FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 50

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 21 January, 2014

---

1. The House met at 11.27 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, 19 December, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Messages:**
Mr Speaker read the following Messages from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

(*i*)

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

December 18, 2013

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

Your Excellency,

***CYBERCRIME BILL*, 2013**

I hereby introduce for formal consideration and enactment into law by the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Cybercrime Bill, 2013.

While I hope that the Bill will receive the usual expeditious attention of the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, please accept, Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(*Signed*)
GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

PRINTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESS, ABUJA

Your Excellency,

REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED THROUGH THE DIASPORA BOND FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKET

Honourable Speaker, I wish to once more express my gratitude to the leadership of the National Assembly and all the legislators for your continued support and co-operation on issues bordering on the overall development of our great country.

*The Honourable Speaker may recall that the US*09,005.69 *million approved by the National Assembly in the Medium Term* (2012 - 2014) *External Borrowing Plan, included a USD*100 *million Diaspora Bond to raise funds from Nigerians in Diaspora for the financing of development projects in priority sectors of the economy. The Diaspora Bond is to be issued in the International Capital Market (ICM) and the Honourable Speaker may wish to be informed that the process for the issuance of the Bond has commenced with the advertisement of Requests for Proposal for Transaction Parties for the Offering.*

*I wish to inform the Honourable Speaker that from engagements with Nigerians in Diaspora and the enquires received since the publication of the Requests for Proposal. there is a high level of interest in the Diaspora Bond and there is an indication that the USD*100 *million could be inadequate relative to the demand expected from investors for the Bond, Based on the level of subscription expected, I wish to request for the National Assembly's approval to increase the amount to be raised through the Diaspora Bond from USD*100 *million to an amount up to a maximum of USD* 300 million.

*The advantages from the increase of the amount to be raised through the Diaspora Bond to an amount up to USD*300 *million are*:

i. *It will allow for allotments to be made to more Nigerians in Diaspora than would have been possible with a lower amount thereby providing an opportunity for them to participate in the development of the country while earning returns on their investments. The issuance of a lower amount could result in the rejection of subscriptions, which would be a disappointment for Nigerians in Diaspora after heeding the call to support the growth of their country.*

ii. *It will provide the opportunity to invest the funds to be raised from the issuance in a project with a higher value, which will have a greater impact on the economy and the potential for a more visible symbol of the contribution of Nigerians in Diaspora to the country's development. Otherwise. many of our compatriots would be disappointed in missing an opportunity to contribute to the funding of the national economic transformation.*

iii. *The cost of issuance as a percentage of the funds raised will be much lower. since some costs. such as the costs of traveling. organization of the Roadshows and the preparation of an Offering Memorandum will be the same, regardless of the issued amount.*

*Based on the foregoing. therefore, I wish to solicit for your approval of the request to increase the amount of the Diaspora Bond from USD*100 *million to a maximum of USD*300 *million. In line with Section* 21 (1) *of the Debt Management Office (Establishment, etc.) Act,* 2003 *which states that* ***'No external loan shall be approved or obtained by the Minister unless its terms and conditions shall have been laid before the National Assembly and approved by its resolution'****, may I also request for a Resolution of the National Assembly evidencing the approval as this will be required by the operators and regulators in the ICM as part of their Due Diligence process.*

While looking forward to your usual timely approval. kindly accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

4. **Mr Speaker's Welcome Remarks:**
Mr Speaker addressed the House as follows:

Honourable Colleagues,

we swore to uphold remains our guide, therefore the well-being of our constituents and indeed of all Nigerians remains our primary duty and focus.

14. *This is our challenge and with dedication, single-mindedness, will, zeal and passion we are well able to accomplish.*

15. *May the Almighty God guide our path.*

16. *Thank you and God bless Nigeria.*

5. Announcement:

(*i*) ***Bereavement*:**
Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

(*a*) Hon. Ken Chikere (*Port Harcourt I Federal Constituency*) announcing the death of his father, Chief Robert Worlu Chikere (JP) on Friday, 27 December, 2013.

(*b*) Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha (*Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of her father, Eze Bob Aso Ogbonna Nagha I of Ozulobu Kingdom, on Friday, 20 December, 2013.

(*c*) Hon. Shuaibu Gwande Gobir (*Isa/S. Birni Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of his father.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(*ii*) **Change of Political Party:**
Mr Speaker read letters from the following Members informing the House that they have decamped from their respective political parties:

(*a*) Hon. Haske Francis Hananiya (*Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*) from the former Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), as a result of the dissolution and merger of ACN with some other political parties;

(*b*) Hon. Ganama Titsi Kwaga (*Madagali/Michika Federal Constituency*) from the former Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), as a result of the dissolution and merger of ACN with some other political parties;

(*c*) Hon. Emmanuel Jime (*Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency*) from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressive Congress (APC), as a result of a division in the PDP which culminated in the merger of his faction with APC;

(*d*) Hon. Suleiman Yahaya-Kwande (*Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency*) from the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) to the All Progressive Congress (APC), as a result of a division in DPP.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki (*Dala Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the incident that occurred on Sunday, 12 January, 2014 in Port Harcourt in which the police disrupted a peaceful rally with teargas and rubber bullets, thereby injuring some people including Senator Magnus Abe. He stated that one week thereafter, a similar incident occurred in another part of Rivers State whereby some militants were aided by the police to disrupt yet another rally as result of which some lives were lost and properties vandalized. He stressed the need for the House to address the issue in the interest of the nation's fledgling democracy, and thus urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) so that the matter could 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.*

Buruku Boat Mishap — Urgent Need to Construct the Buruku Bridge:

The House:

Notes the unfortunate Boat Mishap on 26 December, 2013 which claimed lives of several young Nigerians at Abuku Crossing Point on River Katsina-Ala in Buruku Local Government Area of Benue State;

Further notes that the sad incidence occurred when an overloaded barge capsized at Abuku at about 7.30 p.m. with most victims of the mishap who were crossing the Burutu River, Katsina-Ala in Benue State;

Worried that 17 young Nigerians lost their lives in the mishap and several others sustained varying degrees of injuries;

Further worried that there have been several other cases of boat mishaps at Buruku in the past, for instance in 2009 a boat conveying a former Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Fred Orti and Chief Simon Joseph Akure capsized with two Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs);

Recalls that the Federal Government in 2005 approved and awarded a contract for the Engineering Design for the construction of a Bridge at this point of the River;

Further recalls that the House of Representatives on Wednesday, 18 January, 2012 considered a motion and passed a Resolution on the construction of the Buruku Bridge via HR. 13/2012 urging the Federal Ministry of Works to award the contract for the constructed of the Buruku Bridge in order to avoid the reoccurrence of such mishaps and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people in area;

Cognizant of the provisions of Section 14 (2) (*b*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which states *inter alia*:

> (*b*) ***the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government***;

Recognizing the economic importance and viability of a bridge at Buruku on the Yandev-Buruku-Zaki Biam Trunk "A" Federal Road which links Benue State with Taraba, Adamawa and other States of the North-East Geopolitical Zone;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) to provide emergency rescue patrol boats at Buruku and ensure that ferries and boats operating in the area comply with safety standards;

(*ii*) call on the Federal Government to construct the Buruku Bridge as was proposed and approved since 2005 to avert the continuous occurrences of such mishaps;

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Appropriations, and Works to ensure that adequate funds are allocated in the 2014 Budget currently before the National Assembly for the construction of the Buruku Bridge (*Hon. Emmanuel Yisa Orker-Jev — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Works for further legislative action pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 01/2014**)

(*iii*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Karimi Sunday Steve (*Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the incessant clashes between Hausa Fulani herdsmen and farmers across the country. He cited recent instances of killings in Benue, Kogi and Nasarawa States, and stressed the need to stop the trend. He therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) so that the m atter could be debated forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.