FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 58

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 12 February, 2013

1. The House met at 11.51 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 Thursday, 7 February, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

(*a*) Staff and Students of Intellectual School, Kuje Abuja;

(*b*) Staff and Students of Trust Academy, New-Nyanya, Karu, Nasarawa State.

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

(*i*) Hon. Adamu Eutonu (*Apa/Agata Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Dr O. J. Amedu, praying the House to investigate the non-compliance with court judgment by Abuja Geographic Information Systems (AGIS), Abuja, with a view to ensuring that justice is done;

(*ii*) Hon. Saviour Udoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Obot Akara/Essien Udim Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Edet Matthew Nse, praying the House to intervene in the termination of his appointment by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, Abuja, with a view to reinstating him.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**
(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi (*Owerri Municipal/North/West Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the dilapidated condition of the River Niger Bridge which links the Southern and the Northern parts of the country. He stated that the bridge is on the verge of total collapse due to old age, over-use, and lack of maintenance over the years. He stressed that the collapse of the bridge would lead to serious dislocation and disruption of commercial activities, and thus urged 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.

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

Threat of collapse of the River Niger Bridge:

The House:

Notes that the River Niger Bridge, which links the South-East, South-South, South-West and some Northern States, is on the verge of collapse, due to old age, over-use and lack of maintenance;

Further notes that there is evidence of corrosion and cracks to the structural members of the bridge which have been stretched beyond their limit and capacity;

Aware that at present, the bridge can no longer bear the constant weight of stationery vehicles, trailers or any other heavy duty truck accessing it, as heavy cranky noise and vibration is experienced when they do so;

Worried that the eventual collapse of the River Niger Bridge will lead to the death of many Nigerians and motorists, to the loss of lots of properties in the mayhem, with sections of the country cut off;

Further worried that the collapse of the bridge will further lead to dislocation and disruption in commercial activities, and that Government would be forced to channel all its energy, and resources in cushioning the hardship and other effects resulting from such collapse;

Concerned that promises of a second Niger Bridge by past and present administrations are yet to materialise.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of Works to immediately begin the reinforcement, repairs and rehabilitation of the River Niger Bridge, to avoid the dire consequences of a collapse;

(*ii*) further urge the Federal Government to employ the services of a competent contractor to commence the construction of a second Niger Bridge to support the one currently in use (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/North/West Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolution referred to the Committee on Works pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 31/2013**).

(*ii*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi (*Kumbotso Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the recent killing of nine female Health Workers in Filim Cashew, Ungwar Ukwu area in Tarauni Local Government Area and Hale Hotoro in Nassarawa Local Government Area of Kano State on Friday, 8 February, 2013. He stated that the Health Workers were shot while going about their duty and stressed that if such occurrence is not checked other Health personnel might be reluctant to perform important health work in the areas. 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 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.*

Gruesome killing of nine female Health Workers in Kano State by Unknown Gunmen:

The House:

Notes with deep concern the gruesome killing of nine female Health Workers in Filim Cashew, Ungwar Ukwu area in Tarauni Local Government Area and Hale Hotoro in Nassarawa Local Government Area of Kano State on 8 February, 2013 as reported in most national newspapers;

Worried that the nine female polio vaccinators were killed in two shootings at Health Centres in Kano;

Disturbed that these Health personnel were shot dead as they were dutifully engaged in polio vaccinations to protect and save the lives of Nigerian children in Kano State;

Concerned that such dastardly act on patriotic health personnel could disrupt Federal Government objective of accelerating the reduction of maternal and child mortality in all parts of Nigeria;

Further worried that the twin attacks which also left four additional female health workers injured were executed by gunmen on tricycles in a split succession between 9.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. on that fateful day.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Condemn in its entirety the gruesome killing of these nine female patriotic Health Workers while in active service to their fatherland;

(*ii*) commiserate with the families of the nine female Health Workers, the Government and people of Kano State;

(*iii*) urge the Federal Government to adequately compensate the families of the deceased for losing their bread winners while in active service to the nation;

(*iv*) call our security operatives to put proactive measures in place for Health Workers especially in high-risk areas (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted with deep concern the gruesome killing of nine female Health Workers in Filim Cashew, Ungwar Ukwu area in Tarauni Local Government Area and Hale Hotoro in Nasarawa Local Government Area respectively of Kano State on 8 February, 2013 as reported in most national newspapers;

Worried that the nine female polio vaccinators were killed in two shootings at Health Centres in Kano;

Disturbed that these Health personnel were shot dead as they were dutifully engaged in polio vaccinations to protect and save the lives of Nigerian children in Kano State;

Concerned that such dastardly act on patriotic health personnel could disrupt the Federal Government objective of accelerating the reduction of maternal and child mortality in all parts of Nigeria;

Further worried that the twin attacks which also left four additional female health workers injured were executed by gunmen on tricycles in a split succession between 9.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. on that fateful day.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Condemn in its entirety the gruesome killing of these nine female patriotic Health Workers while in active service to their fatherland;

(*ii*) commiserate with the families of the nine female Health Workers, the Government and people of Kano State;

(*iii*) urge the Federal Government to adequately compensate the families of the deceased for losing their bread winners while in active service to the nation;

(*iv*) call our security operatives to put proactive measures in place for Health Workers especially in high-risk areas (**HR. 32/2013**).

6. Matter Requiring the Special Attention of the House:

Hon. Ayo Omidiran (*Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the victory recorded by the Super Eagles of Nigeria in the final match of the African Cup of Nations with the Stallions of Burkina Faso on Sunday, 10 February, 2013. She commended the remarkable feat achieved by the team and urged the House to once again give the victorious National Team a resounding ovation.

The House resoundingly applauded the Super Eagles of Nigeria.

The Hon. Speaker congratulated the Super Eagles and stated that after due consultation with other Principal Officers of the House, it has been agreed preliminarily that the victorious national team should be received and honoured in the Chamber of the House on Wednesday, 13 *February,* 2013.

7. **Violation of the Provisions of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 by some Federal Government Agencies:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 which was passed by this respected Assembly was enacted to address the need for Nigerians to participate fully in the Oil and Gas Industry which has long been dominated by foreigners and multinational companies operating in the country;

Further notes that another reason for the enactment of the Nigerian oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, was the lack of statutory framework for the internalization and transfer of the technologies relevant in the Oil and Gas Industry to the Nigerian Labour Force and the reduction of Capital Drift;

Observes that in order to achieve its purpose, the Act clearly states in Section 3 (1) that, "Nigerian independent operators shall be given first consideration in the award of oil blocks, oil field licenses, oil lifting licenses and all projects for which contract is to be awarded in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry subject, to the fulfillment of such conditions as may be specified by the Minister";

Regrets however that in spite of the provisions of the Act as stated above, Local Contractors are still not appropriately patronized as provided for by the Act in the award of oil and gas contracts, the sales of oil blocks, Crude oil term contracts, Petroleum and Gas Pipeline maintenance, Refinery Maintenance, Procurement of Goods, Materials and services;

Further regrets how Ministries Department and Agencies (MDAs) referred to in Sections 2 and 106 of the Local Content Act have failed to comply with the provisions of the Act. In other words, Agencies in the Oil Sector like Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS), Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA), Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Nigeria Petroleum Development Company (NPDC), Warri, Kaduna and Port Harcourt Refineries, Nigeria Liquified and Natural Gas (NLNG), Nigeria Gas Company, Petroleum Pipelines and Marketing Company (PPMC), Integrated Data Services Limited, National Engineering and Technical Company Limited, Hydrocarbon Services Nigeria Limited are frustrating local contractors by constantly violating the provisions of the Local Content Act;

Worried that if the status quo of flagrant violation of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 by the Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) is left unchecked, the very essence of enacting the Local Content Act would have been defeated.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Local Content to investigate the violation of the Local Content Act by the Agencies from the inception to date and report back to the House within 4 weeks (*Hon. Nasiru Ali Ahmed —Nassarawa Federal Constituency and* 1 *Other*)

Debate:

Rising on Order XVIII, Rule 178 (2) (*c*) *Hon. Friday Itulah* (*Esan North East/Esan South East Federal Constituency*) *observed that the Motion was dilatory because the House Standing Order under reference has already given mandate to the Committee to continually serve as a watchdog on the violation of the Local Content Act by any organisation.*

Mr Speaker sustained the Point of Order.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. F7 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 404) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resume debate on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. F7 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 404) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Albert T. Sam-Tsokwa — Dunga/Ussa/Takum 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 Federal Character.

9. **A Bill for Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Abolish the State Independent Electoral Commissions to Ensure Free and Fair Conduct of all Elections to Local Government Councils in the Federation and for Matters Related Thereto (HB. 387) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as Amended) to Abolish State Independent Electoral Commission and to Provide for Matters Related Thereto (HB. 426) — *Second Reading*:**

Order read; by leave of the House, deferred.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Acts Authentication Act, Cap. A2 LFN, 2004 (HB. 154) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Acts Authentication Act, Cap. A2 LFN, 2004 (HB. 154) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Ali Ahmed — Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Debate adjourned:

11. **A Bill for an Act to Protect Telephone Consumers from the Activities of Telemarketers and to Provide for Adequate Sanctions against the Business of Telemarketing in Nigeria and for Other Purposes Connected Therewith (HB. 427) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Protect Telephone Consumers from the Activities of Telemarketers and to Provide for Adequate Sanctions against the Business of Telemarketing in Nigeria and for Other Purposes Connected Therewith (HB. 427) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Abiodun Abudu Balogun — Ijebu North/Ijebu East/Ogun Waterside 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 Communications.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Commission of Nigeria to Promote and Secure the Safety and Health of all Workers and Other Persons from Risks arising out of Work activities in the Workplace and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 163) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Commission of Nigeria to Promote and Secure the Safety and Health of all Workers and Other Persons from Risks arising out of Work activities in the Workplace and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 163) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Ajibola Famurewa — Atakumosa East/Atakumosa West/Ilesa East/Ilesa West 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 Health.

13. **Consideration of Report:**
A Bill for an Act to Eliminate Violence in Private and Public life, Prohibit all forms of Violence including Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Domestic, Harmful Traditional Practices; Discrimination against Persons and to Provide Maximum Protection and Effective Remedies for Victims and Punishment of Offenders (HB. 191) — (*Committee of the Whole*):

Consideration resumed:

Hon. Speaker recalled that the House had earlier adjourned consideration of the Bill to enable the Sponsor liaise with an Ad-hoc Committee comprising Hon. Ali Ahmad, Hon. Samson Osagie, Hon. Friday Itulah, and Hon. Betty Apiafi on certain provisions of the Bill. He therefore invited the Ad-hoc Committee to brief the House on the matter.

Briefing the House on behalf of the Ad-hoc Committee, Hon. Ali Ahmad stated that the Committee had extensively deliberated on the Bill and found that Sections 1 *and* 49 *are the only contentious areas of the Bill, but recommended that they should be retained with amendments in order to align them with the rest of the Bill.*

Further consideration adjourned.

14. **Adjournment:**
That the House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 13 *February,* 2013 *at* 11.00 *a.m. (Hon. Leo Ogor — Deputy House Leader).*

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.24 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker