



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 11 January, 2017

1. The House met at 11.15 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 10 January, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Mustapha Bala Dawaki, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, requesting Hon. Members to collect copies of the Appropriation Bill, 2017, from the Committee's Secretariat, Room 16, 1st Floor, White House, House of Representatives.
4. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
 - (i) ***The Closure of Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport/Invitation to Stakeholders Forum:***
Hon. Princess Olufunke Adedoyin (Ekiti/Irepodun/Isin/Oke-Ero Federal Constituency) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve it as one of urgent public importance.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

- (ii) ***Offer of Safe Heaven to President Yahya Jameh as Part of Nigeria's Mediation Initiative for the Gambia:***
Hon. Muhammed Sani Zorro (Gumel/Gagarawa/Maigatari/Sule Tankarkar Federal Constituency) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve it as one of urgent public importance.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

5. Presentation and First Reading of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

(i) Federal Character Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 885).

(ii) Nigerian College of Mining Technology Bill, 2016 (HB. 886).

6. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Court of Appeal Act, Cap. C26, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish a Labour Division of the Court to Hear Appeals from the National Industrial Court and for Other Related Matters (HB. 861) — Second Reading

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

7. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Media Coverage of Courts Proceedings in Nigeria for the Purpose of Gathering and Disseminating News to the Public and for Other Related Matters (HB. 864) — Second Reading

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

8. Need to Stem the Controversy within the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRCN) Occasioned by the Interpretation of FRCN Codes

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act of 2011 is a creation of the National Assembly;

Also notes that the objective of the Council, among others, is to protect investors and other stakeholders interests and to ensure good corporate governance practices in the public and private sectors of the Nigerian economy;

Aware that Section 73 of the FRCN Act grants the Council powers to make regulations which must be in consonance with the Act;

Concerned that the Governance Code formulated by the Council as it relates to heads of non-profit making organizations is a clear usurpation of the powers of the National Assembly as stipulated in Section 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

Also concerned that the National Assembly has not in any way approved the corporate governance code as it did with the building code;

Convinced that codes of corporate governance must be in conformity with international best practices;

Worried that an overzealous Chief Executive Officer of a regulatory body can misinterpret or misapply the provisions of the Code as can be clearly seen in the case of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Delegated Legislations to carry out a detailed public hearing on the activities of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:*
 “Urge the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRCN), to stay further implementation of the Code of Corporate governance pending the resolution of the issues provoked by the Code” (Hon. Chinda Kingsley — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *In Prayer (i) immediately after the word “Legislations”, insert the words “and Public Accounts” (Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe — Ahiazu/Ezinihite Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act of 2011 is a creation of the National Assembly;

Also noted that the objective of the Council, among others, is to protect investors and other stakeholders interests and to ensure good corporate governance practices in the public and private sectors of the Nigerian economy;

Aware that Section 73 of the FRCN Act grants the Council powers to make regulations which must be in consonance with the Act;

Concerned that the Governance Code formulated by the Council as it relates to heads of non-profit making organizations is a clear usurpation of the powers of the National Assembly as stipulated in Section 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

Also concerned that the National Assembly has not in any way approved the corporate governance code as it did with the building code;

Convinced that codes of corporate governance must be in conformity with international best practices;

Worried that an overzealous Chief Executive Officer of a regulatory body can misinterpret or misapply the provisions of the Code as can be clearly seen in the case of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) *mandate the Committees on Delegated Legislations, and Public Accounts, to carry out a detailed public hearing on the activities of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action;*
- (ii) *urge the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRCN), to stay further implementation of the Code of Corporate governance pending the resolution of the issues provoked by the Code (HR. 02/2017).*

9. Need to Make the Services of the Federal Fire Service Available in the 774 Local Government Areas of the Federation

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Fire Service Act, Cap. F29, LFN, 2004, created a fire service for the nation but its structure and operational modalities have rendered it incapable of making its impact felt

throughout the Country, except for areas within the immediate vicinity of State Capitals and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

Aware that the State Capitals also host State Fire Services, thus providing double protection against fire outbreaks for the Capital cities and their proximal areas but leaving many communities in the Local Government Areas that could be several hours drive from the State Capital unprotected, as a result of which many of them have suffered colossal losses due to fire and have continued to live under the threat of fire outbreaks without hope of reprieve;

Cognizant of the need to make the services of the Federal Fire Service felt in the Local Government Areas to compliment the efforts of States Fire Services;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of the Federal Government to provide adequate funds to enable the Federal Fire Service extend its presence in the local government areas and communities across the country; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Interior to ensure implementation (*Hon. Joseph E. Edionwele — Esan Central/Esan West/Igubeben Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Fire Service Act, Cap. F29, LFN, 2004, created a fire service for the nation but its structure and operational modalities have rendered it incapable of making its impact felt throughout the Country, except for areas within the immediate vicinity of State Capitals and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

Aware that the State Capitals also host State Fire Services, thus providing double protection against fire outbreaks for the Capital cities and their proximal areas but leaving many communities in the Local Government Areas that could be several hours drive from the State Capital unprotected, as a result of which many of them have suffered colossal losses due to fire and have continued to live under the threat of fire outbreaks without hope of reprieve;

Cognizant of the need to make the services of the Federal Fire Service felt in the Local Government Areas to compliment the efforts of States Fire Services;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of the Federal Government to provide adequate funds to enable the Federal Fire Service extend its presence in the local government areas and communities across the country; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Interior to ensure implementation (*HR. 03/2017*).

10.

Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 12 January, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.21 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker