FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOURTH SESSION
NO. 46

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 1 April, 2015

1. The House met at 12.03 p.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, 12 March, 2015 and Tuesday 31 March 2015, respectively.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. **Remarks by the Hon. Speaker:**

Honourable Colleagues,

I welcome us all to this Hallowed Chambers midway into the 2015 General Elections. I acknowledged that this is, no doubt, a stressful time for everybody, yet matters of urgent national importance compel us back to duty and I thank you for this very positive response. I am confident that, pursuant to our promise to Nigerians, we shall diligently discharge the task before us.

2. *I congratulate our Honourable colleagues who were successful in the March 28th Presidential and National Assembly elections. A fresh mandate of being forerunners in the task of nation building has once again being placed on your shoulders and I have little doubt that you recognize this reality. For those of us who will not be part of the Eight Assembly, we are no less a part of this task of national development in the various other formal and informal responsibilities to which we shall be called or to which we have already been called by virtue of being former Honourable Members of Nigeria's National Assembly. I pray for God's guidance and enablement.*

3. *On the approach of the dates scheduled for this 2015 General Elections, many of our detractors sounded drums of war, doubted our resolve as a people and questioned the capacity of the electoral umpire, but true lovers of democracy and the Nigerian State basked in unmitigated confidence and optimism for a greater blossoming democracy and prosperity. Today midway into the electoral process it is evident that the optimist, rather than the pessimist, have it.*

4. *In this regard, my first commendation goes to the wonderful citizens of this great country for their resilience, patience, maturity, commitment and unyielding enthusiasm for democracy. You have and are indeed proving beyond doubt that you can and will always place national interest above personal and parochial considerations.*

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5. *I commend the Independent National Electoral Commission for their determination and resolve to give Nigerians an election befitting their democratic credentials. We acknowledge that the process has not been completely free of hiccups but there is evidence that the dividends of the learning process are beginning to bear on the quality of the process. We urge that they sustain progress along this path of diligent and selfless service to our country.*

6. *I most heartily congratulate the President Elect His Excellency Muhamadu Buhari for his victory at the just concluded polls, this is, no doubt, a befitting prize for doggedness and determination. I also congratulate the entire leadership of the All Progressive Congress (APC) for working assiduously in achieving this wonderful and timely intervention in the governance of our dear country.*

7. *My dear colleagues, a new and long desired political culture has been introduced in our politics at the national level, before now it had only happened at the sub national level in Ekiti State. It is on this note that I congratulate and highly commend President Goodluck Jonathan for showing outstanding magnanimity in defeat. By this singular act, he has secured for himself an indelible chapter in our national history.*

8. *To all Aspirants and Candidates as well as participating political parties at this 2015 elections, it is now immaterial whether one lost or won the votes for the elective positions contested, in the emerging scenario all are winners in the deepening of our democracy. I congratulate us all and congratulate Nigerian democracy.*

9. *The gallantry of our Armed Forces has never been in doubt and today, once again, they have proved themselves by crushing the attempt by the Insurgents to dent their age long credibility and credentials. Their ability to liberate the territories hitherto in captivity of Insurgents and provide the right atmosphere for our erstwhile harassed and taunted brothers and sisters from this part of the country to participate in the electoral process is a great relief, a sweet smelling fragrance and an icing on our cake of democracy. On the downward slide for our Armed Forces, we say NEVER AGAIN.*

10. *Our friends in the international community and the civil society have always and are proving that they are friends indeed. They have remained firm and resolute in support of our democracy in the face of attendant challenges. We hope we can always count on your solidarity and support.*

11. *The people of Nigeria have spoken and are still speaking: they are speaking the elimination of corruption, they are speaking the elimination of unemployment, they are speaking the assurance of security of lives and property, they are speaking the elimination of poverty and squalor, they are speaking a robust and diversified economy indeed they are speaking good governance and nothing more pretentious. For those picking up the leadership mantle therefore, it is work, work, work and work, no room for leisure governance. I trust that as for the will, zeal and capacity God Almighty will provide.*

12. *I must not forget to, once again, highly commend the people of Nigeria for the mature conduct exhibited through the period of the first phase of this elections. The process has so far been largely violence free and it is important that we eschew violence in the post election dispensation. Violence has never solved problems in any society and it will do us no good.*

13. *In similar vein it only remains for me now to call on all Nigerians to begin to work assiduously for a successful transition both at the national and sub national levels. In the past sixteen years we have enjoyed successful transitions from one government to another. After sixteen years of uninterrupted democratic practice transition, notwithstanding that the present one is slightly different, should no longer be a challenge and I trust that we can take it in our stride with God on Nigeria's side.*

14. *Once again I thank all of you, my dear colleagues and all Nigerians, for your resilience and determination in the task of deepening our democracy. May the Almighty God grant us wisdom and also lead us alright.*

15. *God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

4. Message:

Mr Speaker read a communication from Mr President:

THE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

23rd March, 2015

The Speaker,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

PRESENTATION OF THE 2015 BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NDDC)

Pursuant to Section 18 (1) of the Niger Delta Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, I wish to submit the 2015 estimate of the expenditure and income of the Commission for the kind consideration and approval of the National Assembly.

The Commission has submitted a Budget Proposal of **₦299,526,463,156.12** ***(two hundred and ninety-nine billion, five hundred and twenty-six million, four hundred and sixty-three thousand, one hundred and fifty-Six Naira, Twelve Kobo)*** *for 2015, as against* ₦322,600,000,000.00 *(three hundred and twenty two billion, Six Hundred Million Naira) only in 2014, representing a decline of 7.1% over last year's budget.*

Furthermore, the proposed budget is made up of Personnel Expenditure of ₦16,133.37 billion, Recurrent Expenditure of ₦10,423.31 billion, Internal Capital Expenditure of ₦1,879.76 billion and Capital Projects (Development) Expenditure of ₦271,089.99 billion.

The sources of revenue for the proposed budget are as follows:

S/No.	*Source*	*Amount* (₦)
(i)	*Revenue Brought Forward*	10,000,000,000.00
(ii)	*Federal Government Contribution*	70,000,000,000.00
(iii)	*Unpaid Arrears by Federal Government*	20,000,000,000.00
(iv)	*Oil Companies Contribution and Others*	160,000,000,000.00
(v)	*Ecological Funds*	40,000,000,000.00
(vi)	*Other Internally Realised Income*	100,000,000.00
	Total	**300,100,000,000.00**

While hoping that this request will receive the usual expeditious consideration of the Honourable House, please accept, Mr Speaker, the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours Sincerely,

(*Signed*)

GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

5. Announcements:

(*i*) *Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Criminal Procedure Act, Cap. C41 LFN 2004, Criminal Procedure (Northern States) Act, Cap. C42 LFN 2004, the Administration of Justice Commission Act, Cap. A3 LFN 2004 and Enact the Administration of Criminal Justice Act*, 2013:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Conference Committee as follows:

(1) Hon. Ali Ahmad — *Chairman*

(2) Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari — *Member*

(3) Hon. Abdurahman Terab — *Member*

(4) Hon. Christopher Eta — *Member*

(5) Hon. Adebukola Ajaja — *Member*

(6) Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta — *Member*

(*ii*) *Defection*:

Mr Speaker read a defection letter from Hon. Garba Umar Uba (*Yauri/Shanga/Ngaski Federal Constituency*), from Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to All Progressives Congress (APC).

6. Presentation of Reports:

(*i*) *Committees on Appropriations, and Finance*:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Appropriations, and Finance on a Bill for an Act to Authorize the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of ₦4,357,960,000,000 (Four Trillion, Three Hundred and Fifty-Seven Billion, Nine Hundred and Sixty Million Naira) only, of which, ₦411,840,000,000 (Four Hundred and Eleven Billion, Eight Hundred and Forty Million Naira) only, is for Statutory Transfers, ₦943,000,000,000 (Nine Hundred and Forty-Three Billion Naira) only, is for Debt Service, ₦2,616,007,426,233 (Two Trillion, Six Hundred and Sixteen Billion, Seven Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Three Naira) only, is for Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure while the balance of ₦387,112,573,767 (Three Hundred and Eighty-Seven Billion, One Hundred and Twelve Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Seven Naira) only, is for contribution to the Development Fund for Capital Expenditure for the year ending on 31st day of December, 2015 (HB. 765).

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(*ii*) *Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management*:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the request by the President for an Increase in the amount to be raised through the Diaspora Bond from USD 100M to an Amount up to a Maximum of USD 300M from the International Capital Market.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

7. **Need to Investigate the Purported Completion of the Okpella Water Scheme:**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Make Provisions for the Prohibition of Acts of Thuggery, Criminal Intimidation, Blackmail and Other Related Offences in Nigeria; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 752) — *Second Reading*:**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

9. **Consideration of Report:**
***Committees on Communications*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Communications on a Bill for an Act to Authorize the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) the total sum of ₦60,258,397,000 (Sixty Billion, Two Hundred and Fifty-Eight Million, Three Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand Naira) only, of which (₦16,242,056,000 (Sixteen Billion, Two Hundred and Forty-Two Million, and Fifty-Six Thousand) only, is for Recurrent Expenditure, ₦10,078,187,000 (Ten Billion, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight Million, One Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand Naira) only, is for Transfer to the Federal Government of Nigeria, ₦8,682,751,000 (Eight Billion, Six Hundred and Eight-Two Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand Naira) only, is for Transfer to the Universal Service Fund, while the balance of ₦21,175,403,000 (Twenty-One Billion, One Hundred and Seventy-Five Million, Four Hundred and Three Thousand Naira) only, is for Capital and Special Projects for the Year Ending on 31st Day of December, 2015 (HB.766)" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)

(*Mr Speaker in the Chair*)

A Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) the Total Sum of ₦60,258,397,000 (Sixty Billion, Two Hundred and Fifty-Eight Million, Three Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand Naira) only, of Which (₦16,242,056,000 (Sixteen Billion, Two Hundred and Forty-Two Million, and Fifty-six Thousand) only, is for Recurrent Expenditure, ₦10,078,187,000 (Ten Billion, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight Million, One Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand Naira) only, is for Transfer to the Federal Government of Nigeria, ₦8,682,751,000 (Eight Billion, Six Hundred and Eight-Two Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand Naira) only, is for Transfer to the Universal Service Fund, while the Balance of ₦21,175,403,000 (Twenty-One Billion, One Hundred and Seventy-Five Million, Four Hundred and Three Thousand Naira) only, is for Capital and Special Projects for the Year Ending on 31st Day of December, 2015 (HB.766)

Mr Speaker noted some irregularities in the Report and directed the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business to clarify.

The Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Business observed that the Report was not written in the usual format of Report consideration and therefore called on the House to defer its consideration to another legislative day to enable the Committee on Communications make necessary corrections.

Consideration of Report deferred.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker in the Chair reported that the House in Committee of Supply deferred consideration of the Report of the Committee on Communications on a Bill for an Act to Authorize the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) the total sum of ₦60,258,397,000 (Sixty Billion, Two Hundred and Fifty-Eight Million, Three Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand Naira) only, of which (₦16,242,056,000 (Sixteen Billion, Two Hundred and Forty-Two Million, and Fifty-Six Thousand) only, is for Recurrent Expenditure, ₦10,078,187,000 (Ten Billion, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight Million, One Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand Naira) only, is for Transfer to the Federal Government of Nigeria, ₦8,682,751,000 (Eight Billion, Six Hundred and Eight-Two Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand Naira) only, is for Transfer to the Universal Service Fund, while the balance of ₦21,175,403,000 (Twenty-One Billion, One Hundred and Seventy-Five Million, Four Hundred and Three Thousand Naira) only, is for Capital and Special Projects for the Year Ending on 31st Day of December, 2015 (HB.766).

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

10. Adjournment:

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 14 April, 2015 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.41 p.m.

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker