FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 9

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 13 July, 2016

1. The House met at 11.13 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 Tuesday, 12 July, 2016.

The ***Votes and Proceedings*** *was adopted by unanimous consent.*

3. **Announcements**
(*i*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

(*a*) Members of National Association of Burutu Local Government Students (NABLOGS) World-Wide, Delta State;

(*b*) Staff and Students of Abuja International Academy, Mararaba, Nasarawa State;

(*c*) Members of the Science Student's Association (FAMSSA), Faculty of Management Sciences, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto State.

(*ii*) ***Transition of Alhaji Umaru Shinkafi (Marafan Sokoto)*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Abubakar Husaini Moriki (*Shinkafi/Zurmi Federal Constituency*), informing the House of the demise of Alhaji Umaru Aliyu Shinkafi (*Marafan Sokoto*) on Wednesday, 6 July, 2016, at the age of 79. He noted that Alhaji Shinkafi was a veteran politician and technocrat who served the country in various capacities. He prayed the House to observe a minute silence in his honour.

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

4. **Petitions**
(*i*) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Owoidighe Eme Ekpoattai (*Eket/Onna/Esit Eket/Ibeno Federal Constituency*):

(*a*) Kola Olawole & Co., on behalf of 3086 Legislative Aides of the 6th National Assembly on the payment of their outstanding severance allowances;

(*b*) Bola Abimbola Ige & Co., on behalf of Olatunji Augustine regarding his dismissal from the service of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA);

(*c*) the management of Macdonald Memorial International Institute seeking the intervention of the House in the alleged financial impropriety by Skye Bank, Diamond Bank and First Bank;

(*d*) Hon. Amadi Oguerinwa Dennis on the alleged threat to remove him through unconstitutional mean from the House of Representatives;

(*e*) Hassan D. Tukur against the appointment of the current Comptroller General of Prisons who has declared three different years of birth;

(*f*) Reuben E. Wanogha & Company, Legal Practitioners on behalf of Suffolk Petroleum Services Limited (SPSL) on the alleged fraudulent withholding of payment due to them by Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited;

(*g*) Jonathan Nwachukwu Ekeke on his dismissal from the Federal Civil Service;

(*ii*) Petitions from the following persons were also presented and laid by Hon. Bede Eke (*Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*):

(*a*) Tunde Oyeefeko on behalf Treasure House Montessori School, Asokoro, Abuja on the unjust detention and continuous incarceration of Mr Paul Okpala by the Nigeria Police on a trumped up charge of sexual abuse;

(*b*) Olayinka Ibidapo on behalf of Youth Coalition for Change on the need to review the entire contract process of Ajaokuta - Abuja - Kaduna - Kano Gas Pipeline, awarded by NNPC;

(*c*) Olayinka Ibidapo on behalf of Youth Coalition for Change on the need to investigate the sale of Eleme Petrochemical Company, constructed by the Federal Government at the cost of 2.4 billion USD, to Indoroma Corporation, by Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE);

(*d*) Hill City Associates (Solicitors) on behalf of Ahmed Abbas and twenty-one Assistant Inspectors General of Police, on their retirement by the Police Service Commission;

(*e*) Henry Macpepple on behalf of Adamac Group of Companies on allegations of criminal conspiracy and breach of trust by the board of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the management of Total Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited, Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited, Addax Petroleum Development Nigeria Limited and Chevron Nigeria Limited, involving approximately 3.4 billion USD.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order VIII, Rule 46)**

(*i*) **100% *Tariff Hike by Electricity Firms in Nigeria*:**

Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki (*Dala 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 VIII, Rules 46 (3) and 49 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 VIII, Rules 46 (3) *and* 49 *to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

100% Tariff Hike by Electricity Firms in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that electricity supply is very vital to economic development in Nigeria;

Aware of the recent epileptic and erratic power supply caused by the inefficiency of the Distribution Companies (Discos) in Nigeria;

Worried that this state of power supply has continued for a very long period of time with no solution in sight;

Recalls the Daily Trust publication of Tuesday, 12 July, 2016 of attempts by Distribution Companies to hike electricity tariff by 100%;

Also aware that Discos had written to the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) requesting for hike in electricity tariff from the current ₦24 to ₦50 per kilowatt for residential consumers;

Also recalls that in February 2016, NERC had increased electricity tariff by 45% with no correspondent result in the electricity supply which had dropped thereby affecting both household and commercial activities adversely;

Also notes that despite the court injunction, restraining the NERC from increasing the electricity tariff, they have continued to disobey the order;

Regrets that the planned 100% increase in electricity tariff by NERC at the instance of Distribution Companies is illegal and abuse of court process;

Acknowledges the role of the National Assembly as the watch dog over the Executive in the proper management of Nigeria's resources;

Concerned that if the proposed hike in the electricity tariff is not put on hold, its multiplying effect on the economy and the social well-being of Nigeria cannot be quantified;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Executive Arm of Government to without delay order a halt on the plan to increase the electricity tariff by whatever percentage as it is not in the public interest; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the rationale behind the last increase in electricity tariff by Discos commensurate with their investment in the power industry (*Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted that electricity supply is very vital to economic development in Nigeria;

Aware of the recent epileptic and erratic power supply caused by the inefficiency of the Distribution Companies (Discos) in Nigeria;

Worried that this state of power supply has continued for a very long period of time with no solution in sight;

Recalled the Daily Trust publication of Tuesday, 12 July, 2016 of attempts by Distribution Companies to hike electricity tariff by 100%;

Also aware that Discos had written to the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) requesting for hike in electricity tariff from the current ₦24 to ₦50 per kilowatt for residential consumers;

Also recalled that in February 2016, NERC had increased electricity tariff by 45% with no correspondent result in the electricity supply which had dropped thereby affecting both household and commercial activities adversely;

Also noted that despite the court injunction, restraining the NERC from increasing the electricity tariff, they have continued to disobey the order;

Regretted that the planned 100% increase in electricity tariff by NERC at the instance of Distribution Companies is illegal and abuse of court process;

Acknowledged the role of the National Assembly as the watch dog over the Executive in the proper management of Nigeria's resources;

Concerned that if the proposed hike in the electricity tariff is not put on hold, its multiplying effect on the economy and the social well-being of Nigeria cannot be quantified;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Executive Arm of Government to without delay order a halt on the plan to increase the electricity tariff by whatever percentage as it is not in the public interest; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the rationale behind the last increase in electricity tariff by Discos commensurate with their investment in the power industry (**HR. 35/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Special Ad-hoc Committee on Sales of Power Asset.

(*ii*) ***Need to Conduct a Comprehensive Investigative Hearing Towards Restructuring, Re-organizing, Re-financing and Re-positioning of the National Hospital Abuja for Better and Efficient Service Delivery and Other Matter Connected Thereto*:**
Hon. Muhammad Sani Abdu (*Alkaleri/Kirfi 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 VIII, Rules 46 (3) and 49 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 VIII, Rules 46 (3) *and* 49 *to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

Need to Conduct a Comprehensive Investigative Haring Towards Restructuring, Reorganizing, Refinancing and Repositioning of the National Hospital, Abuja for Better and Efficient Service Delivery and Other Matters Connected Thereto:

The House:

Notes the noble goals for the establishment of the National Hospital, Abuja as a Centre of Excellence at the tertiary level of Nigeria's Health Delivery System from its humble beginning as Family Support Programme Hospital for Women and Children (built by the then First Lady, Mrs Maryam Abacha between 1997 - 1999);

Also notes that since the upgrade to a Tertiary Referral Hospital and Centre of Excellence in 1999, service delivery begun pretty well and down the line it got deteriorated and degraded;

Concerned that the level of decay in both physical structure and service delivery indices have become intolerable;

Worried with the high level of callousness, mal-administration and loss of medical and work ethics in the hospital;

Also worried with the pains suffered by both patients and their relations in seeking medical care in the hospital generally due to (4) above;

Perturbed by the incessant industrial actions — strikes and closures, resulting in more sufferings by patients, agony by their relations and even resulting in loss of lives in some cases;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Health Institutions, Healthcare Services, and Governmental Affairs to conduct a Comprehensive Investigative Hearing with a view to preferring lasting solutions to the state of affairs of the hospital in terms of restructuring, reorganizing, refinancing and repositioning (*Hon. Muhammad Sani Abdu — Alkaleri/Kirfi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted the noble goals for the establishment of the National Hospital, Abuja as a Centre of Excellence at the tertiary level of Nigeria's Health Delivery System from its humble beginning as Family Support Programme Hospital for Women and Children (built by the then First Lady, Mrs Maryam Abacha between 1997 - 1999);

Also noted that since the upgrade to a Tertiary Referral Hospital and Centre of Excellence in 1999, service delivery begun pretty well and down the line it got deteriorated and degraded;

Concerned that the level of decay in both physical structure and service delivery indices have become intolerable;

Worried with the high level of callousness, mal-administration and loss of medical and work ethics in the hospital;

Also worried with the pains suffered by both patients and their relations in seeking medical care in the hospital generally due to (4) above;

Perturbed by the incessant industrial actions — strikes and closures, resulting in more sufferings by patients, agony by their relations and even resulting in loss of lives in some cases;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Health Institutions, Healthcare Services, and Governmental Affairs to conduct a Comprehensive Investigative Hearing with a view to preferring lasting solutions to the state of affairs of the hospital in terms of restructuring, reorganizing, refinancing and repositioning (**HR. 36/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committees on Health Institutions, Healthcare Services, and Governmental Affairs.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (4) to enable it take more than two Matters of Urgent Public Importance — Agreed to.

(iii) ***Non-availability of Fund for Rio Olympics 2016 for Team Nigeria:***
Hon. Damburam Abubakar Nuhu (*Kano Municipal 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 VIII, Rules 46 (3) and 49 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 VIII, Rules 46 (3) and 49 to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Non-availability of Fund for Rio Olympics 2016 for Team Nigeria:

The House:

Notes the importance of Olympic Games among which are but not limited to:

- learning new cultures and promoting the cultural heritage of the participating countries
- uniting nations throughout the world irrespective of background, continent and race, etc. through the medium of sports
- promotes healthy competition among comity of nations and winning spirits of the teams;

Also notes that the Olympic 2016 is scheduled to take place in Rio, Brazil and it is around the corner precisely in August;

Further notes that Team Nigeria lacks the fund to adequately prepare for the games as their counter in other countries;

Still notes the challenges associated with the availability of foreign exchange, which may also affect the level of preparation for the Olympics;

Again notes that Team Nigeria ought to be in camp by now as preparation towards the game in August 2016;

Regrets that the fund required/budgetary provision to participate in the Olympics was captured in the 2016 Appropriation, which has been passed by the House in March and signed into law since May 2016 yet not released to the Ministry of Sports;

Also regrets that this kind of preparation and 11th hour release of funds usually mars the performance of Team Nigeria;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Call on the Ministry of Finance, Accountant-General of the Federation and Budget Office to release this fund immediately;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Sports to invite the Minister of Sports, and President, Nigeria Olympic Committee for update on the level of our preparation and report back to the House withing one week; and

(*iii*) also call on the Ministry of Sports (Minister) to follow-up with the aforementioned offices and facilitate the release of the fund for the Olympics (*Hon. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu — Kano Municipal Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted the importance of Olympic Games among which are but not limited to:

- learning new cultures and promoting the cultural heritage of the participating countries
- uniting nations throughout the world irrespective of background, continent and race, etc. through the medium of sports
- promotes healthy competition among comity of nations and winning spirits of the teams;

Also noted that the Olympic 2016 is scheduled to take place in Rio, Brazil and it is around the corner precisely in August;

Further noted that Team Nigeria lacks the fund to adequately prepare for the games as their counter in other countries;

Still noted the challenges associated with the availability of foreign exchange, which may also affect the level of preparation for the Olympics;

Again noted that Team Nigeria ought to be in camp by now as preparation towards the game in August 2016;

Regretted that the fund required/budgetary provision to participate in the Olympics was captured in the 2016 Appropriation, which has been passed by the House in March and signed into law since May 2016 yet not released to the Ministry of Sports;

Also regretted that this kind of preparation and 11th hour release of funds usually mars the performance of Team Nigeria;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Call on the Ministry of Finance, Accountant-General of the Federation and Budget Office to release this fund immediately;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Sports to invite the Minister of Sports, and President, Nigeria Olympic Committee for update on the level of our preparation and report back to the House withing one week; and

(*iii*) also call on the Ministry of Sports (Minister) to follow-up with the aforementioned offices and facilitate the release of the fund for the Olympics (**HR. 37/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Sports.

6. **A Bill for an Act to Prohibit Late Payment, Non-Payment and Underpayment of Workers' Wages, Pensions and Other Emoluments in Nigeria and Prescribe Penalties for Violations; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 479) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Prohibit Late Payment, Non-Payment and Underpayment of Workers' Wages, Pensions and Other Emoluments in Nigeria and Prescribe Penalties for Violations; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 479) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Femi Gabjabiamila — Surulere I Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned to enable the sponsor make further consultations on the Bill.

7. **A Bill for an Act to provide for a National Empowerment and Enhancement Scheme to Strengthen Government's Drive towards Alleviating Poverty in Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 566) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to provide for a National Empowerment and Enhancement Scheme to Strengthen Government's Drive towards Alleviating Poverty in Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 566) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Establish a Scholarship Board for the Purpose of Planning, Implementing and Overseeing a Federal Scholarship Scheme; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 561) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

9. **A Bill for an Act to make it Compulsory for all Schools to teach the Nigerian Constitution as a Subject in Schools; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 427) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Integrate Non-Indigenes into States Other than their States of Origin; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 493) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Federal Agencies Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 550) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. **Need for Construction of Pedestrian Bridges on the East-West Road at Agbarho and Ughelli Towns in Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency of Delta State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the East-West highway is a dual carriage Trunk A road which traverses Agbarho and Ughelli towns and is the major road that links the South-West geopolitical zone to the South-South zone, particularly Bayelsa and Rivers States:

Aware that the road records very high volume of traffic, including articulated vehicles conveying heavy oil prospecting equipment to and from their bases within the South-South geopolitical zone:

Concerned that due to the high population of the towns resulting in high pedestrian movements of both the old and young, particularly school children crossing from one part of the road to the other to attend schools, there have been cases of fatal accidents on the busy road:

Worried that the absence of pedestrian bridges at the towns is largely responsible for the needless accidents and deaths resulting therefrom;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of Works, Power and Housing to, as matter of utmost importance, construct pedestrian bridges at designated points at Agbarho and Ughelli towns; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Solomon Ahwinahwi — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 38/2016).

Motion referred to the Committee on Works, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5).

13. **Need for Continuous Dredging of River Niger and Creation of a Turning Basin by the Baro Port in Niger State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that barely four years after the commencement of the two phased dredging of the River Niger for the economic advancement of the country, skeletal commercial marine activities have sprung up along the River, ostensibly justifying Federal Government's huge investments in the exercise;

Also notes that the dredging venture has ensured that the navigable channel is kept open throughout the year with sustainable waterborne transport in the country which is comparatively less expensive, safer and reduces the grotesque carnage that has become the trademark of the nation's highways;

Aware of the laudable nature of the project which has opened yet another chapter in socio-economic interaction among Nigerians, particularly those along the riverine communities of the eight benefitting States;

Concerned that if the rains continue to fall, the river bed will swell up, the sand that was dredged out will be washed back into the river and eventually, the dredged part will be covered up again;

Also concerned about the lack of arrangements for continuous and sustained dredging of the river at intervals so that it could be navigable at any time of the year;

Worried that despite the huge investments in the project and its capacity to improve the economic development of Nigeria, the absence of a turning basin by the Baro Port has drastically reduced commercial and social activities in the areas, thus depriving Nigerians of the full benefits of the dredging of the river;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministries of Transportation, Water Resources, and Works, Power and Housing to put in place a scheme that will ensure regular dredging of River Niger at intervals to make it navigable at any time of the year; and commence, as a matter of urgency, the creation of Turning Basin at the Baro Port to enable Nigerians take full advantage of the dredged river; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, and Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ahmed Abu — Edati/Lavun/Mokwa Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 39/2016).

Motion referred to the Committees on Water Resources, and Works, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5).

14. Urgent Need for Completion of Abandoned Projects at the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital to Meet the Healthcare Delivery Needs of Nigerians in Akwa Ibom State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital is the only Federal Government owned health facility accessible to Nigerians living in Akwa Ibom State and its environs;

Also notes that the Federal Government awarded contracts for the construction of some essential projects and procurement of sensitive hospital equipment, but the projects have been abandoned for some years due to the lack of funds;

Aware that the hospital, which serves as a referral for complicated health cases, is in a precarious state and unable to provide major health services to meet challenges of influx of patients due to the inability of the Federal Government to complete the projects;

Disturbed that the hospital experiences serious electricity challenges which further endanger the lives of patients and also makes the hospital unable to meet its academic responsibility as a teaching hospital to University of Uyo;

Also disturbed that if the abandoned projects are not urgently completed, the health needs of Nigerians living in Akwa Ibom State will continue to be denied;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Power to look into the current impediments forestalling electricity supply to the Hospital; and

(*ii*) also mandate the Committees on Health Institutions, and Healthcare Services to look into the matter to ensure that the projects are revived for the sake of the people living in Akwa Ibom State (*Hon. Francis Charles Uduyok — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 40/2016).

Motion referred to the Committees on Health Institutions, and Healthcare Services, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5).

15. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 14 *July*, 2016 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Jibril Umar Buba — Deputy House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.53 *p.m.*

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker