FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
No. 88

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 27 May, 2014

1. The House met at 11.46 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, 22 May, 2014.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
(*i*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of National Union of Enugu State Students (NUESS), University of Abuja Chapter.

(*ii*) ***Conference Committee on HIV/AIDS Anti-Stigma Bill*, 2014:**
Mr Speaker announced the Membership of the Conference Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon Joseph Haruna Kigbu	—	*Member*
(2)	Hon. Babatunde Jimoh	—	*Member*
(3)	Hon. Blessing Nsegbe	—	*Member*
(4)	Hon. Abbass Tajudeen	—	*Member*
(5)	Hon. Oluchi Ibeji	—	*Member*
(6)	Hon. Abdul Msheliza	—	*Member*

4. **Petition:**
A petition was presented and laid by Hon. Robinson Uwak (*Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong/Oruko Federal Constituency*) from Afahanam Moses Etim, praying the House to prevail on the Police Pensions Office to pay the pension arrears due to him since 2000.

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Matter Requiring the Attention of the House: CHILDREN'S DAY:**
Mr Speaker remarked that 27 May, is annually celebrated world wide as Children's Day. He noted the challenges of children in contemporary world, especially in Nigeria and underscored the need for the House to devote some time to honour them in commemoration of the day. He therefore invited the House Leader to lead debate on the matter.

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The House Leader congratulated the children in Nigeria and all over the world and stressed the need to celebrate with them. She expressed regret that at a time when the nation is supposed to be celebrating the Children's Day, the school girls who were abducted in Chibok, Borno State by insurgents were yet to be rescued. She stated that the House shared the pains and agonies of the families of the abducted girls and prayed for their safe rescue and return to their families. She urged the House to resolve to:

(*i*) Re-affirm its condemnation for the abduction of the Chibok girls and the targeting of children in conflict;

(*ii*) Adopt procedures to ensure the documentation, protection, rehabilitation and re-integration of internally displaced children and other citizens in line with the provisions of the State of Emergency laws as passed by the National Assembly;

(*iii*) Ensure that Government work with Agencies, i.e. development partners to provide post-traumatic stress disorder treatments, physical and physiological treatment to ensure integration of the girls when they are eventually found;

(*iv*) Ensure the sensitization of the society against victimization and stigmatization of all children that are victims of conflict; and

(*v*) Congratulate Nigerian children and indeed children around the world as they celebrate Children's day (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

For details on the Children's Day Celebration, see Official Report.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Salame (*Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*) informed the House that the Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Sultan Abubakar III International Airport Sokoto, Sokoto State is currently not functioning. He underscored the importance of the airport which is being used by 3 northern States of Sokoto, Kebbi, and Zamfara to airlift over 12,000 pilgrims to Hajj and Ummrah every year. He further noted that at least 2 domestic airlines operate at the airport on daily basis. He stressed the need for the ILS to be urgently re-installed at the airport to make it safer. He thus 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*.

Need for Re-installing and Servicing Instrument Landing System (ILS) in Sultan Abubakar III International Airport, Sokoto, Sokoto State:

The House:

Notes that an **Instrument Landing System (ILS)** is a ground-based instrument approach system that provides precision guidance to an air craft approaching and landing on a runway, using combination of radio signals and in many cases, high-intensity lighting arrays to enable a safe landing during **Instrument Meteorological Condition (IMC)** Such as low ceiling or

reduce visibility due to fogs, rain or blowing snow, it was acceptable as standard system by **International Civil Aviation (ICAO)** since 1947;

Further notes that unfortunately this important Instrument was destroyed since the year 2012 while an air craft was on the process of landing on the runway then crushed over the **Instrument Landing System (ILS)** that is fixed on threshold of runway, since then, it has not been repaired as a result of which the airport experienced numerous diversions, delay and cancellations of flight coming into the Airport, both Domestic and International flights;

Aware that the Sultan Abubakar III International Airport sokoto is the Second Largest International Airport in Northern Nigeria after Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano. And one of the busiest airports in the country where at least two (2) Domestic air lines operate on daily bases. It is also being used by the Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States, for air lifting of their pilgrims every year during Hajj and Ummrah where over twelve thousand (12,000) Pilgrims depart from, to Saudi Arabia;

Worried that if this **Instrument Landing System (ILS)** is not urgently repaired and put back into use as soon as possible, it will jeopardise the lives of both travelers and operators in the airport, needless to say Nigeria has had more than its fare share of air mishap;

Resolves:

(*i*) That as a matter of urgency, the House urge the Federal Ministry of Aviation in collaboration with FAAN and all relevant Agencies to make sure that the Instrument Landing System (ILS) in the Sultan Abubakar III International Airport, sokoto is fixed and put back into use immediately;

(*ii*) That the maintenance of the Airport should henceforth be taken as priority to ensure the security of lives and properties of both travellers and operators of air lines as well as to avert any situation that will warrant unnecessary delay, diversions and cancellations of flight being experience at the moment (*Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Salame — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to Committee on Aviation, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51(5) **(HR. 62/2014)**.

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

(*i*) National Cardiothoracic Centers Bill, 2013 (HB. 632).

(*ii*) National Emergency Management Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (HB. 698).

8. Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Assembly Service Commission Act, Cap. N7 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Assembly Service Bill, 2014 to Recognize the Management and Administrative Structure of the National Assembly for improved Service Delivery and for Other Related Matters:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Assembly Service Act (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill was passed by the House on Thursday, 12 December, 2013 and transmitted to the Senate for concurrence;

The Senate passed the National Assembly Service Act (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2013 with some differences;

The two Chambers met in Conference on Wednesday, 21 May, 2014 and adopted a harmonised version of the Report;

A clean copy of the Conference Report is ready for receipt and adoption;

And in view of the importance of this Bill in enhancing the Management and Administrative Structure of the National Assembly for improved Service delivery;

Resolves to:

Receive and Adopt the Conference Report on the National Assembly Service (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2014 (*Hon. Albert T. Sam-Tsokwa — Dunga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

9. Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Pension Reform Act No. 2, 2004 and Enact the Pension Reform Bill, 2014 to make Provision for Contributory Pension Scheme and for Other Matters Connected Therewith:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Pension Reform Bill, 2014 was passed by the House on Wednesday, 30 April, 2014 and transmitted to the Senate for concurrence;

The Senate passed the Pension Reform Bill with some differences;

The two Chambers met in Conference on Wednesday, 21 May, 2014 and adopted a harmonised version of the Report;

A clean copy of the Conference Report is ready for receipt and adoption;

And in view of the importance of the Bill to the well-being of Nigerian pensioners and the general economic transformation of the country;

Resolves to:

Receive and Adopt the Conference Report on the Pension Reform Bill, 2014 (*Hon. Christopher Sunday Eta — Boki/Ikom Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

10. Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Capital Territory College of Education and for Other Matters Connected Therewith:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Capital Territory College of Education (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2011was passed by the House on Wednesday, 6 June, 2012 and transmitted to the Senate for concurrence;

The Senate passed the Federal Capital Territory College of Education (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2011 with some differences;

The two Chambers met in Conference on Tuesday, 29 October, 2013 and adopted a harmonised version of the Report;

A clean copy of the Conference Report is ready for receipt and adoption;

And in view of the importance of the Bill to the development of quality education in the Federal Capital Territory;

Resolves to:

Receive and Adopt the Conference Report on the Federal Capital Territory College of Education (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2014 (*Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe — Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

11. Inadvertent Sale of OML 29 and Other OMLs by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) and Other Oil Majors:
Motion made Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Item 12 (1) of the First Schedule to the Petroleum Act stipulates that ten (10) years after the grant of an oil mining lease, one-half (½) of the area of the lease shall be relinquished to the Federal Government;

Aware that OML 29 has been in the custody of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) for more than fifty-two (52) years and one-half (½) of the area of the lease has not been relinquished to the Federal Government as stipulated by the Act;

Regrets that against the stipulation of the Act, the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) had sold OML 29 and other OMLs;

Realizes that the out-right sale of OML 29 and other OMLs is in direct contravention of the Act and undermines the national interest;

Concerned that Shell Petroleum Development Company and other oil majors may have hidden under the cover of waivers usually granted by the Hon. Minister of Petroleum Resources to embark on the sale of the OMLs;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate and establish the validity of the transactions and report back to the House within two weeks (*Hon. Irona Alphonsus Gerald — Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Item 12 (1) of the First Schedule to the Petroleum Act stipulates that ten (10) years after the grant of an oil mining lease, one-half (½) of the area of the lease shall be relinquished to the Federal Government;

Aware that OML 29 has been in the custody of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) for more than fifty-two (52) years and one-half (½) of the area of the lease has not been relinquished to the Federal Government as stipulated by the Act;

Regretted that against the stipulation of the Act, the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) had sold OML 29 and other OMLs;

Realized that the out-right sale of OML 29 and other OMLs is in direct contravention of the Act and undermines the national interest;

Concerned that Shell Petroleum Development Company and other oil majors may have hidden under the cover of waivers usually granted by the Hon. Minister of Petroleum Resources to embark on the sale of the OMLs;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate and establish the validity of the transactions and report back to the House within two weeks (**HR. 63/2014**).

12. **Need to Curb the Practice of Universities Admitting Students in Excess of their Allotted Quotas and into Courses which were not Accredited by the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC):**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

13. **A Bill for an Act Pursuant to Section 59 (1) (*a*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to Abrogate Legislative Powers Delegated to Executive, Administrative, Judicial and Other Officers, Agencies and Authorities for the determination, imposition, increase, cancellation, withdrawal or reduction of taxes, duties, tariffs and fees and to prohibit the exercise of such powers without the approval of the National Assembly (HB. 650) — *Second Reading*:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act Pursuant to Section 59 (1) (*a*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to Abrogate Legislative Powers Delegated to Executive, Administrative, Judicial and Other Officers, Agencies and Authorities for the determination, imposition, increase, cancellation, withdrawal or reduction of taxes, duties, tariffs and fees and to prohibit the exercise of such powers without the approval of the National Assembly (HB. 650) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Garba Datti Mohammed — Sabon Gari Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Debate adjourned.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Statisticians of Nigeria to be charged with the responsibility to determine what standards of Knowledge and Skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become members of the Statistics Profession and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 541) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Statisticians of Nigeria to be charged with the responsibility to determine what standards of Knowledge and Skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become members of the Statistics Profession and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 541) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Abdulrahman Badamasiu — Okehi/Adavi Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on National Planning and Economic Development.

15. **Adjournment:**
That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 28 *May*, 2014 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Deputy House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.11 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker