FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 60

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 13 February, 2014

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 Wednesday, 12 February, 2014.

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 Danbo International Schools, Kaduna South, Kaduna State;

(*b*) Members of Federated Ogbaru Students Association (FOSA), Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State;

(*c*) Staff and Students of Bethel International Christian Academy Jos, Plateau State.

4. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**
(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Ibrahim Shehu Gusau (*Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*) called the attention of the House to some deficiency in qualification requirements on the part of many applicants seeking admissions into the Nigerian Universities in the year 2014/2015 academic session. He noted that the problem was compounded by a prolonged strike action embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) which disrupted universities' academic sessions. He further noted that about 35% of 1.2 million admission seekers were reportedly deficient in either Mathematics or English. He stressed the need to encourage the affected applicants by giving them admission and allowing them to retake and pass the deficient subjects at a later date.

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.*

Urgent Need for the House to Intervene in the Problem of Admission in Nigerian Universities:

The House:

Notes that Nigerian Universities just recently resumed academic activities after about six months of industrial strike;

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Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) In Prayer (*ii*) *leave out* the words "compensation to the family for the loss of 20 cows" (*Hon. Karimi Sunday — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopa-muro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Urged the Inspector-General of Police to investigate this incident and bring the culprits to book" (*Hon. Ibrahim Olaifa — Oluyole Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Notes the gruesome murder of a man of over 70 years old, Mallam Adamu Ketti in Kabusa a suburb-In the Federal Capital Territory on Friday, 7th February, 2014 by unidentified herdsmen;

Sadly notes that the attackers invaded the cattle Ranch of Mallam Adamu Ketti who tends his local breed of cattle at Kabusa at about 11.00 p.m., shot and killed him in cold blood;

Worried that the attackers operated with sophisticated weapons and took away 20 cows of the deceased after killing him;

Further worried by the continued attacks in several communities across the country by criminals killing and maiming innocent Nigerians;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Condemn the gruesome murder of Mallam Adamu Ketti;

(*ii*) urge the Hon. Minister of the Federal Capital Territory to commiserate with the family of the deceased;

(*iii*) urged the Inspector-General of Police to investigate this incident and bring the culprits to book **(HR. 18/2014)**.

(*iii*) Further citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Yakubu Bush Alebiosu (*Kosofe Federal Constituency*) informed the House that the Federal Government has been involved in wasteful spending in the last three months in the payment of about $4,800,000 daily as demurrage to operators of foreign vessels carrying imported petroleum products. He stressed the need to stop the wasteful spending and allow the vessels to urgently discharge petroleum products on board with a view to averting the impending fuel scarcity in the country. 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 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.*

Request the House to Direct an Investigation into the Wasteful Spending of the Federal Government in the Payment of Demurrage to Foreign Vessel Operators and the Impending Scarcity of Petroleum Products in the Country:

The House:

Notes that Crude oil found in Nigeria is often exported for refining outside the country and in turn returned as finished products in form of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), Kerosene (DPK), Diesel (AGO), Aviation Fuel also known as JET A1, etc.;

(*ii*) *Leave out* the other Committees in the prayer and allowed only Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to investigate the matter (*Hon. Yusuf S Galambi — Gwaram Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Main Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Crude oil found in Nigeria is often exported for refining outside the country and in turn returned as finished products in form of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), Kerosene (DPK), Diesel (AGO), Aviation Fuel also known as JET A1, etc.;

These products are imported into the country via vessels and then further discharged into Tank Farms and various other channels for onward distribution to fuel stations for consumption needs. These vessels often owned and operated by foreign countries, travel and eventually dock on territorial waters, which in Nigeria are controlled by the Nigerian Navy;

However, where there is a delay in the discharge of these products from their various vessels, the companies operating these vessels charge extra costs as a result of demurrages payable;

Findings have revealed that Naval officers have prevented fuel-laden vessels at the Ports from discharging their contents despite the fact that some of these ships had been cleared to sail on our territorial waters under the claim of waiting for signals from Abuja;

Further noted that findings have revealed that for the past 3 months, the Federal Government has been paying over $4,800,000 (Four Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars) daily to vessel owners/operators of about 1 6 vessels which are yet to discharge their contents;

Worried that if the Federal Government's unnecessary payment of demurrages, on oil Vessels is not checked, revenue running into Billions will continue to be lost via these payments as a result of the delay in the process of discharging the product on the vessels;

Further worried that Nigerians might have to groan and cope with yet another round of scarcity of Premium Motor Spirit commonly referred to as "petrol" as findings have revealed that the fuel currently being used in the country is the last batch from the reserves. This development is likely to cause untold hardship to both citizens and the government. While the citizens will have to cope with the scarcity of fuel which will adversely affect the economy, the Federal Government is losing huge revenue in this un-wholesome practice;

More disturbing is the fact that, while it is the duty of the Nigerian Navy to protect the nation's territorial waters, their actions at the Ports on why some of the vessels were/are prevented from discharging their products despite having been cleared to sail on our territorial waters is quite worrisome. In fact, an Official of the NNPC who spoke on a condition of anonymity disclosed that if the situation is not checked and drastic action taken, we might again find ourselves in a situation of scarcity where queues would spring up at filling stations and businesses will start suffering because the reserve is already being depleted;

Concerned that if not checked, it can lead to Nigeria experiencing incalculable hardship on the part of the citizens as well as the government in having to deal with scarcity of fuel and loss of revenue respectively;

As modest as this may be on paper, the dangers of allowing the continued delay in the discharge of petroleum products from vessels cum payment of Billions as demurrages and scarcity of fuel will leave an unprecedented, surge in our economic, financial and social stability as a nation;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Public Accounts, and Navy to conduct an immediate investigation into the wasteful spending of the Federal Government and the impending scarcity of petroleum products as well as the activities of the Nigerian Navy in this regard and revert to the House within 2 weeks;

(*iii*) further urge the House to condemn this continuous attacks by insurgent (**HR. 20/2014**).

5. **Presentation of Report:**
Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Alleged Shady Deal Involving the Honourable Minister of Petroleum Resources, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC), and Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC):
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee to Investigate the Alleged Shady Deal Involving the Honourable Minister of Petroleum Resources, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC), Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Atlantic Energy Drilling Concept Ltd, Septa Energy Ltd and any Other Entity with Respect to the Farm-out or Allocation of Oil Mining Lease (OMLs) 4, 26, 30, 34, 38,41 and 42 and to Report Back to the House (**HR. 99/2013**)" (*Hon. Ajibola S. Muraina — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

6. **Urgent need to Rehabilitate Aduhanhan Bridge along Benin-Asaba Expressway, Uhunmwode Local Government, Edo State:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Benin-Asaba Expressway is a Federal Highway over which the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) has responsibility for maintenance;

Aware that the Benin-Asaba Expressway has several bridges along its route, amongst which is the Aduhanhan Bridge within Uhunmwode Local Government Area of Edo State;

Disturbed that recently the Bridge had started showing signs of collapse leading to several fatal accidents;

Cognizant of the fact that the Federal Road Maintenance Agency has the statutory responsibility of maintaining Federal Highways including Bridges anywhere in the country.

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently take steps to reconstruct the ADUHANHAN Bridge along Benin-Asaba Expressway to stem incidence of frequent accidents caused by the collapsing bridge in order to reduce carnage on the road (*Hon. Samson R. Osagie — Orhionmwode Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committee on FERMA pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 21/2014**).

7. **Urgent Need to Reconstruct the Totally Collapsed Chanchanji Bridge on the Takum-Wukari Road:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Bridge located at Chanchanji on the Takum-Wukari Trunk A Federal Road was constructed during the Colonial period;

Further notes that this Colonial Bridge collapsed in the 1970's and was rehabilitated by the Nigerian Army Engineering Corps in the early 1980s;

Aware that this road is of significant economic importance as it facilitates transportation and other business transactions up to the Cameroons;

Disturbed that the Chanchanji Bridge has now completely and totally collapsed and is no longer usable;

Further disturbed that transportation of goods and services on the ever busy Takum-Wukari Road is now stalled as human movement as well as that of livestock has become difficult if not almost practically impossible;

Consideration deferred to the next legislative day to allow for adequate time for Hon. Members to study the Report.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Transaction involving the Federal Government and Shell/Agip Companies and Malabu Oil and Gas Limited in respect of Oil Block OPL 245 and deferred consideration of the Report to Tuesday, 18 February, 2014.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole, put and agreed to.

10. Adjournment:

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 18 *February*, 2014 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Deputy House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.56 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker