FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 28

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 31 October, 2013

1. The House met at 12.00 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 Wednesday, 30 October, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
(*a*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of Students of Baiwa International Schools, Bida, Niger State;

(*b*) ***Change of Political Platform*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Benjamin I. Aboho (*Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency*) announcing his decampment from the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), now part of the All Progressives Congress (APC), to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

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

(*i*) Hon. Akpan Micah Umoh (*Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*) from Mboho Ikot Abasi — a socio-cultural organization for the people of Ikot Abasi, praying the House to investigate the vandalization of the facilities of the Aluminum Smelter Company, Ikot Abasi, with a view to redressing the trend and granting other reliefs sought in the petition;

(*ii*) Hon. Kigbu Joseph Haruna (*Lafia/Obi Federal Constituency*) from Asoloko Jonathan and Adamu El-Sabo, former staff of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), praying the House to intervene in their wrongful retirement from the service of the corporation with a view to recalling them;

(*iii*) Hon. Rasaq Bello Osagie (*Oredo Federal Constituency*) from Anthony E. Ekunwe, praying the House to investigate injustices and denials against him while in the service of the country, with a view to ensuring that he is adequately compensated;

(*iv*) Hon. Bassey Dan-Abia (*Eket/Ibeno/Onna/Esit-Eket Federal Constituency*) from Sunday Edet, praying the House to intervene in his wrongful dismissal from the service of the Nigerian Army, with a view to reinstating him.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

PRINTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESS, ABUJA

5. **Valediction in Honour of the Retired Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order XIX, Rule 217 in order to admit the former Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mrs Cordelia Akunwafor, who retired from service in August 2013 when the House was on recess, into the Chamber for the purpose of a Valediction in her honour" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Mrs Cordelia Akunwafor ushered into the Chamber accordingly.

***Farewell Speech*:**
Mr Speaker read a farewell speech from the former Deputy Clerk:

31st *October*, 2013

Alh. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, CFR
Rt. Hon. Speaker
House of Representatives
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja

Your Excellency Mr Speaker Sir,

FAREWELL ADDRESS

I stand here today to formally take leave of the House, to bid the House farewell, following my retirement from the service of the National Assembly.

It has been a great privilege, a divine opportunity for me to serve in the National Assembly of our great country Nigeria.

My National Assembly service commenced from the 2nd National Assembly of the 2nd Republic in 1983, *even though for only a short while before the military intervention; after which I was posted to the Ministry of Defence, from which I transferred back to the National Assembly in* 1992. *From* 1992 *to date I have worked in the House of Representatives, but for a* 5 *year absence to accompany my husband on a Foreign Service Ambassadorial posting.*

In my career, I have lived through the many phases of the National Assembly, through its ups and downs as an active functioning first Arm of Government, to its periods of dissolution, sequel to the suspension of the Constitution, following military interventions.

In the course of my career, I served in various Divisions of the House of Representatives Administration; as Clerk of various Committees, Head of the Chamber Division, Head of Bills' Division, until my appointment as the Deputy Clerk of the House on April 22nd, 2010.

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God, in Jesus Christ Our Lord for this wonderful opportunity to serve in such an exalted, enviable position.

May I use this medium to publicly express my gratitude to my dear husband for his unalloyed support to me, throughout my career.

May I express, my unreserved gratitude to Mr Speaker, His Excellency, the Rt Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, CFR *for his effective leadership, his brotherly care and his patient bearing with our occasional human lapses in the course of duty. My special thanks to the Deputy Speaker, His Excellency, Rt Hon. Emeka Ihedioha,* OFR *for his brotherly support and guidance; My profound thanks to the Principal Officers and the entire Hon. Members of the House of Representatives. As the Rt Hon. Speaker Tambuwal always says, the present House of Representatives is a family; we work and relate as one family, in love, kindness, forbearance. I wish you all the best in your onerous responsibility.*

May I also express my special thanks to the Clerk to the National Assembly (CNA), Alh. Salisu Maikasuwa, mni, OON, *for his fraternal, unalloyed, unflinching support especially with regards to capacity building, as well as the Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly (DCNA).*

My Profound gratitude and appreciation to the Clerk of the House of Representatives for our smooth, cordial working relationship and mutual understanding, which again transcended into a brotherly, sisterly relationship. I must hereby apologize sincerely for falling short of his expectations sometimes and acknowledge his mature and majestic disposition.

To all my colleagues in the Senior Management, all Staff of the House of Representatives, particularly my personal staff, all National Assembly Staff, I say thank you all for your affectionate support and encouragement in our professional endeavours.

My physical absence should not be a cause for sadness. Rest assured that I shall be present spiritually, that you will all remain in my prayers, prayers for your continuing individual success and for our collective success as a nation.

Last but not the least, my appreciation goes to all our National Assembly correspondents, particularly House Media Reporters. As I say this, I recall the fond memory of Late Mr John Ogbodo and others who have lost their lives in the line of duty. May their souls rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Mr Speaker Sir, I have now joined the class of Senior Citizens and my hope is that when and if a Committee of Elders is being constituted, that I shall not be forgotten.

Once again Mr Speaker, accept the expression of my profound gratitude and respect.

Thank you and God bless us all.

(*Signed*)

Mrs C. O. Akunwafor
Former Deputy Clerk, House of Representatives

6. Valedictory Remarks:

(*i*) *Remarks by the Minority Whip*:
The Minority Whip, Hon. Samson Osagie, who stood in for the Minority Leader, remarked that the former Deputy Clerk was a very dedicated and patriotic public servant. He stressed that the need for continuous development of the legislative arm of Government in Nigeria required the services of experienced and accomplished persons like Mrs Akunwafor. He therefore recommended her services to the National Institute of Legislative Studies (NILS) or other relevant organisations.

(*ii*) *Remarks by the Leader of the House*:
The Leader of the House, Hon. Mulikat Akande Adeola, described Mrs Akunwafor as a highly dedicated public officer who is very well known for her characteristic humility and disarming smile. She noted that she has a mien that naturally commands the respect of people who relate with her. She wished her well and prayed that her retirement would provide better her better opportunities to serve the nation. She also stated that her professional experience in the legislature will make her a veritable resource materials in the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS).

(*iii*) *Remarks by the Deputy Speaker*:
Mr Deputy Speaker congratulated the former Deputy Clerk for her meritorious service to the nation. He stated that the Mrs Akunwafor was of immense support to the House, especially for the Committee on Legislative Agenda where she served as Clerk. He extolled her wealth of experience and enjoined her to apply same in retirement to the greater development of the Legislature and the country. He strongly recommended her services to the National Institute of Legislative Studies (NILS) and any other relevant institution both in the public and private sector.

(*iv*) *Remarks by the Hon. Speaker*:
Mr Speaker remarked that he was fully aware of Mrs Akunwafor extraordinary hard work and commitment to service. He disclosed that his observation on her positive and selfless attitude to work was corroborated by several Hon. Members and the Clerk of the House of Representatives who also closely worked with her. He stated that the National Assembly has begun to establish precedence for honouring its former senior personnel who contributed selflessly to the development of the Assembly, citing the case of the retired Clerk to the National Assembly, Alhaji Adamu Fika, who was recently appointed Chairman of the National Assembly Service Commission. He therefore strongly recommended the retired Deputy Clerk to be so honoured.

Hon. Bitrus Kaze and Hon. Abubakar Momoh offered Christian and Muslim prayers respectively for the retired Deputy Clerk.

The Former Deputy Clerk took a bow and departed the Chamber.

7. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**

(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Adah Francis Busam (*Obanliku/Obudu/Bakwarra Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to a mudslide in Obudu, Cross River State, occasioned by a torrential rainfall on 14 and 15 October, 2013. He noted that the mudslide, destroyed the only access road to the Obudu Mountain Resort — one of the nation's foremost tourist resorts, and devastated the communities around it. He underscored the urgent need to rehabilitate the road in view of the tourism activities in the area, and 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 be debated 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.*

Question put and agreed to.

Need to Expeditiously Carry out Complete Rehabilitation of the Only Access Road to Obudu Mountain Resort:

The House:

Notes that the famous Obudu Cattle Ranch, now known as Obudu Mountain Resort is situated at an altitude of 1,765 metres above sea level with twenty-two (22) 'U' bends on Obudu Plateau close to Cameroon border in the north eastern part of Cross River State of Nigeria; and it was first explored in 1949 and later developed in 1951;

Further notes that Obudu Mountain Resort, which is one of the prime and finest tourism destinations in the world is imbued with a semi temperate mountain climate that offers total contrast and welcome respite from Africa's tropical heat, a 70 metre-long canopy walk way suspended above the forest floor, dairy/meat processing farm with capacity for 20,000 heads of cattle spread over 26 range of 400sqm, cool climate for honey farm with potential for producing 500,000 litres per annum, 5 lanes 70m long slide water park with a huge revenue potential, a 1.8km air trip with lounge, control towers and navigational aids to support the resort, a nine hole golf course, a natural swimming pool, a fully equipped gym, 2 floodlit tennis court, a magnificent scenery, a spectacular birdlife, a 4.2km long cable car with an estimated annual traffic of 13,000 and several more attractions;

