FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 44

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 10 December, 2013

1. The House met at 11.25 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, 5 December, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following:

(*a*) Staff and Students of Capital Science Academy, Abuja;

(*b*) Members of Students' Representative Council, Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun, Delta State.

4. **Admittance into the Chamber:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do suspend Order XIX, Rule 217 of the Standing Order of the House to admit into the Chamber, Members of the family of late Chief Solomon Daushep Lar, CON, former Member, House of Representatives (1959 - 1964) and other invited guests for the purpose of a Valedictory Session in his honour" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Members of the family of late Chief Solomon Daushep Lar, CON, and other invited guests admitted into the Chamber accordingly.

5. **Valediction in honour of Late (Chief) Solomon Daushep Lar, CON, former Member, House of the Representatives (1959 - 1964):**
Mr Speaker welcomed members of the family of late Chief Solomon Daushep Lar, CON, former Member, House of Representatives (1959 - 1964) who passed away on 9 October, 2013. Mr Speaker also welcomed other invited guests.

Valedictory Speeches were presented in the following order as directed by Mr Speaker:

(*i*)	Hon. Chukwuemeka Nkem-Ihedioha	—	*Deputy Speaker*
(*ii*)	Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola	—	*House Leader*
(*iii*)	Hon. Raphael Samson Osagie	—	*Minority Whip (represented the Minority Leader)*
(*iv*)	Hon. Fort Dike	—	*representing South-East Caucus*
(*v*)	Hon. Ayo Omidiran	—	*representing South-west Caucus*
(*vi*)	Hon. Hassan K. El-Badawy	—	*representing North- East Caucus*

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(*vii*)	Hon. Manir Babba Dan'Agundi	—	*representing North-West Caucus*
(*viii*)	Hon. Andrew Uchendu	—	*representing South -South Caucus*
ix)	Hon. Mohammed Ogoshi Onawo	—	*representing North-Central Caucus*
(*x*)	Hon. Bitrus Kaze	—	*representing Plateau State Caucus.*
(*xi*)	Senator Victor Lar	—	*representing Plateau State Caucus in the Senate*
(*xii*)	Senator Barnabas Gemade	—	*an incumbent Senator*
(*xiii*)	Rt. Hon. Ghali Umar Na'abba	—	*former Speaker of the House of Representatives*
(*xiv*)	Senator Ibrahim Mantu	—	*former Deputy Senate President (for the family of the deceased).*

For details of the valedictory speeches, see the Official Report of Thursday, 5 *December*, 2013.

Speech by the Hon Speaker.
Mr Speaker presented his valedictory speech as follows:

We are here today to pay tribute to a great pioneer, Politician, administrator and peace icon, Chief Solomon Daushep Lar.

2. *Chief Lar was a man of great originality both in his appearance and in his actions. Looking through his rich biography, it is difficult not to notice that at every stage, he was a pioneer; a leader who decides which path his people should follow.*

3. *From the First Republic right up to the very end, Chief Lar was always in the thick of things, helping to find solution to the many problems that plagued our people. He was among the first parliamentarians in Nigeria at independence in* 1960 *and was subsequently the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.*

4. *In the second Republic, he was one of the first people to form a political party, becoming co-founder of the Nigerian People's Party; and later he won elections to become the first Executive Governor of Plateau State in* 1979.

5. *As the people's Governor, Mr Lar left a legacy of excellence that is still talked about to this day. He was the first to introduce reforms in the State's employment laws, abolishing daily pay and contract systems. He was also the first to begin paying allowances for nursing mothers on maternity leave in the State.*

6. *Chief Lar have always been concerned with the plight of the people rather than with ideas of personal glory. He belonged to that rare breed of politicians who believed that the leader lives to serve the people and it was his one duty to make the life of the people better. He was not in politics for self aggrandisement so he was always willing to humble himself in the service of the party and the fatherland.*

7. *When the 2nd Republic was again derailed, and through the long years of military interregnum, Chief Lar stood up to dictatorship and became a member of the Group that challenged the status quo. When that group metamorphosed into a political party, Mr Lar became the pioneer National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party which he led to victory in the* 1999 *general elections.*

8. *In his trade mark cap and white handkerchief, Chief Lar proved himself a man of superb political skills, charming and caring, and able to command great loyalty at any point in time. The people always knew that he was their man and that he would never sell them down the river.*

9. *Chief Lar was until the end a man of peace who preached unity and Godliness in his life time. I am told that he was concerned about the future of the party and of our beloved country even on his sick bed.*

10. *He was a great figure in the politics of this country and I am glad to gear of all the wonderful things being done to immortalise his name. He deserves these and even more. However, the best way to respect chief Lar's legacy is to remember the ideals he stood for while midwifing the PDP and throughout his political career.*

11. *On behalf of the House of Representatives, I wish to again extend our deep felt sympathy to the people of Plateau State and to the family of this remarkable politician. He will be very seriously missed especially at this crucial time in our nation's history when his gentle, sensible nature would have been quite helpful.*

12. *May the soul of Chief Solomon Lar rest in peace. May the Almighty God grant Mama and the immediate members of the family, the fortitude to bear this great loss.*

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai prayed for the repose of the soul of the deceased.

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

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.39 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker