

National Assembly Debates (House of Representatives)

Wednesday, 8th September, 1999

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[Votes and Proceedings]

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 8th September, 1999

The House met at 11.35am.

PRAYER

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Speaker: Good morning, hon. Members. I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Friday, 3rd September, 1999

Hon. Kiyobas Audu Kere (Kaltungo/Shongom): Observation, Mr. Speaker. With your permission, I observed a few errors in the Proceedings of Thursday, 2nd September, 1999. If you permit me, I will mention them. On pages 129 and 130, sub-head 22, under *States and Local Governments*, the figure for Recurrent which is N34,564, 376. is not correctly reflected. The figure should read N34,570,370. The words and figures differ.

Some **Hon. Members:** Mr. Speaker, we do not have the document he is referring to.

Mr. Speaker: Please, the Secretariat is going to take care of all the typographical errors .

Hon. Kere: Mr. Speaker, the second error is under Head 23, Capital, the correct figure is N3 million and not N3 billion. The third is under Recurrent. The figure there is N121, 974, 406. 50k

The last correction is on page 130 under Head 28, Recurrent. The figure is N421,927, 696. 50k but in the question, the figure reads differently. The figure reads N421. 929 instead of N927, 696. 50k.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. The Secretariat is going to take care of all the typographical errors.

Hon. Ahmed Lawan (Bade/Jakusko): Mr. Speaker. hon. Colleagues, I want to raise a Matter of Urgent Public Importance, please.

Mr. Speaker: No, please.

OATHS

Mr. Speaker: Any Member-Elect who has not taken and subscribed the Oaths should please come forward. (No response)

Issuance of ID Cards

Hon. Esio O. Udoh (Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udu/Nguko/Urue/Offong/Oriko): Mr. Speaker. Sir, hon. Members, I beg to observe that about half of the Members of this House have not gotten their Identity Cards. I travelled home last week and I was stopped on the road by some security agents to identify myself. It is my belief, Mr. Speaker, that all Members of this House should have ID Cards. I do not have one, Sir.

Some hon. Members: We want car stickers.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! please. Some time back, there was an announcement in this Chamber to the effect that all hon. Members should go for their identity cards in one of the offices by the Senate Chambers and it is my belief that most of us have now gotten our identity cards. I think the hon. Member should go there and have this photograph taken for his identity card. If you do not know the place, find somebody to direct you, please.

Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting of Members of House Committee On Anti-Corruption, National Ethic and Values with the House Committee on Judiciary and Human Rights

Mr. Speaker: The Bill on Prohibition of Bribery. Corruption and other Related Offences, 1999 has been referred to the House Committee on Anti-Corruption, National Ethics and Values and the House Committee on Judiciary and Human Rights. All Members of the above Committees should please endeavour to attend the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 8th September, 1999 in Committee Room 5 at 2.00. p.m.

The Committee is also inviting Members to send in their contributions to the Anti-Corruption Committee

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as soon as possible. This is signed by the Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Committee.

**Meeting of Members of
the Appropriation Committee**

This is to inform all Members of the Appropriation Committee that there shall be a meeting of the Appropriation Committee immediately after this Session at Committee Room 16.

Meeting of all AD Members

There will be a meeting of all AD Members immediately after the Session today, Wednesday, 8th September, 1999. The venue of the meeting is Hearing Room One of the House Representatives. This was signed by AD Party Leader,

**Meeting of Members of the Committee on National
Planning and Economic Development**

There will be a Meeting of the Committee on National Planning, and Economic Development today after the House adjourns Sitting. The purpose of this meeting is to enable Members of the Committee to discuss the visit of officials from France. The venue of the meeting is Room 19. This is signed by the Chairman of the Committee.

**Meeting of Members of the Committee
on Water Resources**

There will be an important meeting of the Committee on Water Resources today, 8th, September, 1999, at 3.00 p.m. All Members are expected to be in attendance please.

**Meeting of Members of the Aviation Committee:
Virgin Atlantic Air Lines**

Members of the Aviation Committee are reminded of the meeting with the officials of the Virgin Atlantic Airlines today, at 3 p.m. The venue is House Committee Room 3. today, This is signed by Hon. Awwal Tukur, Chairman of Aviation Committee.

**Meeting of all Members from
Traditional Fishing Constituencies**

Hon. Members from Constituency that are engaged in traditional fishing method either in the coastal areas

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or in the inland waters of the country, are enjoined to please spare a few minutes for a very brief meeting here after the Sitting to discuss Government fishing subsidy to this industry. This is signed by H. T. Abibo, the Convener.

Meeting of all APP Members

All APP Members of this House will meet immediately after today's Sitting at the usual Committee Room. APP Whip is the announcer.

**Judiciary Committee and
the Anti-Corruption Committee**

Members of the Judiciary Committee and the Anti-Corruption Committee should please in behind after the House would have gone on recess because of the impending work they have on the Anti-corruption Bill.

**Meeting of the Privatisation and
Commercialisation Committee**

Members of Privatisation and Commercialisation Committee shall meet today at 4.00 p.m. in Committee Room 19. This is signed by the Deputy Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Bala Kaoje.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Supplementary Appropriation Bill

Third Reading

Mr. Speaker; The main Order of the day is the Third Reading and passage of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1999.

Before I call on the Clerk of the House to read the order, I am in receipt of a Motion which relates to Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I understand that the Senate has adopted a similar Resolution, it is in respect of the Principle of Derivation as enshrined in the Constitution. This principle was discussed on the Floor of this House during the consideration of Appropriation Bill last week:

I now call on the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriation, Hon. Barau Jibrin and, Hon. Ita Enang, joint Sponsor, to move the Motion.

MAI'TER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

Hon. Barau Jibrin (Tarauni): Mr. Speaker. Sir. hon. Members. you may be aware that there is a problem arising from the implementation of the Revenue Derivation Principle as enshrined in our Constitution. In the course of our deliberations and the processing of the Appropriation Bill. the National Assembly agreed that there should be a kind of Motion to bring this issue to rest because this problem has arisen from the fact that the President did not submit the names of his nominees for the Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission as early as possible so as to really bring this issue into the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

In line with our Resolution. the Senate, however, passed a Motion in this respect. I, therefore, beg the House so that I can now move a Motion under Matter of Urgent Public Importance in order to bring this issue to rest.

I beg to move.

Hon. Ismaila Mobammed (DukkuNafada): Mr. Speaker, Sir. hon. Members, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put /0 and agreed 10.

Resolved: That a Matter of Urgent Public Importance be now considered.

MOTION

Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1999

Hon. Barau Jibrin: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that:

The Derivation Formula of not less than 13 per cent prescribed in the 1999 Constitution shall be a first charge upon the revenue of the Federation and pending the approval of the revenue sharing formula upon the constitution of the National Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission, such a sum equivalent to 13 per cent of the natural resources shall be deducted from June 1999 and maintained in a Suspense Account by the Accountant General of the Federation to be disbursed upon approval of the Revenue sharing formula by the National Assembly. Part of the Monies accruable to the

Government of Nigeria which are yet to be part of the Federation Account shall be used for this purpose.

I. therefore, move this Motion, please.

Hon. Ismaila Mubammed: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Derivation Formula of not less than 13 per cent prescribed in the 1999 Constitution shall be a first charge upon the revenue of the Federation and pending the approval of the revenue sharing formula upon the constitution of the National Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission, such a sum equivalent to 13 per cent of the natural resources shall be deducted from June 1999 and maintained in the Suspense Account by the Accountant General of the Federation to be disbursed upon the approval of the revenue sharing formula by the National Assembly. Part of the monies due to the Government of Nigeria which are yet to be part of the Federation Account shall be used for this purpose.

Hon. Abraham Laasbe (Abeokuta South): Point of Observation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: What point of observation?

Hon. Abraham Laasbe: (Abeokuta South): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have an observation. My observation is on the last part of the Motion which says: *part of the money*. I think there is an error there. It should read: *All the money that accrued to the Federal Republic of Nigeria* which I guess must be Federal Account, must be seen to be part of the money.

An hon. Member: Correct.

Mr. Speaker! I think we all understand that there is a principle behind this Motion. So, whatsoever error that is there, the Secretariat can take care of it.

Mr. Speaker: Clerk of the House, can you read the order, please.

Clerk of the House: Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1999.

Mr. Speaker: I will now call on the Chairman of the Appropriation Committee to move the Motion.

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Hon. Barau Jibrin (Tarauni): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members, as per your approval of the proposed Appropriation Bill, all have been put together and packaged legally into a Bill and this has been put into various pigeon holes. In line with this I would like to move for the Third Reading of the Bill and final passage.

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: There is no need for a Seconder. I am going to put the question that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1999 be read the Third time and passed into law.

Question put and agreed 10.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting of Ad-boc Committee on the
Review of the House Rules

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, there will be a meeting of the Ad-hoc committee on the Review of House Rules in Committee Room 6, immediately after the adjournment of today. Sitting.

Problems with regard to the
Sittings In the Chamber

My hon. Members, you may be aware that we have some problems with regard to our Sitting in this House.

The Public Address System is faulty. The setting is faulty and Air-conditioner is also faulty. The contractors had asked us to give them about two months to effect certain repairs. I had argued with them and I indicated to them that it is not possible for us to go on recess for two months. They argued that they are not only going to work here but they are also going to work in the Senate Chambers. We agreed that they should increase the manpower requirements so that the number of days can be cut down to, at least, a little over one month.

In this regard, we agreed that the House should adjourn and go on Recess from today to the 11th October, 1999.

I, therefore, wish to inform all of us that the House is going to be under recess and we have to resume on the

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11th October, 1999. I want to congratulate us for the successful passing of our first Bill.

Meeting of Power and Steel Com

There will be a meeting of Power and Steel in Committee Room 22 today at 3.00 p.m. All Members should endeavour to be present, Hon. E. E. E. Deputy Chairman.

Meeting of Select Committee

There will be a meeting of the Select Committee at 5.00 p.m. at the Committee Room.

Hon. Abubakar G. Shehu (Musaw. atazu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of observation. If you can recall, last week, an hon. Colleague from Abeokuta North Obafemi Owode (Hon. Mustapha Bode) in this House raised a very important matter that affects the payment of primary school teachers' salaries and this honourable House referred the matter to the Education Committee. This Committee immediately met with the Hon. Minister of Education and asked him to explain to the Committee what the Ministry was doing with regard to the payment of teachers' salaries and arrears.

Immediately, the Minister confirmed to this Committee that the balance of N5.6 billion was released and that the Chairmen of Primary Education Boards were at that time receiving cheques for the immediate payment of their teachers in their respective States. At the meeting with the Hon. Minister, we called a conference and addressed the issue, and I think the NUT will not mark on their earlier planned industrial action, because payment has commenced immediately. Moreover, I am happy to inform this honourable House that already many teachers have collected their money. I want Members to use this Recess period to please confirm whether these payments have already been given to teachers in their respective constituencies.

In addition, my Committee has already selected six Members to go to each school to make sure that these payments are made immediately.

Thank you. Mr. Speaker. Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. I call on Hon. Malherbe.

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[Recess for Hon. Members]

Hon. Zakarie A. Malherbe (Buruku): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to have my name being wrongly spelt. I do not know why this is so.

Mr. Speaker: The matter is noted, please. The Secretariat will take care of it. I call on Hon. Olaitan,

Hon. Oladipo Olaitan (Alirnosho): Mr. Speaker, han. Members of this august House, I was just going to make a comment, Sir, most respectfully about our Recess. Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that after a hard day's work, one needs a rest. We have been through hell here in various forms, starting with our accommodation problems, eating problems and all what-nots. Well, I am just trying to itemise the difficulties we have been through, which is common to all of us. But han. Members, I was going to, with tremendous respect, give this advice.

This is in line with how the generality of Nigerians see us today - very negative. We are doing all we can but apparently, they are far away from us. It is not our fault but, we believe with time, things will sort themselves out. But in the meantime, I want to appeal that we do nothing that may compound our already not terribly good disposition before the public. Between now and 11th of October 1999, will be something like four weeks, at the very minimum. I want to most respectfully suggest that we go about it this way, that we have resorted to the whole world that we are going on recess for two weeks-

Mr. Speaker: Who announced this?

Hon. Olaitan: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is my suggestion, that we use the next two weeks, after that to face Committee meetings - (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! Order! I call on Han. Wakil.

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ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Mohammed Wakil (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok): Mr. Speaker, Sir, **han. Members, may I move that this honourable House do stand adjourned and reconvene on the 11th of October, 1999.**

Question Proposed.

Mr. Speaker: I call on Hon. Jerry Ugokwe.

Earthquake Disaster in Athens, Greece

Hon. Jerry Ugokwe (Idemili North Idemili South): Mr. Speaker, Sir, han. Members, **I would like to call for a quick Motion before we finally disperse.**

If you were listening to the television for the past few days, there has been a disaster in Athens, Greece, and I would like to move that this House **put up** a letter to commiserate **with the people of Greece on the earthquake disaster that happened there.**

Hon. Mohammed Umara KUMallil (Maiduguri Metropolitan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, **I stand here to second the Motion by the 1st Deputy Speaker that this House do stand adjourned on the 11th of October, 1999 at 10.00 a.m.**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Monday, 11th October, 1999 at 10.06 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.15 p.m.