FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 43

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 13 December, 2012

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1. The House met at 11.33 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 Wednesday, 12 December, 2012.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
***Bereavement*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication, from Hon. Kenneth Archibong Edet (*Itu/Ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of his mother, Mrs Eduak Archibong on Tuesday, 4 December, 2012.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

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

(*i*) Hon. Abiodun Awoleye (*Ibadan North Federal Constituency*) on behalf of G. O. Olaore, praying the House to redress the refusal by the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) to compute and pay his retirement benefits;

(*ii*) Hon. Chris Eta (*Ikom/Boki Federal Constituency*) from Maryam Uwais, Wali Uwais & Co. on behalf of FIDA Nigeria, and 27 Others, praying the House to investigate the violence perpetrated against women in Abuja by the personnel of Abuja Environmental Protection Agency (AEPB), with a view to arresting the trend;

(*iii*) Hon. Hassan Saleh (*Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*) on behalf of:

(*a*) Ibrahim Mohammed Rabiu, praying the House to intervene in his wrongful dismissal by the Nigerian Air Force, with a view to re-instating him or converting his compulsory retirement to voluntary retirement, and grant other reliefs sought therein,

(*b*) Mohammed Sambo imploring the House to redress his dismissal by the Nigeria Police;

(*iv*) Hon Bitrus Zaphaniah Jisalo (*AMAC/Bwari Federal Constituency*) from Kyauta Yepwi, the Galadima of Karu, on behalf of the Karu community, Abuja, praying the House to intervene in the refusal by the Federal Ministries of Environment, Housing and Urban Development to pay compensation for their acquired lands.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Okwurio Tobias (*Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the deplorable condition of the bridge at Kilometer 8, along Enugu - Abakaliki Federal Road. He commended the effort of the Federal Ministry of Works in awarding the contract for the rehabilitation of the road, but observed that the bridge had deteriorated to a state of disrepair, pointing out that if immediate action was not taken to address the situation, the bridge could collapse and result in untold hardship for road users. 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 immediately.

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.*

Need to Ensure that the Federal Ministry of Works Quickly Repair the Collapsing Bridge at Kilometer 8, Enugu - Abakaliki Expressway, Emene, Enugu:

The House:

Notes that the Enugu -Abakaliki Expressway is the link road between Ebonyi and Enugu States.

Further notes that the bridge at Kilometer 8, Enugu-Abakaliki Expressway (i.e. between Industrial Training Fund Office and Airport Resort Hotel) has cracked and is gradually caving in;

Aware that Enugu -Abakaliki Expressway is a Federal Road and that contract for the rehabilitation of the road has been awarded and work is ongoing;

Worried that both the Federal Ministry of Works and the contractor handling the rehabilitation of Enugu-Abakaliki expressway seem to be oblivious of the collapsing bridge and so are not taking any pro-active measure to prevent this impending disaster;

Concerned that the imminent collapse of this bridge might claim lives of innocent Nigerian road users, destroy valuable properties and impose untold hardship on the masses who could be forced to travel longer distances, thereby paying higher transport fares.

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministry of Works, as a matter of urgency, to embark on the immediate reconstruction of the said bridge at Kilometer 8, Enugu - Abakaliki Expressway, into a stronger and better bridge for the use of Nigerian people (*Hon. Tobias Okwuru — Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolution referred to the Committee on Works, pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) **(HR. 200/2012)**, *for further legislative action.*

6. Presentation of Reports:

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

Petition by Martin P. O. Nwabuwa:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Martin P. O. Nwabuwa against John Holt Plc on the Alleged Denial of Retirement Benefits" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Abia North/Abia South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*ii*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**
Petition by Tyoor F. M. Terhemba:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Tyoor F. M. Terhemba against the Director-General, Women Development Centre, Abuja on Alleged Intimidation, Harassment, Victimization and Threat to Life" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Abia North/Abia South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

7. Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Transfer of Convicted Offenders (Enactment and Enforcement) Act, Cap. T16, LFN 2004 and for Other Related Matters:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Transfer of Convicted Offenders (Enactment and Enforcement) (Amendment) Bill, 2011, was passed by the House on Thursday, 6 October, 2011 and transmitted to the Senate for concurrence;

The Senate passed the same Bill on Wednesday, 17 October, 2012 with some differences;

The two Chambers met in Conference on Wednesday, 12 December, 2012 and adopted a harmonised version of the Bill;

A clean copy of the Conference Report is ready for presentation and adoption;

And in view of the importance of this Bill to the reform of the Judicial Sector in the country.

Resolves to:

Receive and adopt the Conference Report on the Bill for an Act to Amend the Transfer of Convicted Offenders (Enactment and Enforcement) Act, Cap. T16, LFN 2004 and for Other Related Matters (*Hon. Ali Ahmad — Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

8. Receipt and Adoption of Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2011 and for Other Related Matters:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Terrorism (Prevention) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2012, was passed by the House on Thursday, 11 October, 2012 and transmitted to the Senate for concurrence.

The Senate passed the same Bill on Wednesday, 17 October, 2012 with some differences;

The two Chambers met in Conference on Thursday, 22 and Monday, 26 November, 2012 respectively and adopted a harmonised version of the Bill;

A clean copy of the Conference Report is ready for presentation and adoption;

And in view of the importance of this Bill to the efforts of the present administration in combating Terrorism in the country.

Resolves to:

Receive and adopt the Conference Report on the Bill for an Act to Amend the Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2011 and for Other Related Matters (*Hon. Ali Ahmad — Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

9. **Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly:**
Police Act (Amendment) Bill, 2012:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order XIII, Rule 94 of the House Standing Orders, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negatived, or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negatived or which were passed by the National Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bills upon being re-gazetted or clean copy circulated be re-considered in Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;

Further notes that the Police Act (Amendment) Bill was passed by the preceding House and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made by the Senate before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly;

Aware that the Bill has been re-gazetted and read for the first time as HB. 271.

Resolves to:

Consider the Bill in the Committee of the Whole (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill committed to the Committee of the Whole pursuant to Order XII, Rule 94.

10. **Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly:**
(*Discrimination of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS* (*Prohibition*) *Bill*, 2012):
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order XIII, Rule 94 of the House Standing Orders, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negatived, or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negatived or which were passed by the National Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bills upon being re-gazetted or clean copy circulated be reconsidered in Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo;*

Further notes that the Discrimination of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (Prohibition) Bill was passed by the preceding House and forwarded to the Senate for Concurrence for which no concurrence was made by the Senate before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly;

Aware that the Bill has been re-gazetted and read for the first time as HB. 240.

Resolves to:

Consider the Bill in the Committee of the Whole (*Hon. Haruna Joseph Kigbu — Lafia/Obi Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill committed to the Committee of the Whole pursuant to Order XII, Rule 94.

11. Urgent Need to Evaluate the Status of the River Ethiope Oil Spill and Clean-Up Programmes:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that a portion of River Ethiope had been contaminated by oil leaking from a pipeline belonging to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporations (NNPC);

Further notes that the oil spill had direct negative impact on the livelihood of people in the riverine areas that cut across Ethiope East, Ethiope West, Okpe and Sapele Local Government Areas, whose primary occupations are fishing and farming;

Aware that earlier in the year, a large quantity of crude oil was spilled from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) pipelines and caused a fire outbreak which led to the death of some persons in one of the communities without appropriate response from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC);

Concerned that the said pipeline has been fixed by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) but there is a controversy on the level of clean-up of the oil spill and its attendant effects on the communities;

Further concerned that if the oil pollution is not cleaned up immediately, there may be an outbreak of cholera and other epidemic diseases from the continuous use of the contaminated water, being the main source of drinkable water which is also used for other domestic needs;

Worried that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the operator of the pipeline has refused to take full responsibility for the spillage ravaging the communities that cut across Ethiope East, Ethiope West, Okpe and Sapele Local Government Areas of Delta State.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to take full responsibility of the River Ethiope oil spill in all its ramifications and clean-up the area;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Environment to visit, inspect and evaluate the cause and effect of the oil spill on the ecosystem in the communities and the extent of the clean-up and payment of necessary compensation to the affected communities;

(*iii*) further urge all agencies charged with protection of the environment to take appropriate steps to alleviate the plight of the affected Communities (*Hon. Akpodiogaga Sunny Emeyese — Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolution referred to the Committee on Environment, pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 201/2012**).

12. Near Collapse of Technical and Vocational Education in Nigeria:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the near collapse of technical and vocational education in Nigeria and the attendant consequences;

Further notes that in the past, technical and vocational institutions accounted for a large number of Nigeria's skilled work force;

Aware that technical and vocational institutions were established to provide skilled workers for the technological development and industrialization of Nigeria to enhance manpower development;

Worried that the quality of technicians and artisans in Nigeria had degenerated over the years thus leading to Firms now relying on expatriates to do such work as painting, plumbing, auto mechanic and other jobs of like manner;

Further aware that a lot of young Nigerians that have undergone apprenticeship in the informal and traditional semi-skilled vocations are not certificated and as such not qualified for commissioned jobs;

Further worried that most skilled jobs like masonry, plumbing, welding, carpentry, auto mechanics and painting have been taken over by artisans from the West African Francophone nations;

Observes that the nation's technological development is hinged on the quality of skilled workforce produced by vocational and technical institutions into the labour market and the economy;

Acknowledges that technical education is a key driver of sustainable development in many countries but that Nigeria has not paid much attention to this aspect of education;

Also observes the high standard of scientific and technical instruction of the educational system of nations like Germany, Japan and China, which contributed significantly to their becoming super economic powers;

Concerned that most technical and vocational schools are closed down without new enrolments, and the Polytechnics which are supposed to be breeding ground for vocational skills are rated second to Universities;

Disturbed that vocational and technical education have not been properly funded and that the Government has a lukewarm attitude towards it.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Education to conduct a public hearing and invite stakeholders, experts, vocational and technical institutions and the Nigeria Board of Technical Education to discuss on how to reposition technical education in Nigeria (*Hon. Chris Azugbogu — Nnewi North-south/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the near collapse of technical and vocational education in Nigeria and the attendant consequences;

Further noted that in the past, technical and vocational institutions accounted for a large number of Nigeria's skilled work force;

Aware that technical and vocational institutions were established to provide skilled workers for the technological development and industrialization of Nigeria to enhance manpower development;

Worried that the quality of technicians and artisans in Nigeria had degenerated over the years thus leading to Firms now rely on expatriates to do such work as painting, plumbing, auto mechanic and other jobs of like manner;

Further aware that a lot of young Nigerians that have undergone apprenticeship in the informal and traditional semi-skilled vocations are not certificated and as such not qualified for commissioned jobs;

Further worried that most skilled jobs like masonry, plumbing, welding, carpentry, auto mechanics and painting have been taken over by artisans from the West African Francophone nations;

Observed that the nation's technological development is hinged on the quality of skilled workforce produced by vocational and technical institutions into the labour market and the economy;

Acknowledged that technical education is a key driver of sustainable development in many countries but that Nigeria has not paid much attention to this aspect of education;

Also observed the high standard of scientific and technical instruction of the educational system of nations like Germany, Japan and China, which contributed significantly to their becoming super economic powers;

Concerned that most technical and vocational schools are closed down without new enrolments, and the Polytechnics which are supposed to be breeding ground for vocational skills are rated second to Universities;

Disturbed that vocational and technical education have not been properly funded and that the Government has a lukewarm attitude towards it.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Education to conduct a public hearing and invite stakeholders, experts, vocational and technical institutions and the Nigeria Board of Technical Education to discuss on how to reposition technical education in Nigeria (**HR. 202/2012**).

13. **Poor Treatment of Nigerian Visa Applicants by Foreign Embassies in Nigeria:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with dismay the inhuman and poor treatment Nigerian Visa Applicants are subjected to at various Foreign Embassies across the country;

Further notes that the inhuman and poor treatment come in various forms, including non-provision of waiting lounge and seats for prospective Visa Applicants, thus making them stand and/or wait under the sun and rain, endlessly before being attended to, facing excessive delays in the processing of Visa applications, and refusal of Visa without reasons, etc.;

Also notes that the Chinese, South African and several other Embassies for instance, do not have conducive waiting or rest places for Visa applicants who daily besiege these Embassies, while at the Israeli Embassy, visitors and Visa Applicants are thoroughly and indeed embarrassingly searched in the open;

Aware that at the Canadian Embassy for instance, it takes a minimum waiting period of about forty-five (45) working days for a Nigerian Visa Applicant to receive a response from the Canadian Authorities, whilst Applicants from other countries take lesser periods;

Further aware that the above situation recently led the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru to officially issue a protest statement on 30 August, 2012, to the Canadian High Commissioner to Nigeria, His Excellency, Chris Cotter expressing the Federal Government's displeasure with the situation;

Concerned that in spite of the Federal Government's protest, the situation at the various Embassies in Nigeria remains the same;

Further concerned that the actions of these Foreign Embassies negate the essence of bilateral and multilateral relationships between Nigerian and these other countries and that Nigerians deserve to be respected, and well treated with dignity, particularly in Nigeria and indeed anywhere else.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to intervene and investigate the matter and report back to the House within three (3) weeks (*Hon. O. K. Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency and 5 Others*)

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted with dismay the inhuman and poor treatment Nigerian Visa Applicants are subjected to at various Foreign Embassies across the country;

Further noted that the inhuman and poor treatment come in various forms, including non-provision of waiting lounge and seats for prospective Visa Applicants, thus making them stand and/or wait under the sun and rain, endlessly before being attended to, facing excessive delays in the processing of Visa applications and refusal of Visa without reasons, etc.;

Also noted that the Chinese, South African and several other Embassies for instance, do not have conducive waiting or rest places for Visa applicants who daily besiege these Embassies, while at the Israeli Embassy, visitors and Visa Applicants are thoroughly and indeed embarrassingly searched in the open;

Aware that at the Canadian Embassy for instance, it takes a minimum waiting period of about forty-five (45) working days for a Nigerian Visa Applicant to receive a response from the Canadian Authorities, whilst Applicants from other countries take lesser periods;

Further aware that the above situation recently led the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru to officially issue a protest statement on 30 August, 2012, to the Canadian High Commissioner to Nigeria, His Excellency, Chris Cotter expressing the Federal Government's displeasure with the situation;

Concerned that in spite of the Federal Government's protest, the situation at the various Embassies in Nigeria remains the same;

Further concerned that the actions of these Foreign Embassies negate the essence of bilateral and multilateral relationships between Nigerian and these other countries and that Nigerians deserve to be respected, and well treated with dignity, particularly in Nigeria and indeed anywhere else.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to intervene and investigate the matter and report back to the House within three (3) weeks (**HR. 203/2012**).

14. **Outright Proscription of Sales, Distribution and Consumption of all Brands of Caffeinated Energy Drinks in Nigeria:**

Order read; by leave of the House, deferred.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of ₦161,617,864,911 (One Hundred and Sixty-One Billion, Six Hundred and Seventeen Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eleven Naira) only to Provide for a Supplemental Subsidy Provision for the rest of 2012 (HB. 423) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of ₦161,617,864,911 (One Hundred and Sixty-One Billion, Six Hundred and Seventeen Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eleven Naira) only to Provide for a Supplemental Subsidy Provision for the rest of 2012 (HB. 423) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

Debate resumed.

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

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Finance, Appropriations, Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Petroleum Resources (Downstream).

16. **Adjournment:**
That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 18 *December*, 2012 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.34 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker