



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 3rd May, 2007

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

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Small and Medium Enterprises Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2007 (SB. 355) - *First Reading*
Senator **Dalhatu** S. Tafida: - (*Senate Majority Leader*)
2. City Technical University, Kaduna Bill, 2007 (SB. 356) - *First Reading*
Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida: - (*Senate Majority Leader*)
3. City Technical University, Yaba Lagos Bill, 2007 (SB. 357) - *First Reading*
Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida: - (*Senate Majority Leader*)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

1. The Conduct of 2007 General Election:
Senator Muktar A. Mohmammed Aruwa: - (*Kaduna Central*)

Whereas the purported April 14th & 21st 2007 elections were characterized by gross irregularities, criminal ballot stuffing, snatching of ballot boxes, sharing of ballot papers to unauthorized individuals by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) officials, while the unlawful act of sharing of voting materials by INEC staff to individuals other than designated polling unit officials prompted voters into violence in all parts of the federation;

Whereas at the time INEC Chairman was on live Television broadcasting from Abuja inventing excuses why INEC could not release the materials earlier than the time they did, it might interest Distinguished Senators and fellow Nigerians to know that by Thursday the 12th day of April, 2007, INEC staff in Kaduna had released the same ballot papers and result sheets to unauthorized persons, of which I was privileged to come into possession of one ballot paper bearing serial No. G29353001;

Whereas in the morning of Saturday 14th of April, 2007 being the Election Day, a State Commissioner in Kaduna was found unlawfully in possession of ballot papers and result sheets, and in an attempt to escape from the electorate irate mob, a hot chase ensued which unfortunately forced him to run into a ditch and died instantly while the Commissioner sustained serious injuries;

Whereas the delay in the distribution of electoral materials to polling units was deliberate; otherwise how can anybody explain how polling unit 002 located at Luwawu close ungwar Rimi Kaduna, a walking distance from INEC State Headquarters received only 50% of their required electoral materials at 4.30 pm, while the balance of the 50% requirement surfaced through individuals favoured by INEC officials at the collation centre, a scenario that applied to all parts of Kaduna State and indeed the entire nation;

Whereas while the electorates were aware that Gubernatorial and state Assembly elections did not take place at Lere, Kubau, Kachia and Kagarko Local government Areas of Kaduna State, yet with the active connivance of INEC officials and the Minister of finance, results of the purported election were declared by INEC knowing fully well that such election did not take place;

Whereas the non inclusion of party logos and names of validly nominated candidates in the ballot papers by INEC can only be viewed as gross negligence resulting in postponement of elections and in the areas where the electorates refused, arbitrary declaration of election results was made;

Whereas, INEC a statutory body created under the rule of law, by its action of non compliance with orders issued by courts of competent jurisdiction clearly demonstrated its total disrespect for the rule of law which calls for appropriate sanction against INEC to forestall future reoccurrence;

Whereas, no fewer than 200 Nigerians lost their lives in the process of the purported elections;

Whereas, INEC contracted for the installation of 1028 VSAT transceivers and leased circuit. with Reltel Communication for the purpose of transmitting and collation of election results nationwide at the cost of N4 billion, less than 100 transceivers were installed of which non was functional before and during the purported election of April 14th 2007 but instead local GSM SIM cards were used by INEC in transmitting election results;

Whereas the sum of N13 billion appropriated for printing of permanent Voters cards with Automatic Finger Print Identification System (AFIS) for which contract was awarded, while no permanent voters Card were issued and no Finger Print Authentication carried out by Direct Data Capture Equipment;

Whereas President Olusegun Obasanjo and Prof. Maurice Iwu described the election as free and fair when Nigerians and the International Community called it a sham, or a charade.

BE it resolved, and it is hereby resolved:¹

- (i) That the Senate do note the vote of no confidence on INEC by the Nigerian electorate and International Observers;
- (ii) That the Senate do condemn the conduct and reject the results of the 2007 elections;
- (iii) That the Senate do recommend for the immediate removal of the INEC Chairman and all members of the Commission including the Resident Electoral Commissioners;
- (iv) That the Senate do immediately constitute a seven man Adhoc Committee to investigate areas of breach of Court Orders and the Electoral Act, 2006 and also, investigate the application of appropriated fund meant to facilitate free, fair and credible 2007 elections for which contracts were awarded by INEC;
- (v) That the Senate do hereby recommend that the Independent National Electoral Commission Act, 2006 be further amended to provide for the reconstitution of INEC with members drawn from political Parties and the Civil Society Organisations.