



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 4 July, 2017

1. The House met at 11.37 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, 15 June, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement**

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

Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Kingdom Heritage Model Schools*, Aco, Lugbe, Abuja;
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Lizdav Academy*, Mararaba, Karu, Nasarawa State; and
 - (iii) Staff and Students of *Jimmik Surestart School Ltd*, Gudu District, Abuja.

- (b) **Bereavement:**

By leave of the House, Hon. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu (*Kano Municipal Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House of the demise of Alhaji Maitama Sule on Monday, 3 July, 2017. He described the Late Elder Statesman as a Leader, a Nationalist, an Astute Mobilizer, an Orator, a Parliamentarian and a Patriot who served Nigeria diligently. He prayed the House to observe a minute silence in his honour.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

4. **Petition**

A petition from Micah Bitrus on the delay by the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to issue him his discharge certificate, was presented and laid by Hon. Gideon Lucas Gwani (*Kaura Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)

Hon. Sadiq Ibrahim (*Fufore/Song Federal Constituency*) called the attention of the House to a statement published recently in the national dailies credited to the Hon. Minister of Works, Power and Housing, contesting the authority of the House to make changes in the 2017 Appropriation Bill. He noted that the statement by the Minister was intended to incite the Nigerian public against the legislature and a breach of his privilege and that of the House. He sought leave of the House to move a motion on the matter.

Leave granted.

Breach of the Privilege of the House and Incitement of the Nigerian Public:

The House:

Notes that the Appropriations Bill, 2017, containing estimates of expenditures for the period as prescribed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, was laid before a Joint Session of the National Assembly by the President on Wednesday, 14 December, 2016;

Also notes that the House embarked on a rigorous and painstaking process of dialogue with the Executive in order to amicably resolve contentious issues regarding the 2017 budget;

Aware that this dialogue provided a platform to mutually resolve all the issues raised on the Budget at various quarters through a consensus; and in line with the provisions of the laws of the country;

Also aware that the Appropriation Bill, 2017, was signed into law by the Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria after this inevitable engagement;

Concerned by some recent publications in the Press, purportedly credited to the Minister of Works, Power and Housing, to the effect that the Budget exercise was questionable and that Members of the House had very "stark and worrisome knowledge" of the Budget Process;

Worried that a Minister of the country who was actively involved in the engagement that finally resolved all the issues of disagreement on the budget would make such an unguided statement that is capable of inciting the public against their elected representatives, create friction between the Executive and the Legislature, and breach the privilege of the House of Representatives and its Members;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the matter and report back as soon as possible (*Hon. Sadiq Ibrahim — Fufore/Song Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Appropriations Bill, 2017, containing estimates of expenditures for the period as prescribed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, was laid before a Joint Session of the National Assembly by the President on Wednesday, 14 December, 2016;

Also noted that the House embarked on a rigorous and painstaking process of dialogue with the Executive in order to amicably resolve contentious issues regarding the 2017 budget;

Aware that this dialogue provided a platform to mutually resolve all the issues raised on the Budget at various quarters through a consensus; and in line with the provisions of the laws of the country;

Also aware that the Appropriation Bill, 2017, was signed into law by the Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria after this inevitable engagement;

Concerned by some recent publications in the Press, purportedly credited to the Minister of Works, Power and Housing, to the effect that the Budget exercise was questionable and that Members of the House had very "stark and worrisome knowledge" of the Budget Process;

Worried that a Minister of the country who was actively involved in the engagement that finally resolved all the issues of disagreement on the budget would make such an unguided statement that is capable of inciting the public against their elected representatives, create friction between the Executive and the Legislature, and breach the privilege of the House of Representatives and its Members;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the matter and report back as soon as possible (HR. 26/2017).

Ad-hoc Committee on the Breach of the Privilege of the House and Incitement of the Nigerian Public:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

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|------|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Ben Nwankwo | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Sergius Ogun | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Nasiru Baballe | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Kehinde Agboola | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Sadiq Ibrahim | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Boma Goodhead | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Muhammad S. Abdul | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (11) | Hon. Gabriel Onyeweife | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (12) | Hon. Edward Pwajok Gyang | — | <i>Member</i> |

6. Personal Explanation (Order Eight, Rule 5)

Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila (*Surulere 1 Federal Constituency*) informed the House that as part of activities to mark his 55th birthday celebration, he visited the Ikoyi Prisons, Lagos where he observed with dismay the large number of inmates in the Prison with minor offences such as street fighting, and hawking, without trial for a long period of time, thereby resulting in the congestion of the Prison. He therefore advocated for a review of the Nigerian Prisons Service Act.

7. Consolidation of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Legion Act, Cap. N119, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to ensure the proper Welfare and Health Condition of Military Veterans, Expand the Operation and Functions of the Legion for National Development and for Related Matters (HB. 392), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Legion Act, Cap. N119, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish and include Certain Functions of the Corps of Nigerian Commissionaires for the Proper Care, Good Health and Welfare of the Nigerian Legion and for Related Matters (HB. 1036) be now consolidated (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*):

Agreed to.

8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2006 and for Related Matters (HB. 964) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

9. A Bill for an Act to Enhance Transparency in the Management and Accounting of Tax Incentives by Relevant Authorities so as to check Corruption in the System and for Related Matters (IIB. 1040) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. Devastating Gully Erosion in Igangan, Idiyan and Tapa in Ibarapa North Local Government, Oyo State

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the devastating gully erosion which is ravaging Igangan Local Government Area leading to loss of lives, displacement of thousands of residents, destruction of properties, dislocation of businesses and adversely affecting agricultural productivity which is the major economic activity in the area;

Aware that the Ecological Fund Office has a mandate to reduce ecological challenges to the environment to the barest minimum within the territorial confines of Nigeria;

Concerned that if not urgently remediated, the people of Igangan, Idiyan and Tapa will continue to suffer the adverse challenges imposed by the devastating gully erosion which has been impeding development in the area;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ecological Fund Office to intervene and save Igangan, Idiyan and Tapa communities from being washed away; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Environment to ensure implementation and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Ayoade Olugbenga Ojoawo — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 27/2017).

Motion referred to the Committee on Environment and Habitat, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

11. Need to Control the Erosion Menace Threatening Eke Street and Environs in Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that Eke Street, United Street, Eke Lane and adjoining communities of Upper Sakponba Road, in Ikpoba-Okha LGA of Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Federal Constituency, Edo State are on the verge of being submerged as a result of perennial flooding;

Also notes that whenever there is heavy down pour, vast portions of land cave in to the flood, taking along with them, houses, properties and humans who are unaware of the immense danger the flood portends;

Concerned that all adjoining roads and communities are under siege from the rampaging erosion which has deterred schools attendance within the localities and is adversely affecting movement of residents, and all efforts by the communities, utilizing their limited resources, to contain the menace have yielded no results;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to direct the Ecological Fund Office and other relevant agencies to embark on erosion and flood control in the affected streets and environs to avert extinction of those areas;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to residents of the affected streets to alleviate their sufferings; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to visit the erosion sites and make recommendations within eight (8) weeks on measures towards ensuring a permanent solution to the menace (*Hon. Ehiozuwa Johnson Agbonayinma — Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 28/2017).

Motion referred to the Committee on Environment and Habitat, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

12. Need for Verification of Moveable Assets from Contracts Awarded by Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are not accountable for their assets or maintain adequate book keeping/records of assets as required by paragraphs 2106 and 2128 of the Financial Regulations;

Also notes that most Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), in proposing award of contracts for capital, consultancy and supplies, make provisions for purchase of assets such as project vehicles, computers, earth moving equipment, among others, in their Bills of Quantity;

Aware that those assets are usually never purchased or accounted for, and in most cases, the costs are deducted from final payment to contractors without any of the assets being traced, thus accounting for losses to the Federal Government of over two (2) Trillion Naira in the last five years;

Concerned about the practice of disposing assets without due process and the failure to pay the revenues amounting to over N50 Billion accruing from them into Government coffers;

Cognizant that if nothing is done to check these nefarious activities, corruption will remain endemic in the public sector and revenue leakages will persist;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to verify assets from contracts awarded from 2010 to date by Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies and report back within twelve (12) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Kehinde Agboola — Ikole/Oye Federal Constituency and 6 others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

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

“Direct all Standing Committees to verify the assets of Ministries, Departments and Agencies under their jurisdiction and report back within 12 weeks” (*Hon. James Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are not accountable for their assets or maintain adequate book keeping/records of assets as required by paragraphs 2106 and 2128 of the Financial Regulations;

Also noted that most Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), in proposing award of contracts for capital, consultancy and supplies, make provisions for purchase of assets such as project vehicles, computers, earth moving equipment, among others, in their Bills of Quantity;

Aware that those assets are usually never purchased or accounted for, and in most cases, the costs are deducted from final payment to contractors without any of the assets being traced, thus accounting for losses to the Federal Government of over two (2) Trillion Naira in the last five years;

Concerned about the practice of disposing assets without due process and the failure to pay the revenues amounting to over N50 Billion accruing from them into Government coffers;

Cognizant that if nothing is done to check these nefarious activities, corruption will remain endemic in the public sector and revenue leakages will persist;

Resolved to:

Direct all Standing Committees to verify the assets of Ministries, Departments and Agencies under their jurisdiction and report back within 12 weeks (**HR. 29/2017**).

13. Consideration of Reports

- (i) **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Architects (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. A19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to enhance the Penalties and to Make Appeals from the Disciplinary Committee Lie to the High Court and for Related Matters (HB. 254).**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(ii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Non-Academic Staff of Educational and Associated Institutions:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Non-Academic Staff of Educational and Associated Institutions against Dr J. C. Okonkwo, Executive Director, National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike over misappropriation of funds and abuse of office and approve the recommendation therein" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwá East/Ukwá West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation:

"Urge Dr J. C. Okonkwo, Executive Director, National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike to implement and respect the terms and conditions of the agreement reached as evidenced by Memorandum of Understanding dated 5 April, 2017 in order to restore sanity in the Institute" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwá East/Ukwá West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceeding.

(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 Public Petitions on the Petition by Non-Academic Staff of Educational and Associated Institutions against Dr J. C. Okonkwo, Executive Director, National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike over misappropriation of funds and abuse of office and approved the only Recommendation of the Report.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.

(iii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by S. P. Inuwa Ahmed (rtd):

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by S. P. Inuwa Ahmed (rtd) over non-payment of Gratuity and Pension by the Nigerian Army/Nigeria Police and approve the recommendations therein" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwá East/Ukwá West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):

"That S. P. Inuwa Ahmed (*rtd*) should present his retirement credentials to the Nigeria Police Force" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwá East/Ukwá West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

"Urge the Nigeria Police to pay Inuwa Ahmed his gratuity forthwith" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwá East/Ukwá West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceeding.

(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 Public Petitions on the Petition by S. P. Inuwa Ahmed (*rtd*) over non-payment of Gratuity and Pension by the Nigerian Army/Nigeria Police and approved Recommendations (i) and (ii) of the Report.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.

(iv) Committee on Public Petitions:**Report on the Petition by Ita Oku Ita against Somotex Nigeria Limited:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Ita Oku Ita against Somotex Nigeria Limited on the unjust termination of appointment and deprivation of entitlements and approve the recommendation therein" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwá East/Ukwá West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation:

"That Somotex Nigeria Limited should pay Ita Oku Ita the sum of Four Million, Four hundred and Forty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Naira (₦4,447,500.00) being his salary and pay his leave, transportation allowances and hospital bills" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwá East/Ukwá West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceeding.

(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 Public Petitions on the Petition by Ita Oku Ita against Somotex Nigeria Limited on the unjust termination of appointment and deprivation of entitlements and approved the only Recommendation of the Report.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.

(v) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by China Africa Investment FZC against Zhongfu International Investment (Nig.) FZE:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by China Africa Investment FZC against Zhongfu International Investment (Nig.) FZE for unlawfully occupying and claiming ownership of Ogun Guangdong Free Trade Zone and approve the recommendation therein" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation:

"That China Africa Investment FZC should be recognized as the authentic operators of the Ogun Guangdong Free Trade Zone and accord it all rights and privileges accruing thereto" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceeding.

(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 Public Petitions on the Petition by China Africa Investment FZC against Zhongfu International Investment (Nig.) FZE for unlawfully occupying and claiming ownership of Ogun Guangdong Free Trade Zone and approved the only Recommendation of the Report.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.

14. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 5 July, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — Doguwa/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.15 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker

