



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 9 July, 2019

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 Thursday, 4 July, 2019.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Admittance into the Chamber**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do admit into the Chamber, former Members of the House of Representatives: Hon. Samson Osagie, Hon. Patrick Ikhariale, Hon. Abass Braimoh, and Hon. Razak Bello-Osagie, to observe proceedings, pursuant to Order Nineteen, Rule 8 (1) (iv) of the Standing Orders of the House" (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).

Agreed to.

4. **Announcement**

(a) **Visitors in the Gallery:**

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Sheikh Abubakar Gummi Academy*, Abuja; and
- (ii) Members of the Edo State House of Assembly.

(b) **Bereavement:**

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Olaifa Jimoh Aremu (*Egbado North/Imeko Afon Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, His Royal Highness, Hon. Rasaq Babatunde Adewusi, Onijoun of Ijoun land, (*Egbado North/Imeko Afon Federal Constituency*, 2003 - 2015), who died on Sunday, 30 June, 2019.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

5. Privileges (Order Six, Rule 2)

- (i) Hon. Olajide Jimoh Abdulraheem (*Lagos Mainland Federal Constituency*), invited the attention of the House to a publication in the *Daily Trust* newspaper of Friday, 5 July, 2019, page 10, titled "Emergence of Reps Minority Leader handwork of Merchants"; credited to the Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, disparaging the House of Representatives as a House of traders and merchants in the emergence of the Minority Leadership of the House. He described the publication as a breach of his privilege and that of the House collectively.

Mr Speaker remarked on the need to maintain the sanctity of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 with respect to separation of powers between the various arms of government.

- (ii) Hon. Patrick Asadu (*Nssuka/Igboeze South Federal Constituency*), called the attention of the House to a publication in the *Daily Sun* newspaper of Monday, 8 July, 2019, page 13, titled "NASS: PDP's dilemma over Members' rebellion" credited to Hon. Mark Gbillah who allegedly stated that the Governors of Enugu and Ebonyi States openly directed the Honourable Members representing those States in the House to sabotage the PDP, by voting in a particular direction in the election of the House Leadership.

He noted that the allegation impugned on his image and the collective image of the Members and that the false statement amounted to a breach of his privilege and that of the House.

Mr Speaker remarked on the need for reconciliation in the House in the interest of the nation, noting that the House will not hesitate to take action on any erring Member when necessary and advised that the publication be disregarded.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)

- (i) *Need to Reform the Almajiri Education System and to Remove Beggars from the Nigerian Streets through the Provision of Formal/Vocational and Improved Livelihood:*

Hon. Munsur Mano Soro (*Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance.

Ordered: Hon. Munsur Mano Soro to present a motion on notice on the matter on Thursday, 11 July, 2019 to enable Members study the issues in order to contribute meaningfully to the debate.

- (ii) *Need for Intervention in the Edo State House of Assembly Crisis:*

Hon. Julius Ihonvbere (*Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency and 2 others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need for Intervention in the Edo State House of Assembly Crisis:

The House:

Notes with concern the improper, clandestine and nocturnal inauguration of the 7th Edo State House of Assembly on 11 June, 2019, wherein 9 out of 24 Members-elect were purportedly sworn-in without the knowledge of the other 15 Members-elect;

Aware that the tenure of the Edo State 6th House of Assembly expired on 7 June, 2019;

Also notes that proclamations are issued pursuant to Section 105 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), which directs the Governor of a State to issue a proclamation for the first Session of the House of Assembly of the State;

Worried that on 17 June, 2019, ten days after the expiration of the 6th Assembly, 19 out of the 24 Members-elect called a press conference to urge the Edo State Governor to issue a Proclamation to facilitate the inauguration of the House of Assembly and commencement of legislative business in order to avoid a constitutional crisis;

Concerned that on the same day (17 June, 2019), the Governor and his Deputy after abducting 4 Members-elect against their wish caused the Clerk of the House to secretly swear in 9 Members-elect out of the 24 at 9.30 p.m. well outside the normal time recognized by the rules of the House for the conduct of legislative business;

Alarmed that at the so-called nocturnal inauguration, some of the members that were forcefully sworn in were improperly dressed with some in their casual wears such as shorts (which in local parlance can be regarded as "short nicker"), Jeans pants, T-shirts, slippers, etc. which are not allowable parliamentary dresscode;

Also concerned that on 18 June, 2019, the 15 Members-elect who were not informed of the nocturnal inauguration and 2 of those who were forcefully sworn in addressed a press conference to condemn the charade that took place at the Edo State House of Assembly the previous night and to demand for a proper inauguration; however, to their chagrin they were attacked by hired thugs and the State Security outfit code-named "wabaizigan" and backed by men of the Nigeria Police Force led by the Chief Security Officer to the Governor, DSP Chris D. Nwokolo;

Also aware that consequent upon the threat to their lives and injuries sustained from the attack, majority of the members-elect of the Edo State House of Assembly have since fled the State for safety;

Further aware and worried that against the background of the illegality and the growing security challenges in Edo State, no normal legislative business can take place unless the proper procedure for inaugurating the Legislature is done as envisaged and guaranteed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and security provided;

Resolves:

That the National Assembly in line with the provisions of Section 11 (4) of the Constitution take over the affairs of Edo State House of Assembly and ensure the proper inauguration of the House, with the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General, State Security Services providing the necessary security for the 24 members-elect to be sworn in as expected and required by Law (*Hon. Julius O. Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency and 2 Others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the Prayer and insert a new Prayer as follows:

"Set up an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the matter and explore the possibility of resolving it amicably. Committee to report back within one (1) week" (Hon. Umeoji Chukwuma — Aguata Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the improper, clandestine and nocturnal inauguration of the 7th Edo State House of Assembly on 11 June, 2019, wherein 9 out of 24 Members-elect were purportedly sworn-in without the knowledge of the other 15 Members-elect;

Aware that the tenure of the Edo State 6th House of Assembly expired on 7 June, 2019;

Also noted that proclamations are issued pursuant to Section 105 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), which directs the Governor of a State to issue a proclamation for the first Session of the House of Assembly of the State;

Worried that on 17 June, 2019, ten days after the expiration of the 6th Assembly, 19 out of the 24 Members-elect called a press conference to urge the Edo State Governor to issue a Proclamation to facilitate the inauguration of the House of Assembly and commencement of legislative business in order to avoid a constitutional crisis;

Concerned that on the same day (17 June, 2019), the Governor and his Deputy after abducting 4 Members-elect against their wish caused the Clerk of the House to secretly swear in 9 Members-elect out of the 24 at 9.30 p.m. well outside the normal time recognized by the rules of the House for the conduct of legislative business;

Alarmed that at the so-called nocturnal inauguration, some of the members that were forcefully sworn in were improperly dressed with some in their casual wears such as shorts (which in local parlance can be regarded as "short nicker"), Jeans pants, T-shirts, slippers, etc. which are not allowable parliamentary dresscode;

Also concerned that on 18 June, 2019, the 15 Members-elect who were not informed of the nocturnal inauguration and 2 of those who were forcefully sworn in addressed a press conference to condemn the charade that took place at the Edo State House of Assembly the previous night and to demand for a proper inauguration; however, to their chagrin they were attacked by hired thugs and the State Security outfit code-named "wabaizigan" and backed by men of the Nigeria Police Force led by the Chief Security Officer to the Governor, DSP Chris D. Nwokolo;

Also aware that consequent upon the threat to their lives and injuries sustained from the attack, majority of the members-elect of the Edo State House of Assembly have since fled the State for safety;

Further aware and worried that against the background of the illegality and the growing security challenges in Edo State, no normal legislative business can take place unless the proper procedure for inaugurating the Legislature is done as envisaged and guaranteed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and security provided;

Resolved:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the matter and explore the possibility of resolving it amicably. Committee to report back within one (1) week (**HR. 15/07/2019**).

Ad-hoc Committee on the Need for Intervention in the Edo State House of Assembly Crisis.

Mr Speaker constituted the Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Abdulrazak Nandas	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Bello Kumo	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. Abdullahi Salame	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Linda Ikpeazu	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Bello Kaoje	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Luke Opofiok Apkam	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Yusuf Gagdi	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Ojo Olubunmi Tunji	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Anayo Edwin	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Samuel Adejare	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Ali Ibrahim Abdullahi	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Nnoli Nnaji	—	<i>Member</i>

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than 2 matters of urgent public importance" (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

(iii) *Need for the President to Appoint Ministers:*

Hon. Toby Okechuwu (*Aninri/Awgu/Oji-River Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Motion deferred, by leave of the House.

(iv) *Pipeline Explosion and Fire Outbreak Resulting in Loss of Many Lives and Properties in Kom Kom and Izuoma Communities of Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State:*

Hon. Chisom Promise Dike (*Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Pipeline Explosion and Fire Outbreak Resulting in Loss of Many Lives and Property in Kom Kom and Izuoma Communities of Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State:

The House:

Notes that in the early hours of Saturday, 22 June 2019, around 8.25 a.m., there was an incident of fire outbreak in Kom Kom and Izuoma Communities of Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State;

Aware that the fire outbreak which occurred along the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) facility around, Canaan Land Hospital, Izuoma Axis of Kom Kom, Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State is as a result of pipeline explosion;

Concerned that the explosion occurred due to the negligence of the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) as they were unable to carry out maintenance work on the leakage of their facility several days after the leakage was reported;

Also concerned that the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) also failed to ensure the deployment of the appropriate security personnel to guard the facility against the possibility of scooping petroleum products;

Worried that casualties in the event were majorly people who rushed to the scene of the pipeline leakage to scoop petroleum products as well as innocent people working in their farms early that morning;

Deeply worried that until now the number of lives lost are unconfirmed because majority of the casualties are burnt beyond recognition while many were fully and partially buried in the marshy area, but it is confirmed that scores of person's were recorded dead;

Informed that farmlands, crops and other properties worth several millions of naira have been damaged as a result of oil spillage and wild fire accompanying the explosion;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe one-minute silence for the repose of souls lost to the inferno;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) to quickly ensure thorough repairs of the pipeline;
- (iii) mandate an *Ad-hoc* Committee of the House to immediately conduct a thorough investigation into the cause(s) of the explosion and report back within four (4) weeks; and
- (iv) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant government agencies to quickly send relief materials to the affected individuals (*Hon. Chisom Promise Dike — Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in the early hours of Saturday, 22 June 2019, around 8.25 a.m., there was an incident of fire outbreak in Kom Kom and Izuoma Communities of Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State;

Aware that the fire outbreak which occurred along the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) facility around, Canaan Land Hospital, Izuoma Axis of Kom Kom, Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State is as a result of pipeline explosion;

Concerned that the explosion occurred due to the negligence of the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) as they were unable to carry out maintenance work on the leakage of their facility several days after the leakage was reported;

Also concerned that the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) also failed to ensure the deployment of the appropriate security personnel to guard the facility against the possibility of scooping petroleum products;

Worried that casualties in the event were majorly people who rushed to the scene of the pipeline leakage to scoop petroleum products as well as innocent people working in their farms early that morning;

Deeply worried that until now the number of lives lost are unconfirmed because majority of the casualties are burnt beyond recognition while many were fully and partially buried in the marshy area, but it is confirmed that scores of person's were recorded dead;

Informed that farmlands, crops and other properties worth several millions of naira have been damaged as a result of oil spillage and wild fire accompanying the explosion;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe one-minute silence for the repose of souls lost to the inferno;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) to quickly ensure thorough repairs of the pipeline;
- (iii) mandate an *Ad-hoc* Committee of the House to immediately conduct a thorough investigation into the cause(s) of the explosion and report back within four (4) weeks; and
- (iv) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant government agencies to quickly send relief materials to the affected individuals (**HR. 16/07/2019**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

7. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 10 July, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.36 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 4 July, 2019, item 7, page 52, *Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Crisis Surrounding the Inauguration of the Bauchi State 9th Assembly and Circumstances that led the Emergence of Two Presiding Officers*, leave out Hon. Abubakar Fulata as Chairman and *insert* Hon. Sarkin Adar Musa as Chairman instead thereof.