



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES

**FOURTH REPUBLIC
SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOURTH SESSION**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICIAL REPORT

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Thursday, 22nd March, 2007

The House met at 11.10 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, 21st March, 2007.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

The Deputy Speaker: Any Member who has a Petition to present may, please, rise up to do so now.
(No Response)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Correspondence from the ANPP House Caucus

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I am in receipt of a communication from the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), House of Representatives Caucus, and it is addressed to the Hon. Speaker. It reads:

21st March, 2007

The Honourable Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly,
Abuja.

Sir,

**Change of Leadership in the ANPP
Caucus of the House**

Sequel to the cross carpeting of our Leader, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal, to the Peoples Democratic Party and Whip, Hon. Almajiri Geidam, to the Action

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Congress, the Caucus, in a meeting held on the 20th March, 2007, elected the following honourable Members of the party to replace them.

(1) Hon. Farouk Adamu Aliyu - Leader

(2) Hon. Haruna Yerima - Whip

Your Excellency, we shall appreciate it, if these two are given due recognition and acceptance by the Leadership of the House so that the ANPP Caucus can have Leadership.

In attendance at the meeting were:

(1) Hon. Sani Buhari

(2) Hon. Lawan Garba

(3) Hon. Tukur Idris Nadabo

(4) Hon. Mohammed Abubakar Maifata

(5) Hon. Ahmed Salik

(6) Hon. Nasiru Garba Dantiye

(7) Hon. Usman Abdua Gabasawa

(8) Hon. Usman Adamu

(9) Hon. Suleiman Abdulrahman

(10) Hon. Haruna Yerima

(11) Hon. Farouk Adamu Aliyu

(12) Hon. Bala Ya'u

(13) Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume

(14) Hon. Garba Umar Uba

(15) Hon. Mustapha Gajibo

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(16) Hon. Bakura Lawan

(17) Hon. Babagana Tijani

(18) Hon. Sani Bawa

Thanks.

(Signed)
Hon. (Dr) Haruna Yerima

The Deputy Speaker: Congratulations!
(Applause)

Hon. Halims Ochuko Agoda (Ethiope): Mr. Speaker, our Rules recognise the Majority Party and, indeed, the Minority Party, which is the Opposition. Now, when I start counting the number of what we now have as members of the ANPP, the question is: *are they still enough to be called a Minority Party?*

The Deputy Speaker: How many Members does the ANPP have?

Hon. Halims Agoda: In fact, they are not more than twenty.

The Deputy Speaker: That information is not correct. I am not sure this matter is open for debate. You can discuss this at your ANPP caucus, please. This information is for Members of the House.

Hon. Zanna Laisu (Gujba/DamaturuGulam): Mr. Speaker, from where has this announcement come? We are doing certain things here in this House which I think are no longer Parliamentary.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi (Ningi/Warji): Hon. Zanna Laisu, we are as Parliamentary as possible. We had a submission by the ANPP and you are a Member of that Party. It was a submission based on the Party attendance to change their own Leadership. If you are in disagreement with what happened, all you need to do is to call another meeting and then upturn that decision and by Tuesday, next week, we will announce whatever is the outcome. That is the procedure but, for now, we stand by this announcement.

Hon. Zanna Laisu: Is it a Resolution of the House? There are two different issues here and one is announcement. Has the House recognised it or not?

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Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi: They have recognised leadership of the Party. I know you are in the ANPP, but I equally know that the former Leaders are contesting under two different parties. One is contesting under the AC while the other one is contesting under the PDP. So, even if we wanted to protect him, we would not have announced his name because he is in our Party. However, we are a kind Party and we respect due diligence, and that was why we announced it. If you have any objection, please, discuss it in your caucus.

Hon. Zanna Laisu: I do not care where they went to - whether AC or PDP or whatever. My main quarrel is whether or not the House recognised them as ANPP Leaders?

The Deputy Speaker: Let me respond to that. A letter has been written to the Speaker and by reading it here, they are recognised as Whip and Leader of the ANPP. If you upturn it, write back to the Leadership of the House.

