FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 5

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 3 July, 2013

1. The House met at 11.41 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 Tuesday, 2 July, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**

(*i*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Deputy Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

(*a*) Members of National Association of Political Science Students, University of Jos Chapter, Plateau State;

(*b*) Staff, Pupils and Students of Bristol Academy, Karu, Abuja;

(*c*) Staff, Pupils and Students from Kevad International School, Karu Nasarawa State.

(*ii*) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Incessant and Unbridled Theft of Crude Oil (Bunkering)*:**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Crude Oil Theft as follows:

(1)	Hon. Bashir Adamu	—	*Chairman*
(2)	Hon. Dakuku Peterside	—	*Chairman Petroleum Resources (Downstream)*
(3)	Hon. AbdulMumuni Jubrin	—	*Chairman Finance*
(4)	Hon. Umar Bature	—	*Chairman Interior*
(5)	Hon. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi	—	*Chairman Marine Transport*
(6)	Hon. Aminu Koko	—	*Chairman Navy*
(7)	Hon. Moshood Mustapha	—	*Deputy Chairman, Petroleum Resources (Upstream)*
(8)	Hon. Yakubu Dogara	—	*Member*
(9)	Hon. Mustapha Dawaki	—	*Member*
(10)	Hon. Tajudeen Yusuf	—	*Member*
(11)	Hon. Opeyemi Bamidele	—	*Member*
(12)	Hon. Sokonte Davies	—	*Member*
(13)	Hon. Eddie Mbadiwe	—	*Member*
(14)	Hon. Nnenna Ukeje	—	*Member*
(15)	Hon. Aisha Dahiru	—	*Member*

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

(*i*) Hon. Bitrus Kaze (*Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Uche S. E. Uwajeh and 2 Others, praying the House to intervene in the non-payment of their terminal benefits by the Bureau of Public Service Reforms and the University of Jos, with a view to ensuring the payment of outstanding benefits and granting other reliefs sought;

(*ii*) Hon. Irona Alphonsus Gerald (*Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*) from Welfare Association of IMSUBEB Development Partners, on behalf of Emma Ibe and Marcel C. Okoro, praying the House to prevail on the Universal Education Commission (UBEC), Abuja, and the Imo State Universal Basic Education Board (IMSUBEB), Owerri, and the Imo State Government from approving the mono-sourcing request of ₦5.6 billion of 2010 - 2013 UBE contract jobs to only the Roche Company Nigeria Limited, with a view to ensuring that due process is followed.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**
(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Peter Edeh (*Ezza North/Ishielu Federal Constituency*) informed the House on the need to arrest the deteriorating security situation in Rivers State and avert the gradual descent into anarchy. He stated that in recent times, the media had reported the breakdown of security in the State and cited the examples of the intractable relationship between the Governor of the State and the State Commissioner of Police, as well as the recent kidnapping of three Youth Corps members. He viewed the situation as very worrisome and 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.*

Need to Avert Descent into Anarchy in Rivers State:

The House:

Notes that Rivers State is one of the foremost oil-producing States and thus a major contributor to the economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Also notes that a break-down of law and order in Rivers State could have severe negative consequences for the socio-economic stability of the nation;

Alarmed that in recent times, various national dailies as well as other print and electronic media have consistently reported a break-down in the working relationship between the Rivers State Governor, Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi and Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Mr Joseph Mbu;

Worried that the situation has so deteriorated to the level of the Governor accusing the Commissioner of Police of deliberately undermining the security of the lives and property of the people of Rivers State while the Commissioner accused the Governor of being a power-hungry tyrant and dictator, statements which confirm that their working relationship has broken down irretrievably;

Also notes that the Inspector General of police has thus far refrained from addressing this matter or commenting on it publicly;

Further notes section 14 (1) (*b*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as Amended) clearly states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government;

Concerned that the existing situation in Rivers State is not only untenable but constitutes a grave danger to peace, security and orderliness in Rivers State and if left unchecked, would not only constitute a bad precedence but could lead to a total break-down of law and order and threaten democratic institutions in the state and beyond;

Determined to prevent a bad precedence from being set and institutionalised, and to preserve the rule of law.

Resolves to:

Direct the Committee on Police Affairs to liaise with the office of the Inspector-General of Police, the Police Service Commission and the Rivers State Government to fashion out ways of improving the working relationship between the Rivers State Police Command and the Rivers State Government and report back to the House within one week (*Hon. Peter Edeh — Ezza North/Ishielu Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Rivers State is one of the foremost oil-producing States and thus a major contributor to the economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Also noted that a break-down of law and order in Rivers State could have severe negative consequences for the socio-economic stability of the nation;

Alarmed that in recent times, various national dailies as well as other print and electronic media have consistently reported a break-down in the working relationship between the Rivers State Governor, Rt. Hon. Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi and Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Mr Joseph Mbu;

Worried that the situation has so deteriorated to the level of the Governor accusing the Commissioner of Police of deliberately undermining the security of the lives and property of the people of Rivers State while the Commissioner accused the Governor of being a power-hungry tyrant and dictator, statements which confirm that their working relationship has broken down irretrievably;

Also noted that the Inspector General of police has thus far refrained from addressing this matter or commenting on it publicly;

Further noted section 14 (l) (*b*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as Amended) clearly states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government;

Concerned that the existing situation in Rivers State is not only untenable but constitutes a grave danger to peace, security and orderliness in Rivers State and if left unchecked, would not only constitute a bad precedence but could lead to a total break-down of law and order and threaten democratic institutions in the state and beyond;

Determined to prevent a bad precedence from being set and institutionalised, and to preserve the rule of law.

Resolved to:

Direct the Committee on Police Affairs to liaise with the office of the Inspector-General of Police, the Police Service Commission and the Rivers State Government to fashion out ways of improving the working relationship between the Rivers State Police Command and the Rivers State Government and report back to the House within one week **(HR. 16/2013)**.

(ii) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Daniel Asuquo (*Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the urgent need by the Federal Government to halt the trafficking of Nigerian girls to Russia and other European countries. He decried the negative implications of the trafficking of the young girls as well as the implications on the country's image. 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 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.*

Motion on the Need for the Federal Government of Nigeria to Urgently Halt the Trafficking of Nigerian Girls to Russia and Other European Countries:

The House:

Aware of the statement on page 7 of THISDAY of Friday, June 21, 2013 credited to Ambassador Asam Asam SAN, Nigeria's Ambassador to Russia — — that about two hundred Nigerian girls are trafficked monthly to Russia; at which rate, no less than two thousand, four hundred Nigerian girls would be trafficked in one calendar year alone to Russia with grave implications for their labour and sexual exploitation, the bashing of Nigeria's image as well as national security;

Also aware that this number is made up of young and vibrant section of the Nigerian population that can channel their youthful energies into making useful and significant contributions to the Nigerian economy;

Conscious that young Nigerian girls have time and time again fallen prey to criminal and unconscionable people who lure them to foreign countries where they freely exploit their weak economic positions for their own selfish ends;

Alarmed that the girls could very well be recruited by the spy and espionage agencies of some foreign countries, given training, indoctrinated and sent back to Nigeria to spy on their own country- with grave implications for national security;

Convinced that the trafficking would not be possible but for an international syndicate that ensures that the girls are given visas by the Russian Embassy in Nigeria;

Disturbed that since 2012, about two hundred and forty Nigerian girls are reported to have been deported from Russia.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Call on the Federal rGovernment of Nigeria to enter into discussions with the Russian Government with other European countries with a view to unraveling the syndicate responsible for the trafficking;

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Police and Human Rights to investigate the matter and monitor the Federal Government's intervention (*Hon. Daniel Asuquo — Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Aware of the statement on page 7 of THISDAY of Friday, June 21, 2013 credited to Ambassador Asam Asam SAN, Nigeria's Ambassador to Russia — — that about two hundred Nigerian girls are trafficked monthly to Russia; at which rate, no less than two thousand, four hundred Nigerian girls would be trafficked in one calendar year alone to Russia with grave implications for their labour and sexual exploitation, the bashing of Nigeria's image as well as national security;

Also aware that this number is made up of young and vibrant section of the Nigerian population that can channel their youthful energies into making useful and significant contributions to the Nigerian economy;

Conscious that young Nigerian girls have time and time again fallen prey to criminal and unconscionable people who lure them to foreign countries where they freely exploit their weak economic positions for their own selfish ends;

Alarmed that the girls could very well be recruited by the spy and espionage agencies of some foreign countries, given training, indoctrinated and sent back to Nigeria to spy on their own country- with grave implications for national security;

Convinced that the trafficking would not be possible but for an international syndicate that ensures that the girls are given visas by the Russian Embassy in Nigeria;

Disturbed that since 2012, about two hundred and forty Nigerian girls are reported to have been deported from Russia.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Call on the Federal rGovernment of Nigeria to enter into discussions with the Russian Government with other European countries with a view to unraveling the syndicate responsible for the trafficking;

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Police and Human Rights to investigate the matter and monitor the Federal Government's intervention (**HR. 17/2013**).

(*iii*) Further citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Beni Lar (*Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*) invited the attention of the House to the recent atrocities by unknown gunmen in her Constituency which resulted in the killing of many people, the destruction of hundreds of houses and the displacement of thousands of peoples. She stressed the need for measures to avert the reoccurrence of such gruesome incidents in the future and 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 agreed to.

Matter to stand over till the next Legislative Day.

(*iv*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen (*Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the rising incidence of fake naira notes dispensed by Automated Teller Machines (ATM) in the country. He stressed that if the trend is not checked, it could jeopardies the viability and success-rate of the recently introduced cashless policy by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). He 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.*

Rising Incidence of Fake Naira Notes Dispensed by Automated Teller Machines:

The House:

Notes that the Automated Teller Machine was introduced in 2001 by the Central Bank, as a platform for transacting business by customers;

Also notes that these Automated Teller Machines aside been used as payment modules, are also deployed in carrying out other businesses such as money transfer, payment of utilities and similar transactions;

Aware that since the commencement of the Automated Teller Machines, it has impacted positively on banking operations, service delivery and safety of customers fund;

Worried that despite the positive features of this payment platform, there has been growing incidence of fake Naira notes dispensed by the Automated Teller Machines;

Disturbed that many law abiding citizens have been victims of this unfortunate, unprofessional and immoral practice which has led to the loss of legitimate funds by Nigerians;

Further disturbed that ill most cases, victims of the fake Naira notes dispensed by Automated Teller Machines, suffer neglect, anxiety and confusion, as no concrete and proactive measures are taken by Commercial Banks to correct these anormalies, immediately;

Concerned that the dispense of fake Naira notes by Automated Teller Machines may grossly affect the operation, viability and success-rate of the recently introduced Cashless Policy by the Central Bank of Nigeria;

Further concerned that this negative trend has the potential of eroding public confidence in our Banks, impede smooth banking transactions, throw-up ethical questions, slow-down investment arid affect economic growth.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the matter and report back to the House in three weeks (*Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen — Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Automated Teller Machine was introduced in 2001 by the Central Bank, as a platform for transacting business by customers;

Also noted that these Automated Teller Machines aside been used as payment modules, are also deployed in carrying out other businesses such as money transfer, payment of utilities and similar transactions;

Aware that since the commencement of the Automated Teller Machines, it has impacted positively on banking operations, service delivery and safety of customers fund;

Worried that despite the positive features of this payment platform, there has been growing incidence of fake Naira notes dispensed by the Automated Teller Machines;

Disturbed that many law abiding citizens have been victims of this unfortunate, unprofessional and immoral practice which has led to the loss of legitimate funds by Nigerians;

Further disturbed that ill most cases, victims of the fake Naira notes dispensed by Automated Teller Machines, suffer neglect, anxiety and confusion, as no concrete and proactive measures are taken by Commercial Banks to correct these anormalies, immediately;

Concerned that the dispense of fake Naira notes by Automated Teller Machines may grossly affect the operation, viability and success-rate of the recently introduced Cashless Policy by the Central Bank of Nigeria;

Further concerned that this negative trend has the potential of eroding public confidence in our Banks, impede smooth banking transactions, throw-up ethical questions, slow-down investment arid affect economic growth.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the matter and report back to the House in three weeks (**HR. 18/2013**).

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

(*i*) Official Secrets Act (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 538).

(*ii*) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2013 (HB. 540).

(*iii*) Chartered Institute of Statistician of Nigeria Bill, 2013 (HB. 541).

7. **Need to Review the Envelope Budgeting System:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the current envelope budgeting system of allocating resources being practiced in Nigeria is out dated;

Aware that the current procedure involves the Budget Office of the Federation giving indicative expenditure ceilings considering the real demands in the respective sectors of the economy for which these funds are allocated;

Worried that the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are not given the opportunity of presenting their views and initiatives that would increase or decrease their current ministerial ceilings (as established in the previous year) and thereby inhibiting the performance of the budget on a year to year;

Disturbed that whereas many countries have discarded the current Line Item Budgeting System practiced in Nigeria and have adopted the Programme Based Budgeting System, Nigeria still continues to adopt the budgeting practice that has not done much to improve the economy or the well-being of the citizens;

Regret that the current budgeting system has made resources allocated to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to be thinly spread over large number of projects resulting in non-performance of successive budgets in Nigeria;

Concerned that the current envelope system devoid of program budgeting which links a government activity with an objective and with the inputs necessary to achieve that objective will not address or reflect the realities on ground and as such fails to deliver democratic dividends to Nigerians.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Finance and Appropriations to examine the various budgeting systems and make recommendations to the House on a more appropriate budgeting system, within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Beni Lar — Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the current envelope budgeting system of allocating resources being practiced in Nigeria is out dated;

Aware that the current procedure involves the Budget Office of the Federation giving indicative expenditure ceilings considering the real demands in the respective sectors of the economy for which these funds are allocated;

Worried that the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are not given the opportunity of presenting their views and initiatives that would increase or decrease their current ministerial ceilings (as established in the previous year) and thereby inhibiting the performance of the budget on a year to year;

Disturbed that whereas many countries have discarded the current Line Item Budgeting System practiced in Nigeria and have adopted the Programme Based Budgeting System, Nigeria still continues to adopt the budgeting practice that has not done much to improve the economy or the well-being of the citizens;

Regretted that the current budgeting system has made resources allocated to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to be thinly spread over large number of projects resulting in non-performance of successive budgets in Nigeria;

Concerned that the current envelope system devoid of program budgeting which links a government activity with an objective and with the inputs necessary to achieve that objective will not address or reflect the realities on ground and as such fails to deliver democratic dividends to Nigerians.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Finance and Appropriations to examine the various budgeting systems and make recommendations to the House on a more appropriate budgeting system, within four (4) weeks (**HR. 19/2013**).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Commercialization of Research Products Fund, to Specify the Sources of Additional sums to be made available to the Fund Thereof, the Procedure and Manner of Disbursement of Monies Contained Therein to any Commercial Concern and Provide for Other Matters Appertain Thereto (HB. 363) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Commercialization of Research Products Fund, to Specify the Sources of Additional sums to be made available to the Fund Thereof, the Procedure and Manner of Disbursement of Monies Contained Therein to any Commercial Concern and Provide for Other Matters Appertain Thereto (HB. 363) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Bamidele Faparusi — Emure/Gbonyin/Ekiti East Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Mandate and Authorize the Roll-Over of all unspent or utilized Capital Expenditure of Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies in a Financial year to the next Financial Year under the same Heads of Capital Expenditure (HB. 412) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Mandate and Authorize the Roll-Over of all unspent or utilized Capital Expenditure of Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies in a Financial year to the next Financial Year under the same Heads of Capital Expenditure (HB. 412) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Sunday Steve Karimi — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

10. **A Bill for an Act making the Practice of Guidance and Counseling Compulsory in all Educational Institutions and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 523) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act making the Practice of Guidance and Counseling Compulsory in all Educational Institutions and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 523) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Education.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 519) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 519) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

12. **Adjournment:**
That the House do now adjourn till Thursday, 4 *July*, 2013 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Deputy House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.17 *p.m.*

Chukwuemeka Nkem Ihedioha
Deputy Speaker