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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday 26th March, 2009

The House met at 11:05 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday 25th March, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Death of Late Hon. Donatus D. Dafam

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, this announcement is from Plateau State House of Assembly Members on behalf of all members of House of Representatives from Plateau State.

It is with a deep sense loss that we announce the passing on to glory of an Elder Statesman and a former member of the House of Representatives during the Second Republic, Late Hon. Donatus D. Dafam from Plateau State. He died on the 15th of March 2009 and was buried on the 20th March 2009 in his home town.

Death of Sister to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Deputy Speaker: Let me also use this opportunity to announce the death of a sister to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. She died the day before yesterday (24th March, 2009). She has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

Death of the Mother of Hon. Abdul-Aziz Isa

The Deputy Speaker: The Chairman House Committee on Federal Character, Hon. Abdul-Aziz Isa lost his aged mother last night. She would be buried today at 4:00 p.m. according to Islamic rites.

Hon. Colleagues, can we please rise up for one minute silence in honour of the dead.

(A minute silence observed)

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May their souls rest in perfect peace. (Amen)

Meeting of Committee on Marine Transport

The Deputy Speaker: This is to inform all members of the Committee on Marine Transport that there would be a meeting today, Thursday 26th March, 2009 by 2:00 p.m. at Committee Room 3.04, New Building, House of Representatives.

Signed
Chairman

Meeting of the House Advisory Committee on Constitution Review

The Deputy Speaker: This is to inform members of the House Advisory Committee on Constitution Review that there will be a meeting of the Committee today, Thursday 26th March, 2009, at House Committee Room 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Signed
Hon. C.I. D. Maduabum

Withdrawal of HB 200 National Legislative Service Institute Bill 2009

The Deputy Speaker: This is from the Chairman House Committee on Rules and Business. *The stated Bill published as HB 200 was published in error and without advantage to the existing law on the same subject matter namely the Institute for Democratic and Legislative Studies Act 2007. It is the same in material particulars with the reference National Legislative Service Institute Bill and may be withdrawn and struck off the role of Bills in the House of Representatives.*

Submitted for ruling on this Bill.

Signed
Hon. Ita Enang

The Deputy Speaker: The Bill is withdrawn.

(The Bill with the leave of the House withdrawn)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

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

Suspension of Dr. Joyce Z. Igwe

Hon. Uchendu Andrew (Ikwerre/Emohua): Mr. Speaker, my dear Colleagues, I have a petition here

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from one of my constituents Dr. Joyce Z. Igwe who until now was the Legal Adviser to the Nigeria/Sao Tome and Principe Joint Development Authority. This very patriotic Nigerian who comes from River State tried to write a confidential memo to two Nigerian Directors of the Board; Messrs. Wanko and Fidin, drawing their attention to some issues of national interest that have been undermined.

Because the memo was not forwarded to the non-Nigerian Executive Directors, my constituent Dr. Joyce Z. Igwe was suspended and all entreaties to ensure that she was given a fair hearing had been undermined.

I want to lay the petition on the Table.

The Deputy Speaker: Please, do.

(Petition laid)

**Petition against the Department of
Petroleum Resources**

Hon. Samson Raphael Osagie (Orhionmwon Uhumwode): Mr. Speaker and distinguished Colleagues, I have the honour and privilege to present before this House a petition authored by four Companies, to wit, Hensmore Nigeria Limited, A-Z Petroleum and Gas Limited, Global Oil and Gas Limited, Euro-Afric Coastal Oil Services Limited against the Department of Petroleum Resources over the proposed advertisement to issue oil pipeline licence to Namco Plc.

Mr. Speaker and dear Colleagues, these four companies have given seven reasons why this licence should not be issued to Namco Plc.

May I have the privilege to present the petition before the House?

The Deputy Speaker: Please do.

(Petition laid)

Petition against Polish Embassy in Nigeria

Hon. Dino Daniel Melaye (Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu): Hon. Speaker, I have two petitions. The first one is from a Nigerian citizen called Abdul A. Ibrahim and his petition centred on brutalisation, criminal force, assault and battery on Rasak Salami at the Polish Embassy. This Nigerian citizen was seriously being brutalised at the Polish Embassy here in Nigeria. When Nigerians are being brutalised abroad and we are complaining, it is already happening even in the embassies in Nigeria.

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Hon. Speaker, I will not belabour you with the gist or meat of the petition. If I have your permission I would want to submit it. I also want to seek the indulgence of Mr. Speaker to take the second petition?

The Speaker: Please go ahead.

**Petition against the Nigerian Deposit Insurance
Corporation by Civil Liberty Organisation**

Hon. Dino Daniel Melaye: Hon. Speaker, the second petition is from the Civil Liberty Organisation. It is a petition against unfair discriminatory and oppressive labour practices by the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) and continuous casualisation of the retained staff of liquidated banks.

Hon. Speaker, if I have your permission Sir, I want to lay the two petitions on the Table

Mr. Speaker: Please do.

(Petitions laid)

**Wrongful Dismissal from the Nigeria
Police Force; Mr. Imeh Sunday**

Hon. Ini Akpan Udoka (Ikono/Ini): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from one of my Constituents, Mr. Imeh Sunday who was wrongfully dismissed from the Nigeria Police Force on a trumped up Charge and without a fair hearing.

Mr. Imeh is seeking the intervention of this House for his re-instatement. With your indulgence, I would like to lay the Petition on the Table.

The Deputy Speaker: You may do so.

(Petition laid)

**Wrongful Dismissal from the Nigeria Police Force;
Sergeant Bitrus Zentei and 21 others**

Hon. George E. Daika (Shendam/Mikang/Qua'an/Pan): I have before me a Petition that I would like to present before this honourable House from my constituent and 21 others; of course, the entire Constituency.

It has to do with the wrongful dismissal of Sergeant Bitrus Zentei and about 21 Police Officers of Plateau State from the Nigerian Police Force. Sometime, in 1998, they got a Signal from the Police Force that was signed by one Assistant Commissioner of Police for their transfer to various Stations.

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It affected over 300 Police Officers across the nation then. Unfortunately, only those that were transferred from Plateau State were affected. They appeared before a Panel. *(Interruption)*

The Deputy Speaker: The details would be discussed at the Committee level.

Hon. George E. Daika: With all intents and purposes, the allegation is not only mischievous but untrue. I beg this Hon. House to look into this Petition with a lot of passion.

I beg to lay it on the Table.

The Deputy Speaker: You may do so.

(Petition laid)

**Wrongful Dismissal by the First Bank, Nigeria PLC;
Mr. Godwin Obiyo Ibezim**

Hon. Austin Nwachukwu (Ehime Mbano/Ihitte Obowo): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from Mr. Godwin Obiyo Ibezim against his wrongful dismissal by the First Bank, Nigeria PLC.

He kindly requests this honourable House to intervene for his re-instatement and payment of his salary arrears.

He is my constituent, engaged by the First Bank of Nigeria PLC on the 5th of April, 1983. He served the Bank diligently, professionally and which earned him rapid promotion to the Post of a Supervisor.

Subsequently, he was dismissed by the Bank.

The Deputy Speaker: Please, say the Prayers.

Hon. Nwachukwu: He is praying this honourable House to kindly look into his Petition by way of bringing succour to him.

With your kind permission, I would like to lay the Petition.

The Deputy Speaker: You may do so.

(Petition laid)

The Deputy Speaker: Is there any other Petition? *(No response)* In the absence of none, all

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Petitions are hereby referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

(Petitions accordingly referred to the Committee on Public Petitions)

Hon. Igo Aguma (Port Harcourt I): Point of Order!

The Deputy Speaker: Let us have your Point of Order.

Hon. Igo Aguma: My Point of Order is Order V, Rule 2. It is on Privileges. It reads:

Any Member may rise at any time to speak upon a matter of privilege suddenly arising, and he shall be prepared to move, without notice, a Motion declaring that a contempt or breach of privilege has been committed, or referring the matter to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, but if the matter is raised in Committee of the Whole House, the Chairman shall leave the Chair on an order to report progress.

Mr. Speaker, actually, I have two issues under Privilege; I would defer the first one because it has to do with the Appropriation Committee. I would crave the indulgence of the House that the Chairman Appropriation Committee be seated when I shall raise the issue which has to do with the denial of Rivers' people of their entitlements in the Budget.

Exposure to Social Insecurity

The second issue boards on the Headline in today's Newspaper which reads **Judges, Commissioners to lose Police Orderlies**. I was affected while reading through the body of the story when it said National Assembly Members inclusive.

The Police Orderlies are not luxuries, especially if it has to do with my own area which is not particularly different from many other areas because they all have various social exposures.

The Police Orderlies are meant for people that are politically active than people who were called to come on board and make policies; those who seldom go home. For such people to sit down and take a decision to expose us to social insecurity, it is unfair and an abuse of office.

We are the elected Nigerians; they are not, except the President and the Vice President. I go further to

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look at page 4 of the Newspaper, and it reads ***Federal Executive Council records low attendance.***

I want to believe that the politicians who are Members of the Executive Council did not attend when they took such a decision.

I want to rely on Order I, Rule 1 (a) & (b) - Matters of Privilege, which reads:

(a) *Privileges are the right enjoyed by the House collectively and by the Members of the House individually conferred by the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, 1990 and other statutes, practices, precedents, usages and customs. Whenever a matter of privilege arises, it shall be taken into consideration immediately*

(b) *In cases where adequate provision is not made in these Standing Orders, the House shall by resolution regulate its procedure on privileges.*

I would like to refer to (a) and (b) where it say that *for matters not provided in the House Standing Rules, the House can make Rules to regulate itself.* In this particular situation, not just the Committee on Ethics & Privileges, I also want all other relevant Committees to look into this issue with a view to putting things in order.

I am speaking as a National Assembly Member, but we also know the nature of work the judges do in Nigeria to the extent that Ministers would sit down and take a decision that a Chief Judge should not be given security.

If it is the wish of my Colleagues, I want to immediately move that this matter be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, Committee on Police and Committee on National Security to look into it.

I so move.

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Withdrawal of Security or Orderlies

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, this is very serious and a Matter of Urgent Public Importance. We know especially that Chief Judges, Judges of Court of

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Appeal and other Judges sit in courts to dispense or sentence people to various prison terms or even death and here they are exposed by Ministers.

Unfortunately, these Ministers that sit and take decisions, even the politicians among them are people rejected at the polls. This is a very serious issue because as I am speaking to you, once Police Security is withdrawn from some Judges and especially some of our Colleagues from the South South, they may not come back after sitting today. May God forbid!

I urge that this matter is so serious that this House should take a decision now and mandate the Leadership of the House to meet with the President or Vice President to discuss this matter today because if they go ahead to implement this policy, tomorrow, anything can happen. It is just like playing with the lives of people. These people are not elected but nominated to carry out policy and they hardly go back to their constituencies. In fact, they do not have anything at stake in this country. They cannot take such a decision to expose Judges.

I therefore, move that this House adopts my Motion that the Leadership of the House, particularly the Speaker, should see the President or the Vice President or whoever is responsible today to discuss this matter.

Mr. Speaker I have an amendment to my Motion because I have a Motion on ground. My Colleagues have advised me that the Leadership should see the President because the Presiding Officers had Police orderlies and security. So the Leadership should see the President today to discuss this Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

I so move.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, we have two Motions. Hon. Aguma, your Motion was for us to take the matter maybe at the next Legislative Date.

Several Hon Members: No! No!!

The Deputy Speaker: I want Hon. Aguma to zero his Motion so that we can take it today.

Hon. Igochukwu N. Aguma (Port Harcourt 1): Mr. Speaker, I would want to crave your indulgence since it is the mood of the House that the Minority Leader's Motion should supersede mine.

Question put and agreed to.

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Resolved: That the decision by the FEC to withdraw Police security or Orderlies from Judges be considered as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ita Enang, please move for the suspension of the relevant Rules so that we can take this Motion now.

Hon. Ita Enang (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend Order VIII Rule 4 (2) to enable this matter which has been agreed to by the House to be a Matter of Urgent Public Importance to be taken immediately.

I so move.

Hon. Bmitosahi Mika'il Al-Amin (Chanchaga): I second the Motion as moved by the Chairman, Rules and Business.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House invokes Order VIII Rule 4 (2) to consider the FEC's withdrawal of Police security or Orderlies from Judges as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance to be taken immediately.

The Deputy Speaker: Minority Leader you can move the Motion now.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. Speaker I rise to move that:

Whereas the Federal Executive Council has decided to withdraw the security or orderlies to various persons as mentioned in their meeting held yesterday;

Notes the seriousness and the dangers of the decision to withdraw Orderlies from some specified Judges, particularly Judges of High Courts and Members of the National Assembly, considering the security situation in this country;

Equally worried by the spate of kidnappings and killings especially targeted at political activists and political office holders;

Resolves to:

(i) Mandate the Leadership of the House to meet with the President with a view to rescinding this decision immediately.

I so move.

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Hon. Juliet Akano (Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba): I rise to second the Motion moved by Hon. Ndume.

Question proposed.

Hon. Ali Ndume: Mr. Speaker, I do not think this Motion that arose suddenly out of its urgency needs a prolonged debate. We know what it entails and the Prayer is very simple. That this House because of the urgency of the matter and the dangers inherent in the decision that was taken by Federal Executive Council yesterday, should immediately mandate its Leadership to meet with the President with a view to rescinding this decision which otherwise if implemented, could be dangerous to the lives of many important citizens especially Judges and political activists that basically need this security or protection not as a matter of luxury but as a matter of necessity.

I therefore, urge my Colleagues to as unanimously as indicated, support this Motion so that the Leadership will take it up immediately.

Hon. Igochukwu Aguma: Mr. Speaker, I want to say one thing and put it succinctly clear; we are 360 Members. At no time have 360 Members requested from the Nigeria Police Force that they want Police Orderlies. Rather, we had situations whereby Members who have security needs have gone to make requests to the Police Force to bridge the gap at that point in time where they have such security needs.

So I want Nigerians to know that Members of the National Assembly are not saying that we want one Member, one Orderly. But where that right is withdrawn through policy decision, it therefore prolongs the bureaucratic procedure when the security situation suddenly arises that a National Assembly Member can have access to such security need to fill in the gaps.

So, tampering with a situation that does not even exist, one wonders what is the motive, especially when we are near a situation where we are mid-term and mid-term in Nigeria necessitates the beginning of political activities. In others words, more Members will become exposed.

One thing that is also bad that I have seen in this Newspaper report is that the Ministers retained orderlies for themselves. Many of us know that our Ministers want our seats. Is that the motive for retaining such and withdrawal orderlies from us?

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Let us now go to the issue of the people that need it most which are the Chief Judges and Magistrates. We all know that the courts are theatres for different characters. If a Judge presides over a case of somebody who has a great case of misdemeanour, you will ask yourself, are you not exposing him to such irrational behaviour that might occur? Even when he had delivered judgment or when there is a petty judgment, you ask yourself, where then will he have the opportunity to have security intelligence report if he does not have security men attached to him?

We should not use our positions to be positions that would encourage our self-service, the positions we have should be positions entrusted on us in the best interest of Nigerians.

I want to crave your indulgence that you people will as usual react in the same way as they did during our passport issue by using similar channels. Let Mr. President be told succinctly, because he was not in that meeting, that those who are not politicians and the likes that presided over the Executive Council yesterday want to derail his Government and bring about anarchy, a situation where Chief Judges will start being Kidnapped. You can imagine a Newspaper Headline News that reads: ***Judge Kidnapped.***

I rest my case.

The Deputy Speaker: I will now put the Question.

Question put and agreed to.

Whereas the Federal Executive Council has decided to withdraw the security or orderlies to various persons as mentioned in their meeting held yesterday;

Noted the seriousness and the dangers of the decision to withdraw Orderlies from some specified Judges, particularly Judges of High Courts and Members of the National Assembly, considering the security situation in this country;

Equally worried by the spate of kidnappings and killings especially targeted at political activists and political office holders;

Resolved to:

(i) Mandate the Leadership of the House to meet with the President with a view to rescinding this decision immediately.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

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The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, we have four Bills slated for First Reading. I want to call on the Clerk to read the Bills.

Resolution of National Assembly Compliance and Binding Effect Bill, 2009

Resolutions of National Assembly Compliance and Binding Effect Bill, 2009 – presented by Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi) – *read the First Time.*

National Ethics (Compulsory Inclusion in Curriculum) Bill, 2009

National Ethics (Compulsory Inclusion in Curriculum) Bill, 2009 – presented by Hon. Chukwudi Mayor Eze and 36 others – *read the First Time.*

Voting Rights of Nigerian Citizens Bills, 2009

Voting Rights of Nigerian Citizens living outside Nigeria Bill, 2009 – presented by Hon. Samson R. Osagie and 9 others – *read the First Time.*

Establishment of the Office of the First Lady Bill, 2009

Establishment of the Office of the First Lady Bill, 2009 – presented by Hon. Alex I. Ukam (Akamkpa/Biase) – *read the First Time.*

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Mid Sessional Reports:

House Committee on Special Duties

The Deputy Speaker: The second Business of the Day is the Presentation of Reports of the Committee on Special Duties standing in the name of Hon. Samson Osagie. He is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Samson R. Osagie (Orhionmwon Uhunmwode): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and privilege to move that this House do receive the Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Special Duties.

I so move.

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

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Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

House Committee on Women in Parliament

The Deputy Speaker: The third Business of the Day is a presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Women in Parliament standing in the name of Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha.

Hon. Onyejeocha is invited to present her Report.

Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha (Isuikwuato/Umunneochi): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Women in Parliament.

Hon. Halima Hassan Tukur (Yauri/Shanga/Ngaski): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to:

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Federal Capital Territory Area Council

The Deputy Speaker: The fourth Business of the Day is a presentation of the Mid Sessional Report of the House Committee on Federal Capital Territory Area Councils.

Hon David O. Idoko (Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Mid Sessional Report of the House Committee on Federal Capital Territory, Area Councils.

Hon. Binta Masi Garba (Madagali/Michika): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Governmental Affairs

The Deputy Speaker: The fifth Business of the Day is presentation of Report of the House Committee Governmental Affairs, standing in the name of Hon. Leo Ogor. He is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Leo Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive

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the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Hon Jerimon S. Manwe (Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola): Mr. Speaker, rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to

(Report laid on the Table)).

House Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the Sixth Business of the Day which we have skipped is presentation of Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity, standing in the name of Hon. Ado Dogo Audu. Hon. Ado is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga (Abakaliki/Izzi): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Ado, I move that that this House do receive the Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity.

I so move.

Hon. Umaru I. Kurfi (Dutsin-Ma/Kurfi): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as ably moved by my Colleague.

Question put and agreed to:

(Report laid on the Table)

House Committee on National Planning and Economic Development

The Deputy Speaker: The seventh Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on National Planning and Economic Development, standing in the name of Hon. Egya Samuel Azamu. Hon. Egya is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Lanre Agoro Adeniran (Irepo/Orelope/Olorunsogo): Mr. Speaker, I am not Samuel Egya, the Chairman of the Committee. The Chairman is bereaved and the Deputy is out of the country. The duty to present this Report falls on me. I hereby move that the House do receive the Report as given to me by the Chairman.

I so move.

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Hon. Labaran Dambata (Dambatta/Makoda): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second that the Report be received as proposed by Hon. Lanre Agoro.

Question put and agreed to:

(Report laid on the Table)

House Committee Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes

The Deputy Speaker: The eight Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Session Report of the Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes, standing in the name of Hon. Rabe Nasir. Hon. Rabe is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Rabe Nasir (Bindawa/Mani): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Rabe.

Question put and agreed to:

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Health

The Deputy Speaker: The ninth Business of the Day is the presentation of Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Health, standing in the name of Hon. Alaba Ojomo. Hon. Ojomo is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Alaba Lad-Ojomo (Owo/Ose): Mr. Speaker, may I humbly move that this House do receive the Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Health.

I so move.

Hon. Ihiabe S. Positive (Dekina/Bassa): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as moved by the Chairman, House Committee on Health.

Question put and agreed to:

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Environment

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The Deputy Speaker: The tenth Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Environment, standing in the name of Hon. Duro Faseyi. Hon. Faseyi is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Duro Faseyi (Ekiti North): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Environment.

Hon. Oluwale Oke (Ijesha North): Mr. Speaker, the Motion moved by the Chairman of the House Committee on Environment is ably seconded.

Question put and agreed to:

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa

The Deputy Speaker: The eleventh Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Session Report of House Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa, standing in the name of Hon. Odebunmi Peter Kehinde. Hon. Kehinde is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun (Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South): Mr. Speaker, I have the permission of the Chairman, Hon. Kehinde, to present this Report on his behalf. I move that this House do receive the Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa.

Hon. Yusuf Galambi (Gwaram): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as moved by Hon. Adeogun.

Question put and agreed to:

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream)

The Deputy Speaker: The twelfth Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), standing in the name of Hon. Bassey E. Otu. Hon. Otu is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Godfrey Ali Gaiya (Zangon-Kataf/Jaba): Hon. Speaker, I am standing in for the Chairman of the House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Hon. Bassey Otu who is unavoidably absent. May I, therefore move that this House do receive the Mid-

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Session Report of the House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream).

I so move.

Hon. Buba Jibrin (Lokoja): Mr. Speaker, I do second the Motion that the House do receive the Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream).

Question put and agreed to:

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Customs and Excise

The Deputy Speaker: The thirteenth Business of the Day is presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Customs and Excise, standing in the name of Hon. Yakubu Dogara. Hon. Dogara is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Yakubu Dogara (Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa Balewa): Hon. Speaker, by this Report standing in my name, I invite this honourable House to receive the Mid-Session Report of the House Committee on Customs and Excise.

I so move.

Hon. Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Yakubu Dogara.

Question put and agreed to:

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Public Service Matters

The Deputy Speaker: The fourteenth Business of the Day is the presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Public Service Matters standing in the name of Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah. He is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah (Gokana/Khana): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Public Service Matters.

Hon. Soli Sada Jibia (Jibia/Kaita): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to:

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(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Constituency Outreach

The Deputy Speaker: The next Business of the Day is the presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Constituency Outreach standing in the name of Hon. Ishiaka Mohammed Bawa. He is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Ishiaka Mohammed Bawa (Ibi/Wukari): Mr. Speaker, I do humbly move that the House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Constituency Outreach.

Hon. Khadija Bukar A. Ibrahim (Damaturu/Gujba/Gulani/Tarmuwa): Mr. Speaker, I do second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to:

(Report laid on the Table)

House Committee on Banking and Currency

The Deputy Speaker: The fifteenth Business of the Day is the presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Banking and Currency standing in the name of Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi. He is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Ogbuefi Ora Ozomgbachi (Ezeagu/Udi): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Banking and Currency.

I so move.

Hon. H. S. Dickson (Ekeremor/Sagbama): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Privatisation and Commercialisation

The Deputy Speaker: The sixteenth Business of the Day is the presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Privatization and Commercialization standing in the name of Hon. Njidda Gella. He is invited to present his Report.

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Hon. Braimah Abasi Ogwime (Etsako East/West Central): Mr. Speaker, I am standing in for Hon. Njidda Gella. With your usual parliamentary appropriation and blessing I move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Privatization and Commercialization.

Hon. Mustapha Ahmed (Bauchi): I stand to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Justice

The Deputy Speaker: The seventeenth Business of the Day is the presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the Committee on Justice standing in the name of Hon. H.S. Dickson. He is invited to present his Report.

Hon. H. S. Dickson (Ekeremor/Sagbama): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Justice.

Hon. Patrick Oghogho Obahiagbon (Oredo): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Donor Agencies and Civil Societies

The Deputy Speaker: The eighteenth Business of the Day is the presentation of Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Donor Agencies and Civil Societies standing in the name of Hon. Nnenna Ukeje. She is invited to present her Report.

Hon. Nnenna Ijeoma E. Ukeje (Bende): I rise to move that the House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Donor agencies and Civil Societies.

Hon. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar (Gamawa): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table).

House Committee on Water Resources

The Deputy Speaker: The twentieth Business of the Day is Presentation of the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Water Resources, standing in the name of Hon. Terngu Tsegba.

Hon. Tsegba is invited to present his Report.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba (Gboko/Tarka): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Mid-Sessional Report of the House Committee on Water Resources.

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South West): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the presentation of the Report ably moved by the Chairman, House Committee on Water Resources, Hon. Terngu Tsegba.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

Report of the Committee on Water Resources on Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2008

The Deputy Speaker: The twenty-first Business of the Day is Presentation of the Report of the House Committee on Water Resources on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission. The Report is standing in the name of Hon. Terngu Tsegba.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Tuesday, 7th October, 2008. The Report is now ready for presentation.

I now invite Hon. Terngu Tsegba to present his Report.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive a Report of the Committee on Water Resources on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission Charged with the Responsibility for the Regulation and Management of Water in Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Therewith.

Hon. Musa Garba Gulma (Argungu/Augie): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Chairman, House Committee on Water Resources, Hon. Terngu Tsegba.

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Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

**Report of the House Committee on Water Resources
on Gurara Water Management Authority
(Establishment) Bill, 2008**

The Deputy Speaker: The twenty-second Business of the Day is the Presentation of Report of the House Committee on Water Resources on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Gurara Water Management Authority. The Report is standing in the name of Hon. Terngu Tsegba..

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Thursday, 19th February, 2009. The Report is now ready for presentation.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba is invited to present the Report.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of House Committee on Water Resources on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Gurara Water Management Authority with Responsibility among Other Things, to ensure Sustainable Operation and Maintenance of the Gurara Multipurpose Water Project and for Matters Connected Therewith,

Hon. Adamu Gora Kalba (Kaltungo/Shongom): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion moved by Hon. Terngu Tsegba.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table))

**Report of the House Committee on Water Resources
on Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency
(Establishment) Bill, 2008**

The Deputy Speaker: The twenty-third Business of the Day is Presentation of Report of the House Committee on Water Resources on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008. The Report is standing in the name of Hon. Terngu Tsegba.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Thursday, 19th February, 2009. The Report is now ready for presentation.

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Hon. Terngu Tsegba is invited to present the Report.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of the House Committee on Water Resources on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency and for Matters Connected Therewith.

Hon. Sani Abdullahi Dabai (Bakori/Danja); Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion moved by my Chairman, House Committee on Water Resources, Hon. Terngu Tsegba.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table))

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

**Untold Hardship of Nigerians in Various
Deportation Camps in Libya**

The Deputy Speaker: The first Order of the Day is a Motion on Untold Hardship of Nigerians in Various Deportation Camps in Libya, standing in the name of Hon Samson Osagie and sixty-three others.

Hon Samson Osagie is invited to move his Motion.

Hon Samson Raphael. Osagie (Orhionmwon Uhumwode): Mr. Speaker, the House:

Notes the Constitutional responsibility of the Nigerian Government to provide welfare and security to her citizens wherever they may be;

Appreciates the efforts of the House as a vanguard for ensuring the protection of Nigerian citizens against the inhuman and degrading treatment anywhere in the world;

Disturbed that many Nigerians residing in Libya have been hounded into deportation camps, subjected to the most inhuman and degrading treatment and used for menial jobs;

Regrets that the continuous remanding of these young, viable, energetic and able-bodied Nigerians in

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deportation camps from five months to one year negates the internationally acceptable rules on deportation;

Worried that many of these Nigerians are dying in record number and their continuous denial of internationally acceptable rules on deportation would increase the death toll;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora to liaise with the Nigerian High Commission of Libya to urgently facilitate the deportation of these Nigerians back home without delay.

I so move.

Hon. Mayor Chukwudi Eze (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East) : Mr. Speaker, I do second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Samson Osagie.

Question proposed.

Hon. Samson Raphael Osagie: Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw attention to the conditions of living by many Nigerian Youths, who have had to travel outside the shores of this country in search of greener pasture in Libya.

We do not need to bother about whether they left this country legitimately or not. The issue is: what is our responsibility as a government towards the welfare and security of our citizens anywhere they may be in the world? Times without number, this House has risen to the occasion to ensure that the lives and property of Nigerian Citizens and of course, their welfare and

security anywhere in the world is given the necessary attention. Happily, Nigerian government today has its foreign policy anchored on citizens' diplomacy which implies that the welfare, security and interest of her citizens are paramount in her diplomatic relationship with other nations.

For the past two days I have been inundated with calls from Libya. I have also made attempts to clear the information from the Nigerian High Commission specifically from the Deputy Consular Officer of the Nigerian High Commission; and it is true that hundreds of Nigerians are lying wasted in various deportation camps in Libya.

One would wonder, if you have arrested an illegal immigrant and have taken him to the deportation camp,

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the obvious thing that should follow is that he should be returned to his father's or mother's land. But this is not the case; our citizens young men and women who found themselves in Libya as a result of economic hardship, have been taken into deportation camps and are now being used as slaves for performing menial jobs without payment and virtually fed less than once a day. The conditions of living are such that at least, one or two persons die on a daily basis.

Just two days ago, a young lady who was pregnant and was taken to deportation camp put to bed and eventually died leaving her young baby. To say the least, the condition that such people are passing through in Libya's deportation camps deserves more attention from the Nigerian government.

My information is to the effect that even the Nigerian High Commission is having difficulty accessing the Nigerian Citizens as a result of the bottlenecks that have been mounted by Immigration Officers of the Libyan Government. This brings us to a very important point. At this time when the President of Libya is the Chairman of the African Union, one would have expected that Nigeria, being the most populous black nation in the African continent, ought to have been given the necessary respect and regard given its role in African affairs especially in the liberation struggle and in most West African countries.

Of course, we are not unaware of the type of relationship that exists between Nigeria and Libya for the past few years. It is very important that we would be proactive as a government, to ensure that our foreign policy thrust is enforced with a view to liberating our citizens from the Republic of Libya so that they can come back home and enjoy their freedom.

This is the thrust of this prayer; and I want to beg all my Colleagues to please, support this Motion for freedom for our people who are languishing in deportation camps in Libya.

Hon. Peace Uzoamaka Nnaji (Nkanu East/Nkanu West): Mr. Speaker, there is no gain- saying the fact that it is the duty of this nation to protect her own, no matter where they find themselves.

The issue is not why they are there, the important thing is that they are Nigerians and they need to be protected. I believe that there is a bilateral relationship between Nigeria and Libya. The Nigerian Ambassador to Libya might have some problems because of budgetary provisions in repatriating these people. The Federal Government has to, as a matter of urgency, mandate the Nigerian Ambassador to Libya and support him

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financially so that he would be able to deport those people home.

Hon. Stanley O. Ohajuruka (Umuahia North/South Ikwunano): Mr. Speaker, I want to lend my support to this very all importance Motion as ably moved by my brother Colleague, Hon. Samson Osagie. There is no gain-saying the fact that Nigeria as at today stands out in the comity of nations, as the most popular black nation in the world and of course, a nation that actually stayed in the fore-front of African liberation and struggle in the entire world.

You would agree with me that it is also very important that at this point in our nation's history when some of the policy thrusts of Government is also geared towards re-branding Nigeria, this is not the kind of brand that Nigerian would want to sell to the outside world. That is to say, that a very proper and effective enlightenment campaign should be mounted to tell Nigerians that it is not as rosy as they feel when they want to leave the shores of Nigeria to a place like Libya, only to end up in Deportation Camps. Maybe, it was due to lack of information that lured people into engaging in this kind of behaviour.

Libya, you would all agree with me, is not better than Nigeria. I think we can use this forum to tell Nigerians that this country leaves the best opportunity for them to actualise their dreams and not to begin to sojourn in such places as it were.

To that extent, I would want to lend my support to this Bill because as a nation, even as enshrined in our Constitution, it is the responsibility of every responsive government to ensure that the feeling of our citizens is of paramount importance to them.

I therefore want to urge our Ambassador and all the relevant Committees, to ensure that those Nigerians that are currently languishing in the deportation camps in Libya are brought back home. If it is possible, we would need to do something to resettle them such that when they come back they are not put in a much more difficult situation than they were while in Libya.

Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon (Oredo): Mr. Speaker, let me preface my contributions by saying *ab initio* that I do not support at all Nigerians greasing and degreasing outside Nigeria without valid legal documents. While we frown at this idea from day to day, that is, when we *poopoo* the very outrageous and contemptuous manner our citizens are subjected to outside the shores of the country, we must act as quickly as possible in an attempt to bringing them back home.

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I must say that the problems, the mental torture, the physical abuse and psychological *higgy-haggar* that Nigerians have been subjected to in Libya have been in public domain for a month of Sundays, or if you like, for a period of iron.

I am maniacally bewildered therefore, that up till now our foreign policy that has anchorage on citizen diplomacy has gone to slumber. It is in utter and acatalectic somnolence regarding the vacillation between exuberant enthusiasm and irrational irritability that our citizens have been subjected to in Libya.

I join Hon. Osagie in saying that government must act and act now.

About two weeks ago, I did an article which was published in the Punch Newspaper, titled: *Gaddafi's Journey to Nowhere* and that article was a critical appraisal of Gaddafi's call for an African Union Government.

I told the world that the man was not serious. I told the world that apart from the fact that the objective conditions in Africa just now does not regard itself for an African Union Government but the political antecedents of Muammar Gaddafi regarding the interest of Negroid Africans does not commend himself as somebody that will champion that course.

Here we are today, Chairman of African Union, a man who was elected to be the *prima bareriner*, *prima donna* and the *dowager*, for a call for an African Union Government, would sit in a position of incumbency and allow Nigerians to be subjected to such mental torture. This Parliament must say a capita *rejectamenta* to that; this Parliament must call on the appropriate requisite Federal authorities to protect the interest of Nigerians. That is what rebranding Nigeria is all about.

The willingness, the sincerity and the alacrity with which appropriate Federal Government organ responds to the cries, the mental torture and the excruciating circumstances of Nigerians, is the beginning of rebranding Nigeria.

Hon. David Idoko (Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu): Mr. Speaker, for me, it is important for us to address those things that allow for such things to happen. But those Nigerians that use that route use it because they think that when they get to Libya, it would be easier to cross over to Europe.

There are also those that traffic in human and because the per capita income of Libya is very good, \

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they come and take innocent Nigerians and transport them to Libya for labour.

The issue here is that we would have to attack the fundamental things that cause the problems. If we think that we can properly police our borders to the extent that those who indulge in human trafficking and users of that route are properly arrested and prosecuted, we would probably be getting to that issue, or we would probably not get there far enough into the other territory.

If we also address the issue of educating young Nigerians to the effect that it is not easy to get to Libya and cross over to Europe the way that they are being deceived, then we would probably be doing something.

There is a lot of job for the Orientation Agency to do; such as having to do a lot of propaganda in that direction.

In supporting this Motion, I wish to call the attention of the Federal Government of Nigeria to the fact that not only do we need to establish a lot of Micro Credit Finances system to indulge our youths in proper entrepreneurial development, we have to strengthen those machineries that we have put in place - the Bank of Industries, the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises, NAPEP and those other poverty eradication machineries. The moment we do that we can then go ahead to the next level of educating them about the level of goodness that we have within this country, that it is not better beyond the shores. A lot of them go in search of greener pastures but we have better pastures within Nigeria.

I hereby urge my Colleagues, to support this Motion.

Hon. Davies Sokonte H. (Degema/Bonny): Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as this Motion is hinged on our national pride, I want to let us know that a good number of those persons that are in detention camps do not want to come back.

I did discuss with Hon. Samson Osagie yesterday and I asked him whether he was sure that those Nigerians want to come back because a study has shown that an overwhelming majority of them do not want to come. That is a shame. These are the issues. Like our brother Hon. Idoko has spoken, he just said he supports the Motion but you can see from his direction that he is not speaking in line with the Prayer. We as Nigerians have to look at the fundamental issues that make these occurrences not only in Libya but elsewhere.

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If we talk about this issue in China, there are close to 1000 Nigerians in a prison in China. If you go to that prison, those who have Nigerian passports are just 46 and the remaining ones will not even tell you that they are Nigerians. They do not want to come back. And this is a national disgrace.

We should not run away from the fact and we should not shift the blame on Libya or whichever country. It is our internal failure and until we address this issue, we would continue to have them. Even if you bring those people in Libya by force, I assure you that in less than a month, you will get a greater numbers than the number there.

These are issues we should be talking about and not about who Gadaffi is or is not. Even in America, we have them. In fact, why are we not saying that Nigerians who are in prison in America should be brought back? They will not come back. So, as a nation, we must begin to look at our internal mechanism that may encourage our people to stay. These are energetic young men, I agree with the mover of the Motion on that point. Why are they not using their energy to work in Nigeria than to go and work in a labour camp in Libya or else where?

Therefore, I want us to look at this issue not just as a Motion to say those in Libya should come back. We have them not only in Libya; we have them in China, US, Britain and everywhere. What do we do as a nation to stop this attitude? That is my contribution.

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu (Alkaleri/Kirfi): Mr. Speaker, fundamentally the intention and the prayers of the Motion cannot be denied.

The Deputy Speaker: Are you in support or against?

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu: I am against the Motion in the sense that I do not see why there should be this sentiment attached to the Motion.

The Deputy Speaker: I saw you raising your hand.

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu: Yes, there are some fundamentals issues I wanted to raise. Even if I wanted to support the Motion, those issues might have negated the prayers. The point is that Libya is a transit way for illegal immigration, human trafficking *et cetera* to Southern Europe and the quantum of the traffic is very high.

Secondly, if you continue to look into the stories

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emanating along that route, you would see many young Nigerians, male and female die in the desert of Niger and Libya even before reaching Bengazi where they have the largest concentration of Nigerians.

Thirdly, majority of them travel without valid papers. It is an obsequious movement and therefore, it is outside the State recognition. So, they go and cause a lot of mayhem in the smaller communities. There are lots of theft, armed robbery, prostitution and all the vices that are associated with this trend.

The fact that Libya is hostile to Nigeria is very well known and documented. They have gone against us in raising funds to dam River Niger. In fact, they raised \$600 million two years ago in Jeddah with Islamic Development Bank so that we do not have water coming to Kainji and Nigeria had to play serious politics to reverse that. We have problem with our bi-lateral airspace agreement and many others. The point here is that we keep on encouraging rhetorics in our diplomatic activities. We have the axiom that says it is citizens' diplomacy but we do not pursue anything beyond the headquarters of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Fourthly, most of these people that go to Libya and Morocco cause diseconomies, different behaviours and are very difficult to catch. This detention centres are even helping matters because at least for now my brother has known that there are some people in detention camp but many of them are in the houses working as slaves. My point here is that the prayers should be that:

The Committee on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora and also Human Rights should investigate this phenomenon first and foremost before establishing the actual fact

This will help before we go into the solution of the problem.

Hon. Rabe Nasir (Bindawa/Mani): Mr. Speaker, I am definitely compelled to support the Motion for several reasons but what I am going to do now is to introduce amendment. Apparently we seem to like ourselves too much that we overlook our interests. If we have them we should equally recognise and urge our country men and women who go to those countries for whatever reasons to do so lawfully.

Therefore, my amendment to this very important Motion is to:

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Urge Nigerians to desist from venturing into other countries illegally and while they are there should respect the laws of their host countries.

This is exactly what brought the issues that this Motion is complaining about.

People get out of this country illegally and this is at variance with the provisions of our laws. So they committed crimes by getting out of this country illegally. Besides, they migrate into other countries illegally. This is yet another offence which we should recognise. We would not like any nationale from any part of this world coming into this country illegally; and worst still to commit crime. This is what is happening. The Motion should not allude or not be seen by implication to support Nigerians outside this country whatever they have done.

The Deputy Speaker: Is that an amendment to the prayer or additional prayer?

Hon. Rabe Nasir: It is an additional prayer.

Hon. Mustapha Ahmed (Bauchi): I rise to second the amendment as moved by Hon. Rabe Nasir

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Rabe, can you please repeat the prayer so that Members would be fully informed of what you want to say.

Hon. Mustapha Ahmed: The Prayer is to: *urge Nigerians to desist from entering into other countries illegally and while there to respect the laws of their host countries.*

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Motion as amended put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the Constitutional responsibility of the Nigerian Government to provide welfare and security to her citizens wherever they may be;

Appreciated the effort of the House as a vanguard for ensuring the protection of Nigerian citizens against the inhuman and degrading treatment anywhere in the world;

Disturbed that many Nigerians residing in Libya have been hounded into deportation camps, subjected to

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the most inhuman and degrading treatment and used for menial jobs;

Regretted that the continuous remanding of these young, viable, energetic and able-bodied Nigerians in deportation camps from five months to one year negates the internationally acceptable rules on deportation;

Worried that many of these Nigerians are dying in record number and their continuous denial of internationally acceptable rules on deportation would increase the death toll;

Resolved to:

- (i) *Mandate the Joint Committees on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora to liaise with the Nigerian High Commission in Libya to urgently facilitate the deportation of these Nigerians back home without delay.*
- (ii) *Urged Nigerians to desist from entering into other countries illegally and while there to respect the laws of their host countries.*

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Bill, 2009

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, I want to plead that in the course of printing the Order Paper there was an omission. Yesterday, we considered conclusively the Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Bill and adopted the Report. I want to please move that we amend the Order Paper by inserting immediately after the Consideration of Bills, the Third Reading of the Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Bill.

The urgency is that today is the 26th March, 2009 and given the urgency of the things we have to do this week and next week and the difference between the version passed by the House and that passed by the Senate; I pray that we do the Third Reading today so that we can constitute the Conference Committee to confer with the Senate and bring the harmonised version.

It is my prayer that we do the Third Reading of the Bill. If we agree, then the Leader will move for the Third Reading.

I so plead.

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Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Zuru//D/Wasagu/Sakaba/Fakai): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Ita Enang.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do take the Third Reading of the Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Bill, 2009.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko): Mr. Speaker, I rise with your permission to move that a Bill for an Act to Authorise the Issue from the Federal Capital Territory Administration Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration Account the Total Sum of ₦159,521,990,850.00 (One Hundred and Fifty – nine Billion, Five Hundred and Twenty-one Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Eight Hundred and fifty Naira) only, of which the Sum of ₦24,596,140,978.00 (Twenty-four Billion, Five Hundred and Ninety-six Million, One Hundred and forty Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy-eight Naira) only, is for Personnel Costs and the Sum of ₦16,321,165,871.00 (Sixteen Billion, Three Hundred and Twenty-one Million, One Hundred and Sixty-five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Seventy-one Naira) only is for Overhead Costs, while the Balance of ₦118,604,684,000.00 (One Hundred and Eighteen Billion, Six Hundred and Four Million, Six Hundred and Eighty-four Thousand Naira) only is for Capital Projects for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial Year commencing on 1st January and ending 31st December, 2009 be read the Third Time.

Hon Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): May I with due humility second the Motion as ably moved by the House Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

Land Use Act, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2008

A Bill for An Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 by Amending the Land Use Act Cap.15 LFN 2004 and for Related Matters –

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The Second Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the general

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principles on a Bill for An Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 by Amending the Land Use Act Cap.15 LFN 2004 and for Related Matters.

The Bill was read for the First Time on Tuesday, 17th March, 2009. I invite Hon. Tunde Akogun to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, may I with respect appeal to Mr. Speaker and Hon. Members that we have to circulate the Principal Act; and there was a literature that was prepared on this matter but was brought to the Floor late. Therefore, it will not be advisable for us to take this Bill before Members read fully the literature and the Principal Act.

I pray that the Bill be stood down.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill with the leave of the House stood down.

**National War College Act (Cap N82 2004)
(Amendment) Bill, 2008**

A Bill for an Act to Amend the National War College Act (Cap.N85 2004) to Provide for Change of Name to National Defence College and for Other Connected Purposes, 2008 (HB 107).

Order for Second Reading

The Deputy Speaker: The third Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the general principle of a Bill for an Act to Amend the National War College Act (Cap.N85 2004) to Provide for Change of Name to National Defence College and for Other Connected Purposes, 2008 (HB 107). The Bill was read for the First Time on Wednesday, 29th July, 2008.

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

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko-Edo): Mr. Speaker, I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to Amend the National War College Act (Cap.N85 2004) to provide for the change of name to National Defence College and for Matters Connected Purposes, 2008, be read the Second Time.

I so move.

Hon. Farouk M. Lawan (Shanono/Bagwai): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion moved by the House Leader, that the Bill be read the Second Time.

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Question Proposed.

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Hon. Speaker, this is an amendment Bill sent from the Senate for our concurrence. It seeks to change the name of National War College to National Defence College.

Of course, the National War College as you all know is a higher profile centre for senior military officers and for select civilians for peace, research and conflict resolution. The change of name is proposed to reflect the core value of peace and conflict resolution of the institution as against a perception of it as an institution that advances belligerency and warfare.

The membership of the College Board is equally sought to be expanded to include entire career ambassadors or professors in a relevant academic discipline. This is proposed to afford the college the opportunity to start from the civilian diplomatic approach at conflict resolution.

In similar vein, the curricula scope of the centre established to support the College in the conduct of research is also expanded. The expansion accommodates among other things, Strategic Research, Security Studies, Conflicts Management and Peace Keeping.

The Bill also seeks to empower the centre to participate in regional and continental collaborated efforts in issues of defence, security, strategic studies and peace keeping. Other key amendments proposed are the elevation of the status of the College Secretary to that of a Two Star General, as against One Star General of the Principal Act and finally, the enhancement of the boarding capacity of the College.

Hon. Members, I seek your support for concurrence to this Bill which has been sent to us from the Senate.

I so submit.

Hon. Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/Ethiope West): Mr. Speaker, ordinarily after the House Leader's speech, one would rest his case. But I think in a situation like this what I have heard from what the Leader said is more of the responsibility of that institution. What I want to hear is what is in a name? Why changing the name? We do not all know the responsibility of that institution but we know that it is called National War College, to be changed to National Defence College. My question is still, what is in a name? Why the change of name?

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The Deputy Speaker: Chairman, Defence, do you have anything on that?

Hon. Oluwole Oke (Obokun/Oriade): Mr. Speaker, the request for change in the name of the institution arose because of the fact that similar institutions all over the world that bear *War College* in the past have changed their names because of the meaning of the word *war*.

The word *War* is very unfriendly, anarchical and dirtier word to military incursion to our national life. It is in the opinion of the College that we should democratise various names, Arts, doings that were hitherto known to military governance. That is one of the major reasons this change was proposed.

I therefore wish to urge my Colleagues to please support that this Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Farouk M. Lawan (Shanono/Bagwai): Mr. Speaker, let me begin by responding to the proposal raised by my very dear Friend, Hon. Halims Agoda. Name is very important especially on a matter like this.

War presupposes aggression, it presupposes violence and it connotes an atmosphere of destruction, especially of human lives and property. But *Defence* actually presupposes, attempt by people or individuals and nations to protect their integrity, lives and peace and property.

In this case, changing their name from what the Leader has said would more effectively reflect the responsibilities of this particular institution. It is an institution that does not only train military personnel but that also engages in training of civilians who are involved in peacekeeping operations and in conflict resolution measures.

Moreover, for civilians who may be involved in this kind of undertaking, I believe that the concept of *Defence* makes better sense than *War*.

We must also look at this from the perspective of the realities of the global environment today. The main concern globally is for peace, for stability, for enhancement and protection of human lives and property rather than in the days of the cold war where the main preoccupation of nations was to aggressively engage in wars where they expanded their territorial boundaries.

However, in today's world, the major concern is the protection of the integrity and the territorial responsibility of each nation. I believe *Defence*,

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connotes in this case, what the institution should be engaged in; it connotes the kind of conflict resolution measures that respected nations can engage in rather than in war.

Today's world should have no place for wars, for aggression and should have no place for unnecessary inhuman destruction of human lives and property. I believe that Japan connotes, to a great extent, the concept of a world that is more engaged in peace, in conflict resolution, in stability and the protection of lives and property.

I submit that my Colleagues should support this Bill.

Hon. Mustapha Ahmed (Bauchi): In fact, there was a pertinent question asked by Hon. Halims Agoda; what is in a name? To me it is a very important question and I would want to say that there is something great in change of a name. This is because from what we have heard from the Mover of the Motion about the reasons the change of name came up.

It is to the extent that the old name does not encompass all the things that ought to have been pursued by the College. Therefore, to me, the change of name embraces a greater scope and responsibility of the College than how it was or how it is now.

Therefore, it is very important for this House to agree on the Bill and to pass the Bill because we should give this nation a kind of well-deserved College that is ranked among the best in the world so that we are not looked upon as a backward nation.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The question is that the Bill be now read for the Second Time.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Nigerian Infrastructural Development Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2008

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Infrastructural Development Agency charged with the responsibility of collaborating with relevant Ministries and other Extra-Ministerial Departments in providing basic infrastructure in all parts of Nigeria, for Quick Economic Development and for Related Matters, 2008.

Order for Second Reading.

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The Deputy Speaker: The Bill was read for the First Time on Wednesday 29th July, 2008.

I now invite honourable Mohammed Ali Ndume to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): I rise to move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Infrastructural Development Agency charged with the responsibility of collaborating with relevant Ministries and other Extra-Ministerial Departments in providing basic infrastructure in all parts of Nigeria, for Quick Economic Development and for Related Matters, 2008 be read the Second Time.

Hon. Mohammed Wudil Ali (Wudil/Garko): I rise to second the Bill as presented by my able and indefatigable Minority Leader.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. Speaker, this Bill which is now coming in for Second Reading, is necessitated by the deplorable situation that we know our infrastructures in this country are today. We know that there is no country that can develop without having some basic infrastructures that would drive the economy.

We are also aware that every government past, especially, for the past eight years, government has been making conscious and deliberate efforts to address the inadequacies in some critical infrastructural areas, yet there is no commensurate result. We all know these basic infrastructures like our roads, airports, the hospitals, seaports, waterways, are at deplorable level. There can be no meaningful economic activity without basic infrastructures.

The Federal Government is talking about Vision 2020. You cannot achieve Vision 2020 without having basic infrastructures to drive the economy. Government have gone ahead to establish for example, *the Nigeria Infrastructural Concession Regulatory Commission* which is already in place headed by Chief Shonekan but what infrastructure do you regulate in terms of concession, when these infrastructures are not basically developed. The result is that some of our infrastructures that are almost collapsed would be given out to private individuals at a chicken fee and when they put in a little money to restructure and reorganise them, Nigerians would be forced now to pay very high prices for those things.

So this Bill which, initially, I was thinking should be of ten years, should be a deliberate effort aimed at addressing the serious lapses or crisis that we have in

today's infrastructures in this country. As it is now, what we have is the problem of annual appropriation for the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Aviation and other Agencies, for example. This is because what we end up having is cumulative misappropriation of funds for the past years, one of it is the huge sums of money that the former government injected into power and it ended up mismanaged.

Three hundred billion or thereabout was said to have been injected into Ministry of Works for roads with no commensurate result. In the Aviation Sector over nineteen billion was given by the former administration yet there is no result. In railway, I think over five hundred million or billion was so far given to Chinese Company to develop our railway, nothing has happened.

One of the reasons we have these problems in the Aviation sector for example, was that by the time Borishade came as a Minister and started the work, he was replaced by Fani Kayode as the Minister that heads those MDAs. In the power sector, you have the Committee inviting series of people just because they are so many within that short span of time of four or five years; many were left out. So there is a need for us for a period to have an agency, charged with the responsibility of developing these critical infrastructures so that our economy can pick up.

We know what is happening with our road network. What we have now is an annual budget for Ministry of Works. We are in April and the work has not started in various areas of that project. So if we had an agency charged with the responsibility, there would be continuity and there would be results. Recently, when this administration found out that the Ministry of Transportation was not effective, it changed its name to Ministry of Works and Housing. It also changed the Ministers and the Permanent Secretaries. The Ministry of Housing was taken away from another.

So, these changes come continuously and it does not allow for consistency; it does not allow for programmed actions; and it does not allow for results to even be seen. Honestly, this Bill is just out of my personal thinking that if we have to move forward, something must be done because if we say the Ministries and the Agencies are there, that they are supposed to do this job, then we may not get anywhere. For example, for all the periods of President Obasanjo, he was promised that power would be solved. To that extent he pumped money into power, he pumped money into Aviation, he pumped money into Works, yet there was no result. That I think something is missing and that thing that is missing, I am of the view, is to set up an Agency that is specifically charged with taking care

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of some of these fundamental and identifiable critical areas in our infrastructures, that are very necessary for our economic development.

I therefore urge my colleagues to please support this Bill so that we would have something in place charged with specified responsibilities such that we could look up to it for results.

Hon. Buba Jibrin Umar (Kogi (Lokoja) Kogi (KK): I rise to speak against this Bill. The ideals as told by the Leader of the Minorities, made this Bill appealing and of course like he said it is from his personal thinking and I think from his concern for the states of affairs of this country. I fear that if this Bill scales through this House, we are going to create what I will call a super Ministry, thereby, rendering the activities of constitutionally established Ministries redundant.

We must not fail in our responsibility as Nigerians to know that we have laws of this country. We have certain government agencies that are charged with the responsibilities to carry out certain fundamental functions of the State. We have Ministries, we have Departments, we have Agencies and I think we have enough of the MDAs that will carry out whatever responsibility of government we want them to carry out. Proliferations of Agencies in the name of creating ideal society or environment will not help us.

I mean we are thinking of a Bill that will create an Agency that would be into aviation, agriculture, roads, water resources and probably water transportation, road transportation and all of them put together. What kind of an Agency do you think we would have that would be enough to carry out all these various responsibilities of government?

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to have a thought on this kind of Bill and I believe that until we believe in ourselves and the agencies of government that we have that can do these responsibilities, we will continue to have this kind of proliferation. Do not forget Mr. Speaker that if this Agency is were created, it would be run by Nigerians, which means that the same problem we are encountering today in our Ministries, Departments and Agencies would also be encountered most likely by these Agencies.

The Deputy Speaker: I do not think we have any constitutional Ministry, Ministries are not constitutional, and the President can merge two or three together and form one Ministry.

Hon. Idris Umaru Isa (Igabi): I stand to support the principle of the Bill, but not what my Leader has

said during his defence of the Bill.

I will support the Bill on the premise of the new policy of Mr. President on Private Public Partnership (PPP). Infrastructural Development in Nigeria is beyond what government can do alone. Government has recently come up with a policy where Infrastructural Development would be developed through Private Public Partnership. This policy is comprehensive and this Bill is timely if it is geared towards that aspect of development through the Private Public Partnership.

These Agencies if dedicated to that aspect would help in coordinating the infrastructural development in Nigeria through the intervention of the Private Sector. It would coordinate it; and come up with a comprehensive system of which foreigners could come into Nigeria to develop our infrastructure. We need to support the Bill, but as it is committed to the Committee, it has to narrow down to the issue now being formulated by the Federal Government.

Hon. Chuka Ama-Nwauwa (Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru): I want to first of all thank the Minority Leader for this Bill; its intentions and ideas are lofty. We should have a body that would approach the issue of infrastructure from an objective point and be able to identify the areas that require attention and not just subjective approaches from various Ministries.

Mr. Speaker, I have regret the contents of this particular Bill. If I have the permission of Mr. Speaker, I would read Section 8 of this Bill, which I feel is not specific on the functions of the Agency.

(Section 8) The Agency shall have the responsibility in collaboration with the relevant Ministries and Extra Ministerial Departments to ensure a quick development in the following Sectors: Education, Health, Power Generation, Transport, Water Supply, Agriculture and such other Sectors as may from time to time be approved by the National Assembly.

I have gone through this Bill and I have studied other related Bills. This provision is not clear on the function of this Agency because it does not put any responsibility on any Ministry to accept the recommendations of this Agency or even to listen to them. That makes it very difficult for the Agency to function. The content of this Bill would not be workable but in principle, the subject of the Bill is laudable but the content is faulty.

I advise some amendment.

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Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu (Aniocha/Oshimili): Our Founding Fathers had a vision of a prosperous Nigeria, where no man is oppressed.

Nature has been very favourable to Nigeria with abundant natural resources. The vision of our Founding Fathers was such that every Nigerian should live in plenty. The question is: is that happening today? To me, the answer is No. There is no meaningful socio-economic development that can take place in any nation without infrastructures. Different Governments had come and gone with different modes of creating infrastructure; to what extent have they done this? My answer is zero.

We were voted into this office as well as other colleagues of ours, for a purpose. Those who voted us saw it as an investment, which expects a return; and a return on investment is that infrastructures must be created for our people. What are those infrastructures? Good Roads, Education, good health, power, water; are they there? The answer is No.

Therefore, to my mind, this Bill seeks to say these infrastructures should be put in place for our people, the people that have invested in us. It is their right and their votes are the investment. The question is: what should you tell them in 2011? Have they received a return on their investment? Are we creating such infrastructures for our people that voted us in? The answer is No.

Therefore, this Bill is only saying let us have an Agency that would regulate the provision of these infrastructures for our people that voted us in. I want to beg my Colleagues that we should not politicize it because it is a good Bill which, if put in place, would follow up to the letter to ensure that infrastructures are put in place.

The Government has created National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS). Today, we also have 7-Point Agenda, saying we should create infrastructures. Let us have this Agency that would ensure the monitoring and regulation of the provision of infrastructures.

Hon Farouk Mohammed Lawan (Shanono/Bagwai): Mr. Speaker, let me begin by commending the Minority Leader for having a personal initiative as he said to sponsor such a Bill. *(Interruption)*

The Deputy Leader: Let me find out from the Minority Leader; are you the sole sponsor of the Bill or you have co-sponsors.

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Hon. Ali Ndume: Honestly, I do not have co-sponsors; I just believe that the infrastructural gap, which is there, should be bridged. That is why I would welcome ideas in order to perfect the Bill.

Hon. Farouk Lawan: Mr. Speaker, Hon. Ali Ndume acknowledged that it is his personal initiative and I commend him for that. There is no gainsaying that every Nigerian is worried with the serious infrastructural problem that currently bedevils our country. I do not believe that this Agency will in any way solve the problem of infrastructure in Nigeria. If we pass this Bill, we would unwittingly be shirking our responsibilities. As elected representatives of the people we have the responsibility through our oversight functions to determine that they do their work and that they did it the way that this honourable National Assembly determines.

To me to create an Agency that appears to be so superfluous, would be redundant because at the end it will be almost impossible for one single agency to combine the responsibility of monitoring, regulating and implementing the provision of infrastructure in the various sectors of the National Economy that the Bill is trying to propose.

In addition, creating an agency will simply add another bureaucracy; it will simply create another overhead that this country does not require at this time. What is important especially now that we are going through very serious economic hardship is to ensure the prudent and effective management of our resources.

We already have existing Ministries, Agencies and Departments of Government that are charged with the responsibility for the provision of infrastructure in various sectors. They stand to do more because they have the specialised expertise for them to deliver in the various areas.

The Ministry of Works for instance can address the issue of road infrastructure more effectively than an agency that would be given the general responsibility of providing infrastructures in water, in education, in health, in roads and in railways. I cannot see how you can effectively have an agency that can do this work.

To my mind, the intensions of the Minority Leader are very good. I commend him for those intentions but, I do not think he had translated those intents into a Bill or an Agency that we should support.

I believe that this Bill should die and be buried right now without any waste of time.

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Hon. Ishiaka Moh'd Bawa (Ibi/Wukari): Mr. Speaker, to some extent I would like to subscribe to the Motion. We all know that the problems of Nigeria are Nigerians.

The entire situations in which we find ourselves today is very pathetic. We are all living witnesses that the collapse of railway, power and any other infrastructure that we are talking about lies with Nigerians. We are the problem of this country.

Let us compare ourselves with some countries that we started this journey together as far back as 1960. Nigeria is over 48 years after political independence; about more than 95 years after the amalgamation of the country in 1914. But what do we have today? Our situation in 1960 is far better than what we have today. For an example, none of us here in this country today can take his child to the very primary school, which he attended in his village. Everything has collapsed. The majority in government are beneficiaries of free education. While in most of the villages, children are learning under a tree or learning while sitting on the floor.

A country that attained Independence 48 years ago, we have only six or nine Power Stations with three Hydro and six Thermals stations but we cannot generate up to 2000 mega watts of electricity. Look at countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and the rest of them; they had the same situation in 1970 with us, but look at where they are.

The problem is Nigerian, it is not the issue of creating Ministries and Parastatals, but the issue is the attitude of Nigerians. If we agree to change our attitude and to allow the country to move forward anytime we are ready, the country will move forward.

Hon. Hashimu Abdullahi (Awe/Doma/Keana): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join earlier contributors in commending the Minority Leader for this initiative, for his concern like that of many of us in this Chamber and other Nigerians concerning decayed infrastructure in our country.

I also share his concern that the level of the development of infrastructure in our country is so uneven, so lop-sided and that if we want to make any meaningful progress we cannot do that without having first class infrastructure for our country. He therefore thinks the missing link which may be the solution is to create an Agency that will ensure the provision of infrastructure for Nigeria or Nigerians. I believe that is our point of departure as started by Hon. Dr. Farouk Lawan. We should not be shirking our responsibilities

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for our nation. The government that is elected into power that is given the mandate both at the level of the Executive and the Legislature have the primary responsibility of ensuring the provision of this infrastructure.

In addition, when you talked about this missing link, I am sure Hon. Bawa started it, and if you ask as many Nigerians as you would assemble why is it that we have been unable to provide this infrastructure nation wide, some will say that it is the attitude of Nigerians; some will say that it is mismanagement, corruption, lack of accountability and lack of enough funds and so on and so forth.

But certainly, it is not that of institution or lack of institutional capacity. We have a myriad of these Agencies and Ministries and so on. We should even challenge them as to why they are not performing. That is the more reason why we should not create additional burden on the treasury as earlier canvassed.

So I want to rest my case and to say that in event that this Bill does not go for Second Reading we appeal to the Minority Leader to continue with his level of productivity.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Dr. Shuaibu, Deputy Chairman Rules and Business. Now let us look for the Minorities to support. Who is a former minority?

This is a Bill sponsored by one of the leaders of the House and supported by members of the majority party. I want to say that this is a popular Bill from the leader of the minority. I do not think it will have any problem.

For me not to be biased, let me now put the question in order to allow Members to decide.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on National Planning and Economic Development.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

The Deputy Speaker: The next item we have is Consideration of Reports and I do not think any of the Reports is ready. I know Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, the Chief Whip of the Minority, informed me that he may not be available. Really he is not here to take his Bill.

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The second Report is on the DPR and I wish to inform the Chairman, Rules and Business that what we have is an interim Report of the activities of NNPC. I want to ask if the complete Report is available.

Hon Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, the Report the Committee submitted is an interim Report because they were given full assignment over NNPC, DPR and other issues. As at now, they are still working. I pray that this Report be re-committed to the same Committee and they should be given an extension of time.

The Deputy Speaker: We do not need to re-commit the Report to the Committee. They have done their job and placed it on the Table. You should just keep it awaiting the remaining Report.

Hon. Ita Enang: With respect Sir, they have laid something on the Floor and it has become our property. Having been laid, we cannot consider it except we re-commit it to the Committee.

The Deputy Speaker: For what?

Hon. Ita Enang: So that they can bring a full Report.

The Deputy Speaker: No, this is their Interim Report. Just keep it and await their final Report. When the final Report is ready then we will take every thing together.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/D/Wasagu): Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to put on record that I am a little bit disturbed by the way the Rules and Business Committee of this House is directing the business of this House. My concern is this; the Committee is aware that this is an Interim Report, yet it wasted our paper and produced 360 copies and presented before the House in such a way that it is practically impossible for us to consider the Report.

I am thinking that this is not saving on the lean account of this House. I think that the Rules and Business Committee should be more serious about the arrangement of Business of this House in their future jobs.

The Speaker: Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah, I appreciate what you are saying but let me say that the work of the Rules and Business Committee is not a small job. It is not always that you get things right but I have not seen anything wrong in what they have done.

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A Report was laid and it was slated in the Order Paper by Rules and Business. Their job is to put it on the Order Paper. It is left for us to say whether it is an Interim Report or a Report that we can take on its own. He has done his job.

We made an observation that since they have to cover all the activities of NNPC, we termed this as an interim Report until when the full Report of NNPC activities are laid before the House then we can consider it. Are you a Member of the Committee? All right, the Co-Chairman of the Committee has the Floor.

Hon. Leo Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important that we try to understand the principles and the tenets of that particular Report that came in. It is something that borders on the Oil Sector and if we look at it, the Oil Sector is divided into three different stages.

The Report that we have before us is a true conclusion that borders on the whole oil blocs that were bided by DPR. That Report was broken down into three places and the detail analyses we have there concluded everything that borders about biddings for oil blocs. The next stage of the Report which the Committee has not really embarked on is going to probably be the lifting of oil and the remaining issue.

I think, if we look critically at what is before us, we will find out that it is a detailed Report from year 2000 till the year 2007 where all the transactions that border on sales and giving out of blocks to every Company is clearly stated. It becomes important that we provide you with detailed information so that it does not look as if the Committee is not working. Everything about blocks has been concluded. I think to now say that it is an interim Report to an extent makes sense. But I want to say that it is a pure conclusion of a full section of the Report.

The Deputy Speaker: All right so it is part of the Report that the House is expecting from the Committee?

Hon Leo Ogor: Yes.

Hon. John Halims Agoda (Ethiope East/ Ethiope West): Mr. Speaker, what Hon. Okuweh Ogor has said is very germane. First, let us get it right. What the Committee submitted, to my knowledge and understanding is not interim but final Report of that particular sector of the oil operation. The Executive Arm of Government is embarking on Oil Reforms generally in our country and we are also aware that that

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very investigation will take this House and indeed that Committee a number of months.

For the House to give the Executive and indeed the Nigerian people the opportunity and the exposure that have been gotten from that final aspect of the DPR there is need for this House to look at this Report, consider and pass it. We should give directives to the Executive so that it would also form part of the reforms it is carrying out in the oil sector. If we say we should wait and complete the entire oil sector Report, we may be late as a House. So that Report that relates to DPR, is the final Report as far as DPR is concerned.

The Deputy Speaker: We have agreed that it is the final Report on DPR but it is part of the Report that we are expecting from the Committee. It is just like giving Education Committee assignment on Higher Institutions and they finished and their findings on Federal Colleges of Education were laid before us. As far as Colleges of Education is concerned they have finished but you have Polytechnics and Universities that they have not finished and it also formed part of the Report being expected from them. It is just like that.

Since one of the Chairmen of the Committee has confirmed to us that this is the final Report on DPR, it is now left to the House either to take DPR Report and consider it or wait until when the other Reports are ready and then we consider them together. Is it the decision of the House to do that because the Committee was mandated by the House to go and investigate oil activities?

I will put the question to the House to decide whether it is the wish of the House to consider the DPR Report before the final Report is submitted to the House? Once the Report has been laid on the Table, it has become the property of the House and we can decide.

Is it the wish of the House that we consider this Report before the other Reports are ready?

Question put and negatived

Chartered Institute of Accountants of Nigeria Act 1965 (Amendment) Bill 2009

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. John Enoh is not here to take up his Bill on Chartered Institute of Accountant of Nigeria. Since he is not around, we have come to the end of the business of the day.

Hon. H. S. Dickson (Sagbama/Ekeremor): Mr. Speaker, I am to give a report on ICAN amendment Bill; not Hon. John Enoh. There was a referral to the

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Justice Committee and we have considered it and turned in our opinion. I am to take it.

The Deputy Speaker: The sixth Order of the Day is resumption of the consideration of Report of the Committee on Finance on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Chartered Institute of Accountant of Nigeria (ICAN) Act 1965 and for Other Matters Connected therewith.

Unfortunately, we have not moved any Motion for the extension of time and it is already ten minutes to two.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, we will only take the Report of Hon. Dickson if we go into the Committee of the Whole because what was referred to him was interlocutory; that is, when we go into the Committee of the Whole on a Motion to consider the Report, thereafter, he will give the Report of what the House in Committee of the Whole mandated him to do. If we are going to the Committee of the Whole, we can not take his Report.

The Deputy Speaker: We have a constraint. I am saying that we have not moved any Motion for the extension of time and I do not know if we are legally covered to sit beyond this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership of the Conference Committee on FCT Appropriation Bill

The Deputy Speaker: The following are the members of the Conference Committee on FCT Appropriation Bill:

Hon. Attai Idoko Ali
Hon. Idoko David
Hon. John Enoh
Hon. Earnest Ibejiako
Hon. Oyetunji Omotayo
Hon. Adamu Gwoza Kalba

Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Constitution Review

The Deputy Speaker: The meeting of the Advisory Committee on Constitution Review scheduled to hold today has been postponed indefinitely.

*Signed:
Chairman*

ADJOURNMENT

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Hon. Tunde Akogun: Hon. Speaker, I move that the House do adjourn sitting till Tuesday, 31st March, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Ita Enang: Mr. Speaker, I do second the Motion that this House do adjourn till Tuesday, 31st March, 2009 at 10.00a.m.

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Question put and agreed to:

Resolved: That the House do adjourn sitting till Tuesday, 31st March, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.55p.m.