FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 69

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 14 February, 2013

1. The House met at 11.35 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, 13 February, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**

(*i*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of Staff and Students of Premier International School, Wuse II, Abuja.

(*ii*) ***Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal University of Uyo and to make comprehensive provision for its due Administration and Other Related Matters* 2012 (HB. 165).**
Mr Speaker announced the following as Members of the Conference Committee:

(1)	Hon. Rose Oko	—	*Chairperson*
(2)	Hon. Abdulmalik D. C. Usman	—	*Member*
(3)	Hon. Abubakar Momoh	—	*Member*
(4)	Hon. Abiola Adebukola Ajaja	—	*Member*
(5)	Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso	—	*Member*
(6)	Hon. Hassan El-Badawa	—	*Member*
(7)	Hon. Abdullahi Dan-Alkali	—	*Member*

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

(*i*) Hon. Robinson Uwak (*Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong/Oruko Federal Constituency*) from Akaninyene Simon Udofia on behalf of Akwa Ibom Patriotic Citizens Forum, praying the House to intervene in the exclusion from the Amnesty Programme of the Federal Government, of ex-militants from Akwa Ibom State with a view to absorbing them;

(*ii*) Hon. Samson Osagie (*Orhionmwon Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Raphael Obasogie, praying the House to investigate the termination of his appointment by Addax Petroleum Development Company, with a view to reinstate him;

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(*iii*) Hon. Ismail Inah Hassain (*Idah/Igalamela/Ibaji/Ofu Federal Constituency*) from Humphrey Abah and 5 Others, on behalf of Igalamela/Odolu Local Government Area Leaders Forum Ajaka, Kogi State, praying the House to investigate the incessant crimes in the area, with a view to restore peace;

(*iv*) Hon. Chinda Kingsley (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*) from Chief Amadi Wali and 6 Others on behalf of Ozuoba town -- Rivers State, praying the House to redress the abandonment of the dualization of the Port Harcourt Airport road by COGIPAR Nigeria Limited.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Presentation of Report:**
Committee on Judiciary:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to further Amend the Federal High Court Act, Cap. 134, LFN 2004, to increase the Number of Judges of the Federal High Court from Seventy (70) to One Hundred (100) and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 333)" (*Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari -- Yabo/Shagiari Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

6. **Need to Ban the Sale of Alcohol and Drug Related Substances in and Around Motor Parks:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the consumption of alcohol increases the risk of motor accidents for motorists and pedestrians. Not only does alcohol impair processes critical to safe road use such as vision and reaction time, it is also associated with impaired judgment and so is often linked to other high- risk road use behaviours such as over speeding or not using seat-belts;

Further notes that a recent study by the Lagos State Government revealed that 22 % of drivers in the State tested positive for alcohol and drug related substances as reported by the Daily Times of 27 September, 2012;

Worried that most of the road accidents that occur on Nigerian roads are attributable to the influence of alcohol and hard drugs. This menace is aggravated by the easy access of drivers to these road unfriendly substances;

Further worried that motor parks have become sale points of alcohol and drugs where drivers, prior to take-off of a particular trip, consume these substances, thus endangering the lives of the passengers;

Disturbed that alcohol affects attentiveness and one's ability to make quick decisions on the road, react to change in the environment and execute specific, often difficult manoeuvres behind the wheel;

Further disturbed that a large number of culprits are commercial drivers, who constitute an important group to address because of the number of passengers they carry who depend on them for safety.

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Government to Ban the sale of alcoholic drinks and other drug related substances in and around motor parks in the Federation (*Hon. Ismail Inah Hussain — Idah/Igalamela/Ibaji/Ofu Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Motion by leave of the House, stood down.

7. **Need to Ban the Use of Foreign Currencies in Domestic Transactions in Nigeria:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that every country has its currency, which serves as a means of exchange, a symbol of identity, a source of pride, and a sign of fiscal independence and economic stability;

Further notes that without equivocation, the Naira is Nigeria's currency and the only means of exchange for local and domestic transactions known to law in Nigeria;

Regrets that there is a growing trend in the use of some foreign currencies, especially the US Dollar for payments of school fees, hotel bills, real estate, rent and purchase in bars, night clubs, luxury goods shops, etc. in Nigeria;

Observes that this trend has led to the high demand of these foreign currencies especially the US Dollars in Nigeria, and is contributing seriously to the weakening of the Naira against such currencies, with its resultant negative effects on our economy;

Aware that the Naira is not accepted as a means of exchange in the United States of America and other countries while the use of their currencies is becoming a trend in local transactions in Nigeria.

Resolves to:

Urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to ban the use of foreign currencies as a means of exchange in local and domestic transactions in Nigeria (*Hon. Nadu S. Karibo — Ogbia Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that every country has its currency, which serves as a means of exchange, a symbol of identity, a source of pride, and a sign of fiscal independence and economic stability;

Further noted that without equivocation, the Naira is Nigeria's currency and the only means of exchange for local and domestic transactions known to law in Nigeria;

Regretted that there is a growing trend in the use of some foreign currencies, especially the US Dollar for payments of school fees, hotel bills, real estate, rent and purchase in bars, night clubs, luxury goods shops, etc. in Nigeria;

Observed that this trend has led to the high demand of these foreign currencies especially the US Dollars in Nigeria, and is contributing seriously to the weakening of the Naira against such currencies, with its resultant negative effects on our economy;

Aware that the Naira is not accepted as a means of exchange in the United States of America and other countries while the use of their currencies is becoming a trend in local transactions in Nigeria.

Resolved to:

Urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to ban the use of foreign currencies as a means of exchange in local and domestic transactions in Nigeria (**HR. 35/2013**).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provision of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, by vesting appellate Jurisdiction on the Sharia and Customary Courts of Appeal in respect of all matter emanating from Sharia, District and Area Customary Courts and for Others Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 406) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Provision of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, by vesting appellate Jurisdiction on the Sharia and Customary Courts of Appeal in respect of all matter emanating from Sharia, District and Area Customary Courts and for Others Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 406) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Isoko North/Isoko South 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 Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review.

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Companies and Allied Matters Act, Cap. C20 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by making an upward Review of Penalties Prescribed for Foreign Companies doing Business in Nigeria for Non-Compliance with the Provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act and for Related Matters (HB.275) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2004 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 268) — *Second Reading*:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Companies and Allied Matters Act, Cap. C20 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by making an upward Review of Penalties Prescribed for Foreign Companies doing Business in Nigeria for Non-Compliance with the Provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act and for Related Matters (HB.275) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2004 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 268) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Fatai Mouruf Akinderu — Oshodi-Isolo I 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 Committees on Commerce, and Justice.

10. A Bill for an Act to Authorize the Review of Penalties in the Acts or Other Enactments by a Person or Authority responsible for enforcing the Penalties and Other Related Matters, (HB. 369) — *Second Reading*:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Authorize the Review of Penalties in the Acts or Other Enactments by a Person or Authority responsible for enforcing the Penalties and Other Related Matters, (HB. 369) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Patrick A. Ikhariale — Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben 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.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Industrial Training Fund Act Cap 19 (No. 47 of 1971) for the purpose of Empowering the fund to design, set-up and Operate guidelines for the Training, Certification, Nation-wide at State, Local Government and Ward levels and to Establish Area Registries for maintaining up-to-date Registers of Certified Artisan and Technicians in all Fields and in all parts of the Federation (HB. 354) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Industrial Training Fund Act Cap 19 (No. 47 of 1971) for the purpose of Empowering the fund to design, set-up and Operate guidelines for the Training, Certification, Nation-wide at State, Local Government and Ward levels and to Establish Area Registries for maintaining up-to-date Registers of Certified Artisan and Technicians in all Fields and in all parts of the Federation (HB. 354) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Chudi P. Uwazuruike — Ehime Mbano/Ihitte Uboma/Obowo 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 Industry.

12. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Amend the Citizenship Definition contained therein to include all Persons Indigenous to Communities now forming part of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 414) — *Second Reading*:

Order read; by leave of the House, deferred.

13. Adjournment:
That the House do now adjourn till Tuesday, 19 February, 2013 at 11.00 a.m. (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.21 p.m.

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker