FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOURTH SESSION
NO. 20

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 30 September, 2014

1. The House met at 10.53 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 25 September, 2014.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**

(*a*) ***Annual Prayer and Breakfast*:**
Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from Hon. Sekonte Davies (*Degema/Bonny Federal Constituency*) informing the House that the National Assembly would hold its 5th annual prayer breakfast on Thursday, 23 October, 2014 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, between 7.00 - 9.00 a.m.

(*b*) ***Defection*:**
Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from Hon. Ameke Chriscato (*Anambra East/Anambra West Federal Constituency*) informing the House of his defection from Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA).

(*c*) ***Conference Committee on the Review of Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria*, 1999 (*as amended*):**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that the Conference Committee would meet in Senate Room 204, New Wing today — Tuesday, 30 September, 2014, at 3.00 p.m. He notified Members that the House is scheduled to vote on the proposed amendments upon resumption from the Sallah break.

(*d*) ***National Honours Award*:**
Mr Deputy Speaker congratulated Hon. Bethel Nnaemeka Amadi and Hon. Arua Arunsi on behalf of the House on the National Honours conferred on them by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on Monday, 29 September, 2014.

4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46):**
Hon. Ifeoluwa Arowosoge (*Ekiti South/Irepodun/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to an incident at Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State on Monday, 22 September, 2014 where hoodlums reportedly invaded a court, beat up a judge and other judicial officers and disrupted

proceedings. He expressed dismay over the development and the subsequent escalation of violence in the State, resulting in the death of one person and destruction of properties worth millions of Naira. He 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.

Presidential Request for $1 billion dollar loan for Security matters:
Relying on Section 14 (2) (*b*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), Hon. Leo Ogor (*Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*) recalled the request by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for approval of the House, on 16 July, 2014 for a loan of One Billion Dollars to tackle security issues. He noted that on 17 July, 2014, the House referred the request to the Committees on Loans, Aids and Debts, and Finance for appropriate further legislative action. He underscored the significance of the Presidential request which bothers on national security and stressed the need for the Committees to expedite action and submit their report timely.

Mr Deputy Speaker directed the Committees to submit their report on the next legislative day.

5. **Presentation of Reports:**

(*i*) ***Committee on Banking and Currency*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Banking and Currency on the Urgent Need to Halt the Recent increase in Capital Base for Bureau De Change by 250%" (*Hon. Jones C. Onyereri — Nkwerre/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*ii*) ***Committee on Legislative Budget and Research*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Legislative Budget and Research on the Mapping of Capital Projects in the 2014 Federal Government Budget" (*Hon. Makinde Olarotimi — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*iii*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**
Report on the Petition by Agada Christian and 324 Others:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Agada Christian and 324 Others against the Management of the Bank of Agriculture on alleged wrongful termination of appointment" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*iv*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**
Report on the Petition by Ex-Sgt. Peter Abashiya:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Ex-Sgt. Peter Abashiya against the Nigeria Police Force on alleged wrongful/unjustified dismissal" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*v*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**
Report on the Petition by Victor Ukutt on behalf of Akpabio's Family:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Victor Ukutt on behalf of Akpabio's family against Noel Nduka (an operative of Department of State Security Service), Senator Aloysius Akpan Etok and Chief Bassey Inuaeyen on alleged murder of three brothers" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*vi*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**
Report on the Petition byEdwin Ochigbo:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Edwin Ochigbo against the Management of Bank of Agriculture on alleged wrongful dismissal from service" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*vii*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**
Report on the Petition by Festus Olawale Ogundipe:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Festus Olawale Ogundipe against the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources on alleged non-payment of retirement benefits" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*viii*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**
Report on the Petition by Akinnusimi Christiana Taiwo:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Akinnusimi Christiana Taiwo against the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources on alleged non-payment of retirement benefits" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*ix*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**
Report on the Petition by Imeiba Victor Necus-Agba:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Imeiba Victor Necus-Agba appealing to the Nigerian Immigration service for reinstatement" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*x*) ***Committee on Public Petitions*:**
Report on the Petition by Onwo I. Fidelia:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Onwo I. Fidelia appealing to Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC) for reinstatement" (*Hon. Uzo Azubuike — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

6. **Urgent Need for Completion of Zobe Dam Water Treatment Plant and Irrigation Project:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Zobe Dam, with a capacity to hold 177 million cubic meters or 171 billion liters of water, was completed and commissioned in 1983;

Concerned that thirty (30) years after completion, the Dam is yet to be put into use owing to the fact that the second leg of the project which includes the construction of water treatment plant that would provide water for both domestic and industrial uses, and water channels for irrigation was abandoned due to lack of funds and political will;

Aware that if it had been completed, the water treatment plant would have been providing the estimated daily water needs of Dutsin-ma, Karofi, Kafin-soli, Kankiya, Kurfi and Katsina, and dozens of other villages along the route of the plant;

Also aware that if the water treatment plant had been completed, it would also have been providing water for the irrigation of 1,200 hectares of farm land, thereby boosting the economic well-being of the people and improving the food security of the nation;

Further aware that in 2009, the Federal Government awarded a contract for the completion of the irrigation project at the cost of ₦6,869,686,518.17 (Six billion, eight hundred and sixty-nine million, six hundred and eighty six thousand, five hundred and eighteen Naira, seventeen Kobo) only;

Worried that since then, not more than forty-five percent of the contract sum for the irrigation project has been released despite the fact that the contractor had completed about 70% of the project, as a result of which the Contractor abandoned the project site;

Disturbed that in 2012, 2013 and 2014 Appropriation Acts, only a paltry sum of ₦61,364,400, ₦122,728,800 and ₦63,818,976 respectively, were appropriated for the project;

Observes that due to the non-completion of the water treatment plant and the irrigation project, the Dam has remained under-utilized for more than 30 years, and the communities around the Dam site are facing serious threat of flooding during each rainy season;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Water Resources to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to determine the actual amount required for the completion of the water treatment plant and the irrigation project and report back to the House within two weeks,;

(*ii*) Ensure that the required funds are included in any Supplementary Budget for 2014 or in the Appropriation Act of 2015,for the completion of the project (*Hon. Auwalu Sani — Dutsin/Ma/Kurfi Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to Committee on Water Resources , pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 37/2014**).

7. **The Need to Investigate the Appropriateness of the Four Thousand Naira the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) is Requesting Prospective Corp Members to pay before accessing their Call-up Letters:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Scheme was established in 1973 as one of the healing measures put in place by the Federal Government to help in fostering common ties and promote national unity among the youth of the nation, in the aftermath of a devastating civil war;

Observes with concern, recent advertorials in some National Newspapers that with effect from 2015, corp members will be required to register online with a fee of Four Thousand Naira (₦4,000.00) to be able to access their call up letters as an alternative to their having to go to their various schools to collect the letters;

Realises that as laudable as the idea of sending call up letters through the internet may be, the decision requiring fresh graduates to cough out ₦4,000 to access the letters appears insensitive and exploitative;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to forthwith suspend the policy requiring prospective corp members to pay the sum of ₦4,000.00 with effect from 2015, to access their call up letters;

(*ii*) Mandate the Committees on Youth Development, and Justice to investigate the appropriateness or otherwise of this "money for call up letter policy" and report back to the House within one month (*Hon. Hassan Saleh — Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*)

Debate.

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.

Mr Deputy Speaker directed the Chairman, Committee on Public Petitions to invite the Committee on Youth Development and Hon. Hassan Saleh to all its sittings in the course of the hearings on the subject matter.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Centre as the Central body in Nigeria Responsible for receiving, requesting, analyzing and disseminating Financial Intelligence Reports and Other Information to Law Enforcement, Security and Intelligence Agencies and Other Relevant Authorities and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HBs 495 & 574) — *Third Reading*:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Centre as the Central body in Nigeria Responsible for receiving, requesting, analyzing and disseminating Financial Intelligence Reports and Other Information to Law Enforcement, Security and Intelligence Agencies and Other Relevant Authorities and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HBs 495 & 574) be now read a Third Time" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish a Traditional and Alternative Medicine Agency that will Provide regulation for the promotion of the practice of Traditional and Alternative Medicine in Nigeria which include Medicine that is outside the mainstream of allopathic and Traditional Medicines and involves the management or treatment of diseases in co-operation with natural forces such as acupuncture, acupressure massage etc. and the defensive mechanisms of the body and for Other Related Matters (HB. 621) ; and a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Complementary and Alternative Medical (Establishment and Development) Commission to encourage, Promote and Co-ordinate Traditional Medicine practice in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 670) — *Second Reading*:**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Capital Territory District Courts Act, Cap. 495, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to review the Jurisdiction of the Federal Capital Territory District Courts and for Other Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 721) — *Second Reading*:**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. **Consideration of Reports:**

(*i*) **A Bill for an Act to Facilitate Electronic Transaction in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 3) (*Committee of the Whole*) (*Hon. Albert T. Sam-Tsokwa — Dunga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*):**

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report, put and agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(*Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair*)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO FACILITATE ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Mr Deputy Speaker called on Hon. Albert T. Sam Tsokwa to brief the House on the interpretation of "Minister" under Clause 23.

Hon. Albert T. Sam Tsokwa informed the House that the Committee had examined the Bill and was convinced that the Bill deals more with law rather than finance, and therefore recommended that the "Minister" shall mean the "Attorney-General of the Federation".

Clause 23: Interpretation.
In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires —

"electronic" includes created, recorded, transmitted or stored in digital or other intangible form by electronic, magnetic, optical or by any other means that has capabilities for creation, recording, transmission or storage similar to those means (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "electronic" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill, put and agreed to.

"electronic signature" means information in electronic form that a person has created or adopted in order to sign a document and that is in, attached to or associated with a document (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "electronic signature" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill, put and agreed to.

"Minister" means Minister charged with the responsibility of finance (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word "means", *leave out* all the words and *insert* the words "the Attorney-General of the Federation" instead thereof (*Hon. Albert T. Sam-Tsokwa — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

Question that the meaning of the word "Minister" be as defined in the interpretation to Bill, put and agreed to.

"public body" includes —

(*a*) a Minister, Ministry or Department or Agency of Government,

(*b*) courts,

(*c*) bodies exercising statutory authority, of legislative, executive or judicial nature,

(*d*) State Governments or Local Government Councils or area councils (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "public body" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill, put and agreed to.

"information system" means a system for generating, sending, receiving, storing or otherwise processing electronic communications (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "information system" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill, put and agreed to.

"rule of law" means the common law, legislation, and subsidiary legislation (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "rule of law" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill, put and agreed to.

Question that Clause 23 as amended, stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 24: Citation.
This Bill may be cited as the Electronic Transactions Bill, 2014 (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 24 stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Long Title:
A Bill for an Act to Facilitate Electronic Transactions in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair reported that the House in Committee of the Whole resumed consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Facilitate Electronic Transaction in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 3) and approved Clause 23 as amended, approved Clause 24, and the Long Title of the Bill.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole, put and agreed to.

(ii) ***Committee on Electoral Matters*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Electoral Matters on 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 for a more Transparent Process of conducting Elections in Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 718) and approved the recommendation therein" (*Hon. Jerry Manwe — Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report, put and agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(*Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair*)

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 FOR A MORE TRANSPARENT PROCESS OF CONDUCTING ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH

***Committee Recommendation*:**

Clause 1: Amendment of Act No.6, 2010.

The Electoral Act No. 6 of 2010 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is further amended as set out in this Bill (*Hon. Jerry S. Manwe — Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 1 *stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.*

***Committee Recommendation*:**

Clause 2: Amendment of section 8 (1).

Section 8 (1) of the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new paragraph "(*c*)":

(*c*) hold office for a period of 4 years from the date of his appointment and may be re-appointed for another period of 4 years and no more (*Hon. Jerry S. Manwe — Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 2 *stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.*

***Committee Recommendation*:**

Clause 3: Amendment of section 11.

Section 11 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting new subsections (4), (5), (6) as follows:

"(4) In order to ensure transparency and credibility of elections, the Commission shall accredit reputable Election Observers and Monitors and shall grant them access throughout the process of the election for the purposes of monitoring.

(5) Election Observers and Monitors shall conduct their affairs independently of any political party or candidate in an objective, impartial and transparent manner.

(6) Election Observers and Monitors shall submit the report of their activities, within 30 days of the declaration of the result, to the Commission and the National Assembly" (*Hon. Jerry S. Manwe — Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 3 *stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.*

***Committee Recommendation*:**

Clause 4: Amendment of section 13.

Section 13 (2) of the Principal Act is amended by:

(*a*) Inserting after the word "by" in line 2, the words "a copy of"; and

(*b*) Substituting for the figure "30", the figure "60" (*Hon. Jerry S. Manwe — Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 4 *stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.*

***Committee Recommendation*:**

Clause 5: **Amendment of section 18.**

Section 18 (1) and (3) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the expression "thirty (30)" in line 2, the expression "sixty (60)" (*Hon. Jerry S. Manwe — Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

***Committee Recommendation*:**

Clause 6: **Amendment of section 27.**

Section 27 (2) of the Principal Act is amended by inserting the word "final" between "announce the" and "result" and inserting after section 27 (2) (*h*) the following proviso:

PROVIDED that the Collation Officer and the Returning Officer at every stage shall give a copy of the result, so announced, each to the Candidates or their Polling Agents, the assigned Police Officer, the assigned representative of the State Security Service, the assigned representative of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, accredited election observer groups and representative of the Media where available (*Hon. Jerry S. Manwe — Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Clause 6, line 7, *leave out* the words "Nigerian Security" (*Hon. Betty Apiafi — Ahoada East/Abua/Odual Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Question that Clause 6 stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

***Committee Recommendation*:**

Clause 7: **Amendment of section 28.**

Section 28 (1) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the words "the High Court" in line 2, the words "any court of law or Commissioner for Oaths" (*Hon. Jerry S. Manwe — Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 7 stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

***Committee Recommendation*:**

Clause 8: **Amendment of section 29.**

Section 29 (1) of the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new paragraph (*b*):

(*b*) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law and for purposes of securing the vote, the Commission shall be responsible for requesting for the deployment of relevant security personnel necessary for elections or registration of voters and shall assign them in the manner determined by the Commission in consultation with the relevant security agencies:

PROVIDED that the Commission shall onlyrequest for the deployment of the Nigerian Armed Forces only for the purpose of securing the distribution and delivery of election materialsand protection of election officials (*Hon. Jerry S. Manwe — Lau/K/Lamido/Ardo-Kola Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Clause 8 (*b*), line 7, *leave out* the words "Nigerian Armed Forces" (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Question that Clause 8 *stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.*

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Electoral Matters on 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 for a more Transparent Process of conducting Elections in Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 718) and approved Clauses (1) - (8) and deferred further consideration of the Bill.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole, put and agreed to.

12. **Adjournment:**
That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 14 *October*, 2014 *at* 10.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Deputy House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.20 *p.m.*

Hon. Chukwuemeka Nkem Ihedioha
Deputy Speaker