FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 51

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 23 January, 2013

1. The House met at 11.22 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 Tuesday, 22 January, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**
(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Abimbola Daramola (*Ikole/Oye North Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the continued loss of public revenue through the Destination Inspection Scheme Contracts. He stated that the initial contract for the Destination Inspection Scheme was over ₦275 billion for the years 2006 - 2012 and that by the end of 2012 the Scheme should have been handed over to the Nigerian Customs Service but the contract was unfortunately extended at the cost of ₦21 billion. He therefore called on the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable the House 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.*

Urgent need to Prevent Continued loss of Revenue through Ports Inspection Contracts:

The House:

Notes that Destination Inspection Scheme Contracts were awarded to four foreign firms, namely, COTECNA Destination Inspection Limited; SGS Scanning Nigeria Limited, Global Scan Systems Limited, and Webb Fontain (Nigeria) Limited, (handling ICT Services) in the last 7 years (2006 - December 31, 2012) at over ₦275 billion to provide scanning services, risk management techniques, electronic plat form at various ports and borders in Nigeria;

Aware that within the period of seven years, the Destination Inspection Service Providers were supposed to build, equip, train and transfer the technology and expertise to the Nigerian Customs Service and hand over their functions seamlessly to them fully at the end of December 2012;

Worried that in December 2012, the Honourable Minister of Finance and the management of the Nigerian Customs Service in conjunction with the service providers announced an extension of the contract of the service providers for a period of 6 months without due process and against the overall interest of the country;

Further notes that as a result of the extension, the sum of ₦21 billion would be paid to the service providers irrespective of the quality of their work, and without handing over to the Nigerian Customs Service or making Nigerians the dominant players in this held after so many years;

Further concerned that the revenue potentials of the country are not being realized as adequate taxes are not being paid by the Destination Inspection Service Providers and the collection of government revenue is not being maximized as over $1 billion, USD of government revenue have been lost.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Customs and Excise to carry out a thorough investigation of this matter and report back to the House within 2 weeks (*Hon. Abimbola Daramola — Ikole/Oye North Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Destination Inspection Scheme Contracts were awarded to four foreign firms, namely, Cotecna Destination Inspection Limited; SGS Scanning Nigeria Limited, Global Scan Systems Limited, and Webb Fontain (Nigeria) Limited, (handling ICT Services) in the last 7 years (2006 - December 31, 2012) at over ₦275 billion to provide scanning services, risk management techniques, electronic plat form at various ports and borders in Nigeria;

Aware that within the period of seven years, the Destination Inspection Service Providers were supposed to build, equip, train and transfer the technology and expertise to the Nigerian Customs Service and hand over their functions seamlessly to them fully at the end of December 2012;

Worried that in December 2012, the Honourable Minister of Finance and the management of the Nigerian Customs Service in conjunction with the service providers announced an extension of the contract of the service providers for a period of 6 months without due process and against the overall interest of the country;

Further noted that as a result of the extension, the sum of ₦21 billion would be paid to the service providers irrespective of the quality of their work, and without handing over to the Nigerian Customs Service or making Nigerians the dominant players in this held after so many years;

Further concerned that the revenue potentials of the country are not being realized as adequate taxes are not being paid by the Destination Inspection Service Providers and the collection of government revenue is not being maximized as over $1 billion, USD of government revenue have been lost.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Customs and Excise to carry-out a thorough investigation of this matter and report back to the House within 2 weeks (**HR. 16/2013**).

(*ii*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Raphael N. Igbokwe (*Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to a recent incident involving a Nigerian, Mr Obinna Ugboaja who was assaulted and tortured to death by some officers of the South African Police. He stated that such incidents have been on the increase lately and if measures were not taken to avert the ugly trend it could lead to diplomatic crisis. He therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable the matter to be debated 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.*

The Assault and Torture to Death of a Nigerian by the South African Police:

The House:

Concerned about the report of the death of a Nigerian Mr Obinna Ugboaja of Abia State, resulting from the undue assault and torture by officers of the South African Police;

Notes that Articles 5 and 7 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights guarantees the right of Mr Obinna Ugboaja to respect for human dignity, and the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction;

Worried that the assault and torture of Nigerians by South African Security Agencies have been on the increase;

Concerned that if no action is taken the trend may continue.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora to investigate the matter and liaise with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for necessary actions and report back to the House within a month (*Hon. Raphael N. Igbokwe — Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Concerned about the report of the death of a Nigerian Mr Obinna Ugboaja of Abia State, resulting from the undue assault and torture by officers of the South African Police;

Noted that Articles 5 and 7 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights guarantees the right of Mr. Obinna Ugboaja to respect for human dignity, and the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction;

Worried that the assault and torture of Nigerians by South African Security Agencies have been on the increase;

Concerned that if no action is taken the trend may continue.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora to investigate the matter and liaise with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for necessary actions and report back to the House within a month (**HR. 17/2013**).

4. **Need to Rehabilitate the Dikenafai-Umudi-Nkwerre Road:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the dilapidating state of the Dikenafai-Umudi-Nkwerre road which has been neglected for many years;

Further notes that with hiccups on most highways, the Dikenafai-Umudi-Nkwerre road remains a gateway out of Imo State to other parts of the South East and beyond;

Aware that the road is in such a state of disrepair which has been directly responsible for the loss of many lives and properties;

Further aware of the peculiarity of this road such that when it rains, it becomes flooded, risky and impassable;

Cognizant of the fact that the Federal Ministry of Works has promised to repair this road for so many years but no significant action has been taken towards fulfilling the promise.

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to rehabilitate the road, to ensure the safety of commuters who ply the road on a daily basis (*Hon. Jones Chukwudi Onyereri — Nkwerre/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committee on FERMA pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 18/2013**).

5. **Urgent Need to Investigate the Non-Implementation of the Backward Integration Policy on Local Production of Cement:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the management of Dangote Cement Plc has concluded arrangements to temporarily close down its four million metric ton per annum Cement Factory in Gboko, Benue State;

Aware that this action is informed by the current glut of cement in the country, which is a direct fallout from increase in local production and which has been further compounded by the continued importation of subsidized cement into the country and resulting in the commodity flooding the market;

Worried that the Federal Government is yet to vigorously pursue and implement the provision of the cement backward integration policy, which was initiated to encourage and protect local manufacturers from the dumping of cement products into the country through importation;

Disturbed that the management of Dangote Cement has as a result of this problem temporarily shut down the Gboko Cement Plant, and has asked its workers to proceed on forced leave pending when the situation improves;

Concerned that this action is capable of leading to loss of jobs in the country particularly in Benue State, and if urgent steps are not taken to address the problems that this company is facing, as the spread to other sister companies is imminent, while inadvertently creating jobs for citizens in other countries from where these commodities are being imported.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Finance, Commerce, and Industry to investigate the circumstances surrounding the non-implementation of the Cement Backward Integration Policy on local production of cement and report back to the House within 4 weeks (*Hon. Hassan Saleh — Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*).

Question put and negatived.

6. **A Bill for an Act to Promote Women Affirmative Action (Equal Opportunity for Women) and for Purposes Connected Therewith (HB. 350) — *Second Reading*:**

Order read; by leave of the House, deferred.

7. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Financial Controllers to Regulate and Control the Chartered Institute and for Other Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 213) — *Second Reading*:**

Order read; by leave of the House, deferred.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of a National Institute for Forensic Sciences and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 160) — *Second Reading*:**

Order read; by leave of the House, deferred.

9. **Adjournment:**
That this House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 29 *January*, 2013 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.35 *p.m.*

Chukwuemeka Nkem Ihedioha
Deputy Speaker