

EXTRACT FROM THE D. TIMES, LAGOS. Thursday, 13 Jan. 55

LARGE CROWDS HAD WAITED OUTSIDE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CHEER THE NEW MEMBERS AS THEY CAME IN THEIR COLORFUL ATTIRE AND THE GOV-GEN. HAD INSPECTED A GUARD OF HONOUR MOUNTED BY A DETACHMENT OF THE NIGERIA REGT.

AT 10.15 THE SPEAKER'S PROCESSION ENTERED THE HOUSE WITH ALL STANDING AND, AFTER PRAYERS, SIR FREDERIC METCALFE, FORMER CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, WHO HAD BEEN INVITED SPECIALLY TO PRESIDE OVER THE PRESENT SESSION, TOOK THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AS THE SPEAKER.

THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE WAS THEN SUSPENDED UNTIL 10.30 AM WHEN THE GOV. GEN ARRIVED IN THE HOUSE TO DELIVER HIS ADDRESS FROM THE THRONE.

WHEN THE GOV. GEN LEFT THE HOUSE THE SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS BEGAN.

"THE TIMES", Thursday, January 13th, 1955.

OPENING OF NIGERIAN PARLIAMENT.

Lagos, Jan. 12.

THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE

Many people from districts outside Lagos were among the large crowd which assembled to witness the opening of the Federal House of Representatives under the new constitution by Sir John Stuart Macpherson, the Governor-General, this morning. There was the usual pageant of inspecting a guard of honour before the proceedings began.

The Governor-General, in a speech from the throne, announced a message from the Queen, in which she said:

"On the occasion of the opening of the first session of the new Federal House of Representatives, I am glad to send my greetings and good wishes to the people of Nigeria and the Cameroons under my trusteeship.

I have noted with pleasure the recent constitutional advances which have been made in the Federation with the introduction of the revised constitution, to which many of the members of this House contributed. These changes impose on members great responsibility, not only for the good government of the Federation as a whole but also for the maintenance of harmonious relations between them and their colleagues in the legislatures of the regions and southern Cameroons in the interests of all their countrymen. I am confident that they will worthily carry out their responsibilities.

I wish to assure my people throughout the Federation that I will continue to watch their progress ~~with~~ with sustained and sympathetic interest, and I pray that under God's guidance the deliberations of this House may ever be directed to furthering the common good of the country as a whole."

The Governor-General read a message from Mr. Lennox-Boyd, the Colonial Secretary, expressing his regret that because of urgent business he had been delayed in London for 48 hours, and would not arrive at Lagos until Saturday instead of tomorrow, as previously arranged. The Governor-General paid tribute to the former House of Representatives which, he said, in spite of storms and tempests had acquired wisdom, tolerance, and statesmanship, enabling the barque to be brought safely into harbour before being decommissioned and leaving behind it a solid record of achievement. He also paid tribute to the former Council of Ministers for the amount of constructive work they had done.

Sir Frederic Metcalfe, formerly Clerk of the House of Commons, presided as Speaker of the new House.

The Governor-General has allocated portfolios in the new Council of Ministers as follows:

Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Transport and Workd: K.O. Mbadiwe, Communications and Aviation: Mohammadu Ribadu, Land, Mines and Power: A. Adelagu, Natural Resources and Social Welfare: R.A. Njoku, Trade and Industry: Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, Labour and Welfare: M.T. Mbu, M. Inuwa Wada, Victor Mukete and K. Balogan, Ministers without portfolio.