Aware that the resort has in recent times seen an influx of tourists from within Nigeria and across the world due to the massive investment and provision of world class tourism facilities at the resort by the Cross River State Government, which has transformed it into one of the well known holiday and tourist resort destinations in the world because of its tranquillity, beautiful scenery and breathtaking views which makes it ideal for lone adventurers, families on reunion, young couples or holiday groups;

Disturbed that torrential rainfall at the area on October 14 and 15, 2013 triggered massive mudslides at five different locations that blocked a distance of about 5.5km of the only access road,which is a Federal road, to the resort and was well reported on local and international news channels

Further disturbed that the constant exposure of the ranch hills to grazing, human activities and denudation has created tension cracks on the ranch hills and other embankments adjoining the road to the resort;

Concerned that it is estimated that the Cross River State Government has spent over ₦200 million in addition to the severe hardship this natural disaster inflicted on the trapped people of Becheeve (the host community), tourists who were there at the time, school children, staff of the resort and the business community and that it took several days for a deployment of staff of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigerian Air Force and other security agencies to evacuate those who were trapped up the Ranch, and the Cross River State Government, to clear the road of the heaps of rubbles to create access and bring succour to the affected people.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Works, FERMA and Environment to liaise with the Federal Government through the Ministries of Works and Environment as a matter of urgency to consider the complete rehabilitation of the only access road to the resort, by reinforcing concrete retaining walls at critical locations that are prone to mudslides as well as stone pitching to ensure adequate slope protection and to use other long lasting engineering measures to preserve this road before this tourist haven that nature has bestowed us with is completely destroyed and report back to the House within four weeks (*Hon. Adah Francis Busam — Obanliku/Obudu/Bakwarra Federal Constituency*).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, FERMA, and Environment, pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 64/2013**).

(*ii*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Mohammed Ogoshi Onawo (*Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*) called the attention of the House to the need to revisit the new cashless banking policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in order to realign it to meet Nigeria's current socio-economic realities. He commended the laudable economic objective of the policy but decried current manner of its implementation which appeared to subject depositors to multiple charges, and thus capable defeating its good aim. He therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance to and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it be debated 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.*

Need to Revisit the Cashless Banking Policy to Meet Nigeria's Socio-Economic Realities:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government has introduced Cashless Banking Policy effective from June 2012 whose thrust is aimed at reducing the amount of physical cash circulating in the economy and thereby cut cost of processing so much notes by the CBN;

Further notes that the new policy limits individual cash daily withdrawal and deposit to ₦500,000 while corporate bodies to ₦3,000,000.00;

Aware that the Deputy Governor, Operations, CBN, Mr Tunde Lemo briefed newsmen at the end of the Special Forum on financing the Power Sector Reforms for Economic Development that individuals would be charged 3 percent of the excess amount of withdrawal and 2 percent of excess deposit, while Corporate bodies would be charged 3 percent of excess deposit and 5 percent of excess withdrawal effective from October 2, 2013 at the expiration of the three months moratorium given by the CBN;;

Further aware that according to a 2010 Survey by Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access, a non profit organization that promotes financial sector development and financial inclusion in Nigeria, roughly 65 percent of adult males, 77 percent of adult females and 80 percent of Nigeria's rural population are unbanked which makes a successful implementation of the policy very difficult gi ven its reliance on the use of technologies that depend on power stability;

Worried that while charges on account of withdrawal may not be necessarily queried, it is absurd and a calculated act of injustice to subject a customer to pay charges for deposit transactions despite persisting challenges on connectivity of Point of Sales (POS) and inefficiency of Automated Teller Machines (ATM) especially in rural areas;

Further worried that the policy is unjust, unpopular, arbitrary and capable of demoralising bank customers from depositing their money in fear of exorbitant charges;

Disturbed that the new policy creates "bank phobia" in customers especially high profile ones that make deposit in millions a day;

Amazed that the Central Bank of Nigeria which championed the cause of the policy has not conducted sufficient advocacy, sensitisation and campaign to enlighten Nigerians of the policy before implementation and the recent claim by its Deputy Governor Operations of high increase of electronic retail transactions from 2 percent before the introduction of the policy to 20 percent after the policy has still not overcome the challenges of exorbitant charges imposed on customers and inefficient service delivery occasioned by epileptic power supply;

Regrets that the CBN bent on implementing the policy despite apparent challenges associated with infrastructure deficit, power instability, prevalence of e-fraud, poor Consumer Protection, high illiteracy rate, inadequate Public Sensitization and real data that derive the process, unreliable communication networks, non-existing legislative framework, anticipated rise in' money laundering and job loss to mention but a few;

Further regrets that despite manifest injustice in imposing charges on deposits and increasing complaints as a result of financial hardship forcefully born by customers, neither the Federal Government nor the CBN is intervening to provide any solution that will abolish or modify the policy to meet the current economic realities;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the relevant monetary authorities to revisit the policy to meet existing economic realities; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Banking and Currency, Finance, and Drugs, Nacortics and Financial Crimes (*Hon. Mohammed Ogoshi Onawo — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Debate adjourned by leave of the House to enable the Committee on Rules and Business confirm whether or not the subject matter had been considered by the House in the current Session.

8. **Presentation of Reports:**

(*i*) ***House Delegation to the 30th Session of ACP Parliamentary Assembly and 24th Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the National Assembly delegation to the 30th Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Parliamentary Assembly and the 24thSession of the African, Caribbean and Pacific- European Union (ACP)-(EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly held in Paramarobo, Suriname between 22nd - 29th November, 2012" (*Hon. Mukhtar Mohammed Ahmed — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*ii*) ***Committees on Commerce and Labour Employment and Productivity*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committees on Commerce and Labour Employment and Productivity on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Institute of Social Work and Regulate the Practice of Professional Social Work in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters" (*Hon. Akpan Micah Umoh — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*iii*) ***Committees on Commerce and Justice*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committees on Commerce and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Council Act, Cap. C25 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to modify its Composition, widen the scope of its Functions and Powers in order to provide for a Broader and more effective Council and for Related Matters and a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Consumer Protection Council Act, Cap. C25, of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and to Re-Enact the Consumer Protection Agency Act, 2011; to Provide for the Establishment of an Investigation Unit, ensure Effective Civil Action for Damages and Other Unfair or Deceptive Practices, ensure Discontinuance of Prohibited Acts, among Other Things Complement Other Laws Governing Restraints of Trade, Unfair Competition and Unfair, Deceptive and Fraudulent Acts or Practices in Order to Protect the Public and Foster Fair and Honest Competition and for Other Related Matters (HB. 95)" (*Hon. Akpan Micah Umoh — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Criminal Code Act, Cap. C38 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 in Order to Provide for Offences and Penalties Relating to Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes, 2013 (HB. 391) — *Third Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Criminal Code Act, Cap. C38 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 in Order to Provide for Offences and Penalties Relating to Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes, 2013 (HB. 391) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Penal Code (Northern States) Federal Provisions Act, Cap. P3 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 in order to provide for Offences and Penalties Relating to Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes, 2013 (HB. 392) — *Third Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Penal Code (Northern States) Federal Provisions Act, Cap. P3 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 in order to provide for Offences and Penalties Relating to Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes, 2013 (HB. 392) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande -Adeola — House Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSIT) Act, Cap. N88, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide Social Security to all Eligible Citizens of Nigeria who are Ordinarily Resident in Nigeria whether Employed in the Private or Public Sector, Unemployed and Aged Without Discrimination and Other Related Matters, 2013 (HB. 286) — *Third Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSIT) Act, Cap. N88, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide Social Security to all Eligible Citizens of Nigeria who are Ordinarily Resident in Nigeria whether Employed in the Private or Public Sector, Unemployed and Aged Without Discrimination and Other Related Matters, 2013 (HB. 286) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande -Adeola — House Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

12. **Consolidation of Bills:**
Motion made and question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C15 LFN, 2004 so as to make the leave of the Bureau necessary for a Public Officer to maintain or operate a Bank Account outside Nigeria and Other Related Matters (HB. 229) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act by deleting Proviso to Section 3 deleting Section 18 (1) and Enacting an Amended Section 18 (2) (HB. 517) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C15 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 so as to make accessible Assets and Liabilities declared by Public Office Holders and Other Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 522) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Albert T. Sam-Tsokwa — Dunga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Act, 2003 as Amended, to Provide for Financial Contribution from NNPC and Transmission Company of Nigeria to enable the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps carry out its Functions (HB. 476) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Act, 2003 as Amended, to Provide for Financial Contribution from NNPC and Transmission Company of Nigeria to enable the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps carry out its Functions (HB. 476) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Robinson Edet Uwak — Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong/Oruko 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 Committees on Interior, Justice, and Constitution Amendment.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Lands Registry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Cap. F15, 1992 and for Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 494) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Lands Registry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Cap. F15, 1992 and for Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 494) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani 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 Housing and Habitant.

15. **Adjournment:**
That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 5 November, 2013 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Daniel Oritse Gbubemi Reyenieju — Warri South/Warri West Federal Constituency*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.39 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker