FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 79

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 29 April, 2014

1. The House met at 11.54 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 10 April, 2014.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
(*i*) ***Bereavement*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Chinenye Ike (*Isiala Ngwa North/Isiala Ngwa South Federal Constituency*), announcing the death of his wife, Lady Ugochi Elizabeth Ike, who died on Tuesday, 22 April, 2014 .

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(*ii*) ***Change of Political Party*:**
Mr Speaker read letters from the under-listed Members announcing their defection from their respective political parties:

(1) Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi (*Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*) from All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) to Peoples Democratic Party (PDP);

(2) Hon. Charles C. Odedo (*Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*) from All Progressive Congress (APC) to Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

4. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**
(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Peter Biye Gumtha (*Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok Federal Constituency*) recalled the attack on Chibok town in Borno State on 14 April, 2014 by the Boko Haram sect, which resulted in the destruction of several houses, looting of market stalls and abduction of 273 SS3 students of Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok. He noted that 43 of the abducted girls escaped while 230 are still in the custody of their captors. He described the abduction as despicable and morally reprehensible. He urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) so that the matter could be debated immediately.

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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.*

The Urgent Need to Secure the Release of the Abducted Girls of Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, Borno State:

The House

Notes that during the night of 14th/15th April, 2014, Boko Haram terrorist invaded Chibok town in Borno State, destroyed houses, looted market stalls and abducted two hundred and seventy-three (273) SS3 girls at Government Girls Secondary School (GGSS), Chibok writing their Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations (SSCE);

Is aware that Forty-three (43) of the abducted girls escaped from the hands of their captors and regained their freedom;

Further notes that Two Hundred and Thirty (230) girls are still in captivity over two weeks after the incidence;

Cognizant of the fact that parents of the abducted girls are yet to receive any reliable information from the Security Agencies on the whereabouts of their children;

Observed that Mbalala- Chibok - Damboa Federal Road totaling about 50 kilometres is neglected and untarred, thereby hindering rescue effort from the sector command at Damboa and Askira;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Security Agencies to as a matter of urgency expedite action in rescuing the abducted girls;

(*ii*) Further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to those whose houses and shops were destroyed during the incident (*Hon. Peter Biye Gumtha — Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to establish a committee to negotiate with the Boko haram for the release of the student hostages" (*Hon. Arua Arunsi — Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Invite the Chief of Defence Staff and the Service Chiefs to brief the House on the action plan towards rescuing the abducted girls" (*Hon. Andrew Uchendu — Ikwerre/Emoha Federal Constituency*).

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

(*iii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to declare a day of national prayers for the rescue of the girls" (*Hon. Andrew Uchendu — Ikwerre/Emoha Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

(*iv*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to engage the sub-regional, regional and international organizations in coming up with resolutions that enables the Nigerians Army engage other neigbouring countries in tackling this transborder insurgency" (*Hon. Nnenna Ukeje — Bende Federal Constituency*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House

Noted that during the night of 14th/15th April, 2014, Boko Haram terrorist invaded Chibok town in Borno State, destroyed houses, looted market stalls and abducted two hundred and seventy-three (273) SS3 girls at Government Girls Secondary School (GGSS), Chibok writing their Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations (SSCE);

Was aware that Forty-three (43) of the abducted girls escaped from the hands of their captors and regained their freedom;

Further noted that Two Hundred and Thirty (230) girls are still in captivity over two weeks after the incidence;

Cognizant of the fact that parents of the abducted girls are yet to receive any reliable information from the Security Agencies on the whereabouts of their children;

Observed that Mbalala- Chibok - Damboa Federal Road totaling about 50 kilometres is neglected and untarred, thereby hindering rescue effort from the sector command at Damboa and Askira;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Security Agencies to as a matter of urgency expedite action in rescuing the abducted girls;

(*ii*) Further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to those whose houses and shops were destroyed during the incident;

(*iii*) Invite the Chief of Defence Staff and the Service Chiefs to brief the House on the action plan towards rescuing the abducted girls;

(*iv*) Urge the Federal Government to engage the sub-regional, regional and international organizations in coming up with resolutions that enables the Nigerians Army engage other neigbouring countries in tackling this trans-border insurgency (**HR. 53/2014**).

(*ii*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Farouk Lawan (*Shanono/Bagwai Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the bombing that occurred in Nyanya motor park on Monday, 14 April, 2014, where about 70 lives were lost and more than 200 people sustained various degrees of injuries. He emphasized the need for security agencies to improve on their strategies in tackling terrorism in order to secure the lives of Nigerians. He therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) so that the matter could be debated immediately.

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.*

Bombing at Nyanya Motor Park:

The House:

Notes the unfortunate and bad incident of bombings in Nyanya on the Monday, 14 April, 2014;

Aware that over 70 people lost their lives and more than 200 people were reported to have sustained injuries.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Condemn the bombings and urge the security agencies to fish out the perpetuators of this incident;

(*ii*) Condole the families of those who lost their lives;

(*iii*) Observe a minute silence to pray for the souls of those who died in the incident (*Hon. Farouk Lawan — Shanono/Bagwai Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the unfortunate and bad incident of bombings in Nyanya on the Monday, 14 April, 2014;

Aware that over 70 people lost their lives and more than 200 people were reported to have sustained injuries.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Condemn the bombings and urge the security agencies to fish out the perpetuators of this incident;

(*ii*) Condole the families of those who lost their lives;

(*iii*) Observe a minute silence to pray for the souls of those who died in the incident (**HR. 54/2014**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

5. Investigation of NNPC and Minister of Petroleum Resources for Misuse of Public Funds:
Rising on a constitutional point of order, Hon. Omosule Eniolorunde (*Owo/Ose Federal Constituency*) called the attention of the House to a court action instituted by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to stop a pending investigation of the Corporation by the Public Accounts Committee of the House on the alleged ₦10 billion expended by the Corporation to charter executive jets for the private use of the Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs Diezani Allison-Madueke and her family. He stated that the effect of the combined provisions of Sections 88 and 89 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) clearly empowers the National Assembly to check the arbitrary use of public funds by Ministries, Agencies and Departments of government. He stressed the need for the House not to succumb to any form of pressure or blackmail in the performance of its constitutional duties to curb waste of public funds.

Mr Speaker noted that his attention has been drawn to the court process instituted against the House to stop it from carrying out the investigation. He stated that the House has sought legal opinion on the matter and that further action would depend on it.

6. Presentation of Bills:
The following Bills were presented and read the *First Time*:

(*i*) Fireworks and Explosives Bill, 2013 (HB. 630).

(*ii*) Nigerian Peace Corps Bill, 2013 (HB. 616).

(*iii*) National Cancer Institute Bill, 2013 (HB. 631).

(*iv*) Nigerian Agricultural Produce Export Regulation Bill, 2013 (HB. 635).

(*v*) Green Peninsula Bill, 2013 (HB. 634).

(*vi*) Federal Character Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 637).

(*vii*) National Economic Development Bank (Establishment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 648).

(*viii*) Child's Rights Act (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 649).

(*ix*) Armed Forces Act (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 651).

(*x*) Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 663).

7. Adjournment:
That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 30 *April*, 2014 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Deputy House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.40 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker