



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES

**FOURTH REPUBLIC
THIRD ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

Votes and Proceedings
Announcements
Presentation of Public Petitions
Presentation of Report
Motion
Extension of Sitting
Bill
Adjournment

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 31st January, 2008

The House met at 11.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 30th January, 2008.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submission of Constituency Form

The Speaker: This is from the Chief Whip of the House.

Any Member who has not submitted his Constituency Project Form should do so not later than tomorrow, 1st February, 2008 at Room 401, New Wing.

(Signed)
Chief Whip.

Meeting of Speakers of the House of Assemblies

The Speaker: This is a reminder to all former Speakers of the House of Assemblies.

There will be a meeting today in the Deputy Speaker's Office, New Complex Building, immediately after sitting.

(Signed)
Hon. Friday Itulah
Chairman.

National Association of Nigerian Students

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the National Association of Nigerian Students led by the Joint

Leadership of Miss. Yinka Dada and Mr. Femi Orisabinu are here with us at the Gallery.

(Students stood up for recognition)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, any Member who has a Petition to present to this House may please rise to do so.

Dismissal from the Police Force

Hon. James Batachi (Paikoro/Bosso): Mr. Speaker, with me is a Petition from one ex-police constable, Sunday Wakili. Sunday Wakili claimed that he joined the Nigeria Police Force some time in the year 2002 with the zeal to serve this country. Unfortunately, his hope was dashed when his service was terminated on 31st December, 2006 and the reason given was that he used fake certificate. The officer is claiming that his certificate is genuine. He has attached his documents so that the House will look into the matter.

May I lay the petition on the Table, please.

(Petition laid)

Disengagement from Service

Hon. Darlington Okereke (Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from one of my constituents. He is Mr. Eze George Okorie. He has signed on behalf of 46 others who were Senior Staff of National Orthopaedic Hospital, Enugu, before they were disengaged.

On 10th October, 2007, they got a disengagement letter telling them that their services were no longer needed. They are asking this honourable House and Mr. Speaker to assist them because they believed that this is their only hope. Their prayer is that they should be reinstated with their full benefits.

May I please by your permission and leave lay the petition on the Table.

The Speaker: Yes, you may.

(Petition laid)

0331

**Embarrassed student of the Ahmadu Bello
University, Zaria**

Hon. Daniel Dino Melaye (Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from one of my constituents. He is a student of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. There was crisis on that campus on 27th and 28th September, 2007. This student was not around and did not participate in the crisis. He was not invited by the Disciplinary Committee of the Institution; he was not questioned at all, but he was embarrassed on Tuesday, 8th January, 2008 through a publication of *Daily Trust* newspaper suspending him and 74 others from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

As Legislators, this student is pleading for mercy through us. He does not want to take any pharmaceutical product for other people's headache.

May I have your permission to lay the petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Yes, you may.

(Petition laid)

**Unlawful Retirement from the Services of the
NNPC**

Hon. Iorwase H. C. Hembe (Konshisha/Vandekiya): Mr. Speaker, I have petitions from two of my constituents. The first one is from one Samuel Gbaravi. He has petitioned this House in a case of unlawful retirement from the services of the NNPC.

The young man was employed by the NNPC some years ago. After a while he was sent on study leave with pay. In the course of the study leave, his salary was stopped. As a result of that he had to stop school and went back to the NNPC to find out why and possibly continue with his job. At that point, he was given a terminal letter stating that he had been retired. The letter was back-dated. He felt aggrieved and decided to bring this petition before the House to get justice.

**Wrongful seizure of vehicle by Customs
Officials**

The second petition is from another member of my constituency and it is against the Custom Services.

0332

The petitioner is one Joseph Obunde and he was doing his Master's Degree Programme in the University of Jos. He had his Volkswagen Jetta car seized by men of the Customs Service along the Lagos/Ibadan Expressway as he was traveling to Jos. The evidence before me shows that the car was not a new one. It was seized on the 16th December, 2007 and it had been in use for a long while before that day. It was registered some time - *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hon. Hembe, the Committee on Petitions would find out whether they are facts or fiction.

Hon. Iorwase H. C. Hembe: Mr. Speaker, God bless you; may I lay the petition on the Table.

The Speaker: Yes, please go ahead.

Petition against the Nigerian Ports Authority

Hon. George Edward Daika (Mikang/Qua'an Pan/Shendam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a petition from the Technical Trainee Graduates of the Nigerian Ports Authority. It cuts across the 36 States of the Federation.

These are people that were trained some time in 2002 and were given employment in March, 2003 and they were being paid salaries by the Ports Authority. Unfortunately, some time in 2007, their salaries were stopped without any reason, and up till this point in time they are wallowing in pains and even some of them had lost their lives because of the hardship. The Authority is even planning to eject them from their quarters at the moment. For over three or four years now, they have not been paid and these are people that were trained by the Ports Authority and are supposed to be staff of the organisation.

I have here details of the petition and documents which are attached.

May, I lay the petition on the Table?

(Petition laid)

**Petition against the National Livestock, Project
Division, Kaduna**

Hon. Godfrey Ali Gaiya (Jaba/Zangon Kataf): Mr. Speaker, I bring this petition to this House from

0333

0334

one Mr. Julius Aiyewa, a member of my constituency. He is writing on behalf of himself and 36 others - all former staff of the National Livestock Project Division, Kaduna which is a Division under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.

The main substance of their petition is that some time in the year 2005, they were verbally disengaged from the services of the National Livestock Division, Kaduna. Before their disengagement, they were being owed a backlog of 30 months' salary arrears.

Now they have brought this Petition before this House so that this House can intervene to enable them have their 30 months' backlog of salaries paid and to also compel the Management to properly retire them.

By your kind permission, Mr. Speaker, may I lay the petition on the Table.

(Petition laid)

Petition from Prince Actor Segun Alele

Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon (Oredo): Mr. Speaker, this is a petition from one of my distinguished constituents - a musical icon by name Prince Actor Segun Alele.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, put very succinctly, the gist of the Petition was that given a *wigwag woke* interface he had with the then Minister for Information, Professor Jerry Gana, he was committed and contracted to wax a musical song for fighting the war against corruption. And arising there from, he had to borrow the sum of ₦10.5 million and secured same with two of his houses. Unfortunately, up till now, all attempts to get his money have met with a bureaucratic maze, and to put it mildly the attempts met with an official labyrinth.

He is praying this House that has increasingly become the voice of the voiceless and the conscience of the nation to look into his petition with a view to confronting and interfacing the appropriate organs of government to get his money.

With your permission, I beg to lay this petition on Table.

(Petition laid)

The Speaker: Are there any other petitions? *(No response)* Hon. Colleagues, all the petitions are hereby referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

Petitions accordingly referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Joint Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management, Finance and Appropriation on Partial Debt Write-off

The Speaker: The First Business of the Day is the Presentation of the Report by the Joint Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management, Finance and Appropriation on the Partial Debt Write-off by Nigeria to Consolidate Peace Process and Facilitate Reconstruction in Liberia, standing in the name of Hon. Abdulaziz A. Yari.

Hon. Members would recall that on Tuesday 20th November 2007, the House received a letter from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the above subject matter, and referred same to the Joint Committee for further legislative action. The Report is now ready for Presentation. Hon. Yari is now invited to present the Report.

Hon. Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar (Anka/Talata/Mafara): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive the Report of Joint Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management, Finance and Appropriations for the Write-off Debt by Nigeria to Consolidate Peace Process and Facilitate Reconstruction in Liberia.

Mr. Speaker, with your kind permission, may I lay the Report.

The Speaker: Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Friday Itula (Esan North East/South East): I second the Motion that the House do receive the Report.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do receive the Report of the Joint Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management Finance and Appropriations on the Partial

0335

Debt Write-off by Nigeria to Consolidate Peace Process and Facilitate Reconstruction in Liberia.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Urgent need to review the Power Reform Programme Performance

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the First Order of the Day is a Motion on Urgent Need to Review the Power Reform Programme Performance from 2000 till date, standing in the name of Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume and 300 Others. Hon. Ndume is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Chibok/Damboza/Gwoza): The Motion is on the Urgent Need to Review the Power reform Programme Performance from 2000 till date.

The House:

Notes that Power supply is one of the essential requirements for industrial, technological, economic and social transformation of any nation;

Worried that the level of Power generation in the country is worsening, instead of 4500 MW installed capacity, it is generating between 3000 to 3200 MW only;

Disturbed that the last administration spent huge sums of money on power generation, transmission and distribution without commensurate results being achieved;

Concerned that despite repeated calls, orders and warnings by the Government of the day to the appropriate authorities to address these problems, there has not been any visible improvement;

Resolves to:

(1) *Mandate* Committee on Power and Steel to carry out a comprehensive and thorough investigation into how the huge sum of money was expended on power generation and distribution without any commensurate result; and

0336

(2) *Urge* Mr. President to declare state of emergency in the power sector to enable him tackle the problem of power supply.

I so move.

The Speaker: Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): Mr. Speaker, I wish to humbly second the Motion ably moved by my hon. Colleague.

The Speaker: Hon. Ndume, you may lead the debate.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. Speaker, this is a Motion of Nigerians, though moved by the Minority Leader, and it has been seconded by a Member of the majority Party.

Mr. Speaker, the problem of power supply in this country is a very serious one and I am sure most of us have been in one way or the other contacted by Nigerians or the people that we represent, as to what we are doing about the issue of power supply.

The former administration that took over in 1999 raised the hope of Nigerians that the power supply problem in this country would be addressed and efforts were actually made in order to address this problem. As I said, we have over 103 Co-sponsors of this Motion, so I would just give a brief run down of the problem so that I will give my Colleagues opportunity to contribute.

The installed capacity of Kainji, Jebba, Shiroro and other thermal stations in Afam, Delta and Sapele is about 5,900 megawatts or thereabout. As at 1999, they were only able to generate 1,600 megawatts. That was improved upon by the previous administration and raised to about 3,000 megawatts, but that was just for a period.

As at now that we are talking about the power problems, out of about the 79 generating units that we have installed, only about 15 of them are working and generating just about 1,420 megawatts. The last time the government of this country built any transmission was in 1987 and that was about twenty years ago.

We all know the importance of power in our day-to-day life. You cannot have water if there is no power;

0337

if you go to the hospitals, you cannot get good services if there is no power. Our manufacturing sector is now running on generators to the tune of about 80 percent. We need not talk of other Local Governments. For example in my State, Borno State, we have about eight Local Government Councils that do not know anything about power.

As I said, efforts are being made to revitalize this sector because a lot of money had been sunk into this project. We have been reading on the pages of Newspapers that over US\$10 billion was spent by the last administration for power generation, transmission and distribution without commensurate result. In fact at a point, the government of the day confessed that despite that huge amount that was sunk into the power sector, the current administration is very reluctant to put in more money since there is no result coming out of it.

However, the truth of this is that we cannot just sit down and live in the dark because living in the dark means living in the past; living in the dark means that our country cannot move forward. Whatever we do, if there is no power, then, this country cannot move forward.

Mr. Speaker, we should now support this government that promised to tackle the power supply problem head on. One of the seven-point agenda of the President is power supply. The President, during his campaign, promised to declare a state of emergency in the power sector.

The President went ahead to call a meeting which was relayed on the television to warn those that are involved, that is the NEPA now known as Power Holding Company of Nigeria and all the bodies that are concerned with power transmission, generation and distribution. He warned that if they did not live up to expectation, he would still go ahead and declare a state of emergency in the power sector. I think the time is ripe enough. We should give the President the support and the go ahead and, in fact, urge him to declare a state of emergency in the power sector so that at least Nigerians will have hope that there would be light at the end of the day.

With this presentation, I urge my hon. Colleagues to support the remaining 200 Members to pass this Motion and have it communicated to the President so that the hope of Nigerians in having power supply would once again be awakened.

0338

Hon. Nasiru Sule Garo (Gwarzo/Ikabo): Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Mover of this Motion because power is the backbone of development of any nation in this our universe. I want to assure you that without power in this country, we can never develop. If we are serious about getting jobs for our teeming youth, we should do all we can to restore power supply.

I, therefore, support this Motion 100 per cent because it will definitely help this country to develop.

Hon. Raphael Samson Osagie (Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode): Mr. Speaker, this Motion is not about majority or minority; it is about Nigeria and Nigerians. I want to say that the huge expenditure on the power sector for several years now cannot be justified in view of the epileptic nature of the power supply in this country.

I dare say that one of the problems hindering our growth as a nation and development is the fact that our industries are unable to cope with the huge expenditures in powering their plants to ensure that they produce maximally. In fact, the huge costs companies had to incur in trying to remain an on-going concern is affecting even the level of production. This epileptic power supply has sent so many of them into untimely closure and this is not good for a country that is so large and blessed with so many natural resources. This power supply has continued to hinder our progress and development.

The main thrust of this Motion this morning is that we, being the Representatives of the people, would be enabled to have a graphic knowledge of what has transpired within the last few years in the Power Sector. It all appears that the Power Sector has become a bottomless pit into which government has continued to invest huge sums of money without getting results. The questions we must continue to ask ourselves as a nation and as government are: Can we continue like this? What are the proposals for an improvement in the management of our Power Sector for the purpose of optimum results? Can we continue to close our eyes to the expenditure of billions and trillions of Nigerian currency in a venture that is not rewarding to the Nigerian populace?

I dare say, too, that as Representatives of the people, we owe our constituencies the constitutional duty and moral obligation to ensure that we continue to get rewards for the expenditure of public funds. This is

0339

0340

because we have been constitutionally empowered to approve government expenditures and we cannot sit down here and continue to approve expenditures for Power Projects that are not yielding the necessary results for the benefits of our people and our great nation.

It is as a result of the aforementioned reasons that I join the Sponsors of this Motion to support it and to ensure that the right thing is done.

Hon. Oyewole B. Diya (Shomolu): Mr. Speaker, as the Mover of this Motion has rightly said, this is not a matter of whether you are in the Minority or Majority Party; it is a matter that concerns every Nigerian.

I am from Lagos State and I know the problems we face when it comes to NEPA or PHCN. It has become so difficult for anybody now to do business in Nigeria. I could remember that Michelin Company, about a year ago, packed up complaining that the money they spent on generator alone was too enormous. Do you know what we have lost? Their workers lost their jobs.

Some time ago, MTN said that they spent about ₦660 million every month on diesel. If there had been steady power supply, definitely this amount would have been ploughed into the economy and we know what that means. If there is steady light, nobody would want to travel out of this country. There are two problems facing this country; they are the issue of light and water problems. If we have these two amenities, definitely, Nigeria would be a stable country in which everybody would love to stay.

The people of Lagos State would like to support this Motion one hundred *per cent*.

Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha (Isuikwuato/Umu-Nneochi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very important for us to realise that the issue on our hands is not whether power is a problem. We all know that power is a problem in this country. We also know that a lot of money have been put into power generation and it is an open fact that these monies have not translated to anything that we can see.

What we have seen over the years is the change of name from National Electric Power Authority to Power Holdings Corporation of Nigeria and removing old bill boards and putting new bill boards and changing the colours of buildings and all that.

For me, it is time that we should rise up to ask questions. Inasmuch as I am supporting this Motion, I would add that we should amend the first prayer that says: *mandate the Committee on Power and Steel to carry out a comprehensive and thorough investigation to include for this Committee to conduct a Public Hearing.*

Nigerians want to know. We want to ask questions. We want to see the people one on one and ask what has gone wrong. We should be able to ask them, what did you do and what did you not do? This is so that by the end of the day all of us would come out to know, at least, where water had passed under the bridge; because I know that a lot of water had passed under the bridge.

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdul (Alkaleri/Kirfi): Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the energy debate in Nigeria is certainly a very critical and even a painful one. There is no overstating or underscoring this fact. That is the fundamental issue of stable and sustainable power supply to our economy and our existence.

It is against this background that I want to contribute to say that while we are seeking to reform the energy sector of our economy, we need to consider some principal issues in supporting this Motion and what our nation should do.

Firstly, I feel that from the earlier contributors before me, we need to go back to the basics as we reform the energy sector. What do I mean by that? Really, we need to look at the reasons for our failure from the past till now and then we can set definite objectives as to where we want to go.

Secondly, we have to note the need for the decentralisation of our energy sector *ab initio* and this decentralisation can take many lines or forms. That means we can decentralise along power generation, transmission and distribution which was feebly attempted, but we do not have to have eighteen companies to do that.

Thirdly, we have to also look along these lines of generation, transmission and distribution in regional form, which means we generate, transmit and distribute regionally. Then, from here, we can now have this issue of diversification of our energy sources from non-renewable to renewable. We can also look at it from the issue of natural endowment from each region and that is, hydro, bio fuel, thermal, geo-thermal, solar,

0341

desalination like in Lagos where we can get salt, water, energy and even nuclear.

Mr. Speaker, when we carry out this decentralisation, based on endowment and region, we can then go into the introduction of power and energy trading from one region to another to bridge the gap.

Finally we have to work out a programme aimed at sensitising our people, because there are technical issues involved as we reform the energy sector.

Hon. Eziuche Chinwe Ubani (Obinwa/Ugunagbo/Osisioma): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Mover of this Motion because the Motion is very straight and very obvious.

We have had problems with power supply in this country. The energy crunch has been here for a very long time and successive regimes have introduced one programme or the other, but at the end of the day we can conclude from now that a lot of lip service had been paid to this very critical sector.

Central to the problem we have in the telecommunications sector is the issue of power. It goes right down to health management and just everything we do. We were talking about the textiles companies the other day, and the major reason why they left and went away with several jobs to other competing economies was because of the issue of power.

Therefore, we are aware of what the last administration did for eight years. The power problem was approached through several task forces, several management committees and all sorts of transformations as my Colleagues have said. I think what we need to do, as this Motion requires, is a comprehensive audit of the programmes of the last eight years and beyond it, if we can manage that.

We need to also look at the investment profile, because we talk about US\$10 billion spent in the energy sector in the last eight years and we have nothing to show for it. It shows that something is wrong. This is because we get from sources such as journals that you can do a power plant for about US\$1 billion or even less. Therefore, it means that it represents a monumental failure of some programme.

I support that we need to conduct a very straightforward and deep audit on what we have done

0342

so far in the power sector in the last eight years. We also need to find a way to encourage the President to do something very drastic on the power sector.

If we take a look at the budget of this year, I do not think that this administration just as yet has a hand on what it wants to do with that sector. I think that when we do this investigative hearing, we would be able to reprogramme the government in terms of what it needs to do.

Therefore, I support that instead of just asking them to investigate, I think a public hearing is quite appropriate in this case.

Hon. Binta Masi Garba (Madagali/Michika): Mr. Speaker, we have talked about this power problem over and over again and the only solution that I can see is for us to have a state of emergency in the power sector to bring them to their knees.

I want to digress a little. There was an ugly incident that happened in Kaduna and when I was opportune to be a Member representing Kaduna South Federal Constituency in 2000, we were able to reconnect the sub-station which is in *Angwan Goro* where the ugly incident happened. The residents of that area took the laws into their hands because since 2002 when the sub-station was put in place power was not linked to the area. I was shocked and amazed to hear that.

The essence of the sub-station that was established there was to electrify part of Kaduna South where majority of the industrial companies were situated. However, it was unfortunate that other alternative sources had to give way for the Power Holdings Company to take up their responsibilities.

South Africa, which has a population of over 40 million people, generates up to 40,000 megawatts which she distributes to South Africa. Benin and Niger Republics get their power supply from Nigeria. When you go to Benin Republic you hardly notice any power failure. Surprisingly, the Government of this country promised us 10,000 megawatts and up till now it is below 3,000 megawatts; I think it is about 2,000 megawatts. It is so shocking that the Nigerian Government spent over ₦1.3 trillion on our Power Stations and there is nothing to show for it. Instead of getting 10,000 megawatts, we are now battling with 2,000 to 2,500 megawatts.

0343

I am of the opinion that, indeed, a State of Emergency should be placed on the Power Sector. We cannot spend money everyday and cannot get anything out of it.

Hon. Mustapha Aliyu Tsanyawa (Tsanyawa/Kunchi): Mr. Speaker, I have heard all the contributions towards the problems bedeviling our Power Sector. However, if we are serious and honest to ourselves, declaring a state of emergency in the Power Sector by Mr. President is not enough. What this House should encourage Mr. President to declare is a Scientific and Management Revolution.

What I mean is that he needs first to stop the importation of generators. If you go to Aso Rock, there are so many generators there. If we are serious, why do we have to buy these generators day by day? Secondly, the Management of the Power Sector has to either be removed or suspended, owing to the huge sums of money pumped into this Power Sector without any output. Thirdly, among the political class, military class and the academicians, honest and sincere Nigerians should be gathered together and given a specific time frame on how to develop and improve the Power Sector in Nigeria.

As I said earlier, to declare a State of Emergency in the power sector cannot be the answer to this power problem. This is because every house in Nigeria has a generator.

Hon. Kolawole Ismaila (Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Iia): Mr. Speaker, we have to thank the Mover of the Motion because this Sector is the most problematic sector in Nigeria today and it is giving us a lot of concern.

In fact, the image of all of us who are in the Government could not be redeemed unless we redeem this Sector. The condemnation we are receiving from our people today is as a result of the problem we are having in the Sector.

In the first instance, before we can go ahead to declare any State of Emergency, there is the need to ask ourselves certain questions: What happened to the moneys already expended on the Sector in the past eight years? How were the moneys expended? Why have we not been able to have positive results? Is it because of technical problem, or because the money was not enough or because those in charge do not have necessary the materials to tackle these problems?

0344

We all know that because of the failures we are getting from this Sector, our economy has been crippled and this had led to the collapse of so many industries. I must say that because of the failure of the Sector, the reading habit of our students has changed for the worse. You can see the impact of this in the nearest future, both in our economy and the society as a whole.

As a result of this, I am in support of declaring the State of Emergency, but certain questions must be asked and answered before we go ahead.

Hon. Dave Salako (Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North): Mr. Speaker, this Motion has come at the appropriate time. I want to join other Colleagues to thank the Mover of this Motion. The importance of this Motion cannot be over-emphasised. Every Nigerian believes that the power sector is not performing to its expectation. The power sector has failed Nigerians and that is the reason why it is important that Mr. President should declare a state of emergency on this sector.

I believe that a state of emergency encompasses many things, including looking at the past contracts that have been awarded without any performance. We read in the papers recently that some of our Agencies spent about ₦400 million for generators. Of course, we are all aware that most of our industries packed up because of lack of efficiency in this sector.

Every Nigerian wants bread and butter on the table. This sector has disappointed us, and till today bread is a scarce commodity because the sector has not played its role. Most bread makers are on generators and that has a dominion effect on the food we put on our tables. Besides, foreign investors that should have come to Nigeria to establish industries have refused to come because this infrastructure has failed.

One of our Colleagues just said here today that we have donated power to one of the countries in the west coast – but you do not give what you do not have. We have no power here, why are we donating? Well, that is another question that we must ask ourselves. Lights do not blink in these countries but here in Nigeria, of course, you are just lucky if you have light in your home once a week.

I want to join other Colleagues in saying that Mr. President should look at this critically. In particular, he has also mentioned recently that the previous administration spent about ₦10 billion without any

0345

results. How far can we go with this type of attitude? So, I enjoin other Colleagues to please support this Motion.

Hon. Kayode Idowu (Odo-Otin/Ifelodun/Boripe): I just want to say with all emphasis that the seriousness attached to this Motion depends on the way and manner we handle it in this honourable House.

I am in full support of this Motion and I want to suggest that it should not only be in the power sector that the President should declare a state of emergency. We should declare state of emergency to the users, especially those in the government. As users of electricity lights, if you have generators as alternative, you will not be serious in solving this particular problem. If the light goes off today, the President is sure that he has a generator that will come on automatically and provide light. If Governors or the people in governance and those in the power sector have a means of surviving, they will not know the effect of what they are doing.

What I am saying in essence is that we should declare state of emergency to people in power using generators. I suspect that in this country, there is what is called biased system of government. Some people are ruling indirectly, trying in one way or the other to sabotage the efforts of people in managing the power sector of this country. Therefore, we have to be serious in this regard. So, it has to be included that those using generators, including the National Assembly, should be included in the state of emergency to be declared.

Hon. Nasiru Muhammed (Abuja Municipal/Bwari): It is very important and imperative for this Motion to be supported by all hon. Members in this House. This is because the multiplier effect of the poor power supply in Nigeria needs not be over emphasised. Nigeria has specifically been made to be a dumping ground for all sorts of generators. In fact, some companies in China, Taiwan and others, have been set up purposely to supply generators to Nigeria. It is most unfortunate that so many incidences, disasters have been recorded by virtue of the use of very poor generators. It is also unfortunate that generators have become part of domestic needs virtually by every family in Nigeria.

The Speaker: Hon. Nasiru, are you reading from a paper?

Hon. Nasiru Muhammed: No, I am not reading.

0346

The Speaker: Please, round off your contribution.

Hon. Nasiru Muhammed: I said it is quite unfortunate that Nigeria has been made a dumping ground for generators and that virtually every Nigerian home has been made to need a generator with so many consequential effects. Nigerians have cried so much that they have lost their tears. I am sure Mr. President will not want to see Nigerians crying for something else. There is a need for this declaration of state of emergency in the power sector.

Hon. Suleiman U. Agidani (Apa/Agatu): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Sponsor of this Motion on imperatives of very vibrant power sector in this country and the need for us to reform the reform. I know as of fact that we have a Seven-point Agenda which we could not accomplish without revitalising the Power Sector. We have the MDGs which we cannot actualise without a vibrant power sector. We have the Vision 2020 which we cannot actualise without a vibrant power sector. Therefore, the need for a strong Power Sector in this country cannot be over emphasised.

What is the major prayer of this Motion? We are asking the House Committee on Power and Steel to carry out an investigation. If we are going to do an investigation it means we cannot pass judgement before we get the outcome of the investigation. Maybe we have to shift ourselves and wait for the outcome of the investigation because certain investments may not be able to turnout miracles overnight. If we are asking our Committee on Power and Steel to do an investigation, I think it is only appropriate for us not to over-stretch the blaming side of the coin to a point where we may not appreciate the outcome of the investigation.

I believe, of course, that we should urge the Committee on Power and Steel to do a thorough investigation, including public hearing, to allow Nigerians make inputs on the causes the failures of the past.

Sincerely, I want to end this address by asking a rhetorical question. The US\$10 billion that we are talking about was actually a discovery from the Executive arm of government. What happened to our oversight functions in the last House? Why, did the House Committee on Power and Steel not discover this from the Legislative side to challenge the Executive then? The Legislature waited for the Executive to find out that US\$10 billion was invested in futility.

0347

I think we want to challenge our appropriate Committees of this House charged with the responsibilities over various critical sectors to be up and doing in their oversight functions so that we do not carry out investigations after wastages.

Hon. Ubale Jakada Kiru (Bebeji/Kiru): Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to contribute to this debate, not just because I wanted to speak but because in addition to being one of the Sponsors of this Motion, I had prepared a similar Motion earlier on which I had to stand down because of this particular one.

I think it is agreed by virtually all Nigerians that the Power Sector has failed us woefully. It is easy to identify this failure in every sector: in the manufacturing sector, in the social sector, agricultural sector and even in the religious sector. This is why this honourable House needs to address this issue most critically.

In supporting this Motion, I would like to use a case study to illustrate the failure, which is why I am supporting the Prayers contained in the Motion. I want to use Kano State in particular as a case study.

In 1986, when I was the Director-General, Kano State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, there were 480 working industries in Kano State. Unfortunately, as at 1999, there were 120 working industries, all others have closed down.

So, when the former President Obasanjo promised on 29th May, 1999 that he was going to improve the situation by the end of that year, I thought it was a blessing. Unfortunately, eight years after President Obasanjo took over power, what we are witnessing in Kano as at today is that we have less than 70 industries that are working. Even those working are in most cases doing so at below 30 *per cent* of their capacity utilisation. You could now see evidently that whatever amount of money the then President must have spent could be assessed as a result of that expenditure over this period of time.

Secondly, the situation has not only stopped at the closure of industries, it has also affected potential investors. There are people both locally and abroad who would want to invest their money in the manufacturing sector of Nigeria. Unfortunately, however, because of the fear that they may not have

sufficient electricity supply to their industries, they had to look for alternative places to invest.

Thirdly, the problem of insufficient supply of electricity has made the cost of production too high which makes our industries very uncompetitive. Therefore, you can have goods from other countries of the world which sell at much cheaper price, because they produce at much lower costs.

These are some of the reasons why this honourable House needs to look at this Motion very critically. This is also why this House needs to know exactly how much money was spent in the last eight years, how it was spent and what the results exactly are, so that we can be in a position to advise this country on how best we could use the money allocated to the Power Sector.

Hon. Bala A. Kuta (Shiroro/Rafi/Munya): Mr. Speaker, this is a Motion that affects not one, two or three people but a Motion that affects the entire nation and as such this Motion really needs to be addressed immediately.

I wish to say that if this Motion could not have come earlier than this then it could not have come later than now. Because of the importance of power supply to the nation, the nation has been losing so much due to lack of power generation all over the nation. As such, I, from the Power State and representing the power generating area, that is Shiroro, with my interaction particularly with the people working at the power station, was made to understand that there are some saboteurs who do not really want to see the success of power generation in this country.

In my contribution to this I would urge this honourable House to please include in the prayers that apart from the declaration of the state of emergency, investigation be also conducted with a view to finding out who are those saboteurs in that sector and possibly bring them to book so that this could serve as a deterrent to others.

Hon. Godfrey A. Gaiya (Jaba/Zangon-Kataf): Hon. Speaker, I want to first and foremost agree very well with Hon. Ndurne and all the people who had spoken before now.

The truth is that the US\$10 billion that had been spent in the power sector is a very colossal waste, particularly when the situation between now and when

0349

0350

the money was spent has not improved at all. This colossal waste came from two sources.

Number one is the so-called NIPP project, that is, Nigeria Independent Power Programme. Since 1999 till date this project has gulped several billions of Naira. Before the former President left office it was said that five of these NIPP projects were completed; it was also said that he commissioned three of these projects before leaving office. These projects were said to be at Omoku, Papalanto and Omotosho. As we are speaking here, none of these so-commissioned projects is producing even a single megawatt of electricity, yet we were told that several billions of Naira must have been paid on these projects.

Hon. Speaker, the second one is in the area of transmission lines. These transmission lines were intended to convey power from the NIPP to all over the country and 32 of such transmission lines were said to have been awarded between 1999 and 2007. We were told that apart from the Shiroro to Abuja transmission line, none is on-going. Yet, billions of naira has also been paid. This country is wallowing in darkness, despite the huge amount of money spent. Nigerians are very interested in knowing how these billions of Naira were spent.

Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon (Oredo): Mr. Speaker, I probably would remain recumbent, having listened to the submission of those who have been speaking before, the submissions that I am *imperia material* with. However, I am still tempted to lend my voice for about three fundamental reasons.

First, I was an insider by that time, and what I mean by *that time* is that, I was a member of the Power Committee and we had the privilege to visit some of these power stations. I was not surprised when you asked after the hon. Member that represents the Mambila Power Plant. Mambila power project is a case study, showcasing the pitiable *dismapisma*, showcasing the lugubrious governmental *disco-bolus*, showcasing how monies have been purportedly spent on very sensitive institutional areas and yet, has ended in complete *fiasco*. Nigerians and the whole world for that matter, are probably expecting that magic is going to flow there from the Mabila Power Project for example. But with all sense of responsibility and humility, I say to you, Mr. Speaker and hon. Members, that when the Committee on Power visited the Mambila Power Project, we were in a state of *lachrymosm* because all the whole talk and ground

breaking ceremony that the former President bestowed himself with, when they went to commission the project, it was mere theoretical. They were still doing geo-physical survey. That is the extent to which the country has been taken for a ride. I am happy that it took a very sober, *tactum* and very reclusive President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who is not given to talking and idle statements, to say that the sum of \$10 billion has gone down the drain. That speaks volumes for the colossal somersault that has happened with the Power Sector in the last eight years.

I am *imperia material* with the Prayers of this Motion, equally for the reason that this House is at the historical threshold of passing the 2008 Appropriation Act. Therefore, today, I first saw the *locus penitential* to send signals to the entire country and those who have responsibility to ensure the country works, that the House of Representatives would not take again any *laissez faire* and latitudinarian disposition and sponsor election through public funds. It is for these reasons that I am in complete *simulacrum* with the terms and averment of this Motion.

I thank you for your indulgence.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, we cannot all speak today. So, I am going to allow Hon. Sam-Tsokwa to please, speak.

Hon. Albert Tanimu Sam-Tsokwa (Takum/Donga/Ussa/Special Area): Mr. Speaker, I come from Taraba State and when you called for the Member representing Mambila and he was not on the Floor of the House, I thought I was going to put in one or two words in respect of Mambila Hydro Power Station. My Colleague, Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon, has done just that and all that remains is to say, I lend my voice to what he has said and to what every other hon. Member had said on the Floor here in respect of this Motion.

This Motion is a situation where we would say, the document speaks for itself. If out of 360 Members and about 100 are sponsoring this Motion, it is very clear that the entire House will definitely lend its weight to this Motion.

The important thing here is that we agree that so much money had been put into the power sector with little or no returns at all. So, what this Motion seeks to do is to ask this honourable House to ask its Committee on power to look into how this money was used, whether it was used appropriately and whether it was

0351

inadequate; in which case, this House can recommend that more money should be put there. If it was wasted, the House should decide on what should happen. Therefore, it is appropriate that the Power Sector requires a revolution and that revolution cannot be carried out without a declaration of emergency in that sector.

Hon. Isah S. Ibn Bello (Bida/Gbako/Katcha): Mr. Speaker, I am worried and concerned about the issue raised in this Motion because it will interest you and I want to crave the indulgence of my Colleagues to say that my State harbours three Hydro Power Dams. They are in Shiroro, Jebba and Kainji and these are the three outstanding working Hydro Dams as far as the issue of power in this country is concerned.

We are worried because we presented a case in this Chamber before. There has been too much disaster and the effect which the dams have on our people year after year is pitiable; houses and farmlands are submerged and a lot of animals die because of the release of water from the dams. This causes a lot of concern in the various States which harbour these hydro-power generating stations. When we talk of Power, we are talking about \$10 billion for a country that is very serious in the generation, distribution and transmission of the Power.

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir (Minjibir/Ungogo): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Speaker: Hon. Sani Minjibir, what Order?

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to call the attention of the House to Order IX, Rule 4 which says:

A member must confine his contributions to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant there to.

The Speaker: Hon. Sani Minjibir, this is a huge subject and I believe that Hon. Shaba Ibn Bello is within the subject matter. Hon. Shaba, could you please conclude your contribution.

Hon. Isah S. Ibn Bello: I am worried because the immediate villages around hydro-power stations could not benefit from it; and we do not want to be seen as militants. We could as well raise a team that would blow up the said high transmission wire thereby creating problem for the country. I understand that the

0352

only way we can express our feelings is to bring it before this honourable House to help us out on this matter.

The Speaker: Hon. Shaba Ibn Bello, it is all right. Thank you.

Hon. Terngu Tsegba (Gboko/Tarka): Mr. Speaker, what we seek to do this morning is what has been conferred on this honourable House by Sections 88 and 89 of the Constitution, to investigate government businesses and to expose inefficiency and corruption. There is no secret that this is just one of the sectors where a lot of corruption has been committed in the past. We have the transport sector, the railways, road, security and the mother of all, the petroleum sector.

In 1999 when the reverred Bola Ige became the Minister of Power, he gave this nation a timetable of six months within which we were expected to have 10,000 megawatts. Unfortunately, the late Bola Ige was reassigned within the shortest possible time to the Justice Ministry. Maybe, that is why we are where we are today.

The World Bank has consistently revealed that 80 per cent of corruption in this country rests in the Presidency. Yet, our agencies fighting corruption has never looked at that direction; rather, they are busy chasing Governors and Local Government Chairmen who print text books and other things. I think this is the time for us to call every agency of government to look towards this direction.

It is no secret that we hurriedly went to install gas turbine at huge sums of money when we knew that there was no gas to service these turbines. Most of the gas so collected had been sold twenty years in advance. Today, 80 to 90 per cent of the gas turbines which were hurriedly installed between 2005 and 2007 have been lying waste. This is what we should all look at.

We have only paid lip service to the hydro sector which would have complimented the gas turbines. It is a known fact that the Mambila Power Plant in Taraba State would have generated 2,000 to 4,000 megawatts, yet only ₦800 million was paid for the feasibility study there and the contractor had since vanished from the site. When the Committee on Power sought to look into this, the contractor was nowhere to be found. Several times budgetary proposals had been made to close up the loop between Enugu through

0353

Makurdi to Plateau. Some of you may not know the effect of this in other parts of the country.

Let me quote from a book written by the former President: *The Animal called Man*. I think what this country has done to Benue State, any of you who had read that book would agree with me that it is just that title. This is a State created in 1976; this is a State which has not been linked to the national grid, so we cannot indulge in any productive activity.

It is common sense to know that Power as a cost of production accounts for 80 *per cent*. So, you can imagine when we are talking about other places that have epileptic power supply and you are talking of a place that does not have power at all. Yet the former President and former administration continued to pay lip service to this situation, even though the President referred to electricity in Benue State as lantern, which I think was most unfortunate.

When we came in 1999 we promised Nigerians to improve every sector of the economy. Abuja then was not used to this epileptic power supply. Let us not do something that would make Nigerians cry for General Abacha one day. The manner in which we went and the way we are going, people would wake up one day and prefer to have a General Abacha.

It is on record that during General Abacha's tenure it was a crime for anybody to say there was a power failure in this city. As we speak this morning this hallowed Chamber is being run on a generator. Somebody said we should also declare a state of emergency on people who have power. Electricity here is being run on generator and that is why we are privileged to have what we have in this Chamber.

When we were opposing the continuous stay in office of the former President through the third term bid, these were some of the reasons we gave; that we cannot continue to have people who will continue to deceive Nigerians, to pay lip service to very important sectors of the economy like Transport, Power and Petroleum.

I urge the Committee on Power to do a thorough job here to unravel who is behind or who was behind the massive corruption in the power sector and whom it was alleged is or was a beneficiary of the so-called US\$10 billion stolen in the Power sector.

I rest my case.

0354

Hon. Suleiman Abdurrahman Kawu (Sumaila/Takai): Mr. Speaker, I think a lot have been said in this Motion and I am here to align myself with all who contributed to this Motion.

Actually it is one of the popular Motions we have ever had in this House where more than one-third of the House spoke in support. Therefore, I think it is a great opportunity to ask hon. Members to identify ourselves with the Movers of this Motion.

At the same time we have to commend the courage of Mr. President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for exposing what was spent in the Power Sector for the past eight years. Hon. Members, very huge amount of money was spent - almost ten billion dollars. At that time, the total generation of Megawatts in Nigeria was over 2500 megawatts. With this amount, instead of the amount to improve that sector, it is stagnant. It decreased to less than 2000 megawatts. I think we have to do all we can in supporting this Motion and make sure that all those involved in this \$10 billion scam are brought to book and at the same time apprehended

Hon. Faruk Lawan (Bagwai/Shanono): Mr. Speaker, I want to join my Colleagues in supporting this Motion. I support this Motion because I believe that any country that seeks to develop must address its Energy Sector. For too long have we paid lip service to the issue of Energy Sector in this country, particularly to the issue of Electricity supply. As referred to by one of my Colleagues, in 1999 one of the promises made by Politicians in this country was that, *when elected into office we would dedicate our Energies and the resources of this country in improving the power Sector in Nigeria*. More than eight years later, we have very little to show for that commitment and also for the huge amount of money invested or wasted in this Sector.

Recently the President of this country was quoted as saying that a certain sum of over \$10 billion was wasted in that Sector. However, if this House conducts an X-ray of the amount of money that was actually appropriated to that Sector, I strongly believe that it is even beyond and above the \$10 billion that the President has mentioned. For the eight years that this House has passed Budgets, the Power Sector had always either been number one or number two in the colossal amounts of money that had been appropriated to any other sector in this country. I could recall that three years ago, in 2005, the former Administration

0355

went as far as engaging in extra-budgetary spending by taking money from the Federation Account to begin the construction of some Power Plants.

Today, as we speak, the power situation in this country has not improved. If you talk to experts in that sector, they tell you that the level of Power available is even below what it was when we took over in 1999. I believe this is criminal and that we owe Nigerians the responsibility for properly conducting a Public Hearing so that we can determine how much money was actually injected into this sector and how much of it was properly utilised and how much of it was corruptly stolen and how much of that can still be salvaged.

I believe we have that responsibility and I strongly suggest that we proceed to do that and I support the Minority Leader for this. Perhaps this is one of the very rare occasions where I support the Minority Leader, but this time around it is not about majority or minority, it is an issue that concerns all Nigerians.

I ask my Colleagues to support this Motion.

The Speaker: Thank you. The Floor now is for those who want to speak against the Bill. *(No response)*

Hon. Colleagues, I have a series of Amendments here, so I would start by calling Hon. Dilkon.

Hon. Leonard Wakkyai W. Dilkon (Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam): My contribution is an Amendment. I would want the Finance and Public Account Committees to investigate how much the Power Holding Company received from 1999 to date. This is because if you are just talking of \$10 billion, that was what government injected. What about the revenue collected by the Power Holdings of Nigeria?

Secondly, if you look at the Budget, every year Ministries and Organizations provide money for electricity and it runs into billions of Naira; what happens to this money? This is because everyday, the Power Holdings Company will inform us that it owes this Ministry so much money and yet there is a Budget provision for it. I would want us to mandate these two Committees to investigate, so that we will know actually how much was collected as revenue.

The Speaker: Hon. Kayode Idowu, your Amendment is to urge the President to declare state of

0356

emergency in the Power Sector and ensure that government agencies are barred from the use of generators?

Hon. Leonard Ogor, are you ready for your Amendment?

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): My Amendment will be in respect of prayer two, which says; *urge Mr. President to declare a state of emergency in the Power Sector to enable him tackle the problem of power supply.*

I am moving for deletion of this particular prayer in the sense that declaring a state of emergency is purely a constitutional issue. In following that procedure, the Constitution also has spelt out clearly under Section 305, the procedures to follow and under the circumstances that the President can declare a state of emergency.

The Speaker: Hon. Leonard Ogor, the Amendments I am calling for now are those who are speaking for the Motion.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: I am in support of the Motion.

The Speaker: Are you in support of the Motion?

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: Exactly!

The Speaker: Can you just restrict the debate to the Amendment?

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: Thank you, Sir.

The Speaker: Hon. Kazeem Salako, your Amendment is to add to prayer No. 2 the words: *before the end of the second quarter of this year.*

Hon. Kazeem Salako Ado Odo/Ota): Yes.

The Speaker: That is too far. Well, Hon. Abiodun Akinlade, your Amendment is that the *House should set up a Special Ad-hoc Committee to conduct investigation and Public Hearing?*

Hon. Positive, your Amendment is to *urge the President to declare a state of emergency in the Power Sector to enable him immediately begin to tackle the*

0357

0358

problem of steady power supply, which is also included in the seven-point agenda.

Hon. Aro Bamidele, your Amendment is to mandate the Committee on Power and Steel to come out with a comprehensive and thorough investigation into how the huge sum of money was expended on power generation, transmission and distribution from 1999 to 2007 without any commensurate result.

Is there any other Amendment in favour? Hon. Friday Itulah, you have the Floor?

Hon. Friday Itulah (Esan North East/South East): I believe that the Sponsors of the Motion mean every word that is used here. *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hon. Friday Itulah, what we need is your Amendment, please.

Hon. Friday Itulah: That is what I am saying.

The Speaker: That is all right; you can go ahead.

Hon. Friday Itulah: My Amendment is on prayer number one, and I am just trying to lay a preamble for it.

The Speaker: Please, just go ahead with the Amendment because we still have opportunity to vote on it.

Hon. Friday Itulah: Mr. Speaker, if you read prayer one, it is suggestive. It says that the Committee on Power and Steel should carry out a comprehensive and thorough investigation into how that sum of money was used or expended on power generation and distribution without any commensurable result.

My understanding of it is that this Committee is being asked to carry out a thorough investigation as to how the sum of US\$10 billion was expended and you do know that the sum of US\$10 billion translate to trillions of Naira by our own value. A Committee that has not more than 15 Members and that also has some other functions to perform outside carrying out an investigation is being asked to find out how a sum of US\$10 billion was spent in eight years. To me that is an uphill task and I believe that it is a mission that is impossible, because if you look at the problem we have in power generation today - *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hon. Friday Itulah, you will only be protected if you just mention your Amendment.

Hon. Friday Itulah: My Amendment is to the effect that the Committee should be asked to carry out investigation on why we are having these difficulties in realising full power in our country as against asking them to go into the nitty gritty of how US\$10 billion was spent over the last eight years; we may not have any solution.

The Speaker: Please write your Amendment and bring it forward.

Hon. Rufus Omeire (Ideato North/South): My own Amendment is with respect to Prayer number one and that is to hold Public Hearing and give the Committee five weeks to report back to this House.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, we have not even gone half way and I have about 12 Amendments here. It is amazing what happens in this House on Thursdays.

Hon. Shuaibu Hashimu Abdullahi (Awe/Doma/Keana): Mr. Speaker, my Amendment is on Prayer No. 2. I want to suggest to my hon. Colleagues that the prayer is unnecessary and should be deleted unless we are saying that we are supporting Mr. President. The President has already said on his inauguration day that he would declare a state of emergency in the power sector. How he wants to do it is left to him, but then we are not telling him or the nation anything new.

Therefore, I support the first prayer in the Motion, but the second prayer is unnecessary; we should do away with it.

The Speaker: Hon. Samson Positive, I have read your Amendment, but if you want to contribute, you can go ahead.

Hon. Ihiabe S. Positive (Dekina/Bassa): Mr. Speaker, having seen the importance of this Motion, I am thanking the Movers and I would also like us to thank the President.

The Speaker: Hon. Positive, please, go straight to the point.

Hon. Positive: My point is that the President equally in his Seven-Point Agenda highlighted this fact

0359

that there is lack of steady power supply in Nigeria, but the problem we have with this is that he has not been able to tackle it with immediate effect; and the Movers of this Motion are now urging him to please, start working on this factor. That is the basis of my Amendment.

That the President should be reminded that although it was part of his Seven-Point Agenda, it is necessary for him to begin to tackle it now because it is an enormous problem affecting Nigerians.

The Speaker: Thank you. The Floor is now open for those who want to speak against the Motion. Please, if you have any other Amendment write it down on paper and forward it to the Clerk.

Hon. Oluwole Oke (Ijesha North): Mr. Speaker, this Motion is very crucial and we have to be very critical about it. Power supply is one of the basic pre-requisite ingredients needed for economic development and growth. So, it is very essential to our being.

However, Mr. Speaker, we are all to share in this problem. For eight years now we have a standing Committee on Power and Steel. Annually, this same Committee receives budget estimates, appropriate same, conduct oversight function annually; and we have not received any Report of this nature from the same Standing Committee of the House.

We are looking at the Executive Arm of Government alone, what about the workers, the Power Holding Company Staff. In my own community we hardly have power supply, but every month the workers of Power Holdings Company intimidate my constituents to pay for bills for services they have not enjoyed! What about the revenue generated internally by Power Holdings Company? What about Heron Project? What about the lots of money sunk into this project?

It appears we are restricting our discussion to the Executive arm of Government. We should also share in the problems in this sector.

Hon. Asita Honourable O. (Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni/Ahoada West): Mr. Speaker, I share the passion of the Movers of this Motion, but I think that it is a Motion that should be opposed and I so oppose it.

I oppose particularly Prayer two of the Motion which seeks to ask Mr. President to declare a state of

0360

emergency. Apart from the constitutional requirements for a declaration of state of emergency, that prayer is presumptive. It is presumptive in the sense that it tells us clearly what prayer one intends to achieve. Prayer two ought to come out of the implementation of Prayer one.

I think that what is best for this Motion, if it will be passed by the House, is for a robust investigation of the activities - *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hon. Asita, you are speaking against the Motion and you are also expecting it to be passed by the House.

Hon. Asita Honourable O.: I am opposing Prayer two because it is presumptive. If Prayer two is passed by this House, it is presumptuous of what Prayer one aims to achieve *(Interruptions)*.

The Speaker: Hon. Asita, that is an Amendment.

Hon. Asita Honourable O.: Mr. Speaker, the Amendment has not been passed and it has not been adopted by the House. So, I assume that Prayer two is still part of the Motion. If Prayer two had been amended and removed from the Motion, I would not be speaking against the Motion.

I believe that the best thing to do is to delete Prayer two, so that the Motion can then be passed. This is because if we go on with a thorough investigation, it is only after a thorough investigation that we would be able to determine whether a state of emergency is required and what areas the Executive is going to address in the state of emergency that is going to be declared.

Hon. John Enoch Owan (Obubra/Etung): Mr. Speaker, in the first place, I am really at odds having to come in under those speaking against this Motion.

Firstly, I share quite some great friendship with the Mover of this Motion, but I believe that there are few issues that I would like to throw up; issues that I believe would provide us some kind of alternatives to what we are talking about.

In fact I really share in the concerns of the Mover of this Motion, but I believe, for example, that the point of departure between the Mover of this Motion and myself has to do with where to go and what to do in the

0361

face of enormous problems that we find in the Power sector.

I would like to put in perspective the fact that the issue about Power is an issue that in spite of how much sentiment and how much passion that we actually like to approach it, we need to do that with the idea and intention to add value to whatever problems that there are and whichever way forward that we would like to move.

An hon. Member mentioned that in the first four years or thereabout of the last government, the late Bola Ige had actually made a commitment that within six months he was going to fix the problems in the Power Sector. After six months, he hardly understood what the problem was.

When this government came into power, one of the first things that the President mentioned was in fact that he was going to declare a state of emergency on the power sector. The budget that was presently consumed has no provision in terms of expenditure about how to increase the present capacity of power in the country. If it remains like that, then we would have gone five years backwards in terms of whatever improvements and advances we are supposed to record in the Power Sector.

Quite a number of Members were concerned about that and thought that as a National Assembly we must engage in some expenditure in the budget we approve on that sector but I am aware, for example, that the President had also indicated the fact that he has set up a Strategic Committee to actually understand what the matter is, because he appreciated the fact that the solution is not going to come in terms of continuing to throw in money into that sector but that we need to understand what is needed to be done.

Some time last week, there was an indication that in the first few weeks of February or by the end of February, the actual state of emergency was actually going to be declared on the Power Sector. Now, that is coming from the Executive angle. My interest in this Motion and the way I am coming in, is the fact that as a Legislature, we must seek to introduce some legislative initiatives on the problems in the Power Sector.

I believe, for example, that the matter is so encompassing and so strategic to our national interest to the effect that I do not think that like all other matters, we throw up matters here; we said they should

0362

be investigated and they get investigated. The critical issue is beyond the investigation. What value are you making to improve the problem as you have identified it? I believe, for example, that just like in the Executive, the President is championing the idea of declaring the state of emergency. In this House, I believe that we can seek to urge the Speaker of House of Representatives to convene a Stakeholder's forum to discuss the issues about the power sector. In the course of that discussion, issues of investigation are going to be implicated, issues about what new ideas need to be done are going to be implicated and we would have added some kind of value to the issue about power sector. I do not think, for example, that this issue is going to be tackled and that the solution to this is going to be appreciated in terms of throwing up the Motion and say *go and investigate*. We will not do anything more than we have done in the past.

Extension of Sitting

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko-Edo): I do move that this House suspends Order IV, Rule 2(2) to enable us sit beyond 1 p.m.

The Speaker: Leader, apparently that is not meant to be a suspension, it is in accordance with our Rules.

Hon. Akogun Tunde: That is all right.

The Speaker: Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): I do second the Motion as moved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do extend the Day's Sitting in accordance with Order IV, Rule 2(2) to enable it sit beyond 1.00 p.m.

Hon. Andrew I. Uchendu (Ikwerre/Emohua): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with my good Friend and Brother, Hon. John Enoch, when he said in his submission that we should come up with a new initiative, and I think that is the direction this House should take.

The issues that have been raised on this Floor today are issues that bothered majority of Nigerians and that led finally to the reform of this sector. I want to remind ourselves that it took the National Assembly

0363

almost six years to pass the Power Sector Reform Bill and the Act is just being implemented and I think it has taken quite some time. A number of the provisions are being implemented. Right now, advertisements have been placed and proposals received for the unbundling of the Power Holding Company into about 18 companies. As a country and as a nation, I do not think that we should move one kilometre ahead and 10 kilometres backwards. We should be shying away from these reviews of performance and all that. We are talking of global review of the entire system. If we are talking of the investigation of a particular contract or sector, it may be the Hydro-Sector or Thermal Sector, it makes sense to me. If we pass this Motion this morning, I can tell you that we would only come up with a bundle of papers - *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: I beg your pardon, if we do what?

Hon. Andrew Uchendu: If we pass the Motion as proposed, we would be saddled with a bundle of papers that this House would find difficult to make any sense from.

Several hon. Members: No!

The Speaker: Hon. Uchendu, you are protected. Please, go ahead.

Hon. Andrew Uchendu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in compliant with parliamentary procedures and conventions. The House Rule has most adequately provided for what prayer (1) is seeking to achieve.

If you go to Order XVII, Rule 53, at page 143, it says there that the Power Committee had been established and it has the power to investigate and carry out oversight functions. What are the oversight functions? Find out the provisions and appropriations that the National Assembly has so far made. How far have they been implemented? Are they in line with approvals?

Hon. Dino Melaye (Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu): Point of constitutional order!

The Speaker: Hon. Uchendu, please hold on. Yes, Hon. Dino, please.

Hon. Melaye Dino: Hon. Speaker, my Colleague just said that the prayer in the Motion does not enjoy

0364

the powers in our House Rule, but I want to quote Section 88 of the Constitution.

The Speaker: Hon. Dino Melaye, you may need to withdraw that point of Order. He did not say so.

Hon. Melaye Dino: That is all right, I withdraw it.

The Speaker: However, Hon. Uchendu, this Motion is seeking for the House to grant the power of Public Hearing and, therefore, it is not in conformity with the Rule that is mentioned in our books.

Hon. Andrew Uchendu: Mr. Speaker, the point I am making is that if the Committee is presenting to this House - *(Interruptions)*

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

The Speaker: Hon. Uchendu, please hold on. Hon. Leo Ogor, Order what?

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: Mr. Speaker my point of Order is Order XIV, Rule 3(3) which says:

Each Committee is authorized at any time to consider such investigation and study it as it may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibility under this Rule.

If this Motion is as it is stated here, except it is a Public Hearing, it is in line with what the House Rule says.

The Speaker: Hon. Leo Ogor, are you repeating what I have just said?

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: No. If we are looking at the tenet of the Motion here, it is not a Public Hearing. It is an Investigative Hearing.

The Speaker: I said he is seeking for a Public Hearing. You have heard the proposed Amendments. There are about 15 of them.

Hon. Leo Okuweh Ogor: The Amendments have not been read to us, Mr. Speaker.

0365

The Speaker: Why is it that you cannot wait till then? We are in order. Hon. Uchendu, you can please carry on.

Hon. Andrew I. Uchendu: Mr. Speaker, I pray that we reduce the interruptions. When we talk of declaring a state of emergency, what in effect are we talking about? If the government that is in power accepts that power is now one of the seven-point agenda, I think we should give the government some time. The budget is yet to be passed. We are yet to move into the field.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Uchendu.

Hon. Uchendu: I am yet to be done, Mr. Speaker, unless you direct otherwise.

The Speaker: It is also interesting to know that Rivers State Members of the House of Representatives seem to have a problem with something that has to do with emergency. Every time there is a talk on emergency, Members from Rivers State seem to oppose it.

Hon. Uchendu: Mr. Speaker, it is not true.

Hon. Peter Linus Umoh (Oron/Mbo/Okobo Udung Uko/Ume): Mr. Speaker, the prime Mover of this Motion, Hon. Ndume, is a very good Friend. Ordinarily, I owe him a duty to support Motions he brought forward and moved, but on this particular issue the subject matter is directly parallel and different from the prayers being sought. The prayers being sought do not support the subject matter and they go contrary to the wish of average Nigerians generally. It is on this basis that I am compelled to oppose this Motion.

Therefore, I am advising the prime Mover and other joint Movers to retrieve this Motion and recapture it in the way that it will capture the wish of Nigerians. The wish of Nigerians is that there should be light as it is in South Africa, India and other places. The President of Nigeria owes Nigerians a duty to study what is going on in other countries where power is working and to also emulate them and let us have power.

In respect of the \$10 billion that is claimed to have been invested already, the wish of Nigerians and mine is that a Judicial Commission of Enquiry should be set up to carry out investigation so that those who are found to have stolen this money in the name of

0366

providing power for Nigeria and Nigerians will be brought to book. The President should not be afraid of anybody. We are here to do the wish of Nigerians. I am opposed to this Motion, Sir.

The Speaker: Hon. Umoh, your suggestion is to hand over the powers given to us in this House to a Judicial Commission. I wonder what some of our Colleagues will say about that.

Hon. Ukam Alex Ikot (Akamkpa/Biase): Mr. Speaker, on the face value of this Motion, one would be compelled to support the Motion, but permit me to register my opposition against this Motion. Looking at the two prayers as stated and moved by the Sponsor of this Motion, you will agree with me that the Motion calling for a comprehensive investigation into the huge sums of money spent in the power sector is more or less calling for a financial probe of the Power Sector.

You will also agree with me that in a normal situation there is no how you embark on the building of a house without carrying out a study on the soil. There are lots of things to be done first in the mind of anybody who wants to embark on building. It is not necessarily targeting how much that project will take. It has become part of our lives that today budgets are worked on the basis of how much is available not on the basis of what are the problems.

The proper thing for this House to do is first, to mandate the Committee on Power and Steel to carry out investigation into the problems of the Power Sector and not necessarily calling for financial probe of the Power Sector. Let us do the first things first.

Secondly, if there is any sector in this country that is even calling for a probe, I think it should be the NNPC. Let us first and foremost look into the problems of the Power Sector. Let us not embark on a journey on selective justice.

With reference to the second prayer that called for a declaration of emergency in the Power Sector, we know very well that it is not every accident victim taken to the hospital that would be referred to the emergency ward. First and foremost, you have to know what the problem is. Let us find out what the problem in the sector is before we talk of declaring state of emergency.

We do not even know what the problem is. I am begging this honourable House that the most important

0367

thing we should do right now is to look into the problem of the Power Sector and not to call for a probe. Otherwise, every other sector would come up with Motions. Is it the water, transport or what?

The Speaker: Hon. Alex Ikot, thank you.

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir (Minjibir/Ungogo): Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to clarify one issue before making my contribution. The issue I want to clarify is about the President who said that US\$10 billion had been sunk into the Power Sector without any effect in a positive direction.

During the Constitutional Amendment debate, it was mentioned in this House by my very self that One Trillion Naira had been spent in the Power Sector, that roughly translated into US\$10 billion and Hon. Gabriel Suswan, the present Governor of Benue State, concurred it at that time. So, that source of information came about from the National Assembly.

I was one of the Sponsors of this Motion, but because of the exigencies of the moment, I am forced to speak from the other side. When we are talking about Power reform, I make bold to ask, what readily verifiable, empirical indices are there to support the assumption that there was ever a power reform?

The Speaker: Hon. Minjibir, please hold on. Hon. Ibn Na'Allah, you wanted to say something.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Zuru/Fakai/Sakaba/D/Wasagu): I wanted to say that he cannot appropate and reprobate at the same time.

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir: I said before I began my contribution that I have now decided to speak from the other side. I am not doing any such thing.

The Speaker: Hon. Sani Minjibir, it will not be proper for us to come to this Floor to support and half way down the line we withdraw.

Hon. Sani Sale Minjibir: Mr. Speaker, I have already said that I have withdrawn that support. Hon. Na'Allah's interjection is not present in any of our Rules. So, please protect me.

The Speaker: Now, if anyone has any knowledge of any Order in our Rule books that says or proclaims

0368

that Hon. Saleh Minjibir cannot do what he is doing, that hon. Member should please speak up. If you do not have, then Hon. Minjibir should, please, carry on.

Hon. Sale Minjibir (Minjibir/Ungogo): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Please, hold on Hon. Minjibir.

Hon. Bala Na'Allah, do you have the Rule book with you? Hon. Minjibir, you are protesting. Just hold on.

Hon. Bala Ibn Na'Allah: Let me for the records say something.

The Speaker: You can say something for the records for other times but for now what Order?

Hon. Bala Na'Allah: It is a Constitutional Order, Mr. Speaker

The Speaker: What Section of the Constitution?

Hon. Na'Allah: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the Constitution with me now.

The Speaker: Hon. Na'Allah, remember the people of Sakaba are watching you on the Television. Could you please quote the Section of the Constitution?

Hon. Na'Allah: I have never claimed to be an encyclopedia of the Constitution, but for the records, Mr. Speaker -

The Speaker: That is all right, whenever you are ready you let us know.

Hon. Solomon Ita Enang (Itu/Tbiono Ibom): Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Chairman, Rules and Business, which Order?

Hon. Ita Enang: That is the Standing Order of the House of Representatives.

The Speaker: Please, quote from the Rules.

0369

0370

Hon. Ita Enang: It is trite, Sir; no Member can bring a matter to the Floor of the House and also withdraw if he so wishes.

The Speaker: Quote from the book, please.

Hon. Ita Enang: The Speaker shall interpret the Rules. I surrender to you.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwarzo/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, point of Order!

The Speaker: Hon. Dino Melaye, hold on for the Opposition Leader.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. Speaker, I am relying on Order VII, Rule 8(2)(a) on page 19 of our Rules. That is, under the functions of the Minority Leader. It says the Minority Leader shall:

(a) lead discussions on behalf of the Minority parties;

In doing this Motion as a Minority Leader, I consulted with my Colleagues in the Minority and specifically Hon. Sani Saleh Minjibir, before I put his name as a co-Sponsor of this Motion. For him to do a U-turn in this Chambers is something I do not really understand.

The Speaker: Hon. Ndume, your Order is ruled out of order.

Hon. Oladepo Oyedokun (Oluyole): Mr. Speaker, we are guided. *(Interruptions)*

The Speaker: Hon. Oyedokun, which Order?

Hon. Oladepo Oyedokun: I am sorry; it is not on any Order. I am raising a kind of Parliamentary convention. We are guided in this House, not only by the Rules of business but by Parliamentary Conventions and it is trite even by Parliamentary convention that you cannot move and at the same time be against. Based on that, Hon. Minjibir cannot propose and at the same time be against it.

The Speaker: Thank you. You are ruled out of Order again.

Hon. Dino Melaye (Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Order I, Rule 1(b) says:

In all cases not provided for hereinafter, or by Sessional or other Orders or practice of the House, the House shall by resolution regulate its procedure.

By the natural Parliamentary convention, this House will not allow a Member to put his name on a Motion and come back to say that he is not part of it. You can put it to Question and if you take a Resolution on this, once it becomes regulated and adopted, it can be exercised.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, this is exactly what happened. The Rule does not give us the answers to all the problems. We are at a cross road and we will take a decision on this now.

I would not allow any further debate on this again, but I would now put the Question which is to ascertain whether or not Hon. Minjibir could change his mind half way through the debate in respect of this Motion.

Question put and negatived.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, it seems as if we have a lacuna in our Rule books and we have sorted out that problem. Therefore, from now on no Member of this House of Representatives, with the precedence we have just set, can change his mind half way through a debate.

I am now going to put the Question, but before then we would go through the various Amendments. The mood the House is in right now, I doubt if some of these Amendments would fly. However, that is not to say that the Speaker is taking sides.

The first Amendment is from Hon. Idachaba. It reads:

To urge the President to declare state of emergency in the Power Sector to enable him tackle the problems of Power Supply and muster the political will to break PHCN's monopoly and order for immediate privatization of the Power and Communication Sector.

0371

The Amendment by Hon. Idachaba has not been seconded. Does anyone wish to second the Amendment made by Hon. Idachaba? (No response)

Amendment lapsed.

The Speaker: Hon. Bala Adamu Kuta's Amendment is; *apart from declaration of the emergency from the power sector, thorough investigation should be carried out and determine the saboteurs in that sector, with the view to bringing such people to book.*

Is there any Seconder? (No response)

Amendment lapsed.

The Speaker: The next one is from Hon. Solomon Agidani and he says: *Mandate the Committee on Power and Steel to carry out a comprehensive and thorough investigation and Public Hearing.*

Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Muhammed Ali Wudil (Wudil/Garko): I hereby second the Amendment as proposed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Speaker: Amendment by Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha says: *Mandate the Committee on Power and Steel to conduct a Public Hearing on the expenditure in the sector since 2000.*

Is there any Seconder?

All right, I think we have taken that already. Are you all right with that Hon. Nkiruka?

Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha: Yes.

The Speaker: Amendment to prayer No.2 is from Hon. Abdulkazeem Salako. That is to add the following: *To conclude before the end of the second quarter of this year.*

Is there any Seconder? (No response)

Amendment lapsed.

0372

The Speaker: The Amendment from Hon. Akinlade states thus: *the House should set up a Special Ad-hoc Committee to conduct the investigation on Public Hearing.*

Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Adamu Kalba Gora (Kaltungo/Shongom): I do second the Amendment as proposed by Hon. Akinlade.

Amendment put and negatived.

The Speaker: Amendment from Hon. Samson Positive says thus: *Urge Mr. President to declare a state of emergency in the power sector to enable him immediately begin to tackle the problem of solid power supply. We have already taken that, but it is all right if you want to test your strength.*

Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon, would you please support him by seconding that Amendment, please.

Hon. Peter Linus Umoh (Oron/Mbo/Okobo Uduko/Urue): By virtue of my neighbourhood to my friend here, I hereby second the proposed Amendment.

Amendment put and negatived.

The Speaker: Hon. Mutu's Amendment is:

To mandate the House Committee on Power and Steel to carry out a comprehensive and thorough investigation, conduct a Public Hearing to the huge sum of money spent on generation and distribution and report back to the House within eight to ten weeks.

Is there any Seconder? (No response)

Amendment lapsed.

The Speaker: The second Amendment is: *to delete the second Prayer completely.*

Hon. Clever Marcus Ikisikpo (Ogbia): I hereby second the Amendment as proposed by Hon. Mutu.

0425

have just told us, I would expect that in doing this we should do justice and be fair.

I want to suggest, if it would be acceptable to the House, that we stand down the consideration of this Bill and get further explanation from the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission. This is because if we cannot increase the figures, then we can reduce; we do not have the powers to even do so without the proper input from them because these figures were arrived at after some workings.

The Chairman: We can reduce the figures, but we cannot increase.

Hon. Albert Tanimu S. Tsokwa (Donga/Ussa/Takum): Mr. Chairman, I lend my words to the views of the two hon. Members who spoke last.

If we look at the set up of the Courts, the Chief Judge of a State, the Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory, the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of a State and his counterpart, the Grand Khadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State; the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory and his counterpart the Grand Khadi are at par, so also are their Judges. If we have to be fair and in line with the Due Process that is preached, there is no reason why the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission should give him preferential salaries. If this House has discovered that there is unfairness, it is only appropriate that the matter still be referred to them for up-grading; or if we have to reduce, we have to reduce the salaries of the other categories that have been raised to make it at par. But definitely, we have no reason to reduce what has been recommended. It is only fair that we should hike up the salaries of those people that have not been fairly given, which we could only do by referring the matter back to the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission.

Hon. Ihiabe Samson Positive (Dekina/Bassa): Mr. Chairman, I think what my Colleague has just said is just to show us the minimum requirement to become a Chief Judge. I do not think he has been able to tell us how many years people have been at the Bar to get to these positions.

In the second instance, I am not a Lawyer but I know I am a very good Administrator. Various categories of positions attract various pays. This is because the minimum qualification requiring Lawyers

0426

to be 10 years at the Bar before they could become a Judge does not mean that there are some people who have been there for 25 years and who have not been able to get such positions. And where you get such people and in their ranking, using their Judicial Commission, you cannot just say that their salary should become the same. This is because there are certain yardsticks to be determined by the Judicial Service Commission before putting people in such positions. I think it would be absurd for us to tamper with what is internal to them here, in terms of remuneration which we are only to ratify with only the things that are available.

In line with that, therefore, I am of the opinion that they should go by the ranking in the order in which we have been given to discuss.

Hon. Samuel Whesu Sejoro (Badagry): Mr. Chairman, there is and there must remain ranking in administrations. The Chief Justice of the Federation is the Chief Administrative Officer of Judges of the Federal Courts, either Supreme, Appeal or High Courts and other extra Judiciary Organisations or Formations.

The Chief Judge of a State is the Chief Administrative Officer and is responsible for transfers and other things. So, how can he now be merged with his subordinates; is it because they are all Judges? Before, he attained the position of a Chief Judge, he must have attained so many years in the process.

The Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission has thought it wise to apportion salaries as they are. So, we should deem it fit to maintain these salaries that have been apportioned to all of them.

Hon. Isah Idris Umaru (Igabi): Mr. Chairman, actually, I want to lend my support to Hon. Agoro. The three Courts – Customary Court, Sharia Court and the Conventional Courts are all at par constitutionally. If you want to be fair to both of them, their salaries and wages are supposed to be equal.

So, I would concur with the hon. Member who said that since we cannot increase, it would tantamount to unfairness for us to reduce the ones given to some of these Judges who are deemed to be higher than the Grand Khadi and the Customary Court of Appeal Judges.

I would prefer that we probably defer the discussion of this and seek clarification from the

0375

0376

Hon. Rufus Omeire is seeking: *that the Report be brought back to the House within five weeks.*

Is there any Second?

Hon. Isah Idris Umaru (Igabi): Mr. Speaker, I wish to second the Amendment proposed by Hon. Omeire.

Amendment put and negated.

The Speaker: Hon. Uboh's Amendment which is an addition to Prayer No. 2 is that you add at the end of that sentence:

urgently embark on seeking alternative sources of power and supply especially through Solar, Wind and Mini-Hydro as it is practised in various developing countries all over the world.

Is there any Second?

Hon. Moh'd Salik (Dala): It is my pleasure to second the Amendment as proposed by Hon. Doris Uboh.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, before I put the Question, it may be advisable to truly seek alternative sources of power.

Amendment put and negated.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I may be forced to make a formal complaint. The House is in a killer mood right now. Please, we need to have a time frame to this. So I am going to read Hon. Doris Uboh's third Amendment which suggests that:

The House Committee on Energy conducts this investigation and report back to the House within four weeks.

Is there any Second? Yes, Hon. Halims Agoda, please.

Hon. Halims Agoda (Ethiopia East/Ethiopia West): I so second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, there is an Amendment here with no name. I believe the Member proposing it would kindly put up his hand when I read it out.

That the Committee should furnish the House with the total revenue collected between 1999 and 2007.

That is comprehensive, is it not? (No honourable Member owned up to the Amendment)

Amendment lapsed.

The Speaker: This one is from Isa Usman Ambaka. It reads:

That the Federal Government should set aside certain amount for the Power Sector to take care of the environmental neglect and the misery such power generation inflicts on the inhabitants of such areas.

Is there any Second? Yes, Hon. Shaba Ibn Bello, please.

Hon. Isah Shaba Ibn Bello (Bida/Gbako/Katcha): I think it is seconded.

The Speaker: Hon. Shaba, can you address the House appropriately.

Hon. Isah Bello: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Colleagues, I want to second the Motion ably moved by my Colleague.

Amendment proposed and negated.

The Speaker: This is from Hon. Godfrey A. Gaya and the Amendment seeks to: *set up of Ad-Hoc Committee of the House to conduct thorough value for money that will ascertain all contracts awarded in the Power Sector between 1999 - 2007 and bring to book all those found to have sabotaged the system.*

Is there any Second? (No response)

Amendment lapsed.

The Speaker: All right, this Amendment is from Hon. Muktar M. Ahmed and it says: *urging the*

0377

0378

President to declare a State of Emergency in the Power Sector within 1st Quarter of this year.

Is there any Second?

Hon. Kuta Bala Adamu (Shiroro/Rafi/Munya): I did not hear what you are saying because; I wanted to second the Motion.

The Speaker: Hon. Kuta, do you want to second this Amendment or not?

Hon. Kuta Adamu: Hon. Speaker, I wanted to second the proposal there and I raised my hand but you did not see me.

The Speaker: Hon. Kuta, this is an Amendment by Hon. Muktar M. Ahmed. I am asking for a Second to this Amendment. This Amendment is: *urging the President to declare a State of Emergency in the Power Sector within the 1st Quarter of this year.* Are you seconding this?

Hon. Kuta Adamu: I want to second the Amendment as proposed by my Colleague.

Amendment put and negatived.

The Speaker: We have already done Hon. Godfrey's Amendment.

All right, this is from Hon. Friday Itulah and it says: *The President should set up a Special Committee like the Committee on Electoral Reform to investigate the methods they are going to use on the Reforms in the Power Sector.* Is there any Second?

Some hon. Members: No.

Hon. Overah O. Joyce (Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie): Rt. Hon. Speaker. I do second the Amendment proposed by Hon. Friday Itulah.

Amendment put and negatived.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I will now put the Question on this Motion as amended.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House:

Noted that Power supply is one of the essential requirements for industrial, technological, economic and social transformation of any nation;

Worried that the Level of power generation in the country has declined from 4500MW installed capacity, it is generating between 3000 – 3200MW capacity only;

Disturbed that the last administration spent huge sums of money on power generation, transmission and distribution without commensurate results being achieved;

Concerned that despite repeated calls, orders and warnings by the Government of the day to the appropriate authorities to address these problems, there has not been any visible improvement;

Resolved to:

(i) Mandate the Committee on Power and Steel to carry out a comprehensive and thorough investigation and conduct a Public Hearing into how the huge sums of money was expended on power generation, transmission and distribution without any commensurate result and report back to the House within 4 weeks;

(ii) Urge Mr. President to declare a state of emergency in the power sector to enable him tackle the problem of power supply.

BILL

Student Union Activities (Control and Regulation) Act

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Student Union Activities (Control and Regulation) Act, Cap. S14 Laws of the Federation 2004 to Empower Institutions Highest Governing Body to Sanction Students and Bodies and Remove Clauses which Infringe on the Fundamental Human Rights of Students, 2008.

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The Second Order of the Day is the commencement of debate on the General Principles of an Act to Amend the Student Union Activities (Control and Regulation) Act Cap S.14 Laws of the Federation 2004 to empower Institution's Highest Governing

0379

0380

Body to sanction Students and Bodies and remove Clauses which infringe on the Fundamental Human Rights of Students, 2008.

I invite Hon. Ihiabe Samson Positive to move for the Second Reading of this Bill.

Hon Ihiabe Samson Positive (Dekina/Bassa): Hon. Speaker, this is a very vital Motion, but considering the killer mood of this House today, it might be dangerous to continue with it no matter how vital the Bill may be. *(Laughter)*

I understand that the Members of the House are tired because we have spent a lot of time here from 10.00 in the morning up to this period. I know that when we come back here again, the Bill would be adequately supported by my hon. Colleagues. I would allow them to go home and eat today.

On these bases, I humbly request that the Bill be stood down till the next legislative day. *(Applause)*

Bill accordingly stood down.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko Edo): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do adjourn till Tuesday, 5th February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Hon. Shehu Baba Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): Mr. Speaker, I do second the Motion that this House do adjourn till Tuesday, 5th February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 5th February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.50 p.m.