HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 3 July, 2014

1. The House met at 11.33 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, 2 July, 2014.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**

(*i*) ***Bereavement*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Peter O. Edeh (*Ezza North/Ishielu Federal Constituency*) informing the House with regret the demise of his father, Chief Moses Akuru Edeh, on Monday, 5 May, 2014 at the age of 84.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(*ii*) ***Change of Political Party*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Abiodun Isiaq Akinlade (*Egbado South/Ipokia Federal Constituency*) announcing his defection from the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in view of the merger of ACN with other political parties to form All Progressive Congress (APC).

4. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were presented and laid by:

(*i*) Hon. Kingsley Chinda (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*) from Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth, Nigeria, on behalf of the Artisan Fishermen Association of Nigeria operating in the coastal areas of Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta and Ondo States, praying the House to prevail on Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to compensate them for the environmental degradation arising from the oil spillage caused by the Shell Bonga Floating Vessel along the coastline of the States;

(*ii*) Hon. Samson Osagie (*Orhionmwon Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*) from Mr Onyeme Ejime Paul, praying the House to redress his dismissal from the service of the Federal Judicial Service Commission;

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(*iii*) Hon. Irona Alphonsus Gerald (*Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*) from Petphil Associates, on behalf of Maco Global Resources and Engineering Company Limited, Lagos, praying the House to investigate the non-performance of a contract between the company and Oando for the purchase of a barge with a view to ensuring justice;

(*iv*) Hon. Bassey Dan Abia (*Eket/Onna/Esit Eket/Ibeno Federal Constituency*) from Sunday Edeth, praying the House to redress his wrongful dismissal from the service of the Nigerian Army;

(*v*) Hon. Mathew Omegara (*Onuimo/Ohaji/Egbema Federal Constituency*) from S. A. Egbo & Co., on behalf of the family of late Sebastian Ihezie, praying the House to investigate the extra-judicial killing of their son and bring the Police Officers involved to book;

(*vi*) Hon. Kenneth Edet Archibong (*Itu/Ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency*) from Clement Samuel Afahaide, praying the House to intervene in his wrongful dismissal from the service of Supreme Court.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order VIII, Rule 46):

(*i*) Hon. Samson Osagie (*Orhionmwon Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*) called the attention of the House to the lingering crisis in the Health sector which culminated in the strike action embarked upon by the resident doctors thereby crippling normal activities in the sector. He noted the security challenges that the nation is currently facing and expressed concern that a strike action by a critical sector portends grave implications for Nigeria and therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) so that it 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.*

(*ii*) **Urgent Need to Resolve the Crisis in the Health Sector:**

The House:

Aware that the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) has declared that all its members made up of Medical Doctors should proceed on strike beginning from 1 July, 2014;

Further aware that from the NMA perspective, a number of issues including the appointment of a Surgeon-General for the Federation, payment of Hazard allowances to medical doctors, retirement age of the Doctors, expansion of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to cover a wider spectrum of the society among others are also some of the issues that the National Assembly have passed Resolutions on;

Worried that given the very critical state of insecurity in critical state of insecurity in our country, the citizens stand a very huge risk of medical services were not to be available especially during emergencies;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Appeal to the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) to kindly call off the strike while the National Assembly intervenes in view of the critical and fundamental nature of their calling to the lives of the citizenry;

(*ii*) Urge the Federal Government to do everything possible as a matter of utmost urgency to have this crisis abated in the interest of the citizens of this country;

(*iii*) Mandate the Committee on Health to immediately engage the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMH) to resolve the knotty issues and report back to the House within one week (*Hon. Samson Osagie — Orhionmwon Ununmwode Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (*i*), line 3, immediately after the word "NMA", *insert*, the words "and the Joint Health Service Union (JOHESU)" (*Hon. Ossai Nicolas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) has declared that all its members made up of Medical Doctors should proceed on strike beginning from 1 July, 2014;

Further aware that from the NMA perspective, a number of issues including the appointment of a Surgeon-General for the Federation, payment of hazard allowances to medical doctors, retirement age of the Doctors, expansion of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to cover a wider spectrum of the society among others, are also some of the issues that the National Assembly have passed Resolutions on;

Worried that given the very critical state of insecurity in critical state of insecurity in our country, the citizens stand a very huge risk of medical services were not to be available especially during emergencies;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Appeal to the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) and the Joint Health Service Union (JOHESU) to kindly call off the strike while the National Assembly intervenes in view of the critical and fundamental nature of their calling to the lives of the citizenry;

(*ii*) Urge the Federal Government to do everything possible as a matter of utmost urgency to have this crisis abated in the interest of the citizens of this country;

(*iii*) Mandate the Committee on Health to immediately engage the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMH) to resolve the knotty issues and report back to the House within one week (**HR. 13/2014**).

(*ii*) Hon. Saviour Friday Udoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the fact that the video surveillance cameras installed by the Federal Government across major cities in the country for security purposes are inoperative. He noted that despite the huge sums of money expended for the project, Nigerians are yet to benefit from it. 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 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) *so that debate on it could commence forthwith, put and negatived.*

Matter to stand over till the next legislative day.

(*iii*) Hon. Kyari Gujbawu (*Maiduguri Metropolitan Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the need for government to adopt a comprehensive community-based approach as part of its effort in curtailing insurgency. He noted the initial successes recorded by the Joint Military Task Force in collaboration with the local community in Maiduguri, Borno State and underscored the importance of building on it in order to stem the spate of killings. He therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till the next legislative day.

(*iv*) Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun (*Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*) called the attention of the House to the activities of smugglers around the nation's borders and the negative implication it has on the national economy. He stressed the need for the Nigerian Customs Service to take proactive steps to check their activities and thus urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till the next legislative day.

6. Presentation of Bill:

Nigerian Communications Commission Appropriations Bill, 2014 (HB. 734) was presented and read the *First Time*.

7. Presentation of Report:

***Committee on Environment*:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Environment on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.) Act, 2002 and for Other Related Matters (HB.132)" (*Hon. Uche Lilian Ekwunife — Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **Urgent Need for the Federal Ministry of Education to Erect or Repair Parameter Fences in all Federal Government Secondary Schools in Nigeria:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that there are Federal Government Secondary Schools that do not have parameter fences in present day Nigeria;

Concerned about the danger, the absence of parameter fences poses to the innocent students of those schools;

Recalls a report in the Daily Champion Newspaper of October 27, 2011, where hoodlums forced their way into the hostel of St Anne's Secondary School, Molete, Ibadan, Oyo State, at about 2.00 a.m. and raped four (4) young female students to the point of coma;

Also recalls another report in the Daily Trust Newspaper of October 13, 2012 which was titled, "Armed Robbers Attack Girls' School in Kano";

Disturbed by the pervasive nature of the absence of fences around these Public Secondary Schools, especially those located in the rural areas;

Also disturbed that many of those Schools lack potable water in the premises, which forces the students to wonder in search of water, and are thereby exposed to risk of not only harassment from people but also to dangerous reptiles, as was the case with Government Secondary School, Lugbe, Abuja;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Education to carry out an appraisal of all Federal Government Secondary Schools to ascertain those that do not haye parameter fences around their premises;

(*ii*) Also mandate the Committee to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Education to ensure the repair or construction of parameter fences in those Schools (*Hon. Evelyn Omavowan Oboro — Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do dispense with Notice pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 56 to enable it take an amendment on the Motion" (*Hon. Chukwuemeka Nwogbo — Awka North/Awka South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Amendment Proposed:
Delete Prayer (*i*) (*Hon. Friday Itulah — Esan North East/Esan South East Federal Constituency*).

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

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

Motion referred to Committee on Education (**HR. 14/2014**).

9. **A Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issue From the Federal Capital Territory Administration Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration Account, the Total sum of ₦271,125,103,635 (Two Hundred and Seventy-One Billion, One Hundred and Twenty-Five Million, One Hundred and Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Five Naira) only of which the Sum of ₦49,200,944,858 (Forty-Nine Billion, Two Hundred Million, Nine Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Eight Naira) only, is for Personnel Costs and the sum of ₦62,891,521,857 (Sixty-Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Ninety-One Million, Five Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Seven Naira) only, is for Overhead Costs while he Balance of ₦159,032,636,920 (One Hundred and Fifty-Nine Billion, Thirty-Two Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty Naira) only, is for Capital Projects for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial Year Commencing from 1st January and Ending on 31st December, 2014 (HB. 691) — *Second Reading:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issue From the Federal Capital Territory Administration Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration Account, the Total sum of ₦271,125,103,635 (Two Hundred and Seventy-One Billion, One Hundred and Twenty-Five Million, One Hundred and Three Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Five Naira) only of which the Sum of ₦49,200,944,858 (Forty-Nine Billion, Two Hundred Million, Nine Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Eight Naira) only, is for Personnel Costs and the sum of ₦62,891,521,857 (Sixty-Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Ninety-One Million, Five Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Seven Naira) only, is for Overhead Costs while he Balance of ₦159,032,636,920 (One Hundred and Fifty-Nine Billion, Thirty-Two Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty Naira) only, is for Capital Projects for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial Year Commencing from 1st January and Ending on 31st December, 2014 (HB. 691) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola- House Leader*).

Debate:

Debate adjourned to enable the Chief Whip compile the names of Members intending to make contributions to the Bill, pursuant to Order XII, Rule 97 (4).

10. **A Bill for an Act to Further Amend the Electoral Act, No. 6, 2010 to ensure a level playing field for all participants in the Electoral Process and a more Transparent Process of conducting Elections in Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 718) — *Second Reading*:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Further Amend the Electoral Act, No. 6, 2010 to ensure a level playing field for all participants in the Electoral Process and a more Transparent Process of conducting Elections in Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 718) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Daniel Reyenieju — Warri South/Warri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Debate adjourned till Tuesday, 8 *July*, 2014.

11. **Adjournment:**

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 8 *July*, 2014 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.05 p.m.

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal,
Speaker