FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 70

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 12 March, 2013

1. The House met at 11.25 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 Thursday, 7 March, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**
(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Rasaq Bello-Osagie (*Oredo Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the recent deportation of Mr Yaniv Dabah, an Israeli staff of Reynolds Construction Company (RCC) — a firm handling the construction of the popular 5 Junction in Benin City, Edo State. He noted that the his deportation from Nigeria in suspicious circumstances was capable of stalling the completion of the project 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.

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

Deportation of an Israeli staff of Reynolds Construction Company (RCC):

The House:

Notes that the project for the popular 5 junction in Benin City, Edo State was embarked upon by the Edo State Government for the purposes of reconstruction, flood control and beautification;

Further notes that during the recent good governance tour led by the Hon. Minister of Information, the erroneous impression was created that it was a Federal Government project;

Aware that upon further enquiry by the comrade Governor of Edo State in company of the contractors handling the project, Messrs Reynolds Construction Company (RCC), it was clarified by the company through one Mr Yaniv Dabah, an Israeli working for the company, that the project was in fact being executed by the Edo State Government the scope of which includes reconstruction of the 5 junction and all it's adjoining roads, erosion control and beautification which was awarded and paid for by the Edo State Government;

Disturbed that shortly after the clarification which all parties ought to take in good faith, the said Mr Yaniv Dabah was deported from Nigeria under very suspicious circumstance, thus portending grave consequence for the completion of the project.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Works, Interior and Foreign Affairs do institute a probe into the actual ownership or awardee of the said project and the circumstances surrounding the deportation of Mr Yaniv Dabah of RCC (*Hon. Rasaq Bello-Osagie — Oredo Federal Constituency*)

Question put and agreed to.

Resolution referred to the Committees on Committees on Works, Interior, and Foreign Affairs pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 60/2013**).

(*ii*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Ibrahim Shehu Gusau (*Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the arrest and intimidation of Senator Ahmed Sani Yerima, Senate Deputy Minority Leader, by the Nigeria Police on Saturday, 9 March, 2013, following the interview he granted during a popular Hausa Phone-in programme — *Hannu da Yawa*. He described the action of the Nigeria Police as improper and 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.*

Police Harassment, Intimidation and Abridging of Citizens' Human Rights:

The House:

Notes that on Saturday, 9 March, 2013, a serving Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Deputy Minority Leader and a former Executive Governor of Zamfara State, Distinguish Senator Ahmed Sani Yerima Bakura was arrested in a commando style at the premises of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Kaduna by the Nigeria Police;

Sadly notes that he was detained and questioned for over three (3) hours;

Further notes that his alleged offense according to the Nigerian Police was that the Distinguished Senator made some inciting comments during a popular Hausa Phone -in-Programme Hannu Da Yawa;

Aware that the comment the Distinguished Senator made was in response to a question on the registration of the All Progressives Congress (APC) whereby he said that if the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) refused to register APC after it would have met all necessary and legal requirements, the APC would call for a mass peaceful protest;

Further aware that intention to call for a peaceful protest could not be described as an incitement in a democratic dispensation;

Concerned that the arrest amounts to a detraction from the right to peaceful assembly and association as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Section 40);

Further concerned that Section 39 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which states that "Every Person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and import ideas and information without interference" has been violated by this action;

Worried that if a serving Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria could be so treated, the faith of other innocent members of the general public could only be imagined.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to investigate this matter and report back to the House within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Ibrahim Shehu Gusau — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Saturday, 9 March, 2013, a serving Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Deputy Minority Leader and a former Executive Governor of Zamfara State, Distinguish Senator Ahmed Sani Yerima Bakura was arrested in a commando style at the premises of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Kaduna by the Nigeria Police;

Sadly noted that he was detained and questioned for over three (3) hours;

Further noted that his alleged offense according to the Nigerian Police was that the Distinguished Senator made some inciting comments during a popular Hausa Phone -in-Programme Hannu Da Yawa;

Aware that the comment the Distinguished Senator made was in response to a question on the registration of the All Progressives Congress (APC) whereby he said that if the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) refused to register APC after it would have met all necessary and legal requirements, the APC would call for a mass peaceful protest;

Further aware that intention to call for a peaceful protest could not be described as an incitement in a democratic dispensation;

Concerned that the arrest amounts to a detraction from the right to peaceful assembly and association as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Section 40);

Further concerned that Section 39 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which states that "Every Person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and import ideas and information without interference" has been violated by this action;

Worried that if a serving Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria could be so treated, the faith of other innocent members of the general public could only be imagined.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to investigate this matter and report back to the House within two (2) weeks (**HR. 61/2013**).

4. Dangerous Trend in Handling Railway Transport System in Nigeria:

Order read; by leave of the House, deferred.

5. Need to Establish a General Hospital along Airport Road, Abuja:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with serious concern the rate of accidents and other ill-health related cases occurring along Airport Road, Abuja;

Further notes that the location of Government hospitals in the city of Abuja is a distance from the Airport thereby denying essential health services to the people;

Also notes that Federal Housing Authority Estate, Lugbe and other Settlement along Airport road are without a Hospital to serve emergency situations on the road;

Aware that the absence of a General Hospital along Airport Road has resulted to the death of many innocent people because of the distance to the city where government hospitals are located;

Further aware that the establishment of a General Hospital in Federal Housing Authority (FHA) Estate, Lugbe and or any other settlement along Airport Road will meet present health need of the ever growing population;

Concerned that until measurable steps are taken like the establishment of a General Hospital in Federal Housing Authority and or any other settlement along the airport road the rate of accidents and other ill-health related cases will be on the increase;

Further concerned that most of the maternity cases arises in the late hours of the night where motorists are not readily available and this makes it difficult for pregnant women to be transported for immediate treatment;

Worried that this situation has made health care delivery for residence along the Airport Road difficult and eventually losing their lives.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Health to immediately take steps to ensure that a General Hospital is approved and established in Federal Housing Authority (FHA) Estate, Lugbe (*Hon. Yusuf Manu Swa — Balanga/Biliri Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolution referred to the Committees on Committee on Health pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) **(HR. 62/2013)**.

6. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12 LFN, 2004 by extending Legislative Powers and Privileges to members of the Local Government Legislative Assemblies and for Related Matters (HB. 367), a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12 LFN, 2004 and Enact the Legislative Powers and Privileges Act, 2012 in order to give the Legislature the desired Powers and Immunity to be able to carry-out its Legislative Responsibility and for Related Matters (HB. 429) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, LFN 2004 (HB. 436) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12 LFN, 2004 by extending Legislative Powers and Privileges to members of the Local Government Legislative Assemblies and for Related Matters (HB. 367), a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12 LFN, 2004 and Enact the Legislative Powers and Privileges Act, 2012 in order to give the Legislature the desired Powers and Immunity to be able to carry-out its Legislative Responsibility and for Related Matters (HB. 429) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, LFN 2004 (HB. 436) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. O. K. Chinda, Hon. Ali Ahmad and Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe*).

Debate:

Ordered: That the sponsors of the Bill as consolidated should liaise with the Committee on Rules and Business to determine the constitutionality of the Bill and report back to the House on Tuesday, 19 *March*, 2013.

7. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Sports Commission a Body charged with the Responsibility for facilitating the Administration and Development of Sports in Nigeria, encouragement and promotion of Sporting activities, Recreation and Physical fitness amongst Nigerian and Other Matters Incidental Thereto (HB. 242) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Sports Commission a Body charged with the Responsibility for facilitating the Administration and Development of Sports in Nigeria, encouragement and promotion of Sporting activities, Recreation and Physical fitness amongst Nigerian and Other Matters Incidental Thereto (HB. 242) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Godfrey Gaiya — Jaba/Zango Kataf 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 Sports.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 and for Purposes Connected Therewith (HB. 452) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 and for Purposes Connected Therewith (HB. 452) - Second Reading be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Asita Honourable O. — Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni/Ahoada West Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Debate adjourned.

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

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.08 *p.m.*

Chukwuemeka Nkem Ihedioha
Deputy Speaker