FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 76

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 26 March, 2013

1. The House met at 11.46 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, 21 March, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**

(*i*) ***Committee Appointment*:**
Mr Speaker announced the appointment of Hon. Ibrahim Bello as the Deputy Chairman, Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa.

(*ii*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of Members of the Boy Scouts of Nigeria.

(*iii*) ***Bereavement*:**

(*a*) Mr Speaker announced the demise of Chief Chikezie Asebu Odigbo, member of the Nigerian Parliament (1959 - 1964), who died on Sunday, 6 January, 2013;

(*b*) Mr Speaker also announced with regret the death of Tumalgak David Simon Mwadkwon, son of Hon. Simon Mwadkwon (*Riyom/Barkin Ladi Federal Constituency*), which sad event occurred on Sunday, 24 March, 2013.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

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

(*i*) Hon. Saviour Udoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Etim Ukpong Ibanga, praying the House to intervene in the termination of his appointment by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), with a view to reviewing his case;

(*ii*) Hon. Hassan Saleh (*Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*) on behalf of David Gowon, praying the House to investigate his wrongful dismissal from service by the Nigeria Police, with a view to reinstating him.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**
Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Charles Odedo (*Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the demise of Professor Chinua Achebe, a renowned literary icon in Nigeria. He stated that Prof. Achebe has contributed immensely to the socio-political development of Nigeria through his literary works and urged the House to consider his passage as a matter 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.*

The passing on of Professor Chinua Achebe:

The House:

Notes that Professor Chinua Achebe, a Nigerian literary icon died on Thursday, 21 March, 2013 in Boston, United States of America as was announced by one of his sons, Dr Ike Achebe;

Further notes that Professor Achebe brought honour to Nigeria with his literary works including his novel ***Things Fall Apart*** which was written in 1958, and has been translated into over fifty languages, and has sold over twelve million copies worldwide;

Aware that Professor Achebe had authored over twenty literary works and won many awards and prizes among which are, the Nigerian National Merit Award, Man Booker International Prize, 2007, Dorothy and Lillian Gish prize in 2010, and has also received honorary degrees from more than 30 universities around the world;

Further aware that in 1992, he became the first living writer to be represented in the Everyman's Library Collection;

Also notes that one of his books ***The Trouble with Nigeria*** identifies bad leadership and bad governance as the problems with Nigeria;

Cognizant of the fact that Professor Achebe, through his literary works had relentlessly fought against corruption, oppression, injustice and bad governance, a fight the House is glad to continue in the 7th Assembly as outlined in our Legislative Agenda.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Observe a minute silence in his honour;

(*ii*) send a letter of condolence to his family;

(*iii*) be represented during his burial ceremony; and

(*iv*) Urge the Federal Government to name the National Library Headquarters under construction in Abuja after him (*Hon. Charles Odedo — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Professor Chinua Achebe, a Nigerian literary icon died on Thursday, 21 March, 2013 in Boston, United States of America as was announced by one of his sons, Dr Ike Achebe;

Further noted that Professor Achebe brought honour to Nigeria with his literary works including his novel ***Things Fall Apart*** which was written in 1958, has been translated into over fifty languages, and has sold over twelve million copies worldwide;

Aware that Professor Achebe had authored over twenty literary works and won many awards and prizes among which are, the Nigerian National Merit Award, Man Booker International Prize, 2007, Dorothy and Lillian Gish prize in 2010, and has also received honorary degrees from more than 30 universities around the world;

Further aware that in 1992, he became the first living writer to be represented in the Everyman's Library Collection;

Also noted that one of his books ***The Trouble with Nigeria*** identifies bad leadership and bad governance as the problems with Nigeria;

Cognizant of the fact that Professor Achebe, through his literary works had relentlessly fought against corruption, oppression, injustice and bad governance, a fight the House is glad to continue in the 7th Assembly as outlined in our Legislative Agenda.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Observe a minute silence in his honour;

(*ii*) send a letter of condolence to his family;

(*iii*) be represented during his burial ceremony; and

(*iv*) urge the Federal Government to name the National Library Headquarters under construction in Abuja after him (**HR. 79/2013**).

A minutes silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

6. **Personal Explanation:**
Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 47, Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu (*Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili North/Oshimili South Federal Constituency*) informed the House of the conferment of the Fellowship of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria on Hon. Abdul M. Msheliza (*Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency*) on Saturday, 23 March, 2013 at the National Conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, 2013. He stated that he was privileged to represent the Speaker at the occasion and urged the House to appreciate and applaud the Member for the professional award.

Hon. Msheliza displayed the plaque symbolizing the award before the Speaker amidst applause by Members.

7. **Urgent Need to Construct a Flyover and Pedestrian Bridge Across the Benin-Lagos Road in the Accident Flashpoint of Ore Junction, Ondo State:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Benin -Lagos Highway by-pass at Ore connects Okitipupa Irele, Ilaje, Ese-Odo, Odigbo, Ondo East, Ondo West, Ile Oluji/Oke Igbo Local Government Areas of Ondo State, including the popular Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Petroleum Price Marketing Corporation (PPMC) Depot (Ore NNPC Depot) and several tertiary Institutions and Federal Parastatals in Ondo State;

Further notes that the Benin-Lagos Highway including the by-pass at Ore is a busy Federal Road and is notorious for heavy traffic and fatal accidents throughout the year, especially during weekends and festive periods;

Regrets that the series of accidents on the road has led to the loss of many lives and the destruction of properties worth several Billions of Naira;

Worried that the loss of a lot of man-hours caused by the delays in vehicular movement has negative consequences for businessmen and other road users;

Aware that similar flyovers and pedestrian bridges have been constructed at various other accident flash points in the major highways across the country in order to save lives and properties.

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministry of Works to construct a flyover and Pedestrian Bridge across the Benin-Lagos Road at Ore junction (*Hon. Akintoye Albert — Okitipupa/Irele Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolution referred to the Committee on Works pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 80/2013**).

8. **Re-drafting of Long Title of a Bill — Order I, Rule 1 (2):**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Assembly Journal No. 07 Vol. 9, dated 18th July, 2012 contains a Bill wrongly titled "A Bill for an Act to Govern the Legal Profession and for Other Matters Connected Therewith";

Further notes that the Bill was allotted the following number, that is HB. 335;

Reminded that a Motion was moved for commencement of debate for the Bill to be read the Second Time on Wednesday, 6 February, 2013;

Aware that due to some omissions and typographical errors sighted on its Long Title and Short Title, the Second Reading of the Bill could not proceed and it was stood down by leave of the House;

Recognized that this fact is contained in Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives No. 56 dated Wednesday, 6 February, 2013 at 532;

Mindful of the need to ensure that the Long and Short Titles of a Bill must be free of any error whatsoever.

Resolves to:

amend the Long Title to read thus:

"A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Legal Practitioners Act, Cap. L11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and enact the Legal Practitioners Act to govern more efficiently the legal profession, to ensure competitive service delivery globally; and for Related Matters Thereto"; and the Short Title to read: "Legal Practitioners (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2012" (*Hon. Ali Ahmad — Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

9. **Alleged Non-Compliance of Addax Petroleum Development Company Limited with the Provisions of Section 15A of the Petroleum (Drilling and Production) Regulations 1988:**

Order; deferred by leave of the House.

10. **Consolidation of Bills:**
Motion made and question proposed, "A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Emergency Management Agency (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. N34, LFN, 2004 and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 376) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Emergency Management Agency (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. N34, LFN, 2004 to create a Department of National Flood Mitigation and Insurance Program in the National Emergency Management Agency and for Related Matters (HB. 440) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Albert T. Sam-Tsokwa — Dunga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science Act, No. 26 of 2007 to properly define the Institute's Regulatory Role, Enforce the Provisions of the Act and Provide Penalties for Breach Thereof and for Other Related Purposes (HB.478) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science Act, No. 26 of 2007 to properly define the Institute's Regulatory Role, Enforce the Provisions of the Act and Provide Penalties for Breach Thereof and for Other Related Purposes (HB.478) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon.Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai 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 Agriculture.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Establish a Unit in the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation to serve as collating Center for all Information about Public Servants in all Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Parastatals in Nigeria to forestall inclusion of Pseudo Workers on the Payroll of any Government Establishment and Other Related Matters (HB. 361) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish a Unit in the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation to serve as collating Center for all Information about Public Servants in all Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Parastatals in Nigeria to forestall inclusion of Pseudo Workers on the Payroll of any Government Establishment and Other Related Matters (HB. 361) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Bill stood down by leave of the House.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Post-Graduate College of Medical Laboratory Science and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 463) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Post-Graduate College of Medical Laboratory Science and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 463) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Dakuku Peterside — Opobo/Nkoro/Andoni 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 Health, and Justice.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Convert one Medical Centre each in the Six Geopolitical Zones, Abuja and Lagos for the Establishment of Cardiothoracic Centres and for Other Related Matters (HB. 435) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Convert one Medical Centre each in the Six Geo-Political Zones, Abuja and Lagos for the Establishment of Cardiothoracic Centres and for Other Related Matters (HB. 435) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Robinson Edet Uwak — Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Ukot/Urue Offong/Oruko Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Debate adjourned.

Ordered: That the Committees on Health, and Rules and Business should further study the Bill and the relevant existing Acts and report back to the House.

15. **Adjournment:**
That the House do now adjourn till Wednesday, 27 March, 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