Hon. Zanna Laisu: I will, by all means, if that is the Rule.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Internal Affairs

The Deputy Speaker: The First Business of the Day, hon. Members, is Presentation of a Report of the Committee on Internal Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Repeal Cap. 366 P29 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and to make Comprehensive Provisions for the Administration of Prisons in Nigeria and for Related Purposes, 2005, standing in the name of Hon. Mohammed Al-Makura.

Hon. Mohammed Al-Makura is invited to present the Report.

Hon. Mohammed Al-Makura (Lafia/Obi): I rise to move the Motion that this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Internal Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Repeal Cap 366 Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004 and to make Comprehensive Provisions for the Administration of Prisons in Nigeria and for Related Purposes 2005.

I so move.

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Hon. Wuyep L. Musa (Kanam/Kanke/Pankshin): I wish to second the Motion, as moved by Hon. Al-Makura, the Deputy Chairman of Internal Affairs Committee.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table.)

Report of the Committee on Petroleum Resources

The Deputy Speaker: The Second Business of the Day is Presentation of the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to make Provisions for Regulations and Fiscal Incentives in Connection with Petroleum Operations carried out by Indigenous Oil Companies, 2007. This Report is standing in the name of Hon. Cairo Ojoughboh.

Members will recall that the Conference Committee was constituted on December 20, 2006 to harmonise with the Senate.

The Report is ready and I invite Hon. Cairo to present the Report.

Hon. Cairo Ojoughboh (Ika North/South): I move that this House do receive and adopt the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to make Provisions for Regulations and Fiscal Incentives in Connection with Petroleum Operations carried out by Indigenous Oil Companies, 2007.

I so move.

Hon. Musa Mahmood (Chanchaga): I beg to second.

The Deputy Speaker: Please, the Motion is for us to receive the Report. That is what is on the Order Paper, and not adoption.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Adoption of Conference Committee Report on the Federal Judicial Officers (Administration of Pensions) Bill, 2007

The Deputy Speaker: The First Order of the Day is a Motion for the adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Transfer the Responsibility and Administration of Pension of Federal Judicial Officers from the Department of Establishments in the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation to the National Judicial Council and for related purposes, 2007, standing in the name of Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah.

Members will recall that this Report was presented yesterday, 21st March, 2007, and we have to adopt it now. Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah is not here; so, the House Leader should please move for the adoption of this Report.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi (Ningi/Warji): May I move that a Bill for an Act to Transfer the Responsibility and Administration of Pension of Federal Judicial Officers from the Department of Establishments in the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation to the National Judicial Council and for related purposes 2007, be now adopted.

Hon. P. O. Oyefoluke Etteh (Ayedade/Irewole/Isokan): I wish to second the Motion, as moved by the House Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do adopt the Conference Report on a Bill for an Act to Transfer the Responsibility and Administration of Pension of Federal Judicial Officers from the Department of Establishments in the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation to the National Judicial Council and for related purposes, 2007.

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**Adoption of Conference Committee Report on the
Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution
(Establishments etc.) Bill, 2007**

The Deputy Speaker: The Second Order of the Day is a Motion for the adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution and for matters connected therewith, 2007, standing in the name of Hon. Irem O. Ibom.

The Report was presented yesterday. I invite Hon. Ibom to move for the adoption.

Hon. Irem O. Ibom (Afikpo North/South): I move that this House do adopt the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution and for matters connected therewith, 2007.

I so move.

Hon. Jeff Ojinaka (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East): I wish to second the Motion, as moved by Hon. Irem Ibom.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do adopt the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution and for matters connected therewith, 2007.

BILLS

Merchant Shipping Bill, 2006

A Bill for an Act to provide for Merchant Shipping and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006 (HB. 271)

Order for Second Reading.

The Deputy Speaker: The Third Order of the Day is commencement of debate on the General Principles of a Bill for an Act to provide for Merchant Shipping and for matters connected therewith, 2006 (HB. 271).

I invite the House Leader to lead the debate.

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Hon. Abdul Ningi: The Speaker, I move that a Bill for an Act to provide for Merchant Shipping and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006 be read the Second Time.

Hon. P. O. Oyefoluke Etteh: I wish to second the Motion, as moved by the House Leader.

Question proposed.

Hon. Abdul Ningi: This is another giant stride in the history of Merchant Shipping in this country. This is a country that has natural coastal areas from the beginning of time. The British Parliament passed the British Merchant Shipping Act of 1897 and this same Act was adopted by the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 1990. Since then, nothing has been heard of any Amendment to the Merchant Shipping Bill until today.

This is historic because we all know the importance of shipping in the comity of nations. This Bill is intended to bring to conformity the international convention that guides the maritime activities. This Bill is also coming at a very critical time after we have passed the most famous NAMASA Bill, which seeks to rejuvenate and energise the Marine Transportation in this country.

It is a bold step to reposition our nation and, in fact, get the recognition of attaining international standard. If you travel throughout the world and mention the Nigerian Ports and Nigerian Marine Services, it takes a second peddle because there are no standards, coordination and the infrastructures are below par. What we have been trying to do from the beginning of 2003, as a government, is to shift attention from the much looked at revenue coming from the oil sector.

Hong Kong, as a nation, survives on marine activities. They do not have oil and they are not too industrialised, but the bulk of their revenue comes from marine activities. Looking at Nigeria and the critical geographical position that this country occupies, not only in Africa but in the Southern hemisphere, you will find that Nigeria is so strategically positioned in its geographical location to be able to attract quite a lot of marine activities from all over the world.

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We have not been able to do that because we have not sufficiently addressed the issue of laws. Laws are what govern people and make a difference between man and animals. Laws also differentiate between a civilised society and an uncivilised society. Therefore, it is our intention that the Merchant Shipping Bill before this honourable House will be updated to meet the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention that Nigeria has signed a very long time ago.

We have been doing quite a lot in terms of strategies, researches and visitations in trying to make a comparative analysis between Nigeria *vis-à-vis* those people who have been able to develop their marine capacities and have been able to generate their capacity in terms of standard and in terms of generating the much needed revenue drive which will in turn create an environment for people to come and invest in the sector. Also, on the other hand, this will be a viable way of creating jobs, which will in turn scale down the level of insecurity. If we do not create all these avenues to be able to get our teeming population into the job market, the issue of security would always remain an issue that would never be achieved.

Domestication, in this regard, is putting in line what has been accepted as an International Convention. However, in line with this, we tried to re-draft this Bill to be in consonance, in total agreement and total harmony, with our laws in this country, which have not in any way affected the convention that we seek to achieve.

The Bill is treated as adjudged, which I said has just been recently passed in the NAMASA Bill. The Bill seeks to amend and update the laws relating to Merchant Shipping, including Flour and Postage Control Duties, Training, Certification of Shippers, Safety of Navigation, Safety of Life, Maritime Claims and Matters Related Thereto.

We are all living witnesses to what happened in our Ports, particularly in Lagos. We are all aware of the activities of the people called *wharf rats*. These are miscreants, criminals, but they are accepted as part of the norm. For instance, if you go into the Port to collect your car, somebody would run to you to say: *your headlamp has been removed, but has been found somewhere*. When you go there, you would see that it is your headlamp and you must buy it. The Bill is supposed to address such maladministration in the running of the Ports. There are very many provisions.

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The Bill contains about 446 Clauses which are sub-divided into about 31 parts.

However, the main issues at stake have to do with the Ship licences, Mortgages and loans, certificate of competence for masters and crew, memoranda for employment of Seamen, welfare of Seamen, safety of life at sea, concession of ships, safety of Navigation, the ships, flood lines, carriage of cargoes, carriage of dangerous goods, tonnage, prevention of pollution from ships, liability of collusion cases, limitation of liability, wrecks, salvage, legal proceedings, investigation into shipping casualty, delegation of powers and Enforcement and Implementation Agency.

If you heard me run down these items on which we are trying to bring about Amendment and up date the laws, I am sure you will be surprised that if these laws are not in place, then what have we been doing all these years, close to centuries? This law that we are about to update and amend was promulgated in 1897 and this is the same law we have been following as if we are slaves. We are no slaves. That law has been identified as having its own purpose.

For now, this is a new dawn, a new Nigeria, a new democracy and the House that matters. This is the House that touches ideas, hears and goes into research and finds the best thing for this country. Believe me, the truth of what we are doing is not going to be felt by us, but by generations of Nigerians yet unborn. If you reflect on what I have read, you will know that Nigeria went into a very serious traumatic administration because, certainly, in the past, these things were of no concern to anybody. Any ship can come and carry whatever and any stolen and dangerous items can also come into the ship. It would mean that the Ship Administration paid only a lip service. No wonder this country is seen as *everything goes*. You can come and dump anything, take anything; and there is no law that has specifically addressed some of these issues. Things like liability of collusion, limitation of liability and others are all addressed in this voluminous text. These are very important things for us to make sure that our seas, coastal areas and ports are up to date. Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well. If you are a Senator, play your role very well. We are Members of the House of Representatives and as such we must represent the people well. This is what we are doing and it is our responsibility to do it.

Hon. Members, I ask for your support because this Bill is historic. You will remember that I said that this

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is a law that came into being in 1897. I do not know of any Nigerian alive that was born in 1897. Therefore, you can see the reason for going to school, to look, analyse and take a stand for the benefit of humanity, Africa, Nigeria and Nigerians. And I am sure that there is no better place and time to address this problem but here and now.

I, therefore, call on Members to kindly give their support so that history will accord them the singular recognition of passing this very important Bill.

I so submit.

Hon. Emeka Ihedioha (Aboh-Mbaise/Ngor Okpala): In supporting the erudite presentation of the House Leader, I do urge my Colleagues to support the passage of this Bill for Second Reading. It is very compelling and important to state that the Maritime Shipping Bill, here before us, is the most important enforcement instrument of commercial shipping in the country.

Every Maritime Nation has its own Merchant Shipping Rules and Regulations as part of its Municipal law. It is the Rule Book that lets operators in the industry know what is required of them. Some refer to it as the *grundnorm* of commercial shipping.

As captured earlier on by the House Leader, the Bill before us today, tends to amend and review the existing Merchant Shipping Act, which Nigeria adopted from the British Merchant Shipping Act, as old as 1897. In 1990, this Act was incorporated into the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria but, of course, you would recall that in 1990, Nigeria was still under the Military Rule. Today, as a democratic Nation, it is compelling on us and there is, therefore, the need for Nigeria and its people, through its Parliament, to domesticate Conventions that are in line with international standards that conform and keep Nigeria within the vicinity of the elite Maritime Nations.

Nigeria depends largely on its marine environment for its resources. The Maritime Industry accounts for about 80 *per cent* of our total income. The reviewed Merchant Shipping Bill, which has taken several stakeholders, maritime lawyers and other participants and stakeholders in the industry several months to articulate, is a very refined document that captures international models.

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I urge our Colleagues to support this Bill and in doing so, I want all of us to see the universal Bill that this very House just passed a few weeks ago. The Merchant Shipping Bill, like the Conditions of Service, enables the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency to function as a Maritime Agency.

I call on my hon. Colleagues to look at this Bill and give it all the possible consideration it requires and pass it through Second Reading so that Nigerian Maritime Stakeholders and Practitioners can take full advantage of Nigeria being a major Maritime Nation.

I so submit.

Hon. Oluwole Adeyemi (Somolu): This is a very complex and voluminous Bill that has 445 Clauses. It is a very technical Bill.

Honestly, I have not finished reading it. However, from what I have read, the focuses of the Bill are two folds - ensuring safety of lives and property at sea and combating pollution. This is because the vessels that come to the Nigerian waters dump rubbish in our waters. I have first hand knowledge and experience about this. The Bill also talked about registration of vessels, the conditions of service, seamen, their wages, *et cetera*. I have no objection to this Bill because from what I have read so far, I can see that it is aimed at curing an issue by filling a *lacuna* in our Merchant Shipping Business. I want to urge my Colleagues to support this Bill. I will make all my observations to the Committee when they are considering the Bill. I will also lend them my support and give them some ideas.

As I said earlier, I have no objection whatsoever to the Bill but I am a little bit worried that something that is so crucial is coming at this late stage of our tenure. I really hope and pray that the Committee can find the time to do some thorough work on this Bill because it is absolutely necessary. I would want to rest my case on this.

I support the Bill.

Hon. John Halims Ochuko Agoda (Ethiope): Mr. Speaker, I am also in line with what my Colleague, Hon. Oluwole Adeyemi, said. I have not really gone through this Bill but I listened carefully to the practical and very incisive analysis of the Leader and Hon. Emeka Ihedioha. I have no doubt in saying that this is

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one important Bill that this Parliament should fast track in terms of passage.

As we know, there is a need to diversify our economy as a nation. We have depended so much on the petroleum sector of our national life and it has not given us the needed benefit. As a result, there is a need for this great nation to look elsewhere in order to meet up with our national requirement. Indeed, the maritime sector is one important area that we need to focus at. I am convinced that the sector is very much under-utilised in terms of operation. It is under-utilised because the legal requirements in terms of our domestic legal requirements and our international legal requirements are not up-to-date.

Therefore, what this Bill seeks to achieve is to harmonise our domestic legal framework in conjunction with our International obligation. I have seen the international obligations such as the International Maritime Organisation and even the International Labour Organisation, and this Bill, after general passage, will give us immense benefit as members of such International Organisation.

I am interested, as a Parliamentarian, in seeing that this Bill is passed during the life of this Parliament. I am from a maritime State. In Delta State, we have well over five important seaport areas that are currently not used. You have the Sapele Port, the Warri Port, the Koko Port and the Burutu Port. These are important ports that are not used by our people and by our government. If this important Bill is put in place, from what I have heard from those that presented this Bill, I hope those from that part of the country will start to benefit and, indeed, the country will benefit generally from the passage of this Bill.

By and large, after committing this Bill to the Committee, I have no doubt that Hon. Emeka Ihedioha, with his outstanding performance in the House, will do all that is required to ensure that this voluminous but important Bill is quickly looked into by his Committee so that we can have the benefit of passing this Bill into law.

I am in love with the Bill and I urge my Colleagues to pass it.

Hon. Jeffreys M. Owor (Andoni/Opobo/Nkoro): I sincerely thank the Presenter of this very Bill. I thank him because this Bill has to do with my very own environment, the Atlantic Ocean.

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Everything about the Merchant Shipping, as you know, has to do with the Atlantic Ocean. If I do not support a Bill like this, then my claim that the Atlantic Ocean actually belongs to my constituency is not anything to go by.

I am personally interested in this Bill because, just on the very first page of that Bill, there is something very attractive there and it reads: *to establish an agency or government to be responsible for the Maritime Safety Administration which functions shall include:*

(a) *Ensuring safety of lives and property at sea;*

(b) *Preventing and combating pollution;*

This is where I am so interested because my area is actually pooled to all the activities of maritime. If a Bill like this is coming up at this time, I think God has answered our prayers. This is because as at now, even fishing activities in the area is impeded because of all these small activities. There is pollution everywhere and we cannot even penetrate into the sea to do our fishing. It is also difficult to carry out our activities. If the Bill is to establish an Agency that will combat pollution and all other related activities, I think it is a well thought out Bill at this very time.

I still have the fear because Members are all going back to contest election. I pray that this Bill passes through this House before we end up the Session. If there is any way the Committee could expedite action on this Bill and for this Bill to really go through before we wind up this Session, I would be very grateful.

I urge Members to support this Bill, if not for anything else, for the sake of our people, the owners of the Atlantic Ocean, so that we, too, can be part of this Agency.

The Deputy Speaker: We shall now put the Question.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the House Committee on Marine Transport.

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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report on the Institute for Democratic and

Legislative Studies Bill, 2006

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, we have this Report for consideration. It has been on the Order Paper for so long. It has just 17 Clauses.

House Leader, can we quickly take that and then adjourn?

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi: Hon. Speaker, I move that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Patricia O. Oyefoluke Etteh: I second the Motion that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole.

A Bill for an Act for the Establishment of the Institute for Democratic and Legislative Studies and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006 (SB.118) – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, in the Committee of the Whole, we shall consider the Bill for an Act for the Establishment of the Institute for Democratic and Legislative Studies and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006.

This is a Senate Bill and it was referred to the Committee of the Whole. There are 17 Clauses and it is a short Bill. So, we shall go into the Clause-by-Clause consideration of this Bill.

Part 1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRATIC AND LEGISLATIVE STUDIES

Clause 1 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRATIC AND LEGISLATIVE STUDIES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 – (FUNCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INSTITUTE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Chairman: I think there is problem with this Bill. Hon. Members, let us stand down the consideration of this Bill because Clauses 3 and 4 are missing, but note that we have approved Clauses 1 and 2.

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

The Chairman: Let us go to the next Report.

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (ISPON), 2007 - CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE.

The Chairman: The next item is a Clause-by-Clause consideration of a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria

Clause 1 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS OF NIGERIA) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 – (OBJECTIVES OF THE INSTITUTE) – ordered to stand part of the bill

Clause 3 – (FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE INSTITUTE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 – (MEMBERSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 – (ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 – (MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7 – (FUNDS OF THE INSTITUTE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

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Clause 8 – (INVESTMENT OF THE FUNDS OF THE INSTITUTE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9 – (EXPENDITURE OF THE INSTITUTE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 10 – (AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE INSTITUTE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 11 – (APPOINTMENT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 12 – (APPROVAL OF COURSES AND QUALIFICATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 13 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE FOR PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 14 – (OFFENCES AND PENALTIES UNDER THE ACT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 15 – (MISCELLANEOUS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 16 – (INTERPRETATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17 – (SHORT TITLE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

(EXPLANATORY NOTE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi: The Chairman, I move that the House do revert to Plenary.

(The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the House, in the Committee of the Whole, considered the Bill for an Act for the Establishment of the Institute for Democratic and Legislative Studies and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2006. It is a Senate Bill. The House approved Clauses 1 and 2 and stood down further consideration of the Bill.

The House, also in the Committee of the Whole, considered a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of

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Safety Professionals of Nigeria. The House approved the 17 Clauses, including the Explanatory Notes.

Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that this House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole, as read out by the Speaker.

Hon. P. O. Oyefoluke Etteh: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the Motion moved by the House Leader that we do adopt the Reports just concluded.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do adopt the Reports of the Committee of the Whole on the Establishment of the Institute for Democratic and Legislative Studies and the Establishment of the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Obituary Announcement of Hon. Ita Enang's Mother

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, I have been informed that our Colleague, the Chairman of House Committee on Business and Rules, Hon. Ita Enang, lost his mother last night and he left this morning to arrange for the burial. Shall we observe a minute silence in honour of his dead mother.

I invite Hon. Ike Chinwo to pray for the repose of her soul.

(A minute silence was observed and prayer was offered accordingly)

Decision to Decamp to the ANPP

The Deputy Speaker: This communication is from Hon. A. A. Algaddas. It is addressed to the Hon. Speaker. It reads:

I write to intimate you of my decision to decamp from the Peoples Democratic Party to the All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) with effect from 20th February, 2007.

This tough decision was informed by a tortuous and traumatic experience I have gone through as a

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result of avoidable injustice, lack of consultations and a total collapse of due process in the PDP.

Thanks and God Bless.

(Signed)

Hon. Almashy A. Algaddas.

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, we would adjourn sitting until 24th April, 2007 to enable us go home and interact with our constituents for the Easter and also prepare for and participate in the elections. The Plenary is adjourned till 24th April, 2007.

Hon. Abdul A. Ningi: Hon. Members, as the Speaker said, we are adjourning Plenary, but Committees and Ad-hoc Committee activities will continue. We wish every one of us and Nigerians free, fair and credible elections in 2007.

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I, therefore, move that this honourable House do adjourn Plenary Session till Tuesday, 24th April, 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. P. O. Oyefoluke Etteh: Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion that this House do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 24th April, 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, in addition to what the House Leader has said, for those of us contesting election, we wish you success in your elections. I pray God that you will win your elections and come back here in peace.

We also wish all candidates across the board a successful outing.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 24th April, 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.05 p.m.