manner of general principles we need to have deep look at this Budget to make sure that things that have a more direct bearing on the lives of the people are given a slightly higher vote in this Budget.

This Budget is comprehensive. However, if we look at the different parameters and the focus of this Budget, you will find out that if we are not careful, we are going to go again into series of poor implementation of this Budget. So we have the responsibility of Appropriation. I would like to urge my Colleagues that we should take our time to look at this Budget and look at those that have a more direct bearing on the lives of the people and give them a higher appropriation than on so many projects that do not in any way impact on the lives of people.

About two and a half years ago, the President came out with 7-Point Agenda. We need to ask ourselves some serious questions and see how we can assist the President to achieve even two or three of these fundamental objectives. If we are able to achieve power and achieve the MDG goals we would have laid a legacy that Nigerians would be proud of.

So, my suggestion is that we look at this Budget bearing in mind that this is one of the terminal Budget in this particular regime and give a lot more impetus to those projects that impact on peoples lives.

Hon Chinyere Igwe (Port Harcourt II): Mr. Speaker, I am a member of the Peoples Democratic Party. I made this introduction because I believe that the Peoples Democratic Party led Government of Umaru Shehu Musa Yar'Adua has, to a very great extent, impacted on the lives of the average Nigerians.

The 2010 Appropriation Bill is here before us but one thing is very important. How has the 2009 Budget impacted on the average citizen of Nigeria?

I want to take my Constituency as a test case. I am from Port Harcourt the nerve centre of the Nigerian Oil Industry. I am sure by the grace of God we are the highest producer of the Oil Revenue.

The Speaker: Akwa Ibom State will dispute that.

Hon Chinyere Igwe: All right let us go ahead. The important point I want to make here this afternoon is that NDDC, Niger Delta Development Commission

and Niger Delta Ministry, it behoves on the average Nigerian to note most especially this House that the Niger Delta Ministry which was created by the magnanimity of Mr. President with two Niger Delta sons as Minister and Minister of State has failed this nation and failed this region.

As a member of that committee I know that no one single project was implemented in that region. Now we are talking about 2010 Budget. The question is: what are the consequences of the money this National Assembly appropriated to the people of Niger Delta in 2009?

The other issue that this House must note is the issue of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). As a Member of that Committee I am talking from a point of authority and knowledge to say that that Ministry or Department has also disappointed the average Nigerians because the project are not being implemented. The fact is that we have not implemented the projects this National Assembly approved in 2008 up to 50 *per cent*. In spite of this unimpressive performance, we approved 2009 Budget and we are back again to approving 2010. It beats our imagination to say where are we going and what do we do?

It is therefore on this basis that I will say that we cannot through the Appropriation Bill away but in as much as we are considering the Appropriation Bill, we must handle the actions of Parastatals and Ministries with all the seriousness they deserve. What have they been able to do to ensure that we impact on the lives of Nigerians? What have they been able to do to ensure that we achieve the 7-Point Agenda of Mr. President because I do know he meant well for Nigerians.

Hon. Leonard O. Ogor: First and foremost, let me with due humility state clearly that a Budget is a document that is always at the discretion of Parliament. I want to lay emphasis in looking at most of these intent; you can clearly see here that there are a lot of projects that had been increased due to the fact that the Budget now reads about ~~₦~~4 trillion.

As Parliament, it is important that we really take a holistic analysis of what we are doing. I state with due humility that I still look at the figures in respect of the Capital Budget bearing in mind that this is a Budget that is based mostly on infrastructure and when you compare it with the Recurrent, I am a little bit worried there whereby we have a Recurrent Budget of ~~₦~~2.1 trillion while the Capital itself is ~~₦~~1.37 trillion.

My comparison here arises from the fact that you would have agreed with me in respect of the issue of unspent funds. Bearing in mind that the level of implementation has not been so welcoming it creates a room for us to look at the challenges. I have always emphasised that as Parliamentarians it is our responsibility to make good laws for the good governance of our country.

What we need to identify here is to look at the challenges of these MDAs and find out why we have not been able to implement the Budget fully. This should be a major food for thought for us as a Parliament because at the end of the day we are the representatives of the people and when Budget are implemented as it borders on infrastructure, the achievement definitely is ours and that of our people.

As a nation, you will agree with me that we have been able to overcome a major challenge in respect of the Niger Delta situation. Let me also commend the interest that has been shown very clearly by Mr. President and this House in addressing the issue of the Niger-Delta in respect of the 2010 Budget.

These are some of the fundamental issues that we need to really appreciate but the most important issue here is to be able to look at the revenue profiles. When I looked at the revenue profiles, I am a little bit uncomfortable because when you look at the internally generated revenue the rate at which they have been bloated gives me a lot of concern. I really want to ask if those figures are actually achievable. Probably during the consideration at the Committee level, we may be able to see to some of these challenges but give or take, the budget itself is not a bad budget but the issue that we have to critically look at is the issue of implementation and how we can address most of these challenges that the implementation have created.

Hon. Ahmed Aliyu Wadada (Keffi/Karu/Kokona): There is virtually close to nothing that I have to say that that has not been either said or brushed but I still need to throw some light on such issues as far as the budget proposal is concerned.

First and foremost, it is of utmost importance for us to know the weight and expectations of the citizenry from us as to our responsibilities. It ridicules the constitutional powers and authority given to the Parliament when and if time is taken, resources are put in and we sit down to pass budgets that at the end of the day are not implemented for the wellbeing of the citizenry. For that, I would like us to take it very seriously with attached conditions as to the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

in passing this 2010 Budget proposals so that greater part of what we shall be passing should be and must be implemented for the wellbeing of the citizenry under whose mandate we are here. We all know that the wellbeing of the citizens of every given contemporary society is determined by the level of infrastructural development of such a society.

Nigeria as a country of more than one hundred and fifty million people has been suffering from decayed, archaic, dilapidated and comatose infrastructure and the only way we can truly salvage this great country is to make sure that the infrastructure are in a better state. If we are to ensure that such is achieved, can we only be proposing just a little above ₦1 trillion for the provision of infrastructural development in such a great country?

I have always been an advocate of the private sector driven economy because that is the most reliable way of doing it. Government everywhere in the world lacks the capacity to be able to do it holistically or all in all. It has to be complemented by the private sector and the private sector today is sleeping and dormant. The fastest way it can be resuscitated is to keep the Capital market alive. How do you keep the Capital market alive for the government to be able to access is to pass the Asset Management Company Bill that is yet to come to the legislature. This is a very sensitive issue and I need a little time to enlighten my Colleagues.

The Speaker: Hon. Wadada, you will have plenty of time to do so when that Bill is on this Floor. You can please wrap up. It is a wonderful idea that you are trying to educate us.

Hon. Wadada: In rounding up, the area of utmost concern is the allocation to the Capital expenditure as to what is in the proposed budget.

Hon. Oguakwa K. Graham-Bur: Mr. Speaker, the Appropriation Bill 2010 appears from what we have to be a most ambitious effort at reflecting the economy and trying to cushion the anticipated effects of the global recession. Very welcome is the apparent idea on paper for now to increase Capital expenditure vis-à-vis the usual heavyweight of Recurrent expenditure.

I have the confidence that as the Speaker and this House through robust oversight continues to look at aspects of implementation, if we pass the Bill, it may yet portend very positive changes and contributions to the individual citizens of Nigeria.

I would urge that we should commit this Bill to the Committee stages where some of the figures especially the IGR figures will be ascertained.

Hon. Olubunmi Patricia Etteh (Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan): I welcome this Bill to the House but having read the Preambles of the Bill, we need to look into it because the forthcoming elections in 2010 will be decisive for the nation.

As a Member of PDP, I believe we need to look into issues. We need to look at the things that we need to do that can touch the lives of the citizens in such a way that at least when we are campaigning whether PDP or any other political party, you will have something very concrete to show for it.

I have gone through the Bill and I discovered that there are lots of disparity between the developmental fund and that of Recurrent and I am very much afraid. In a developing country like ours, I believe we should focus our attention on what we can do. We are talking about 7-Point Agenda of Mr. President and all of us here are supporting that.

Even if we have to focus attention only on one or two of the items in 7-Points Agenda such as Power, Water or Education, we can really do very well so that when Nigerians are talking they can be proud to say yes; we have achieved this and that.

For now, I believe the money they put here for Capital Project is very low when compared with the Recurrent. I believe we need more people to really sensitize the citizens to appreciate what the government is doing. We are supposed to go out and be the vanguard for the Federal Government because when we are talking of governance we cannot exonerate ourselves from government. We are the government and if you are saying you are the government and the Executive is to blame, we are deceiving ourselves. I believe we should go back to the drawing board. When the time comes, all the Committees must be ready to dot the i's and cross the t's to ensure that we do the job thoroughly in such a way that there is no Constituents that will say I have not benefited from the government. This will help us very well.

Before we start considering the 2010 Budget, we need to look at the 2009 Budget critically and evaluate the performance of the government. That will give us the opportunity to determine what we have been able to achieve. I agree that they have extended the period during which 2009 Budget would apply; that is to say that we have to do lots of oversight functions between

now and March 2010 and at the same time marry it with the 2010 Budget.

Hon. Tsegba Terngu (Gboko/Tarka): The primary responsibility of any government is the security of lives and property of the citizens. In the realisation of that objective this Budget has adequately addressed the need of the Police and the Intelligent Community. What we as Members of the Parliament should now seek to do is to ensure that there is proper synergy between the Police and the other intelligent Communities so that our land will be properly policed as we approach the 2010 election.

I also want to commend the government on the Domestic Debt Service. One of the problems of our businessmen and our businesses is the fact that over the years the government had been indebted to so many of the local businesses in a way that it had even affected our local banks here because so many of the banks that have bad credit were traced to domestic debt borrowing. So I believe that with the provision of ₦478 billion, the government will address much of the issue of domestic debt as against ₦38 billion for foreign debt. I hope that as the government settles the domestic debt so shall they also settle our commercial banks and then we reduce the issue of bad credit in our records.

The government has also addressed the issue of retirees through an increase in the allocation for Pension to the tune of ₦69.3 billion. I recall that the Minority Leader raised the issue on the Floor of this House that Pension should be reviewed every five years and I am sure the government has adequately addressed that by making provision for ₦69.3 billion for increase in pension rate.

With respect to Water and Constituency projects that commenced in 2004, 2005 and 2006 emphasis is on completion of such projects and I am sure as Chairman of that Committee we will be looking at Members' projects which had been abandoned under the water sector and we shall ensure that they are included in the completion of ongoing projects.

Let me generally commend this Budget as I call on the Members to pass it for Second Reading so that we can take a detailed look at it at the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila (Sululere I): It is absolutely impossible to discuss the merits on the general principles of this Budget like everybody else has done without talking about the problems we encounter in the implementation of past Budgets.

The fear that I have is not so much as to whether the Budget is a good Budget or a bad Budget; it is the fear that this may become a yearly ritual. There is no point having a laudable Budget with everything that you can think of but not having it implemented; it becomes a Budget on paper and that does not do us any good.

I believe this Budget is incomplete without having an additional Clause to it. We have a Clause on Virement, Interpretation, Short Title and the rest of it. I think we have to address the issue of non-implementation rather than debating it year in, year out.

All legislators know, not even just lawyers, that every law or every statute and this is one of them probably the most important one that requires efficacy needs to have a sanction attached to it, should that law or that statute be violated. We need a Clause in this Bill that will mete out sanctions for non-implementation. Otherwise we will be back here next year to talk about 30 *per cent* or 40 *per cent* implementation. We must go on the premise that Appropriation Bill is a law and in fact a law like no other because it gives direction as to where this country will be going; where this government will be taking us for the next one year so rather than having it just as a law on paper, let us have that all-important Clause.

I have not taken enough time to look at the details but I will just touch on one or two things that jump at you when you pick up the document and look at it.

First is a ₦4.1 trillion budget. I look at it vis-à-vis 2009 where we had a ₦3.1 trillion budget. In other words, there is a total increase of about ₦1 trillion. One would have thought that a substantial part of that ₦1 trillion will go towards Capital development for a developing nation. But what do we have? As most of the Speakers have said, we have a Budget of big government where the size of the government is so big; recurrent doubles x, y capital.

In 2009 we had Statutory Transfers of ₦160 billion. A year later we are having Statutory Transfers of ₦180 billion; that is ₦20 billion increase; that needs some explanations. Why do we have a ₦20 billion increase of Statutory Transfers in less than twelve months? Is it that this National Assembly has passed statues or additional laws that require some kind of transfer?

In 2009 we had ₦283 billion in Debt Service. Less than twelve months later we are having ₦517 billion allocation to Debt Service. Have we incurred more

debts or is it that every year we have to reschedule our debt payment to the point that we double it? These are the reasons why we do not implement Budget because we are not prioritising or allocating our resources for the benefit of the masses that we represent.

In 2009 we had about a ~~₦~~1 trillion in Capital and now we have ~~₦~~1.3 trillion. Contrary to what the Chief Whip and most Members have said that a lot of the money was expended on Capital development, from a cursory look, we are looking at just ~~₦~~300 billion increase. When you have ~~₦~~1 trillion total increase in the Budget within 2009 and 2010 we have only ~~₦~~300 billion increase from my estimate allocated to Capital Development.

The most important observation that I have made in this Budget is the fact that I do hope and pray that this government has not surreptitiously taken away or deregulated the petroleum sector. The reason why I am saying so is that we have been inundated over and over again for the fact that ~~₦~~600 billion or so is spent annually on subsidy. I want to believe that if that be the case the ~~₦~~600 billion would be captured as an expenditure of government in the Budget proposal.

I have looked through it; I do not see anything that goes towards subsidy and I pray and hope that the case is not that we are being deregulated without the input of this House. If that be case, I would urge that the Committees on Finance, Appropriation, Petroleum and all other relevant Committees insert the necessary provision for subsidy in the Budget. When the time is ripe and we decide to deregulate, then we can have Clauses that can either vire that money or impound it or whatever needs to be done but to put the cart before the horse we would be doing the country and this House a great disservice.

Hon. John Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/West): Why are budgets succeeding in other nations? Why are we not succeeding when it comes to the issue of budgeting?

Will the Executive and indeed the Parliament go to Botswana, America and UK for a seminar on the issue of budget? No matter how badly a bad document is prepared a good thing can turn around that bad document.

It is quite clear that over the years, we have as a Parliament sat down here, prepared a beautiful document that cut across all the segments of our national life but at the end of the day, we either tag it 30, 40 or 50 *per cent* performance, as the case may be.

What do we do? Do we need to prepare a performance chart or index to the Parliament and to Members of the Executive so that at the end of the year if a Ministry of the Executive fails to perform, the Minister would be brought to junior Minister or such Minister should be reassigned? We need to think of a drastic measure. Equally, if this House decides to draw our performance chart on how we are over sighting our respective Ministries and Agencies, it becomes a big problem!

I have gone through this ritual since 1999 when I came in here; it is becoming very boring and sad. I pray God will come to our aid.

The Speaker: Chairman, Committee on Finance, let us get the figure on this performance right.

Hon John Owan Enoh (Obubra/Etung): Perhaps, it is not as hopeless as the facts may tend to indicate. I know that some months back, the unspent figure with the Central Bank of Nigeria was more than ~~₦~~500 billion. Two things have accounted for some remarkable improvement.

One, we were told by the officials of the Ministry of Finance that what was responsible for this was the manner of releases that went to the CBN and the fact that the House of Representatives which you lead talked about it. As I speak, the last time we did a fact check, that figure had come down to below ~~₦~~300 billion and there is a great guarantee that before the end of the year it is possible that the level of implementation of the 2009 Budget would be more than 60 *per cent*; I can assure you that.

There is a lot of commitment on the part of the Executive. For people who interacted with the Minister of Finance, I believe we have an individual who has the right character and personality to be able to drive the Ministry of Finance and deal with the issues that have continued to face us in terms of budgetary implementation. We have got somebody who listens to everyone and he is driving the various Ministries to make sure that they deliver. The picture is not as hopeless and that as much as possible 2009 should be for us like a platform towards making sure - *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Before you carry on, what was the size of the Capital Budget of 2009?

Hon. John O. Enoh: In 2009, the size was about ~~₦~~1 trillion. I need to correct that for 2010, the figure is not just ~~₦~~300 billion above that of 2009, it is ~~₦~~370 billion.

The Speaker: We do not have any financing problem. These monies are being released as part of the Budget?

Hon. John O. Enoh: Yes.

The Speaker: So, when it comes to releases which is the output the level of implementation is 100 *per cent*. Then, if it is only ₦250 or ₦300 billion left out of ₦1 trillion, that is suggesting 70 *per cent* implementation?

Hon. John O. Enoh: I am just being conservative.

The Speaker: But now this House has also passed this Supplementary Appropriation Bill into law and we also put a caveat there that the Capital project of 2009 should be implemented up to March 2010 giving the Executive more time to make use of the remaining ₦300 billion.

Hon. John O. Enoh: Yes.

The Speaker: If that happens, it will be a record that has never been done in the history of this nation. Let me also add that if we are doing ₦50 or ₦70 billion by now, that is 100 *per cent* of the budget a year or two years ago.

Hon. John O. Enoh: You are right.

The Speaker: Let us get this in perspective and make our argument based on facts and figures because you have worked so hard to make sure that this implementation is done. Therefore, you need to follow through because the desired outcome of a particular year budget does not necessarily come in that year. That is why you have Medium Term Expenditure Profile and the Fiscal Responsibility Bill to make sure that Ministers and Civil Servants, as you have said, are punished when they do not implement, like they have in Brazil today.

You need to tell the nation what is happening and guide us accordingly and look for those desired outcome and when they are supposed to come. That is the level we are in right now. Please, let us guide ourselves with facts and figures.

Mr. Speaker, I will plead with my Colleagues not to be fed up with this. As I have said from the beginning, it is not as hopeless.

Talking about the 2010 Budget, I will respond a little bit to what the Leader of AC had said regarding

the reason for the increase in Statutory Transfers. Each year Statutory Transfers are a measure of the broad assumptions that are made in the budget in terms of both the daily oil production and benchmark. As those figures increase, of course, Statutory Transfers figures will also increase.

If you are talking about debt servicing, a Member had commented about the fact that in commending the Executive as to how much money is actually being devoted to domestic debt service which has been the greatest challenge year in year out, particularly when we exited from Paris Club, the greatest challenge was what had happened to the local debts. That is actually being tackled again in the 2010 Budget.

Let us also appreciate the climate within which this budget is coming. We are talking about our international climate of economic crisis which makes this budget a fiscal stimulus budget; a budget that is determined to see how we can deliver on our vision 20-2020. When we passed the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, the issue in terms of real GDP growth was close to 3 *per cent* but this budget has introduced new elements which get our assumptions for 2010 to be a little bit above 6 *per cent*. So I believe that together with the Executive it is possible to address some of these things.

I want us to also praise ourselves. We passed a document, the Medium Term Expenditure Framework last week and this budget which has come today actually has all the assumptions that this House passed in terms of the daily production of 2.08 million barrels and in terms of the exchange rate. The only addition we need to make is that when we were putting together that document the market price of oil was just a little bit above US\$60. As we speak it is nearing the US\$80 mark. That expenditure framework was supposed to be a guide to the preparation of the 2010 Budget. Now that that budget is before us, it is up to the Legislature before we pass the Budget to also look at what is happening in terms of the oil price and see whether or not it is possible to increase it to \$60 and allow more monies for Capital expenditure and also allow more money to see how we can reduce our deficit. I believe that the deficit that we have of about 4.79 *per cent* is something that we should be able to reduce.

I would like to mention two things here which I would like this House to tackle; the first has to do with the Join Venture Cash Call which is to the tune of US\$5 billion. About two weeks ago, the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission drew our attention to the fact that within the first quarter of this year, this country earned no dollar after selling its

crude oil and that on a daily basis when Nigeria sells its crude it earned more extra dollar because of how much were committed to our Joint Venture Cash Call and I think that in the next few days and weeks, the Committee on Finance is going to put the various Joint Venture partners into the strictest test and scrutiny to actually understand why we must be paying US\$5 billion even if we were going to produce 2.08 million barrels a day and there is a shortfall in terms of that production, why must we continue to spend as much as we have assumed in terms of our revenue projections.

The second issue has to do with the fact that in 2010, the Federal Government expects that as part of financing deficit it is going to get some of its share of Excess Crude Account. Now there is nowhere in the revenue framework where that share is also distributed to most agencies that are under First Line Charge, for example, UBE, NDDC and also other bodies because it is important that each time the Federal Government goes to the Excess Crude Account these other agencies whose monies are also a function of sharing from the Federation Account must also be taken care of.

I believe that we must do all these to be able to do a fine job at this but basically, I believe that this Bill should be read the Second Time so that we can assist the Executive to deliver the Budget on time to be able to consolidate our gains in 2010.

Hon. Ita Enang: For the past nine years, this is the best packaged Budget ever presented on the Floor of this House. I say so because in all these years when a budget is presented, you would ask the Executive to give us the budget pre-performance for the previous year so that we will know which project(s) have been execute or not. It has always constituted a problem in the Committees and we have always insisted in the course of presenting the budget that when you are presenting the budget for 2010, you should give us the budget performance for 2009 so that we can follow up on projects and know which ones are to be carried over.

This budget is well presented because we have the Budget Implementation Report for 2008. We also have the 2009 Quarterly Report on the Implementation of the Budget which is going to be a guide for us in determining which project(s) have been done.

The Speaker: But those figures are from Executive.

Hon. Ita Enang: Yes, but it has always been difficult getting the figures from them. They have been

able to bring the figures after exerting considerable pressure on them. We should congratulate ourselves.

I want to congratulate Hon. Ismail Kawu because he says that up to 50 *per cent* of his projects have been implemented like the Kaduna by-pass and the dam. He also said by the pressure from this House, a sum of ~~N~~4.7 billion has been spent.

I want him and all the people of Kano State to sympathise with the people from our area who are even looking for 3 *per cent* performance. While congratulating him, I would like him to also show the way by which he was able to achieve such level of implementation.

I want to also plead that this Budget is dead on arrival and it is what we pass that will be the budget of the House. I want to say that a great part of this budget as it is presented is greatly budget of expenditure; I want us to turn it into a budget of investment.

We should not only talk about how much we are going to spend on projects; we should talk not only about the level of job that is going to be created but also the long term investment that it will amount to.

I have always said that we should not just use our oil money for year to year spending on Capital projects; we should spend on items which could survive and last and produce money to sustain us after the depletion of our oil reserve and create employment.

This budget is our own and we will pass it in our usual expeditious manner taking the interest of our constituencies into account. I commend the budget for Second Reading.

Hon. Isibor Ifaluyi (Egor Ikpoba Okha): I just want to be specific about the budget. In executing the Seven Point Agenda of Mr. President, food sufficiency and security are things that must come to play but I do not know how we are addressing that.

We have various river basins across this country and to be specific in the South-South we have three River Basins part of which is spread over to South-West. We also have Benin-Owena River Basin Development Authority that is superintending over Ekiti State, Ondo State, Edo State and one Senatorial District in Delta State.

Here in the Report that we are having Capital project to the tune of ~~N~~282 million. We will progress to Niger Delta Basin Superintending Authority in Port Harcourt that is superintending over the three

Senatorial districts in Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa States with a Capital budget of ₦339 million.

When you go to Cross River State and you add these three River Basins there, it is over ₦1 billion for Capital projects. As a hon. Member said, if a State or a River Basin superintending between one or two states can be talking about expending ₦4 billion on Capital projects and we are talking about ₦1 billion in six States from South South, it is something wonderful.

In Ilushin, Edo State there are about ten thousand hectares which, if well harnessed and prepared, four neighbouring States that can benefit to ensure sufficiency in rice. Each year we send in ₦300 million for a project that should be taking about ₦6 billion. I wonder how we are going to realise that. Six Billion Naira as Capital takes off and we are sending ₦300 million to Ilushin.

In Benin City in Obayator and Ugboke the government took a lot of land from the people; they cannot farm there and they said they are going to have irrigation project. For more than fifteen years the government is not doing anything. The people are clamouring to have their land back they are not getting it. It is also not possible to put irrigation there so that they can form cluster of farmers there.

How can we say we have ₦4 trillion, we have increase in our budget and it is looking so beautiful? It is like a certain Pakistani doctor who went into a theatre and came out and said the operation was successful but the patient died.

Of what importance will it be to the family if the operation was successful and the patient died? We have ₦4 billion allocated to a project yet there is no food in certain parts of this country. In considering this budget we should make reference to the river basins. The research institutes are the ones that are doing research to get better products and better yield but it is trickles that go to them. Can you image that a whole year budget for Federal Government College, Bussa that is known for fresh water fishery is just ₦48 million. What do you expect them to bring out in terms of research? It is absurd.

If we must call a spade a spade the Federal Government must vote enough money towards the agricultural sector, to the research institutes and the river basins.

Hon. Independence Ogunewe (Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte): First of all, I will commend the budget in terms of its size. At least we have been

increasing in the trillions we spend every year. This year's budget has risen to about ₦4 trillion and we expect that by next year it should also increase to about ₦5 trillion.

In general terms and in principles part of my worries are these: one, the size of the non-debt Recurrent Expenditure only goes to suggest that perhaps not much is being done in the area of the entire Public Service Reforms. I think in passing this budget we should also encourage the Executive to look at the possibility of actually reforming the Public Service as it will be in our best interest to do so.

The second thing I would want to add is that given the explanation that has given to us by the Chairman, Committee on Finance on what might be considered the marginal increase on the size of the Capital expenditure What is going on now globally is that the economy is tottering and wobbling and it is not peculiar to Nigeria alone. One of the areas of stimulating the economy is by injecting funds into public projects; the fiscal direction. We should not do it for the sake of doing that; this should be targeted at projects that can extend our development frontiers. Recently, it was said that Qatar by December this year will be commissioning their airport built at the cost of \$14 billion. That in itself accounts for close to how many *per cent* of the entire budget of Nigeria.

So if we are talking about Capital expenditure to drive the development frontiers, then we must be serious. The Chairman, Committee on Finance, in the course of his presentation said that the exchange rate was predicated on about US\$50 or more per dollar but today the scenario has changed. I would not know how sustainable the increase in the oil price today could be but if we do some good work and know how to appropriate this increases by accepting the exchange rate we are going to use in the 2010 Budget, one would be expecting that whatever increases we record in the exchange rate should be targeted at Capital projects because the major language here according to the Chairman is stimulating the economy.

In fact, when Hon. Wadada was speaking perhaps he did not get his dynamics right; this is exactly what he was trying to talk about.

I am also trying to say that when such funds are made available should also be targeted on domestic debt payment. By my own reckoning even what we have here may not be enough. I will give you an example; more than 30 *per cent* of the toxic debts you have in the commercial banks today are arising from debts connected to public works. People get contracts

and go to banks and get loans but do not have money to pay back. That in itself is driving the circle; the banks are unable to give further credits. The resultant effect is that the real sector is suffering and if the real sector is suffering the economy is going down. So, if we want to stimulate then we must look more in the direction of debt payment.

The Speaker: From the facts you have given, are you now suggesting that a ₦4 trillion budget that looks apparently beautiful compared to the countries that we are competing with is absolutely a drop in the ocean because if Qatar could spend \$14 billion on an airport which is almost one and half times our entire Capital budget and we are expected to compete with Qatar it means we need to be looking our revenue generation seriously. What it means is that we should not be fooled by the idea of ₦4 trillion budget. We need to be pushing a lot harder to achieve those things given the global economic conditions; that is what you are saying?

Hon. Independence Ogunewe: Yes, Sir. Having said that I want to take us to the document that came with the budget in the area that has to do with borrowing. I will not averse to government borrowing but the problem is: are we borrowing to fund what? This is because Dubai as at the last two months was even going for more borrowing to the tune of \$80 billion to fund public works.

So, all the things you see in Dubai is not only from revenue generated within. But the question is when they borrow you can point your fingers at what those monies are targeted at; this is the issue. As far as I am concerned this issue of borrowing \$300 billion is not ambitious but I am saying that these appendices should come with what those borrowings are meant for and the Parliament should be able to work in concert with the Executive to make sure that when these borrowings come are targeted and applied exactly to where it was meant for.

Finally, looking at the budget proposals, I do not know how those figures were arrived at and what they intend to achieve with this budget. They talked about fiscal target in the Appendix; they targeted inflation for 2010 at 11.2 *per cent*; 2011 at 9.4 *per cent* and 2012 at 9.3 *per cent* but curiously there is nothing to show here what target we are looking at in the area of the interest rates because the real sector which is the economy is on its belly today because of the very terrible interest rate regime that we are operating in the country.

As a matter of fact today, I was watching the Sky News before I left home. In Britain, the Supreme

Court is going to pass a verdict on a matter that was brought before it concerning the rates that had been charged on overdrafts in England. That means they are monitoring the specific targets of their economy. If banks charge excessive rates on overdraft that it now begins to impact negatively on real activities, it is the responsibility of the government to look into it. I am saying that this budget, having projected these figures for inflation, I also expect that they should tell us what should be their projections for interest rates.

Hon. Chile Igbawua (Kwande/Ushongo): I would like to join my Colleagues in commending the manner of submission of the 2010 Budget. I also join my Colleagues in lamenting the low performance of the 2009 Budget. We have facts and figures that the performance is the best we have had in decades but it is still below our expectations because we pushed a little harder and we thought we were going to get better results.

That notwithstanding, part of the measures that this House has passed by extending the implementation period of period of the Capital budget to March of the following year is a master stroke to our budget implementation and I hope we are going to take a hold on that to record better improvements in the year ahead.

We are of the opinion that to further improve on budget performance, the Executive needs to be proactive in their procurement policy. The fact that the Constitution already allows the President to spend sums not exceeding the preceding year's budget means that Ministries should not expect that the budget would be turned down. At least it will not come out at lower figures than the previous year. That should be sufficient incentive for ministries, departments and agencies to commence their procurement processes as soon as they have submitted the budget to the National Assembly. I hope they are going to take advantage of that to commence the procurement process early enough so that we do not have them waiting until the day that the budget is passed.

I also believe that we still have to do a lot of work on avoidable bureaucracies that are hampering budget implementation. In the course of our oversight, we have come across agencies that keep telling you stories about raising Letters of Credit. This is the Central Bank of Nigeria which is involved deeply in our development programmes and there should be no problems with raising Letters of Credit if we know this is very critical to budget implementation. I believe that if we take a few steps in removing some of the

avoidable bureaucracies, we shall be going a lot faster than we have done in the past including this year.

On the general principles, my major problem has been that of poverty alleviation. I have heard the opinion that in a country which has close to 70 *per cent* of its population in the rural areas and this 70 *per cent* are engaged in agriculture; so long as our expenditure in real agriculture is less than 30 *per cent* of our Capital budget, we shall be doing very little to alleviating poverty and raising the incomes of the larger members of our society.

I make bold to say that that is why all efforts at poverty alleviation have been failing us because the funds have not been directed where the poor are. When we are talking about agriculture, I have analysed the budget of agriculture for this nation for the past three years and I discover that in spite of the figures that we have as Capital budget for agriculture, a huge percentage of that is going to institutions. When it goes to these institutions, not much of it is going to research. It is going to areas that are not productive or directly impacting on improving production in agriculture. I hope that this year when the House moves to look at the agriculture sector, we are going to be very proactive and definite about what we expect to have in terms of funds allocated to the real production sector of agriculture.

I have listened to some of my Colleagues who have lamented the budget and I have said that once the Executive have submitted the draft budget, they have finished their job. The work of appropriation belongs to us and if we see the budget as being defective, it means it is a good challenge for us and we need to take that challenge by the horn to show that we are here to do what the Constitution requires us to do.

The overall sectoral allocations are commendable. I am also excited in particular about transportation because we have complained about our roads over and over. It is because our roads are being overused. Now, if we are going to put a lot of effort in rail and water transportation, we are going to remove pressures on our roads and when we finally have them there, we are going to have them last a little longer and we are going to diversify our means of transportation by improving water and rail transportation.

The Speaker: Hon. Chairman Committee on MDGs, you may need to answer some questions on the implementation on MDGs but we are going to listen to the contribution of Hon. Austin Nwachukwu first.

Hon. Austin Nwachukwu (Ehime Mbano/Ihite Uboma/Obowo): I am very happy to say that this budget is a budget of the people. Having gone through the various allocations as contained in the budget, I heaved a sigh of relieve that this budget would actually cushion the effect of hardship that Nigerian people have suffered over the time.

I want to take your mind back to your inaugural speech where you maintained that there are three component aspects of a project; the input, output and outcome. If that is anything to go by, this budget seems to provide that answer because there are no bogus inputs as it were in the last budget. They were very selective in their project items and issues that would be addressed by the budget.

I am happy that a Motion I sponsored on this Floor made it possible for the Interior Ministry to comply with Section 3 of the Civil Defence Act. In this budget I saw ₦72.3 million earmarked for arms and ammunitions for the Civil Defence. That goes to show that this government is a listening government and is also looking forward to hearing what this House is saying to them.

I also want to say that the issue of expenditure has been the problem of Nigerian economy. The government has always proposed and budgeted monies for projects but the problem has been with that of implementation. I am saying this with all emphasis that I do not see a reason why a Minister would return tax-payers funds; funds given to him to spend for the people. You will keep it there and bring it back after a time. That means that the Minister or head of that agency or government office has not done well. Until we begin to have a way of checkmating these returns, then we would have projects being executed.

Also, in this budget I saw a total sum of ₦221 billion for Capital on works. That shows that they have to do a lot of construction work now that we have the dry season setting in. In the past, they award jobs in the raining season; nothing can be done. The Nigerian terrain is such that we must understand that you do not carry out construction when it is wet. You carry out construction during the dry season. So, we want to see how judiciously they can apply the money they have earmarked for Nigerian roads because our problem here has been that of bad roads.

Finally, all these monies being forecast have to come from our revenue base namely oil, VAT and Customs. These are the three major components of our revenue base in Nigeria. In this year's mid-term expenditure framework; we were told that the reason

why they were unable to actualise the projections was because it was based on unrealistic and unrealisable budgetary forecast but in 2010, I can see that such mistakes have been corrected and as such we are sure to have a good budget.

Hon. David Onobi Idoko (Ado/ Ogbadibo/ Okpokwu): I am going to tread along the side of caution in that I am told that the Budget is coming with a deficit of about ₦1.6 billion. We have to be conscious as how to finance the deficit and also finance the Budget.

We know that as at June last year, the Budget was financed from the Petroleum Sector by about 62 *per cent*; from Company Taxes 15 *per cent*, Customs 9 *per cent* and VAT about 15 *per cent*.

My take on this is that we must develop some level of synergy in the economy to be able to have the stimulus that will generate activities within the system to finance our budget.

There are attendant risks that come with the Petroleum Sector. We are looking at the benchmark probably not being stable. We are also looking at some level of international disequilibrium that could cause price fluctuation.

We must also encourage economic activities within our economy to stimulate the activities that will allow the companies generate money and also pay Company tax. I am aware that we finance our economy by over 15 *per cent* of Company tax. We must be cautious to also look at the level of development within that sector.

I wish to also draw attention to the fact that we have some intervention funds and the channelling of those funds is probably not effective enough. I say this because if we intervene, for instance, in the area of agriculture and say we want to develop the cotton aspect and we put in money for that and we just move into agriculture department, we are not doing that sub sector enough good. We must be able to specifically say that this money is being channelled through the Nigeria Agriculture Cooperative and Rural Development Bank and expect to monitor the functioning of that money for effective intervention.

With respect to the Housing sector, if we are intervening in whatever form to develop houses, we must go through the Federal Mortgage Bank which will charge interest. It is also an institution charged with the responsibility not only of developing banking activity and creating employment but it is also charged

with the capacity to retrieve the money that has been ploughed into development and ensure proper distribution of the money.

I commend the government for its allocation towards the Quick-Win projects, MDG's project and other projects. I also urge my Colleagues that we consider this budget, allow for quick implementation and management.

Hon. Alex Ikor Ukam (Akamkpa/Biase): Today is another day just like we all assembled here last year to decide on 2009 Budget. The question everybody is asking is: how far has Budget 2009 affected the lives of our people?

I choose to disagree with the Report given to us by the Minister of Finance on the basis of the performance so far. I am saying this because in this House, we have Committees that is saddled with the responsibility of oversight over all the Ministries and the Reports of these Committees is enough to inform us how far the Budget had been implemented.

I want to cite the activities of the House Committee on Works as an example. We embarked on oversight. I want to tell you that I am bold to say that it is a failure considering what we witnessed and what we saw in the field. My doubt and fear again is hinged - *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Are you a Member of the Committee on Works?

Hon. Alex I. Ukam: Yes.

The Speaker: What is the size of the Capital project of the Federal Ministry of Works for 2009?

Hon. Alex I. Ukam: If you are talking about 2009 I do not have the exact figure right now.

The Speaker: When you said you have gone round and it has not performed, we need to know the facts on ground.

Chairman, Committee on Appropriation, can you help us out because I really want us to find a solution to this. What is the size of the Ministry of Works' Capital Budget?

Hon Ayoade A. Adeseun (Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere Oluyole): Mr. Speaker, it is about ₦213 billion.

The Speaker: It is all right. How much of this ₦213 billion has been awarded as contract. Do you have any idea?

Hon Alex I. Ukam: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is the area I am coming now. That is why I want to react to the Report given to us by Finance Minister.

So far, I want to confirm by saying that it is below 25 *per cent*.

The Speaker: So you are suggesting to us that only ₦60 billion or ₦100 billion has been awarded to contractors. Is that what you are saying?

Hon. Alex I. Ukam: If you allow me to give you the analysis.

The Speaker: I want you to guide us because you have been making comments here about performance and non-performance and we have never backed it up with facts and figures. So, if you are saying it is only 25 *per cent*, you are only suggesting that only ₦60 billion worth of contract has been awarded in the Federal Ministry of Works. Is that correct?

Hon Alex Ukam: Well, somehow Mr. Speaker, to an extent it is correct.

The Speaker: If it is only ₦60 billion that has been awarded, when is the projected completion of those projects because that will now show when it is meant to be completed and, therefore, the performance gauged according to it because I know that most of these projects which are awarded this year do not have a completion period in 2009; some of them do not have completion period of 2010. So, you need to now tell us what your basis for performance is before you make comments, please.

Hon. Alex I. Ukam: Thank you, Sir. That is the area I was leading the House to that there is difference between releases and payment. In the submission made by the Federal Ministry of Works to the Committee, we have a lot of columns there that says releases; but payment zero. So, there is difference between releases and payment.

What the Chairman on Appropriation may be reporting to us coming from the Minister of Finance may be based on - (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: Chairman, Committee on Appropriation, what is the payment level of 2009 Works Ministry based on the contracts awarded?

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: As a matter of fact, that Ministry is about the most challenged because of the weather factor.

When we were conducting our Public Hearing recently, one of the things given to us by the Minister and his retinue was that if only we could roll over the implementation of the budget by one more quarter, they would have been able to complete these projects. Rather, they have ₦106 billion in the bank waiting for Certificate of Completion which they cannot get. Contractors cannot work when it rains. The man said that he has just come back from the tour of the country and until the weather clears a little bit, there is not much he can do but they are in the field now. That is why when we then came up with this one quarter extension, we felt we are going somewhere.

The Speaker: If ₦106 billion, for example, is still with the CBN, how much has actually been paid to contractors in the whole year?

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: The Ministry got about 90 *per cent* release as far back as June. So, if they got ₦200 billion, for instance, and they still have ₦106 billion in the bank, it means that they have paid out as much as over ₦90 billion so far this year.

The Speaker: So your payment is about ₦50 billion?

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: Much more.

The Speaker: Is it about 50 *per cent*?

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: No, it is not about 50 *per cent*, Sir.

The Speaker: That is what the fact is saying.

Hon. Alex I. Ukam: Even the document submitted to us by Federal Ministry of Works is saying 37.7 *per cent* performance.

The Speaker: As at what date?

Hon. Alex I. Ukam: Second Quarter.

The Speaker: That is Second Quarter. We are already in the Fourth Quarter.

Hon. Alex I. Ukam: The point I am trying to make is that it is different for them to give us the record of releases made by them whereas what we are after is the performance on ground. You will realise that some of these jobs were awarded in the year 2000 and up till date contractors are still on site and there is variation upon variation. Are we moving forward or backward? Nigerian money is being recycled; that is the problem, Mr. Speaker! We wept in the field. I am

calling on the House that all the Committees should be serious in our oversight; that is the only way the Ministries can sit up.

Now, we have been told of a Budget of over ₦4 trillion and probably we are clapping hands that this is a very good increase. The question is: is this increase going to affect the lives of our people? Will they implement it? This is because we are having low implementation and we are having higher allocation. What is the hope, Mr. Speaker?

So, I am begging this House that the best way we can achieve something is to call on the Executive. The Budget has been presented to us already. Let us look at those items and issues that will really touch the lives of our people, not the issues of procurement of vehicles. For instance, we are talking of procurement of vehicles when there are no roads that these vehicles will ply. You cannot build something on nothing; it will not stand. Let us look at this Budget very well and focus attention on the areas that will touch the lives of our people.

The Speaker: What one can deduce from what Hon. Alex Ukam is saying is that before we talk about the performance of this Budget, we need to know what the desired outcome of what that Budget is in that year. We can then use it to find out whether or not they have attained their targets because we may be talking about performance and it may not be possibly seen in 10 years and you are saying they are not performing. So, look at those payments. Releases are done 100 *per cent* the way it is now. Then, input and output is 100 *per cent* and what is the outcome vis-à-vis payment. With the extension of the 2009 Budget by a quarter, I believe some of those problems will be addressed since there is no rain between November and March. The Works Committee needs to intensify its oversight a bit more, please.

Hon. Ishaku J. Sharah: I am glad again to witness yet another session of Budget presentation and we thank God for that.

Secondly, it is bad to have a Budget that is not properly implemented but it is worse to have budget that is implemented and abandoned half way after spending the money and the projects are not carried forward and implemented.

Even when we have a Supplementary Budget, we should try to arrest the situation of completing those projects that seem to be performing. We also have virements to arrest the areas that are probably also performing but there is no enough funds to do that.

Another area we are going to have difficulty is changing the period again to March. It is a very good thing but some of the projects that are supposed to roll onto 2010, if care is not taken, in the belief that they could perform better in March; they may not be carried in 2010. This is because the explanation by the MDAs would no; this particular provision is to complete these projects in March 2010. By the end of 2010, there is no way we can now bring it back to Budget 2010 and that project could have been hanging - *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: That is why we have Supplementary Budgets and virements to correct those things.

Hon. Ishaku Joshua Sharah: Most of the Supplementary Budgets that come in from the Executive, we hardly add to what is going on. Some of the projects that are introduced by Members, after putting in some monies whether by Zonal intervention or by MDG or whatever source into the budget, the budget is initiated, the projects are on-going but no provision to carry them forward in 2010 because *ab initio* it is not the Executive projects. We have so many of them. We have been on the field, we have seen erosion projects, road projects and Primary Health Care project that had been abandoned since 2006 and it is now we are trying to address it.

Even the monies that were put to address projects that were abandoned since 2006 were not adequate because of changes in inflation and cost of materials.

What we need to do is to properly think of what is going to happen to these projects that we initiated and have attained 30 or 40 *per cent* performance. What happens to them if they are not captured right now in 2010 Budget?

The Speaker: Let us hear from Chairman, Committee on MDGs. Your brief should also include those quick-wins projects.

Hon. Saudatu A. Sani (Lere): Hon. Speaker, let me start with the quick-wins. Precisely on Thursday, 5th of November, 2009 Hon. Dino Melaye raised a Motion on the non-implementation of the MDGs between 2008 and 2009.

The following day, 6th of November, we invited the MDG Office, the State House Permanent Secretary and the Director of Finance to inform the Committee on what is actually happening with our quick-wins projects because really the quick-wins are very important to all of us.

The information we got is that there are two kinds of frustration. The first frustration is the Permanent Secretary who has just left. The second is the Director of Finance and Supplies who has also left and the third frustration is the bank. The two banks that the money was lodged into; Finbank and Skye Bank were actually delaying payment to contactors or actually asking them to open account in their banks before payment is effected.

So, we directed the MDGs Office to move their money out of those banks and get to a friendlier bank.

On Thursday last week, a letter came to me that we should conduct a Public Hearing, which we intend to do. Mr. Speaker, I assure you that our Committee is very much committed to this issue of quick-win projects. This is the key project in our Committee and the Committee on Constituency Project because we know that every member - *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Why did it take this long to identify the problem you are solving now?

Hon. Saudatu A. Sani: This Committee was only given that assignment exactly on the 6th of October. This project is under the Constituency Projects Committee and we have been directed not to tamper with other Committees on assignment.

After that day we directed that they should give us the Report and we have put the Report of the Quick-Wins in the pigeonholes of Members. However, that is not enough because it is just a written language. We need to find out what is exactly happening and we must all match towards making sure that these projects are completed as at when due. I apologise to my Colleagues from the South-South. I know that nothing has happened and we are taking their case separately.

With respect to MDGs money in the banks, we have directed them to move their money out of these banks and I will find out today which bank they have moved it into but they have complied.

The Speaker: Hon. Saudatu Sani, what about the remaining the remaining ₦80 billion in MDGs; you only made comment on the one that refers to National Assembly which is over ₦20 billion?

Hon. Saudatu A. Sani: Let me also say that we went to all the Ministries implementing MDGs. Not a kobo was released to any of these Ministries as at August 2009.

We had to write to the Minister of Finance and even held a Press Conference informing the world that not a single kobo had been released to MDGs which is a lifetime project up to 2015.

Now all the Ministries implementing MDGs have received their money after the intervention of this honourable House. As I speak, States have not received their conditional grants for 2009.

The Speaker: Why?

Hon. Saudatu A. Sani: When we asked them, they said that they would take the matter to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) for approval but they have not done that.

So, a sum of ₦19.5 billion Conditional Grants for 2009 is yet to be paid to the States that are waiting for this money for implementation.

Even some States received their money for 2008 Budget in February, 2009. Since the Administration has now released all the money, we are exerting pressure to ensure that they are implemented.

There is a lot of money now with the Ministries and Parastatals and I suggest that Members of various Committees will act fast to ensure that these monies are spent as at when due.

Hon. Sani Saleh Minjibir (Minjibir/ Ungogo): When we talk about this exercise of Budget presentation and consideration, I always like to ask myself, what is this about? Is it just a meaningless exercise where we come and discuss huge and unimaginable figures to most of our constituencies? Why is it that year after year since 1999 there has never been a single Appropriation Bill that has been faithfully implemented?

The simple answer is the fact that the Executive lacks the capacity to implement the Budget as passed by this honourable House; this is a simple answer. What are we going to do to ensure that budgets are implemented to the letter?

The imperatives of development demand that this Budget serve the basic needs of the generality of Nigerians. How does this Budget address issues that concern the most vulnerable segments of our society? They are in the majority. This country belongs to them; that is the simple truth. Any exercise that we undertake that does not pay attention to the basic material needs of Nigerians is an exercise in futility. It

is an exercise that will be very difficult to implement faithfully because human factor creeps into it.

Now as an honourable Parliament, we can actually, prioritise how government spends money. It is within the privileges of this House to get up and say; we must make sure we address these issues. I am talking about the issues like the educational sector which has virtually collapsed as evidenced by the results released by NECO and WAEC.

A country like South Korea was at the same level of development with Nigeria in the 60s but because of massive investment they made in the developments of Science and Technology, they are now a country that is light years ahead of this country. We can also achieve these lofty ideals if we are ready to put our minds to it and I believe that in this House we have a lot of people, men and women of proven integrity, very sharp individuals who can contribute meaningfully to the development of this country.

I believe that now more than ever before when we have a situation where interference in the activities of this House is a thing of the past, we can actually sit down and articulate our position and do what we believe is necessary to serve the common good.

Details and the little technicalities concerning this Budget have been spoken about by other hon. Colleagues and I would like to say that when we come to issues of prioritisation, when we do not allocate enough monies to make sure that you have youth development; to make sure that you state unequivocally that you have a Budget of ₦4 trillion and international standards demand that you tell us; I am spending ₦4 trillion. How many jobs are you creating? Which segment of society are those jobs going to be?

I stayed up all night looking at this. I know that this Budget is an elitist Budget. It is not serving the interests of the most vulnerable segment of the society. We as a House have got what it takes to sit down within the following one or two weeks to make sure that true to our tradition of always making sure that we intervene on behalf of the voiceless masses of this country, we inject this masses with the liberal doses of what it will take to make sure that it serves the most vulnerable segments of the society.

Hon Ayoade A. Adeseun: My contribution will focus essentially on the opportunity that we have as a Parliament. This House fought valiantly to force the Executive to implement Budget 2009. Until late August the thinking of the Executive branch was that they were only going to do those things that they put in

the Budget in the first instance but because we were courageous enough to take them on and call their bluff and to insist that once it is passed by the Parliament, it becomes the law of the land; people woke up somewhere and implementation began about September.

Yes, what we have achieved so far is not good enough. If you have achieved 50 *per cent* implementation thus far compared with past years, it is an improvement. Secondly, it was because we were courageous enough to insist that we have been able to achieve that mileage.

Additionally, two or three weeks ago, we inserted that clause that says that this Budget is being rolled over until 31st of March 2010. Nobody will have any excuse not to implement this Budget fully this time around but the onus is on us. The Budget does not belong to Executive; it belongs to us here. What we say the Budget is is what the law is.

What we say the budget is is what the law is. We should strive to ensure that people are put to the task. If this budget has failed so far, it is because we have failed.

Fortunately, we have now established synergy between ourselves and the Executive especially the top leadership of the Executive branch. The President has agreed and the Ministry of Finance is fully with us that this budget must be implemented.

I commend the Committee on Niger Delta; they have done a marvellous job of taking on that Minister. The next leg for us as a House is to call that Minister who insists that he must do things his own way to the detriment of our people. We should call him here and if need be, recommend his removal from office if we can do that. Unless we do that, we will continue to suffer this terrible malaise.

Now that we are where we are, I want to plead that we work as fast as possible to get a Budget in place by the first of January 2010. To buttress that the President set up an Economic Team that has been going around every MDA to put fire on them. As they do that, we need to do the same thing too.

If we do that and we have a Budget in place by the first of January 2010, nobody will have any excuse not give us full implementation in 2010 in addition to this one that is being carried over from this year.

I sincerely appeal to us that as we are in charge, let us seize the opportunity and force people to do what

they need to do. If they are not going to do it, let the world see that.

Hon. Usman B. Nafada (Dukku/Nafada): Let me, first of all, commend the Executive arm and ourselves for making it possible today to have a Budget of over ₦4 trillion. This is as a result of ceasefire in Niger Delta. This is an effort both by the Executive and the Legislature. I want to use this opportunity to thank my Colleagues for the support that they have given to this government to achieve that objective.

Secondly, I like the way some of us speak, especially my Friend, Hon. Independence and many others who have spoken. They talked about the issue of our budget size of ₦4 trillion comparing it with a contract of an airport worth US\$14 billion that is about to be commissioned in Qatar. It is only what you need that you will execute. We do not need an airport of that size now and I believe that is why we cannot have that size of project in our budget but I agree with him that there are some projects that we need to enhance in this Budget.

We have also talked about interest rate; that is very wonderful. Interest rate has a multiplier effect on the entire economy. If I borrow ₦1 billion today and the interest rate is 23 *per cent*, I have to apportion that 23 *per cent* on whatever I am going to expend this ₦1 billion on but if it is 7 *per cent*, for example, the effect of the interest rate will be very minimal. That issue must be addressed by the Executive more especially by the regulators and I mean the Central Bank Governor.

A number of Members have been asking; what do we have for the masses of this country who are the majority? It is not what you can see on the pages of the Budget. For example, we have seen billions of Naira allocated to the Power Sector. If we are able to achieve the targeted megawatts of electricity it will have a multiplier effect.

Let me give an example of what Hon. Sani has said. In Kano today, over three hundred factories or industries have been forced to close down due to the energy crisis. All those who are working in these factories are jobless today. If we are able to generate enough electricity to power their plants, all those that are roaming the streets in Kano and other places will be gainfully employed. Therefore, you do not need to allocate for example the sum of ₦1 trillion for Poverty Alleviation because if you do that, the tendency is that they will misappropriate the money and you will not see the impact on the economy; that is the reality.

If you look at the Works Sector, the sum of is years budget a sum of ₦208 billion was allocated to that sector in this year's Budget while a sum of ₦221 has been allocated for 2010. I do not think there is any need to put ₦221 billion into that Ministry if at all these set of people that are managing the Ministry will be the same people that will continue to manage the Ministry; there will be problem.

I agree with what Hon. Ukam has said to some extent. Nothing has been done when you look at the Ministry of Works. Showing that we have performed as politicians is not what we can prove scientifically; it is what we have achieved physically, which can be seen by our people. Open up roads and create jobs. If we can rehabilitate the road from Nafada to Minjibir, you have opened the economy to all those that will be on that road. Unfortunately, this man will keep on telling you stories that it is a long rainy season.

I agree it is a long rainy season in the South. You cannot tell me in my own local government where we experience the rainy season for only three months. Therefore, you cannot tell me that it is due to the rainy season that you cannot award my contract. That cannot be an excuse.

Let me say that almost all the projects of the North where the raining season is short were bought here for virement; it is only when we decided that we were not going to vire anything from the Ministry of Works that these projects have been saved. It indicates that the man does not even want to work; it is not about rainy season. Even if these projects were delayed on account of the rainy season, why should they be vired at a time the rainy season is over?

We need a set of people that will take charge of these Ministries so that the President will deliver. 2010 is the year of elections. If we are able to achieve this year, then our election as PDP Members would be smooth.

Let me also focus attention on the National Assembly and in particular the House. It is also our responsibility like the way Mr. Speaker kept on emphasising on internally generated revenue. I believe every Committee has a responsibility for the oversight of its own Committee and it is not proper that every single problem of a Committee must be brought to the Chambers.

As a Committee, you have powers to go and oversight your Committee, sanction your Chairman and give him directives, where necessary. It is only when all efforts you have made are unsuccessful that you can

then come to the House but at times you will discover that some matters that require just a phone call to the Minister are brought to the Floor of this House as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance. We are not helping matters by so doing. We have to be up and doing and see that we have performed our jobs as Chairmen.

I also want to say that there is a problem with the way we are passing our budget. Every time we pass a budget we used to insert a Clause which makes it mandatory for any Ministry or Department to obtain the approval of the National Assembly for before such virement is effected. I believe this is creating problem to the House of Representatives.

As Ministers, they have projects that they love. Therefore, the first thing they will do is to send the project to Due Process Office and they will get the certificate for execution. Our own projects as Members of the National Assembly will not be sent may be until October or November whereby they will not even get the certificate. Instead, they will say since you have not obtained certificate for these projects, let us vire this money into these projects because these are their own projects.

It has become necessary to remove that Clause in the Appropriation Act so that there will be no virement. If you did not execute any project, there will be no way for you to take that money from that project to your own beloved projects. That is one of the problems that we are facing with some of these Ministers.

As I said earlier, two or three Ministries are keys to this government and to Nigeria. We know that more than 80 *per cent* of our revenue comes from the Niger-Delta. We have appropriated funds for Niger-Delta Ministry; nobody will blame the National Assembly for not appropriating funds to Niger-Delta, we have done that. Unfortunately, either by commission or omission from their own side the money is still lying in the Central Bank. I have just said that we are happy that we can get ~~₦4~~ billion as a result of less activities of the militants in the Niger-Delta. If you do not execute projects in the Niger-Delta, the tendency is that they will come back to kill again; that is the tendency. We have given them money. They have the NDDC; they have 13 *per cent*, the Ministry of Niger-Delta and also allocation in the Ministry of Works. These four are enough to change the shape of the Niger-Delta. Unfortunately, we are treating Niger-Delta like any other region which is not supposed to be so because I have been to Niger-Delta myself. I have seen the condition of that place and it is only the government that will transform that place to a place that people of

Niger-Delta will enjoy. Therefore, the government through the Executive has made her effort. We have approved what they have asked for but unfortunately some saboteurs in the government are sitting on the money and are not doing their job. So, this issue of Niger-Delta must be addressed by the Committees that are in charge of Niger-Delta.

I saw in one of the dailies of yesterday where the Minister was saying that it is not true that he has not performed or something like that. I believe it was as a result of what we have said in this Chamber or at the Committee level. Therefore, the Committee should continue. Even if they are doing 20 *per cent* now, we should continue to say they have done little or anything until they have done 100 *per cent* job. No money is given to any Ministry for the purpose of earning interest.

I want to say that this is a beautiful Budget for implementation but those who are managing the MDAs must be re-examined in order that we can record a better result. When the Minority Whip was speaking, he was saying that he has not seen the increase in the capital. When you are computing increase, you do not just look at the figures; you look at them in percentages. If you look at the Capital in percentages, there is a considerable increase in terms of percentage of the Capital. If he did not do it he should go back and do it and see, then come back to this House I believe he will understand what I am saying. The increase in the Budget is ~~₦1~~ trillion while the Capital increase is 40 *per cent*. The capital in the previous year was only 30 *per cent*. So there is an increase of 10 *per cent* when you talk about the capital in the overall increase of the Budget.

I believe we have discussed much on this Budget. What we need now is to commit this Budget to the Committee. We should ensure that there are no unspent balances this year. I have read some parts of the Budget. Certificates have been paid for completed projects in my area, no balance is pending, yet they put funds there. That shows that they do not know even the projects that are ongoing and projects that are new; that is the problem of our budgeting.

You will recall that it was the same thing last year. When you were asked to go and look at the Budget before the presentation, in my own zone, about ~~₦13~~ billion was put in some roads that had been completed since 2004. That means they only give them envelope and they will go and repeat the same sub-heads and submit to the Budget Office and money will be spent and you will not see any result.

The Speaker: No, we will put a stop to that and we should continue to work harder on these things.

Hon. Usman B. Nafada: Mr. Speaker, it is the duty of our Committees to work on that. We know these places more than anybody; it is true. There is nobody that will come here and tell me about my Constituency. I know my Constituency more than anybody here.

It is time that we use our powers as Members of the National Assembly to correct all these anomalies.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Finance and Appropriation.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I do not want to say too much on the Budget. I have said so much over the last few years on budgeting but I would say that when we pass these Amendments to the Electoral Act, one of those amendments is suggesting that elections are completed six months before swearing in so that all the litigations can be completed or must be completed before swearing in.

If that happens, it basically means that all elections would be completed by November next year. That means that parties will provide their candidates by August. Do we have eight months as politicians to prove ourselves? That is a hard truth.

So, if you have to do anything to any Ministry, Permanent Secretary or Civil Service to make sure they perform, this is the time to do so. We have two weeks to work within the Committees to get out Reports ready for consideration.

MOTION

Virement of the Sum of ₦1,412,577,000 for the Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs:

The Speaker: The next Order of the Day is a Motion on virement of the sum of ₦1, 412,577,000 for the Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs standing in the name of Hon. Ayoade Ademola Adeseun.

Hon. Ayoade Adeseun is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: Mr. Speaker, I will ask for your permission to consolidate all the items, that is, 1 to 10, if you do not mind.

I move that this House do receive and consider for adoption the following virement requests:

1. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~1,412,577, 000 for the Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs:
 2. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~10,789, 020,727 for the Federal Ministry of Power.
- (Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hold on, Hon. Adeseun. We need some clarifications from the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business.

You will remember that we have already had an agreement with this. We are not doing any virement for the Works Ministry. The others are safe to go through based on the Report of the Committee on Appropriation.

Hon. Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Business, make wish to react to this?

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, we have a group of nine Motions still on Virement and it is appropriate that the Chairman moves all of them at the same time.

Mr. Speaker may wish to put the question on the whole since we are not going to the Committee of Whole and since we are to receive and adopt and the papers are attached to us. I pray that the House do accept that the procedure is appropriate.

The Speaker: It is all right.

Hon. Halims Agoda: Mr. Speaker, the first thing is for the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriation to approach the House for a Motion of Consolidation. When the House agrees to that, it will enable and empower him to now move the said Motion.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, very well, we can move on.

The Speaker: Hon. Chairman, Committee on Appropriation?

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek the leave of this House to consolidate all the ten virement items on request as one package, please?

I so move.

Hon. Halims Agoda: Mr. Speaker, I humbly second the Motion as moved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consolidate all the ten virement items as one package for consideration.

The Speaker: All right, the Motion has sailed through. Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun, but I would still like to have an idea of some of the issues that are being raised.

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: Mr. Speaker Sir, I move that this House do receive and consider for adoption the following Virement requests; there are ten items in all.

1. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~1,412,577,000 only for the Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs.
2. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~10,789,020,727 only for the Federal Ministry of Power.
3. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~9,000,000 only for the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.
4. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~89,086,178 for the Federal Ministry of Interior.
5. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~9,795,805,041 only for the Ministry of Defence.
6. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~3,350,000,000 only for the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory Administration.
7. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~9,175,100,150 for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.
8. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~1,446,189,739 only for the Federal Ministry of Aviation.
9. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~113,957,596 only for the National Gallery of Art.
10. Virement of the sum of ~~₦~~1,648,314,251 only for the Federal Ministry of Education.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Hassan A. Shekarau (Birnin Gwari/Giwa): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as moved by the Chairman, Committee on Appropriation.

I so second.

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: I was almost not going to seek to pursue this virement request after my very able Leader and the Deputy Speaker did his speech on the issue of removing virement Clause from future Budgets but I am glad he was referring to budgets in subsequent years, not the current one.

The Speaker: Deputy Speaker, could you clarify that?

Hon. Usman Bayero (Dukku/Nafada): I am referring to 2010 Budget and beyond.

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: This year's budgetary presentation has faced several challenges but we have succeeded in identifying areas that we believe could be better implemented if only there is synergy between the implementing agencies and the Parliament.

Complaints came throughout the year and the Executive gave us all sorts of reasons. Some of the reasons we found to be cogent and relevant and because of that and in our desire to ensure that we attain maximum output in this year's Budget implementation, we have agreed to recommend this virement request so that monies can be vired from projects that have not been designed or faithfully implemented thus far and other reasons into areas where they can get maximum mileage out of the funds allocated.

We have circulated a Report for Members to look at in detail. For reasons of time, I want to very humbly request that we allow this virement proposal to go through and equally plead with our standing committees that to use the balance of three or four months, the rest of this year and the next three months of 2010 to pursue this thing and make sure that even after virement unless we are aggressively out there in the field ensuring that people comply, they would still find one excuse or the other not to do what they should.

I sincerely request you that you support this virement request so that we can get a lot of mileage out of the funds already allocated.

I so move.

The Speaker: What is the total money to be vired?

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: It is about ~~₦~~300 billion or so.

The Speaker: The figure we have here do not come anything near that. What I have here is about ~~₦~~40 billion.

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: I am sorry I cannot give you the exact figure.

The Speaker: We are viring the equivalent of about 5 *per cent*.

Hon. Bethel Nnaemeka Amadi (Mbaitoli/Ikeduru): There is a fundamental error in the virement proposal from the Ministry of Aviation and it looks like a printer's error.

I have a copy of the letter from the Minister of Aviation addressed to the Minister of Finance dated 3rd October, 2009 sending the request for virement which is for twenty fire tender trucks to ensure safety at the Airport.

The Speaker: Did you have any meeting with the Appropriation Committee on these virement proposals?

Hon. Bethel Amadi: We had a meeting yesterday.

The Speaker: Did you conclude together on this.

Hon. Bethel Amadi: We could not conclude yesterday.

The Speaker: When you start taking letters which are not referred to us from the Ministers or anyone here we cannot be considering it. We can only refer to letters that are being sent to us from the Finance Ministry.

Hon. Bethel Amadi: I have a letter from the Minister to the Committee informing us of the mistake in the final document that came out. It is a typing error and we believe it needs to be looked at.

The Speaker: Anyway, it is something you can sort out between the two of you.

Hon. Betty Apiafi (Ahaoda East/Abua/Odual): Looking at this virement, I want to look at what we are doing for the Federal Ministry of Interior. That Ministry wants ₦89 million taken from ongoing projects of the Ministry to the Recurrent Expenditure in the main Ministry. It is not right for the Ministry to vire from the Capital Expenditure to the Recurrent expenditure.

The Speaker: Hon. Chairman, Committee on Appropriation, were you viring from Capital to Recurrent?

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: I need to look at that a little more closely; I do not recollect going through that. Hon. Apiafi has raised a good observation and we would look at it.

Hon. Betty Apiafi: The next virement is from the National Gallery of Arts. They want ₦113 million to be vired to enable them host an African Regional Summit.

The question is: did the Ministry not know they were going to host this exhibition and was provision

not made in the budget? That is why most of us argue against virement because we know that when we go for oversight functions one of the things we see is the haste with which these Ministries want to spend money before the end of the year.

The Speaker: They want to vire again?

Hon. Betty Apiafi: The National Gallery of Art is seeking to vire ₦113 million to host the African Regional Summit and Exhibition on Visual Art.

The Speaker: It is virement to host a summit; that is not Capital.

Hon. Betty Apiafi: It is a violation of the entire budget process.

Hon. Oguakwa K Graham-Bur: In the Gallery of the Arts main budget we have activities that are in the budget. The African Regional Summit and Exhibition of Visual Art is in the Budget and where they want to vire money are from programmes that we are supposed to attend in other countries; people are supposed to attend our Regional Summit and Exhibition of Visual Art and we do not have enough money for the one we are hosting as part of our efforts to develop our own visual Art.

So they are saying that if by now they have not attended the ones of other countries, let them use the money in the budget they are supposed to use and travel.

The Speaker: So it was originally in the budget?

Hon. Oguakwa K Graham-Bur: Yes, it is there.

The Speaker: How much was voted for it before?

Hon. Oguakwa K Graham: What was voted for it was ₦20 million but that was not our Committee's recommendation; it was lost in the harmonisation between us and the Senate because we know that that is the major summit for the Visual Art Sector but where they are viring money is in the same column on page 4 of (iv).

The Speaker: I understand that. Chairman, Committee on Appropriation, we need to clarify the issue of viring money from Recurrent to Expenditure now so that we can pass this virement. If you are not sure, we should take it out.

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: Mr. Speaker, on the issue of Interior, we are looking at it and I will give you a feedback in a few minutes, please.

Hon. David O. Idoko (Ado/Ogbadigbo/Okpokwu): On the issue of this African Regional Conference, it was hosted last week.

Hon. Oguakwa K Graham-Bur: First of all, the African Regional Summit and Exhibition of Visual Art has two components; the exhibition and the summit.

The Speaker: Was it hosted last week?

Hon. Oguakwa K Graham-Bur: It was not.

The Speaker: It is all right. The Chairman on his honour is saying this but when you do your oversight, if such things come up, we know the consequences.

Hon. Bashiru Omalaja Bolarinwa (Lagos Mainland): Mr. Speaker, such a thing should be stated here in the Motion; it is only in the Explanatory Notes.

The Speaker: It is noted.

Hon. Samuel Whesu Sejoro (Badagry): Looking at the virement for all the Ministries most of them are from Capital to Recurrent.

The Speaker: There is only one; identify the one you are talking about.

Hon. Samuel W. Sejoro: Ministry of Defence has the same problem.

The Speaker: What is going on in the Ministry? Tell us, please.

Hon. Samuel Whesu Sejoro: Ministry of Defence wants to vire ₦9.7 billion from its total allocation in respect of on-going projects in the Ministry.

The Speaker: How is that Recurrent?

Hon. Samuel Whesu Sejoro: It is being vired from Capital which is a constitutional matter.

The Speaker: My dear Colleague, it is being voted from Capital project to on-going projects. Is that what you are saying?

Hon. Samuel Whesu Sejoro: I said it is being voted from Capital projects to Recurrent.

The Speaker: All right, what is the item that they are trying to finance now in the Ministry of Defence?

Hon. Samuel Whesu Sejoro: It is not stated here.

The Speaker: Will a Member, please, tell Hon. Sejoro what is being financed in the Ministry of Defence?

The Speaker: There are twenty of them; I think you need to read that document very well.

Hon. John Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): What he is saying is not correct because when you say Ministry of Defence, it is a combination of the three institutions; the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

Under this ₦9 billion, the Air Force is entitled to ₦2 billion; it is from Capital to Capital.

Hon. Godfrey A. Gaya (Jaba/Zangon Kataf): I still want to speak on this virement in the Ministry of Interior. The Committee throughout last week had reason to tour some of the projects and departments in the Ministry.

The virement is actually not taking money from Capital to Recurrent like my Colleague is saying. If you look at it very well, it is viring from other on-going projects to projects that billed to be completed soonest and most of these projects are uncompleted Prisons that are almost at the state of completion.

The Speaker: Nobody brought up any issues with this because it has already been dealt with.

Hon. Alex I. Ukam: We may have to do something if we take the position of the Deputy Speaker into consideration. The Deputy Speaker said that we should insert a clause stopping the issuance of request for virement. Otherwise, I would like to suggest that if there is anything like virement, there should be a small note explaining the reason why money is being vired from A to B. The fear we have entertained before now is that in most cases some of these projects that are vired are projects of the Members of the National Assembly who are closer to the needs of the people than even those who are viring.

The Speaker: With all due respect to the Deputy Speaker, when they brought these virements, they went into discussions after which they went ahead to say they were not going to do it; they are going to execute them. That is why we have only less than 4 per cent virement which is a good margin for error. I believe 7

per cent is what is usually taken for margin for error. So it is all right.

We still have the powers to say that we do not agree with those virements and they should go and execute them. We will look into it. But in this case it is not affecting the main jobs execution.

Hon. Friday Itulah: I have a strong feeling that the intendment of most of those virements has no justification.

The Speaker: Can you give us examples of the ones that you feel have no justification?

Hon. Friday Itulah: Let us look at the Ministry of Niger Delta. You have a project that is called Ogberiamen/Torugbeme Roads. The sum that was appropriated for that project was about ₦20 million and the entire money is to be vired completely away from that project. What is the reason why this project is not being executed whereas other projects are being executed?

Some of these projects belong to a particular person and they deliberately delay to prevent their execution.

The Speaker: Is it your project?

Hon. Friday Itulah: It is not my project but I am giving a particular instance.

The Speaker: Whoever is here that the project belongs to should speak up.

Hon. Friday Itulah: These projects were put in the budget for the purpose of implementation. Why they were not implemented and others were implemented? Now you are asking that the money that is there should be moved to another project.

The Speaker: I think in his briefing, Hon. Itulah, he stated clearly that there are some projects which we need designed for proper execution. For example, if there are funds for the whole project and the design can only take place, they may as well vire the ones that will not be used during the period and ₦20 million in a project of ₦1 trillion is negligible, please.

Hon. Friday Itulah: Thank you for what you have said but let us note this. The Ministry of Niger Delta is just there for the fun of it. If you look at the projects that they have in that Ministry in the current budget that we are looking at, you will discover that all

the on-going projects in the current 2009 Budget are simply left.

Some that have been designed are not provided for in 2010 and there are only four items there. There is an ongoing one that is called East/Ward Road for which we had a Supplementary Appropriation. There is the Coastal Roads which are even being designed. The Niger Delta does not consist only of coastal areas; we also have the interior.

I am from the Niger Delta. I have projects in my constituency that as we speak are not being implemented and no provision is made for them in the 2010 Budget.

The Speaker: Is there any particular project within your constituency or outside your constituency that money is being vired away from that you feel should not be vired? That is the whole point.

Hon. Friday Itulah: I am not speaking personally; I am speaking in general terms.

Hon. Betty A. Apiafi: Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Niger Delta had projects which we approved in the budget and what happened is that we were told that the Ministry got instruction from wherever that they are not supposed to do State projects and that they are only supposed to do regional projects. All the projects that were in the budget last year were not implemented.

The Speaker: Hon. Betty Apiafi, they are seeking to vire ₦1.4 billion from the Niger Delta Ministry out of the total budget of ₦49 billion which means that they are viring 0.25 *per cent*.

Hon. Betty A. Apiafi: No, Mr. Speaker. The Deputy Speaker has just told you the interaction we had with the Ministry of Niger Delta and what transpired. The virement is not the issue; the issue is that no project has been implemented.

The Speaker: This is about virement.

Hon. Betty A. Apiafi: No, the virement can only happen if they have implemented any of the projects.

The Speaker: We have a Motion here and it is seeking to vire ₦1.4 billion for the Ministry of Niger Delta; that is all it is seeking to do. Therefore, what you are saying must be based on this ₦1.4 billion.

If this ₦1.4 billion should not be vired, I expect you to tell us why it should not because it is only 0.25 *per cent* of the total money. That means the remaining 99.75 *per cent* that we are looking for should be

executed. That is the basis of your meetings with the Niger Delta Ministry and the Committee's submission and that will still be done and that is why we extended the implementation period to another quarter.

So it is not being affected by these virements. As Hon. Friday Itulah said, there were projects that were in last year's Budget. Why were they not implemented? They have refused to answer that. Now they are telling us that they are viring money into the East-West road. How much can that do for a project that is almost ₦1 billion?

The Speaker: It is all right. I do not know how much ₦1.4 billion can do but what I do know is that 97 per cent of the money for that ministry is still meant to be executed.

Chairman, Committee on Appropriation, do you have any answer to this so that we can move forward?

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun (Oluyole): I have looked at the observation of my Colleagues and I have seen that the point of observation has to do with the Report where the word *recurrent* as a word was inadvertently used instead of the word *capital*.

The Interior Ministry has a variety of segments. The virement from Recurrent to Recurrent is there; there is no place where Recurrent is vired to Capital or vice visa. If the hon. Member had read the sentence a little further, she would have seen that it says *that the fund was also partly being used in favour of completion of Command Headquarters and Passport Office in Abakiliki and Makurdi respectively* which are capital elements.

The Speaker: What you have raised is very pertinent. You are confirming to us that whatever it is it is a typographical error if at all but it is from Capital to Capital.

Hon. Ayoade A. Adeseun: Absolutely.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I will now put the Question in favour of all these virements.

Question put and agreed to.

Main Question put and agreed to.

Resolved:

1. That the sum of ₦1,412,577,000 be vired by the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs pursuant to Section 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Act.

2. That the sum of ₦1,763,051,768 be vired by the Federal Ministry of Power pursuant to Section 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Act.
3. That the sum of ₦9,000,000 be vired by the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology pursuant to Section 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Act.
4. That the sum of ₦89,086,178 be vired by the Federal Ministry of Interior pursuant to Section 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Act.
5. That the sum of ₦9,795,805,041 be vired by the Federal Ministry of Defence pursuant to Section 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Act.
6. That the sum of ₦3,350,000,000 be vired by the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory Administration pursuant to Section 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Act.
7. That the sum of ₦9,025,100,150 be vired by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources pursuant to Section 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Act.
8. That the sum of ₦1,446,189,739 be vired by the Federal Ministry of Aviation pursuant to Section 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Act.
9. That the sum of ₦113,957,596 be vired by the National Gallery of Art pursuant to Section 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Act.
10. That the sum of ₦1,648,314,251 be vired by the Federal Ministry of Education pursuant to Section 3 of the 2009 Appropriation Act.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, may I seek the leave of the House to move that in view of the fact that we are going to suspend Plenary and adjourn to reconvene on Tuesday 8th December, 2009 and the need for us to communicate what we have passed to the appropriate agency that we do approve the Votes and Proceedings of today to enable our decisions of today be communicated.

I so move.

Hon. Ike Chinwo (Obio/Akpor): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as moved by Hon. Ita Enang.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That in view of the fact that the House is going to suspend Plenary and adjourn to reconvene on Tuesday, 8th December, 2009 and the need for us to communicate what we have passed to the appropriate agency that we do approve the Votes and Proceedings of today to enable our decisions of today be communicated.

ADJOURNMENT

Tuesday 8th December, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members may I move that this House do adjourn sitting till Tuesday, 8th December 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Tuesday 8th December, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Emeka Ihedioha: Mr. Speaker, hon. Members, I rise to second the Motion moved by the House Leader that the House do stand adjourned till

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.15 p.m.