



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 26 August, 2004

1. The House met at 11.10 a.m. Mr Speaker read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 25 August, 2004.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. **Petitions:**

(i) ***Request for Intervention:***

Hon. G. Nasiji presented a petition on behalf of 210 redeployed Members of staff, Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu. The petitioners claimed that they were duly redeployed by the Provost of the College, on 6 June, 1994 to the Enugu State Government. They were rejected by the then Commissioner of Education, who maintained that they remained staff of the College. Their plight was that the College had since refused to reabsorb them while Enugu State Government had not accepted them. They, therefore, prayed the House to intervene and grant them a resolution of their problem.

(ii) ***Wrongful Termination of Appointment: Mr Mathias E. Nmehielle:***

Hon. Andrew Uchendu presented a petition, on behalf of Mr Mathias E. Nmehielle, a former employee of National Population Commission (NPC). The petitioner claimed that his appointment was wrongfully terminated by the Commission; he prayed the House to intervene in his difficulties.

Petitions referred to House Committee on Public Petitions.

4. **Pollution of Lagos Ground Water by Textile Factories:**

Motion made and Question proposed,

"The House:

notes that more than 70 per cent of water used by the Lagos populace and industries are from bore-holes and wells; that 60 per cent of the estimated 400,000 cubic metres per day of water, produced or used in the State, is obtained from these sources;

aware that most of the Textile Mills in Lagos State discharge untreated effluents into the public drains, which eventually leak into wells and bore-holes sunk in most parts of the State for domestic and industrial use;

worried that such contaminated and poisonous water is generally packaged in plastic bags and sold as drinking water, "pure water" to the public;

concerned that studies have revealed that water from bore-holes and wells in Lagos State has remained unhygienic and unsafe for drinking and attributable to widespread cases of Polio, Typhoid and Cancer and other associated diseases in the State;

Resolves to:

- (i) *condemn* the activities of these textile companies for their callous indifference to the resultant effects of polluted and contaminated bore-holes and wells in Lagos and States in which they are located;
- (ii) *urge* the Federal Government through FEPA to enforce existing environmental laws compelling all textile factories in the country to treat their effluents before discharging them;
- (iii) *urge* the Federal Ministry of Environment to ban the discharge of untreated waste into the ground by textile companies in the country with immediate effect; and
- (iv) *mandate* the House Committees on Environment and Health to investigate the extent of contaminated water and environmental pollution in Lagos State and recommend measures to address the twin menace" (Hon. Fancy Akeem Arole).

*Debate:***Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) *leave out* the word "textile" where ever it occurs and *insert* the word "companies" instead thereof (Hon. A. Momoh).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (i), line 2, immediately after the word "wells", *insert* the word "roads" (Hon.A.U. Faruk)

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (iii) In Prayer (i), line 2, immediately after the word "wells", *insert* the words "surface water" (Hon. M.I. Alimadu).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iv) In Prayer (ii) line 1, immediately after the word "through" *leave out* all other words and *insert* the following instead thereof: "the Federal Ministry of Environment to enforce existing environmental laws compelling all companies and factories in the country to treat their effluents before discharging them" (Hon. A. Momoh).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (v) In Prayer (ii) line 1, immediately after the word "factories" *insert* the words "and oil industries" (Hon. Dare Salako).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Other Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In (iv) line 2, immediately after the words "pollution in", *leave out* the words "Lagos State" and *insert* the words "in the all States of the Federation with similar water and environmental pollution problems" (Hon. Shira).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
"Remind Lagos State Government and the respective Local Governments of their statutory responsibilities to curtail industrial pollution" (Hon. Adeyeye).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
"urge government at all levels to ensure existence of efficient Inspectorate Department to carry out inspection of factories/industries from time to time" (Hon. Frank Ineke).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

(iv) *Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:*

“Urge the House Committee on environment to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Environment to ensure strict compliance with the existing environmental laws” (*Hon. Bawa Bwari*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

(v) *Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:*

“Mandate the police to prosecute environmental officers who fail to discharge their official responsibilities” (*Hon. Irem O. Ibom*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

“The House:

noted that more than 70 per cent of water used by the Lagos populace and industries were from bore-holes and wells; that 60 per cent of the estimated 400,000 cubic metres per day of water produced or used in the State was obtained from these sources;

aware that most of the companies in Lagos State discharged untreated effluents into the public drains, which eventually leaked into wells and bore-holes sunk in most parts of the State for domestic and industrial use;

worried that such contaminated and poisonous water was generally packaged in plastic bags and sold as drinking water (pure water) to the public;

concerned that studies had revealed that water from bore-holes and wells in Lagos State had remained unhygienic and unsafe for drinking and attributable to widespread cases of Polio, Typhoid and Cancer and other associated diseases in the State;

Resolved to:

- (i) *condemn the activities* of these companies for their callous indifference to the resultant effects of polluted and contaminated bore-holes, wells, and roads in Lagos and States in which they are located;
- (ii) *urge the Federal Government* through the Federal Ministry of Environment to enforce existing environmental laws compelling all factories and oil industries in the country to treat their effluents before discharging them;
- (iii) *urge the Federal Ministry of Environment* to ban the discharge of untreated waste into the ground by textile companies in the country with immediate effect; and
- (iv) *mandate the House Committees on Environment and Health* to investigate the extent of contaminated water and environmental pollution in all the States of the Federation with similar water and environmental pollution problems and recommend measures to address the twin menace (*HR. 3/2004*).

5. Commending the Nigeria Police on the Okija Episode:

Order read; deferred.

6. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of a National Institute of Hospitality and Tourism and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2004 — *Third Reading:*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of a National Institute of Hospitality and Tourism and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2004 be now read a Third Time” (*Hon. G. Nnaji*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

7. Adjournment:

That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 31 August 2004 at 10.00 a.m. (*Hon. G. Nnaji*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.05 p.m.

Aminu Bello Masari
Speaker