FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 39

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 29 November, 2012

1. The House met at 11.12 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 28 November, 2012.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
Visitor:
Mr Deputy Speaker recognized the presence of Staff and Students of Great Light Scholar's Academy, Abuja who were seated in the Gallery.

4. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were presented and laid by:

(*i*) Hon. Friday Itulah (*Esan North/West/Central Federal Constituency*) from Otunba Olusola Adekanola, praying the House to rescind its Resolution on Recommendations 36 and 37 of the Report of the House *Ad-hoc* Committee on Subsidy Regime, which advocated the blacklisting and prosecution of Adekanola & Co. even though it was not found culpable;

(*ii*) Hon. Kamil Akinlabi Mudashiru (*Afijio/Atiba East/Oyo West Federal Constituency*) from Fatai A. Shittu, praying the House to investigate the underpayment of his pension by Stanbic IBTC, with a view to ensuring that appropriate payment is made;

(*iii*) Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu (*Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili North/Oshimili South Federal Constituency*) from Theophilus Yogo, seeking the intervention of the House in the non-payment of his gratuity and pension by the Nigeria Police, with a view to ensuring payment;

(*iv*) Hon Robinson Uwak (*Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Uruefong-Oruko/Udung-Uko Federal Constituency*) from Effong Osung Uwak, praying the House to prevail on the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation to pay his pension arrears and restore his name on the Federal Pensions pay roll;

(*v*) Hon. Ibrahim Tukur El-Sudi (*Gashaka/Kurmi/Sardauna Federal Constituency*) from D. G. Tukura, praying the House to investigate the degrading and dehumanizing treatment meted out to him along Sunkani - Jalingo express way in Taraba State by men of the Nigerian Army.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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5. Matter Requiring the Attention of the House:

Citing Order VIII, Rule 47 Hon. Abimbola Oluwafemi Daramola (*Ikole/Oye North Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the editorial of ***The Nation*** newspaper of Wednesday, 28 November, 2012 which discussed the on-going review of the Report of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation (OAGF) for the years 2006 - 2009 by the House Public Accounts Committee, and revealed that Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) failed to remit the sum of ₦4 trillion to the Federation Account during the period. He stressed that a situation where the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) alone had $7 billion recorded against it as unremitted revenue was unacceptable. He noted the disclosure of the Public Accounts Committee that it was investigating the activities of a sample of 60 out of 601 MDAs mentioned in the Report and commended it for its proactive effort. He emphasized the need for more transparency and accountability in governance in order to ensure availability of more resources for the development of the country.

Mr Deputy Speaker noted the issues raised and urged the Public Accounts Committee and other Standing Committees overseeing the MDAs concerned to continue with the on-going investigations on un-remitted revenue to the Federation Account.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Odeneye Kehinde Olusegun (*Ijebu-Ode/Ijebu North East/Odogbolu Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the recent allegation of corruption levelled against the Minister of Niger Delta Ministry. He noted the gravity of the allegation and stressed the need to disabuse the minds of the citizenry that Government was unserious about tackling the menace of corruption. He therefore prayed the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.*

Compelling Need to Investigate Allegations of Corruption Levelled against the Minister of the Niger-Delta Ministry, Elder Godsday Orubebe:

The House:

Notes the raging unhealthy drama in both print and electronic media involving the Minister of the Niger Delta Ministry and some anti-corruption outfits in the country;

Further notes that a *prima-facie* case has been made against the Minister, as it relates to a house built for him at Mabushi District, Abuja by SETRACO, one of the contractors he patronizes and the fact that he failed to declare the House in his Asset Declaration with the Code of Conduct Bureau;

Concerned that the matter has been on the front burner of national discourse for some time now yet none of the Anti-Corruption Agencies has waded in;

Further concerned that if the House does not step in as it has always done, the weighty allegation against the Minister may be swept under the carpet, thereby further endangering the image of our dear country, as a safe haven for corruption and corrupt people;

Aware and alive to the House's Legislative agenda's emphasis on exposing and combating corruption, while enshrining transparence, accountability and openness.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate its Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and Anti-Corruption, National Ethics and Values to investigate this very weighty allegation and make appropriate recommendations to the House within 21 days;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Ministry of Finance, Central Bank and the Accountant-General of the Federation (AGF) to suspend all payments due to the Ministry, on the identified bogus contracts, except the East West Road project until full investigation is carried out, to verify the authenticity of certificates pending for payment (*Hon. Odeneye Kehinde Olusegun — Ijebu-Ode/Ijebu North East/Odogbolu Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the raging unhealthy drama in both print and electronic media involving the Minister of the Niger Delta Ministry and some anti-corruption outfits in the country;

Further noted that a *prima-facie* case has been made against the Minister, as it relates to a house built for him at Mabushi District, Abuja by SETRACO, one of the contractors he patronizes and the fact that he failed to declare the House in his Asset Declaration with the Code of Conduct Bureau;

Concerned that the matter has been on the front burner of national discourse for some time now yet none of the Anti-Corruption Agencies has waded in;

Further concerned that if the House does not step in as it has always done, the weighty allegation against the Minister may be swept under the carpet, thereby further endangering the image of our dear country, as a safe haven for corruption and corrupt people;

Aware and alive to the House's Legislative agenda's emphasis on exposing and combating corruption, while enshrining transparence, accountability and openness.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Mandate its Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and Anti-Corruption, National Ethics and Values to investigate this very weighty allegation and make appropriate recommendations to the House within 21 days;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Ministry of Finance, Central Bank and the Accountant-General of the Federation (AGF) to suspend all payments due to the Ministry, on the identified bogus contracts, except the East West Road project until full investigation is carried out, to verify the authenticity of certificates pending for payment (**HR. 195/2012**).

7. Presentation of Reports:

(*i*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**

Report of the Petition by A. M. Mabayat:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by A. M. Mabayat against the Federal Civil Service Commission and the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation on the Improper Grade level placement and Career stagnation in the Federal Civil Service" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Abia North/Abia South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*ii*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**

Report of the Petition by Former Staff of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC):

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Former Staff of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) on Alleged Dismissal of 4,029 Officers from Service" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Abia North/Abia South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Flags and Coat of Arms Act Cap. F30 LFN, 2004 and to Enact the National Symbols Act, and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 362) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Flags and Coat of Arms Act Cap. F30 LFN, 2004 and to Enact the National Symbols Act, and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 362) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Steve Sunday Karimi — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be now read a Second time, put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Justice.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Institute of Social Work and Regulate the Practice of Professional Social Work in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 365) — *Second Reading*:**

Order read; by leave of the House, deferred.

10. **Adjournment of First Sitting:**
That this House do now adjourn the First Sitting till 1.00 *p.m. This Day* (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.58 *p.m.*

Chukwuemeka Nkem Ihedioha
Deputy Speaker