FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOURTH SESSION
NO. 49

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 16 April, 2015

1. The House met at 11.58 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, 15 April, 2015.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcements:**
***Message*:**
Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Fourth Alteration) Act, 2015:
Mr Speaker recalled the message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria read on Wednesday, 15 April, 2015, on the above subject matter, and referred the letter to the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Constitution Review.

4. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order VIII, Rule 46):**
(*i*) ***Thunderstorm in Communities of Aboh Kingdom in Delta State*:**
Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*) presented the subject matter and prayed the House to:

(*a*) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance, and

(*b*) 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 consider the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.

Thunderstorm in Communities of Aboh Kingdom in Delta State:

The House:

Notes the reported incident of a severe thunderstorm that devastated the communities of Onuobikwu, Umuogwezi, Umuossai, Ogbeukwu, Umuojugbeli and Onyianobi in Aboh Kingdom of Ndokwa East Local Government Area of Delta State;

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Further notes that the thunderstorm which reportedly occurred from about 6.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. on Thursday, 9th April, 2015 had over two hundred (200) buildings completely destroyed with many of the occupants injured and hospitalized;

Observes the reported destruction of economic trees, electric power cables and poles as well as other private and public facilities;

Further observes that over one thousand persons (1,000) may have consequently been displaced and rendered homeless without food, good water and medical care;

Disturbed that these internally displaced persons (IDPs) which may include children, the weak, nursing and expectant mothers are exposed to environmental dangers and health hazards;

Resolves to:

Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently visit the affected communities and persons to assess the damages, and to supply adequate relief materials for the immediate and short-term needs of the communities and persons displaced or affected by the thunderstorm in accordance with Section 6 (*j*) of the NEMA Act which requires it to "distribute emergency relief materials to victims of natural or other disasters and assist in the rehabilitation of the victims where necessary" (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 35/2015**).

(*ii*) ***Xenophobic Attacks on Africans in South Africa*:**
Hon. Abike Erewa-Dabiri (*Ikorodu Federal Constituency*) presented the subject matter and prayed the House to:

(*a*) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance, and

(*b*) 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.*

Xenophobic Attacks on Africans in South Africa:

The House:

Disturbed at the constant, unwarranted Xenophobic attacks against African migrants in South Africa, whereby Africans in South Africa are being slaughtered like animals;

Notes sadly that the recent attacks which has left many dead, businesses and shops vandalised, many beaten up mercilessly, was incited by a statement allegedly made by South African Zulu King, Goodwill Zwelithini, who told African migrants to go home as they are no longer welcome in South Africa. Son of President Zuma, Edward, allegedly echoed the

same statement. This ignited a strong debate, and worse still, immediate backlash of violent reactions among the Zulus in Kwazulu, who unleashed terror on foreign immigrants including Nigerians in Jo-bourg, Durban and Pretoria. They steal, break into their homes, businesses, take their properties, killing them. At least 5 have been killed in Durban, hundreds stranded and unable to return home;

Recalls that a similar incident happened in January this year in which 4 people died during the looting of shops owned by foreigners;

Also recalls that a similar event occurred in 2002 with about 60 African migrants killed including Zimbabweans, Mozambicans, Congolese, Malawians, etc.;

Aware that as an interim measure the Nigeria High Commissioner has advised vigilance and advised Nigerians in the township to move out and make themselves less visible in the community, and their shops and businesses remain closed for safety reasons;

Also aware that the Minister of Home Affairs, Police Affairs and Defence have pleaded for calm on the orders of President Zuma, but this is coming a little too late after many have been killed, tortured, harassed and their businesses destroyed;

Also a known fact that South Africa immigrant laws and treatment of Africans have been very poor. The moment they realise you don't speak their language they call you 'kwere kwere' a denigratory word for African migrants and instant hostility begins;

Also notes that South Africa does not give Nigerian businesses the kind of opportunity to thrive as Nigeria does to South Africa businesses in Nigeria. For instance, Zenith Bank, Union Bank have been trying to set up in South Africa with no success, while Oando and Dangote have been listed on the South Africa stock exchange, but they have refused them patronage, meanwhile South African businesses in Nigeria go on unhindered;

Resolves that:

(*i*) President Goodluck Jonathan should as a matter of urgency convey to his counterpart in South Africa, President Jacob Zuma that killings of Nigerians in South Africa will not be tolerated and cases of murther of Nigerians in South Africa currently being investigated must be logically concluded and culprits punished;

(*ii*) the diplomatic principle of reciprocity should be applied. If South Africa continues to frustrate Nigeria businesses in South Africa, Nigeria must do same to South African businesses in Nigeria;

(*iii*) Nigeria should ensure adeuqate funding of its missions especially in hostile countries like South Africa, for instance, News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in South Afirida is not operating anymore and Voice of Nigeria (VON) is ineffective due to under funding;

(*iv*) the President of AU, Dr (Mrs) Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma who happens to be a South African must effectively and decisively intervene on this cruelty meted out to fellow blacks by South Africans and ensure South Africans find an end to further attacks by its security agencies and South African themselves, on fellow black African migrants (*Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Leave out* the Prayers and insert the following instead thereof:
"Urge the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to recall the Nigerian Ambassador to South Africa for further consultation" (*Hon. Friday Itulah — Esan North East/Esan South East Federal Constituency*)

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

(*ii*) Insert a new Prayer (*ii*) as follows:
"Urge the Executive Arm of Government to call on the President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma to urgently cause investigation into the recent killings and redress them appropriately" (*Hon. Franc Enekorogha — Burutu Federal Constituency*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Disturbed at the constant, unwarranted Zenophobic attacks against African migrants in South Africa, whereby Africans in South Africa are being slaughtered like animals;

Noted sadly that the recent attacks which has left many dead, businesses and shops vandalised, many beaten up mercilessly, was incited by a statement allegedly made by South African Zulu King, Goodwill Zwelithini, who told African migrants to go home as they are no longer welcome in South Africa. Son of President Zuma, Edward, allegedly echoed the same statement. This ignited a strong debate, and worse still, immediate backlash of violent reactions among the Zulus in Kwazulu, who unleashed terror on foreign immigrants including Nigerians in Jo-bourg, Durban and Pretoria. They steal, break into their homes, businesses, take their properties, killing them. At least 5 have been killed in Durban, hundreds stranded and unable to return home;

Recalled that a similar incident happened in January this year in which 4 people died during the looting of shops owned by foreigners;

Also recalled that a similar event occurred in 2002 with about 60 African migrants killed including Zimbabweans, Mozambicans, Congolese, Malawians, etc.;

Aware that as an interim measure the Nigeria High Commissioner has advised vigilance and advised Nigerians in the township to move out and make themselves less visible in the community, and their shops and businesses remain closed for safety reasons;

Also aware that the Minister of Home Affairs, Police Affairs and Defence have pleaded for calm on the orders of President Zuma, but this is coming a little too late after many have been killed, tortured, harassed and their businesses destroyed;

Also a known fact that South Africa immigrant laws and treatment of Africans have been very poor. The moment they realise you don't speak their language they call you 'kwere kwere' a denigratory word for African migrants and instant hostility begins;

Also noted that South Africa does not give Nigerian businesses the kind of opportunity to thrive as Nigeria does to South Africa businesses in Nigeria. For instance, Zenith Bank, Union Bank have been trying to set up in South Africa with no success, while Oando and Dangote have been listed on the South Africa stock exchange, but they have refused them patronage, meanwhile South African businesses in Nigeria go on unhindered;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to recall the Nigerian Ambassador to South Africa for further consultation;

(*ii*) Also urge the Executive Arm of Government to call on the President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma to urgently cause investigation into the recent killings and redress them appropriately (**HR. 36/2015**).

5. Presentation of Bill:
Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Bill, 2015 (HB. 778) was presented and read the *First Time*.

6. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of a Development Commission for Accelerated Development of Border Communities of the Federal Capital Territory and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 592) — *Second Reading*:

Order deferred by leave of the House.

7. 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*:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That 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) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Mohammed Mukhtar Ahmed — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Bill referred to the Committees on Rules and Business, Justice, and Judiciary to determine whether or not the Bill is in conflict with the provisions of the criminal procedure laws, and report back to the House on the next legislative day.

8. Adjournment:
That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 21 *April*, 2015 *at* 10.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Deputy House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.13 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker