FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 64

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 26 February, 2013

1. The House met at 12.10 p.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, 21 February, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**

(*i*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of Staff and Students of Mawo International Schools, Minna, Niger State.

(*ii*) ***Mr Speaker, The Sun Newspapers' 2012 Man of the Year*:**
Mr Speaker announced that on Saturday, 23 February, 2013, *The Sun Newspapers* conferred on him, the *Man of the Year*, 2012 Award. He stated that the award was not just for himself, but largely a recognition of the achievement of the House since the inception of the 7th Assembly. He therefore invited the Leader of the House and the Minority Leader to receive from him the *Man of the Year*, 2012 award, on behalf of the House.

The Hon. Speaker handed over the Plague symbolising the award to the Leaders amidst applause by Members.

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

(*i*) Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi (*Ezeagu/Udi Federal Constituency*) on behalf of:

(*a*) Michael Chiwuzie for Home Connection UK Limited, seeking the intervention of the House in the wrongful cancellation of allocation of plot 944 Jabi to the company by the Federal Capital Territory Authorities, and to impress upon the Authorities to redress the anomaly;

(*b*) Ozoude Tochukwu, praying the House to redress the non-payment of his father's retirement benefits by the Nigeria Police in compliance with the Federal Government programme on the post civil war amnesty for ex-servicemen;

(*c*) Solomon Eze and 10 Others for Umuezeani Community Ameke Ngwo, in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State, praying the House to intervene in the exploitation, intimidation and suppression of their community by the management of the Nigerian Breweries Plc, with a view to ensuring that justice prevails;

(*ii*) Hon. Irona Alphonsus Gerald (*Ohaji/Egbema-Oguta-Oru West Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Systems Numeric Limited, seeking the intervention of the House to ensure that Lottery Platform as a Service (LPAAS) bid which the company won is awarded to them in the interest of justice.

(*iii*) Hon. Chris S. Eta (*Ikom/Boki Federal Constituency*) on behalf of:

(*a*) Kehinde Adediran & Co, for Col. Adebola Ogunsanwo (*rtd*), requesting the House to re-list for hearing his petition dated 29 March, 2012 which was struck out by the Committee on Public Petitions due to the absence of the petitioners at the last sitting of the Committee;

(*b*) Members of the Nigeria Union of Traders Association, Ghana (NUTAG), praying the House to intervene in the untold harassment and incessant discriminatory treatments of Nigerian traders in Ghana by the Government of the Republic of Ghana, which led to closure of over hundred Nigerian shops and forceful ejection of Nigerian traders from the Ghanaian markets on the 6 and 14 February, 2013, with a view to redressing the situation;

(*c*) Apo Traders Association (ATASS), praying the House to investigate and redress the alleged illegal demolition of Houses and shops, and criminal intimidation of their Members by men of a combined team of the Police, the Army, and the Department of Development Control of Federal Capital Development Authority, Abuja.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Nathaniel Agunbiade (*Obokun/Oriade Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the recent compulsory retirement of two judges of the Federal High Court for misconduct. He stated that the punishment of compulsory retirement appeared to be insufficient for the offence committed by the retired Judges, and that the matter should be further investigated with a view to protecting the image of the Judiciary. He therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

(*ii*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Chinda Kingsley (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the killing of some students of the Nasarawa State University, Keffi by some men of the Nigerian Army on Monday, 25 February, 2013. He expressed dismay at the situation where the army used live ammunition to confront protesting students. He therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and 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.*

Killing of some Students of the Nasarawa State University by some men of the Nigerian Army:

The House:

Notes with very serious concern the recent killing of some Students of the Nasarawa State University, Keffi by men of the Nigerian Army;

Also notes that Students of the University had on Monday, 25 February, 2013 embarked on a peaceful demonstration to protest the non-provision of water and electricity supply to their campus by authorities of the school, in the course of which road block was mounted by the Students;

Further notes that following this, some soldiers who were drafted in to bring the situation under control began shooting sporadically, beating up and manhandling as well as throwing tear gas canisters indiscriminately at the protesting Students;

Concerned that the deployment of Nigeria Police or military men armed with live ammunition to University campuses in the guise of quelling Students protests is clearly wrong and unacceptable;

Also concerned that the present case is one too many in cases of extra judicial killings by men of the Nigeria Police and the Armed Forces in University campuses and several parts of the country against defenceless, innocent Students and citizens and which is very highly condemnable;

Further concerned that the incident has led to very serious tension within the University community and its environ as so many people are reported to have deserted their homes for fear of further attacks by men of the Nigerian Army and/or reprisal attack by the Students;

Worried that the situation is already generating ill feelings and bad blood between the University Students and men of the Nigerian Army and if not immediately checked, could lead to further escalation of violence in the area and the area could be completely cut off from other parts of Nasarawa State;

Further worried that the social and economic life and well-being of people living in and around the affected area and those of other Nigerians could also be adversely affected as people would vacate the area in search of safety and other conducive business environment, with the result that these people and neigbouring communities would be completely cut off from the rest of the State.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Observe a minute silence in honour of the slain students of the Nasarawa State University, Keffi;

(*ii*) condemn the deployment of soldiers to quell peaceful protest by Students and indeed civilian populace;

(*iii*) urge the Inspector General of Police and other relevant security Agencies to immediately take steps to forestall any further breakdown of law and order within the affected areas;

(*iv*) further urge the Nasarawa State Government as a matter of urgency, to take immediate and very urgent steps to ensure security of lives and property of people in the affected areas, while police investigations are on;

(*v*) mandate the Committees on Army, Security and Police Affairs to undertake a thorough investigation into the shooting and report to the House within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Chinda Kingsley — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted with very serious concern the recent killing of some Students of the Nasarawa State University, Keffi by men of the Nigerian Army;

Also noted that Students of the University had on Monday, 25 February, 2013 embarked on a peaceful demonstration to protest the non-provision of water and electricity supply to their campus by authorities of the school, in the course of which road block was mounted by the Students;

Further noted that following this, some soldiers who were drafted in to bring the situation under control began shooting sporadically, beating up and manhandling as well as throwing tear gas canisters indiscriminately at the protesting Students;

Concerned that the deployment of Nigeria Police or military men armed with live ammunition to University campuses in the guise of quelling Students protests is clearly wrong and unacceptable;

Also concerned that the present case is one too many in cases of extra judicial killings by men of the Nigeria Police and the Armed Forces in University campuses and several parts of the country against defenceless, innocent Students and citizens and which is very highly condemnable;

Further concerned that the incident has led to very serious tension within the University community and its environ as so many people are reported to have deserted their homes for fear of further attacks by men of the Nigerian Army and/or reprisal attack by the Students;

Worried that the situation is already generating ill feelings and bad blood between the University Students and men of the Nigerian Army and if not immediately checked, could lead to further escalation of violence in the area and the area could be completely cut off from other parts of Nasarawa State;

Further worried that the social and economic life and well-being of people living in and around the affected area and those of other Nigerians could also be adversely affected as people would vacate the area in search of safety and other conducive business environment, with the result that these people and neigbouring communities would be completely cut off from the rest of the State.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Observe a minute silence in honour of the slain students of the Nasarawa State University, Keffi;

(*ii*) condemn the deployment of soldiers to quell peaceful protest by Students and indeed civilian populace;

(*iii*) urge the Inspector General of Police and other relevant security Agencies to immediately take steps to forestall any further breakdown of law and order within the affected areas;

(*iv*) further urge the Nasarawa State Government as a matter of urgency, to take immediate and very urgent steps to ensure security of lives and property of people in the affected areas, while police investigations are on;

(*v*) mandate the Committees on Army, Security and Police Affairs to undertake a thorough investigation into the shooting and report to the House within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 43/2013**).

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased students.

6. **Presentation of Bills:**
The following Bills were presented and read the *First Time*:

(*i*) Niger Delta Development Commission Statutory Appropriation Bill, 2013 (HB. 458).

(*ii*) Institute of Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 450).

(*iii*) Nigerian National Commission against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons Bill, 2013 (HB. 461).

(*iv*) Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 459).

7. **Presentation of Report:**
***Committee on Health*:**
That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Assisted Reproduction Authority to among Others, Regulate the Practice of Assisted Reproductive Techniques in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 202).

Order read; by leave of the House, deferred.

8. **Need to Reconstruct and Rehabilitate Bridges without Rail Guards on the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Road:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the deplorable state of the bridges on the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano road especially the absence of rail guards have turned them into death traps resulting in recurring road accidents along those bridges leading to loss of lives and property;

Further notes that most of the bridges constructed before the dualization of the Abuja-Kaduna-Kano road had no rail guards, while the few with rail guards have been destroyed by numerous accidents which have over time rendered them prone to further accidents especially at night;

Worried that lack of rail guards on the bridges on this very busy road especially at night or during any rainfall has turned the bridges into horror spots to all motorists as a slight swerve on the bridges would mean instant plunge into the river;

Further worried that according to the Federal Roads Safety Commission, hundreds of Nigerians die every year due to accidents on old and dilapidated bridges especially those without rail guards;

Also worried that River Rijana bridge in Chukun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Azara bridge near Jere in Kagarko Local Government Area, and those at Tafa, a boundary between Kaduna and Niger States, all along Abuja-Kaduna-Kano road are notoriously bad and fast become the graveyards of many vehicles and unfortunate drivers who have plunged into the river because of the lack of rail guards;

Aware that between the months of August and September 2012 alone, more that 20 people lost their lives as a result of accidents on the bridges without rail guards along Abuja-Kaduna Kano road;

Disturbed that except rail guards are installed on the bridges, more lives and properties would be lost, especially during the end of year festivities which is generally characterized by high vehicular traffic;

Regrets that despite the recurring accidents along this road arising from this infrastructural gap, the menace is still unaddressed and may contradict government's pronouncements on transformation and good governance;

Further regrets that if no urgent step is taken, the problem will defeat the purpose of budgetary allocations to the Federal Ministry of Works and its Parastatals.

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministry of Works to construct, and rehabilitate rail guards on bridges along Abuja-Kaduna-Kano road (*Hon. Khalid Ibrahim — Soba Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolution referred to the Committees on Committee on Works pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 44/2013**).

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Hydro-Electric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act 2010 and for Other Matters Connected Therein (HB. 284) — *Second Reading*:** *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Hydro-Electric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act 2010 and for Other Matters Connected Therein (HB. 284) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Mulikat Adeola-Akande — House Leader*).

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 Power and Water Resources.

10. **Closed Session:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resolve into Closed Session"(*Hon. Mulikat Adeola-Akande — House Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

House in Closed Session	—	**1.21 *p.m.***
House in Open Session	—	**3.11 *p.m.***

11. **Adjournment:**
That the House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 27 *February*, 2013 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Mulikat Adeola-Akande — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.14 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker