FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOURTH SESSION
NO. 14

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 16 September, 2014

1. The House met at 11.59 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, 17 July, 2014.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. Welcome Remarks by Mr Speaker:

Protocols
I am delighted to welcome us all from the long recess, which, I believe, afforded us some measure of rest as well as opportunity to interact and consult with our constituents. I am confident that we have returned fully reinvigorated to face the daunting task ahead of us.

2. *As I noted at the commencement of this fourth and final session, this the period that will test our resolve of faithfulness to the execution of our mandate and the competing interest of our personal aspiration. I charge therefore that while the pursuit of our ambitions is imperative and legitimate, we comport ourselves in a manner worthy of true representatives of our people.*

3. *The election year* 2015 *is still unborn as far as the prescriptions of the Electoral Act and INEC Regulations and Guidelines are concerned, but for some, desperation has already taken over. As we conduct ourselves with due regard to the serious security challenge of insurgency and terrorism with bloodletting on the rise and the general volatile political atmosphere, the people should be our prime focus because without the people there will be no country and therefore nothing to represent or to govern.*

4. *It is a matter for grave concern that the insurgency in the North Eastern States of the country has graduated from sporadic acts of violence to an alarming situation where acquisition of territory has become the main focus thus threatening our territorial integrity. This therefore calls for decisive action. The Nigerian Armed Forces have exhibited great sense of patriotism in the past towards the protection of our territorial integrity just as they are doing in the present circumstance and that invaluable selflessness must not be in vain.*

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5. *In this regard I seize this opportunity to once again commend our military and the security agencies for their gallant determination in flushing out the insurgency. Our troops need full kiting, equipment and motivation that meets current international standards so as to insulate them from avoidable loss of lives and limbs and also to meet the force of the offensive, let me assure them that the House of Representatives will meet all it's obligations in that regard.*

6. *As it is often with crises of this magnitude some have lost their lives fighting. in the defense of the rest of us. Honorable colleagues, the life of every Nigerian is precious, more so when laid in the line of our defense, therefore while our hearts go to all the families that have lost their loved ones, may I request that we observe one minute silence in honor of all those who have paid the supreme price in, the fight against this insurgency (May their souls rest in perfect peace).*

7. *The proposal by the Federal Government to establish a Special Forces Unit to deal with insurgency and terrorism is welcome news worthy of commendation. Honorable colleagues will recall that in my address to this hallowed Chambers on the 25th of June this year to mark the commence of the forth session I had specifically advocated the establishment of the Counter Terrorism Special Forces Unit as well as the a National Counter terrorism Centre for our Armed Forces. I am confident that the resolve of Government in this regard will deliver the desired dividends in terms of acquisition of operational expertise.*

8. *Ancillary to this is the commendable great initiative of the launching of the Victims Support Fund aimed at supporting those who are suffering from the negative consequences of insurgency and terrorism. We salute the solidarity and magnanimity of the great Nigerians in the private sector for their generous donations to this worthy cause. As a mark of solidarity the Institution of the National Assembly, all it's agencies inclusive, will be making a humble contribution of Two Hundred Million Naira to the fund.*

9. *Honorable Members will recall that since 20th July this year when late Patrick Sawyer, the infamous Liberian Ebola carrier came calling, the whole nation was thrown into hysterical apprehension. With a huge population of highly mobile citizens the presence of the Ebola pandemic on our soil was understandably a source of great worry. Our Health System rose most swiftly and professionally and today the nation can breath a big sigh of relief. I wish to highly commend the Federal and Lagos State Governments for their proactive and efficient handling of this Ebola outbreak. It is proof once again that when the true Nigerian spirit is called to duty, nothing is unassailable.*

10. *In response, our Committees on Health, and HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control are hereby directed to collaborate with Federal Government Committee and come up with a legislative plan of action which may include a review of our Quarantine laws.*

11. *I wish to most specially commend the House committees for their sacrifice of working assiduously during the period of the long recess attending to matters of urgent national importance. This is in line with the spirit of our Legislative Agenda to be proactive in dealing with national issues arising. I extend special commendation to the Committee on Health for successfully handling the Medical Doctors strike, the Committee on Sports for their eventful intervention in the Nigeria Football Federation crisis, which saved' Nigeria the pains of a FIFA ban. The Committee on INEC also organized a most fruitful stakeholders forum during the period while the Committee on Education worked with the relevant agencies towards resolving the controversies surrounding the reopening of schools earlier shut on account of the Ebola virus scare.*

12. *I also note with satisfaction that some committees to which certain critical Bills were referred used the period of the recess to expedite on those referrals, I hope that those reports will be laid early to facilitate the early passage of these Bills. Given the limited time at our disposal against our resolve to conclude work on Bills, whose passage time is of the essence, all Committees working on such bills are hereby mandated to ensure that their reports are laid within 21 days hence.*

13. *One issue of concern is Electronic Voting. As Members are aware this is one of the high points of our Legislative Agenda document, the system has been fully installed and yet manual voting continues. We need not enumerate the importance of legislative voting to both the legislator as a record of reference and self-assessment and the electorate as an accurate means of assessing their representatives on general performance as well as legislative disposition. As a 21st century legislature we must raise our art, accordingly the Clerk of the House is hereby directed to activate the electronic voting system and make it operational within one week for all Bills from Second Reading. It is a legacy we must bequeath to the 8th Assembly.*

14. *Finally my dear colleagues, I welcome us once again and wish us all, God's speed and good success in our legislative mandate and the pursuit of our ambitions in the days ahead.*

15. *God bless you all and may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

A minute silence was observed in honour of those who died as a result of the current insurgency in some part of the country.

Committees on Health, and HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control to liaise with the Special Team established by the Federal Government on Ebola pandemic.

4. Message:

Mr Speaker read the following Messages from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

(*i*)

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

July 18, 2014

Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, CFR
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

***AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL*, 2014**

I forward herewith, for your kind consideration and passage into law, the attached draft Bill for an Act to Amend the National Drug Law Enforcement (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

It is my hope that the Honourable House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will consider and pass the Bill in your usual expeditious manner.

Please accept, Mr Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

(*ii*)

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

July 17, 2014

Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, CFR
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

LAYING BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES ORDER GRANTED TO THE AFRICAN FINANCE CORPORATION (AFC) BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By the powers conferred on me by Section 21 *of the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act, Cap.* 09, *LFN* 2004, *I have the honour of laying the "**Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities (African Finance Corporation) Order, 2013**", S.I.* No. 9 *of* 2014, *for further legislative action by the Honourable House of Representatives.*

Please accept, Right Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

5. Announcement:

(*a*) ***Bereavement*:**

Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

(*i*) Hon. Toby Okechukwu (*Aninri/Awgu/Oji-River Federal Constituency*), announcing with regret the demise of his mother, Mrs Beatrice N. Okechukwu (*Nee* Udegbo) on Monday, 8 September, 2014.

(*ii*) Hon. Francis Busam Adah (*Obanliku/Obudu/Bekwarra Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of Hon. Peter Banbeshie Ikwen (*Obudu Federal Constituency* — 1979 - 1983) on Thursday, 7 August, 2014.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(*b*) ***Defection*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Uche Lilian Ekwunife (*Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia Federal Constituency*) informing the House of her resignation as the caucus leader of All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) and her defection from the party to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

6. **Matter Requiring Attention of the House:**
Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola (*Ogbomoso North/Ogbomoso South/Orire Federal Constituency*) notified the House of the death of Brig. Gen. Benjamin Adekunle (*rtd*) on Saturday, 13 September, 2014. She noted that contribution of the renowned soldier in keeping Nigeria united during the civil war and his brilliant leadership of his military command period. She commended his low profile life style since retiring from the Armed Forces many years ago and urged the House to note his contribution for nation-building.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the late General.

7. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46):**
(*i*) Hon. Suleiman A. Kawu (*Sumaila/Takai Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the publication in the *Daily Trust* newspaper of Tuesday, 16 September, 2014 where it was reported that two Nigerians smuggled the sum of $9.3m into South Africa. He stressed the need to examine the allegation and 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.

(*ii*) Hon. Mohammed T. Monguno (*Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*) also drew the attention of the House to recent activities of the Boko Haram insurgents, by which they purported established caliphates in some parts of North Eastern Nigeria. He noted that such act amounts to serious threat to the sovereignty of the nation and thus requires decisive actions by the Federal Government. He therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and 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.*

Boko Haram Takes over Parts of North-East Nigeria Including Marte Local Government Area:

The House:

Notes that many Local Governments in Northern Borno and other parts are gradually coming under the control of the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah lid Da Wati Wal Jihad also known as Boko Haram;

Further notes that such Local Governments share international boundaries with Cameroon, Niger and Chad Republics comprise Marte, Magumeri, Mobbar, Gubio, Guzamala, Abadam, Kukawa, Kaga, Nganzai, Monguno, Bama, Dikwa and Ngala;

Aware that most government officials and civil servants have fled the area while members of the Boko Haram sect operate freely and unhindered in military camouflage uniforms;

Worried that the military in the areas has been overpowered by the insurgents;

Further worried that in the early part of September 2014, the sect hoisted a flag and declared some parts of the area as their caliphate, took total control of Marte Local Government where they openly organise public preaching in the market, particularly in Kerenuwa town;

Perturbed that the members of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda set up by the Borno State Governor have been chased out of Marte by the insurgents, abandoning the wheat project in about 5,000 hectares;

Resolves to:

Urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to urgently deploy special Joint Task Force to Marte and other affected parts to rescue the citizens from oppression and control by the insurgents (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Motion that the House do resolve into a Closed Session to further discuss the matter, put and agreed to.

House in Closed Session — **1.27 *p.m.***

House in Open Session — **2.43 *p.m.***

Mr Speaker reported that the House in Closed Session, received briefing from the Committees on Army, and Defence in respect of the issues raised in the motion and resolved to adopt the following as the Prayers:

The House:

Noted that many Local Governments in Northern Borno and other parts are gradually coming under the control of the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah lid Da Wati Wal Jihad also known as Boko Haram;

Further noted that such Local Governments share international boundaries with Cameroon, Niger and Chad Republics comprise Marte, Magumeri, Mobbar, Gubio, Guzamala, Abadam, Kukawa, Kaga, Nganzai, Monguno, Bama, Dikwa and Ngala;

Aware that most government officials and civil servants have fled the area while members of the Boko Haram sect operate freely and unhindered in military camouflage uniforms;

Worried that the military in the areas has been overpowered by the insurgents;

Further worried that in the early part of September 2014, the sect hoisted a flag and declared some parts of the area as their caliphate, took total control of Marte Local Government where they openly organise public preaching in the market, particularly in Kerenuwa town;

Perturbed that the members of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda set up by the Borno State Governor have been chased out of Marte by the insurgents, abandoning the wheat project in about 5,000 hectares;

Resolved to:

(*i*) mandate the Leadership of the House and the Committees on Army, and Defence to liaise with their Senate counterpart with a view to fashioning out the best strategy to solve the insurgency problem;

(*ii*) use legislative diplomacy with other Parliaments for the purpose of providing legislative support; and

(*iii*) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee of the House to enable Members make individual financial contributions in support of the Federal Government insurgency victims support fund (**HR. 31/2014**).

8. Adjournment:
That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 17 *September*, 2014 *at* 10.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola —House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.58 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker