



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Wednesday, 21st February, 2007

1. Prayers
2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
3. Oaths
4. Announcements (if any)
5. Petitions

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

1. President Obasanjo's Utterances on General Elections in April 2007: A Call to Order:

Senator Uche Chukwumerije:	Senator Sani A. Kamba:	Senator Titus Olupitan:
Senator Usman K. Umar:	Senator Sa'ad A. Mohammed:	Senator Saidu M. Dansadau:
Senator Ben N. Obi:	Senator A.O.Mamora:	Senator Umaru Dahiru:
Senator Iyabode Anisulowo:	Senator John K. Brambaifa:	Senator Mohammed S. Ohiare:

Whereas the success of an election in a true democracy hinges solely on three issues - namely, free and fair elections, respect for the choice of the electorate as reflected in their votes, and prevalence of law and order;

Whereas failure to meet these three requirements has led to crippling national disputes over the integrity of two past elections (1964 and 1983) and the eventual collapse of these democratic dispensations;

Whereas history has clearly shown that the role of the Federal Government and its relevant agencies is critical to the success of any election in Nigeria;

Whereas the public utterances of Mr. President are already sending clear danger signals that the three requirements of successful elections, listed above, will be violated in the forthcoming (April 2007) elections;

Whereas these utterances include but not limited to two disturbing declarations in a speech which he made in a stakeholders' meeting of PDP in Abeokuta on Saturday, February 10, 2007, to the effect that

- (i) April 2007 election will be a do-or-die affair for PDP and Nigeria
and

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- (ii) he, President Olusegun Obasanjo, would not hand over the reins of power to anyone who he believed would not continue his economic reforms.

Whereas Mr. President earlier at a rally in Akure Ondo State had been widely quoted in media reports to have cast aspersions on the integrity of an opposition candidate—Dr. Rahman Mimiko, former Housing Minister and the Labour Party Governorship candidate in Ondo State. Mr. President announced that the EFCC was after Dr. Mimiko, a statement which EFCC has since denied.

Whereas the implications of these statements which are lethal to the success of the forthcoming elections and the survival of democracy can be summarized as **follows**:-

- (i) Any candidate who wins the next Presidential election in a free and fair manner but who is not enamored of the outgoing President's economic reform agenda will be deprived of the people's mandate.
- (ii) Any other candidates who do not support the outgoing President's economic reform agenda but who succeed in winning the elections in a free and fair contest may be robbed of their electoral victories.
- (iii) The expected and highly legitimate attempts by the electorate and supporters of such popular and successful candidates to defend their electoral mandate may most likely precipitate a break-down of law and order - a bleak prospect further enhanced by the use of language of smear and threats against unfavoured candidates.
- (iv) The growing public fear that the April elections Will either be incurably marred or may even not hold at all is further aggravated.

Whereas these implications points to a grim situation which all Nigerians will do everything in their power to prevent and

Whereas the Senate, as the highest law-making organ of the Federation, has a solemn duty to lead such a preventive measure against an abortion of electoral verdicts in April 2007 elections.

BE it resolved, and it is hereby resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urge Mr. President to desist from utterances which raise doubts over the disposition of his Administration to allow free and fair elections and sovereign expression of electorate's will in the forthcoming elections.
- (ii) That the Senate do draw the attention of Mr. President to the importance of transparency and strict compliance with all the relevant electoral laws of the land - and also with particular reference to the laws on the supremacy of the 1999 Constitution (Sect 1 (i); qualifications and disqualifications of candidates (Sect 65 and 66, and 106 and 107, 131 and 137); and tenure of the office of the President and hand-over - (Sect 135); incitement and public order(Sect 97(1) of the Electoral Act 2006); actions including language derogating the high office of the President (Seventh Schedule - Oath of Office of President)
- (iii) That in furtherance of absolute respect for the supremacy of the Constitution and rule of law, Senate do URGE Mr. President to review all aspects of the current exercise of indictments and disqualification including the suspiciously undue haste with which the operation was carried out and concluded.
- (iv) That the Senate do REASSERT its determination to exercise its over-sight functions over **INEC** and other relevant electoral organs with even greater vigour, in the interest of the rule of law and survival of democracy in Nigeria.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. *Conference Report on the Freedom of Information Bill, 2006 (HB. 08):*
Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: - (Cross River Central)

"That **the** Senate do receive and adopt the Conference Report on the Freedom of Information Bill, 2006 (HB. 08)".

2. **Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Fiscal Responsibility Bill 2007 (SB.226):**
 Senator **Udoma Udo Udoma**: - (*Akwa Ibom South*)
 "That the Senate do resume the consideration of the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Fiscal Responsibility Bill, 2007 (SB.226) (*Adjourned Debate - Tuesday, 20th February, 2007*)".
3. **Report of the Committee on Appropriations:**
2007 Ekiti State Appropriation Bill, 2007 (SB. 345A)
 Senator **Clement K. Awoyelu**: - (*Ekiti Central*)
 "That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Appropriation, on the Consolidation of the Ekiti State 2006 Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2007 (SB. 345B) and Ekiti State Appropriation Bill, 2007 (SB. 345A)".
4. **Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Breach of Senate Procedure:**
Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2007 (HB. 87)
 Senator **David Mark**: - (*Benue South*)
 "That the Senate do receive and consider the report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Breach of the Procedure for the Passage of the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2007 (HB. 87) into law".
- Report of the Committee on Marine Transport:**
National Maritime Administration and Safety Bill, 2007 (SB 326):
 Senator **Ugochukwu Uba**: - (*Anambra South*)
 "That the Senate do resume the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Marine Transport, on the National Maritime Administration and Safety Bill, 2007 (SB 326) (*Recommitted - Tuesday 13th February 2007*)".

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. Special Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2007 (SB. 346) (on Part of the Total Stock of Debt owed to the London Club of Creditors) - *Second Reading*
 Senator **Dalhatu S. Tafida**: - (*Senate Majority Leader*)
2. Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Bill, 2007 (SB. 294) - *Second Reading*
 Senator **Dalhatu S. Tafida**: - (*Senate Majority Leader*)
3. Financial Reporting Council Bill, 2007 (SB, 347) - *Second Reading*
 Senator **Mohammed S. Daggash**: - (*Borno North*)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
1.	Rules and Business	Wednesday 21st February, 2007	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 15 Assembly Complex
2.	Works	Wednesday 21st February, 2007	1.00 p.m.	Committee Room 01 Assembly Complex
3.	Adhoc Committee (<i>EFCC</i>)	Wednesday 21st February, 2007	1.00 p.m.	Committee Room 13 Assembly Complex
4.	Internal Affairs	Wednesday 21st February, 2007	1.00 p.m.	Committee Room 16 Assembly Complex
5.	Public Accounts	Wednesday 21st February, 2007	1.00 p.m.	Hearing Room 04 Assembly Complex
6.	Petroleum Resources (Downstream)	Thursday, 22nd February, 2007	12.00 noon	Hearing Room 02 Assembly Complex