FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
No. 72

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 1 April, 2014

1. The House met at 11.52 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, 27 March, 2014.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Speaker recognized in the Gallery the presence of First Kingdom Kids Academy, Mararaba, Nasarawa State.

4. **Petition:**
A petition was presented and laid by Hon. Saheed Akinade Fijabi (*Ibadan South West/Ibadan North West Federal Constituency*) from Grace Ebunoluwa Oke, on behalf of late Tunde Oke, former staff of EcoBank Nigeria, Plc, praying the House to investigate the death of the deceased while in custody of the Police.

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Privilege:**
Citing Order VI, Rules 19 and 22, Hon. Ibrahim Shehu Gusau (*Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to a publication in ***The Nation*** newspaper of Saturday, 29 March, 2014, in which his name was put on the list of Members congratulating the All Progressive Congress (APC) leader, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu on his 62nd birthday. He stated that his consent was neither sought nor given for the publication. He therefore viewed the publication as a breach of his privilege.

Mr Speaker advised Members to always seek the consent of their colleagues on such matters.

Personal Explanation:
Citing Standing Order VI, Rule 47, Hon. Chris Emeka Azubogu (*Nkanu North/Nkanu South/Ekwusigo East Federal Constituency*) recalled a matter that in 2013 the Economic and Finance ...

Crimes Commission (EFCC) instituted a court action against him and Hon. Herman Hembe for misappropriation of funds following a complain received from the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC). He disclosed that the Court of Appeal had recently discharged and acquitted them.

7. **Presentation of Report:**
***Committee on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control on the Urgent Need to Check the Resurgence of Leprosy in Nigeria **(HR. 12/2014)**" (*Hon. Joseph Haruna Kigbu — Lafia/Obi Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **Urgent Need for the Executive Arm of Government to Reconsider the Constitution of a Special Committee to Conduct Fresh Recruitment Exercise into the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS):**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on Saturday, 15 March, 2014, the country was greeted with the shocking news of the death of nineteen (19) job applicants (including three pregnant women, who turned up for the Nigerian Immigration Service recruitment examinations across different States of the country. About 700 applicants were also reported to have been injured according to Vanguard and Daily Trust of 17 March, 2014;

Aware that in response to the above, Mr President, after the Federal Executive Council meeting of 19 March, 2014, **cancelled the recruitment exercise and ordered that a fresh one be conducted by a Special Committee chaired by the Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission**;

Conscious that the **Civil Defence, Fire Service, Immigration and Prisons Service Board (CDFIPB) Act, Cap. 12, 2004 is an Act of the National Assembly** of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Sections 4 and 6 of this Act exclusively confer power of appointment into any of the Service on the Board;

Section 4 (2) of the Act states: **"The Board shall have power —**

(*a*) **to appoint persons to hold or act in all the office in the affected Services, including power to make appointment or transfer and to confirm appointments; and**

(*b*) **to dismiss and exercise other disciplinary control over persons appointed pursuant to paragraph (*a*) of this subsection";**

Section 6 (1)-(2) further empowers the Board to delegate the power to appoint officers of grade levels 01-07 to the Immigration Service which it has done through policy obviously for the purpose of efficiency;

Further conscious that it amounts to total disregard for the Rule of Law for the executive to go ahead and unilaterally constitute a separate committee to conduct a fresh recruitment **exercise when there is an existing Act of the National Assembly already vesting the CDFIPB with such powers;**

Informed that, according to the testimony of a Board Commissioner, Mr S. D. Tapgun before House of Representatives Committee on Public Accounts on Wednesday, 19 March, 2014, **the Minister of Interior, Mr Abba Moro, acted alone and never carried the Board along in conducting the recruitment exercise;** stating further that the Minister unilaterally hired the Consultancy firm that swindled young and unemployed Nigerians to the tune of over a billion Naira;

Disturbed that such act by the executive does not augur well for nurturing the spirit of democracy and the Rule of Law;

Further disturbed that the declaration by the President without recourse to the existing Act of the National Assembly, undermines the sacred doctrine of Constitutionalism and Rule of Law which, if allowed, may verge into dictatorship;

Resolves to:

(*a*) Bring to the attention of the Executive the existence of the provisions of the CDFIPB Act;

(*b*) urge the Executive to reconsider its decision on the Special Committee (headed by the Chairman, Federal Civil Service Commission) and allow the CDFIP Board and the Immigration Service to carry out their legal mandate;

(*c*) urge the Distinguished Senate to concur with the above Resolution (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constitution*).

Mr Speaker recalled that on Wednesday, 26 *March*, 2014, *he mandated the Committee on Rules and Business to determine the extent of similarity of the subject matter of the motion by Hon. Ahmed Idris to the House Resolution* (**HR. 30/2014**) *on Tuesday*, 18 *March*, 2014. *He then invited the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business, Hon. Albert T. Sam-Tsokwa to brief the House on the issue.*

The Chairman briefed the House that Hon. Ahmed Idris's motion is merely to seek a resolution of the House to urge the Executive Arm of Government to operate within the confines of the Immigration and Prisons Services Board Act in dealing with the recruitment of personnel into the Nigeria Immigration Service, while, the earlier Resolution (***HR.*** **30/2014**) *was to, among other things, institute an investigative hearing into the unwieldy recruitment exercise of Saturday*, 15 *March*, 2014. *He therefore submitted that both motions are substantially different.*

Resumption of debate:

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out paragraph 7 of the motion (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*).

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

Hon. Linus Okorie observed that the defect which the motion seeks to cure does not exist in the light of the Press statement issued by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator Anyim Pius Anyim, on Tuesday, 25 *March*, 2014. *He pointed out that the mandate of the Special Committee set up by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was merely to assist the Civil Defence, Fire Service, Immigration and Prisons Board re-conduct the aborted recruitment of personnel for Nigerian Immigration Service and would not-in any way impede on the Board's statutory functions.*

Debate adjourned to allow for further examination of all laws and executive documents on the matter.

9. **A Bill for an Act to make it mandatory for the Federal Government and all its Ministries, Departments and Agencies to present Comprehensive Report on the implementation of Capital Budgetary Allocation annually to the National Assembly (HB. 638) — *Second Reading*:**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Regulate the Practice and to make Provisions for Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists Registration Board of Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 584) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question Proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Regulate the Practice and to make Provisions for Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists Registration Board of Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 584) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Bill referred to the Committee on Rules and Business for rescheduling pursuant to Order XII, Rule 96.

11. **Consideration of Reports:**
(*i*) ***Committees on Rules and Business*:**
That this House do resume consideration of the Report of the Committee on Rules and Business on the further Review of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(*ii*) ***Committee on Federal Capital Territory*:**
That this House do resume consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory Board of Internal Revenue and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 147).

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. **Adjournment:**
That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 2 *April*, 2014 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.06 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker