



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Tuesday, 15th May, 2007

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

PRESENTATION OF A BILL

National War College (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (SB. 361) - *First Reading*
Senator **Dalhatu S. Tafida**: - (*Kaduna North*) Senate Majority Leader

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Confirmation of Nomination:
Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida: - (*Senate Majority Leader*)
"That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President C-in-C, for the confirmation of the Nomination of Mr. Emmanuel Justus Ntuk (South-South Zone) as a Commissioner in the National Assembly Service Commission (NASC) in accordance with Section 3(4) of the National Assembly Service Commission Act, 2000".
2. Confirmation of Nominations:
Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida: - (*Senate Majority Leader*)
"That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President C-in-C, for the confirmation of the Nominations of the following Persons as Members of the National Population Commission (NPC), in accordance with Section 154 (1) and 156 (3) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria".

(i)	Alh. Abashe Ira	Katsina	Member
(ii)	Mr. Raphael Fola Adedayo	Ekiti	Member
(iii)	Mr. Stephen Eruwetere Egbivbie	Delta	Member
	Mr. Sani Abdulahi Sulaiman	FCT	Member
(v)	Alhaji Hassan Bashir	Bauchi	Member
(vi)	Alhaji Umaru Abdulahi Yelwa	Kebbi	Member

3. **Confirmation of Nomination:**

Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida: - (*Senate Majority Leader*)

"That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President C-in-C, for the confirmation of the Nomination of Dr. Sheikh Saleh Okenwa as a Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (**NAHCON**), in accordance with Section 3 (2) of the National Hajj Commission Act 2006".

MOTION

I. **The Conduct of 2007 General Election:**

Senator Muktar A. Mohammed Aruwa: - (*Kaduna Central*)

Senator Tokumbo Afikuyomi: - (*Lagos West*)

Whereas the relevant provisions of the Constitution and indeed the Electoral Act 2006 enacted by the National Assembly, the Independent National Electoral Commission (**INEC**) is empowered to organize, undertake and supervise elections into offices created by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as impartial umpires independent of any arm of government;

Whereas prior to the conduct of Saturday April 14, 21 and 28, 2007 elections respectively, there had been wide spread **scepticisms** regarding preparedness of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as constituted to organize and supervise credible, transparent, free and fair elections;

Whereas INEC officials in some states released ballot papers and result sheets to unauthorized persons before elections;

Whereas elections conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (**INEC**) on Saturday. April 14. 21 and 28 respectively have generated mixed reactions locally and internationally:

Whereas the elections conducted on [he dates earlier cited have been greeted with allegations of massive irregularities including but not limited to intimidation of voters by security agents, snatching of ballots boxes by armed personnel, government officials, absence of voting privacy, stuffing of ballot boxes with already thumb printed ballot papers and outright falsification of results;

Whereas some of the reported irregularities enumerated above later resulted in disquieting voter apathy during the Saturday April 28 Bye Election;

Whereas a number of local and International Observer groups have pronounced the elections as having been badly flawed while Government is counseling that the result be upheld;

Whereas there have been calls for outright cancellation of the election and mass protest by aggrieved parties while demanding for free conduct of polls;

Whereas the calls for cancellations or mass actions remain high with a potential to throw the nation into monumental crises as witnessed following the annulment of June 12, 1993 Presidential Election;

Whereas such calls portend great dangers for the sustenance of peace, stability and civil democratic rule in Nigeria;

Whereas not less than 200 citizens of our nation were killed in various crises relating to the Governorship and State House of Assembly elections conducted by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC);

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 demonstrate its total disrespect for the rule of law,

Whereas the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 appropriated funds for the conduct of the April 2007 general elections;

Whereas there has been a reported incident of the abandonment of 700,000 ballot papers (for which National Assembly in exercise of its power appropriated money) in South Africa, an incident confirmed to be true by the Independent National Commissioner in charge of Information and Publicity, Mr. Philip Umeadi on Sunday 29, April 2007;

Whereas the sum of N13 Billion appropriated for printing of permanent Voter's Card with Automatic Finger Print identification System (AFIS) for which contract was awarded, no permanent voters Card printed, issued nor finger print authentication carried out by Direct Data Capture Equipment of which contract was awarded to Zinox instead, Zinox changed the Direct Data Capture Equipment with ordinary laptops;

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 which none is functional before and during and during the purported election of April 14th 2007 instead Globacom GSM SIM Cards were used by INEC in transmitting election results;

Whereas the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria appropriated money to cover the cost of each and all of the elections, Presidential ballot papers were reported to have been used for Plateau State House of Assembly elections, a move justified by one Mr. Bencyn Ikpe, Public Relation Officer of INEC in Plateau State as having been taken to save time;

Whereas the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as a body responsible for making laws has historical responsibility to note, observe, collate and review the loopholes in the execution of the provisions of the Electoral Act 2006 and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 with respect to the conduct of elections in Nigeria.

BE it resolved, and it is hereby resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do constitute a seven (7) man Ad-hoc Committee immediately to investigate areas of commission and or omission by INEC against lawful Court orders and or abuse or the provision of the electoral Act 2006 and investigate the causes of the reported lapses during the last elections pursuant to the provisions of Section 89 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;
- (ii) That the Committee should identify the flaws in our present Electoral Act 2006 and make necessary recommendation to assist the next National Assembly in making necessary electoral reforms and institutionalizing processes for the conduct of credible elections in the country;
- (iii) That the Committee should investigate the disbursement and Administration of the funds appropriated by National Assembly to INEC for the purposes of the conduct of the Elections in exercise of the power conferred on the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria vide Section 88 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;
- (iv) That the Committee be accordingly empowered by this Senate to make any further inquiry as it may deem fit and make necessary recommendations to guide against future occurrences of the electoral malpractices of this magnitude.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. *Report of the Conference Committee on the Statistics Bill, .2007 (SB. 255):*
 Senator Gbemi R. Saraki: - (Kwara Central)
 "That the Senate do approve and adopt the Report of the Conference Committee on the Statistics Bill, 2007 (SB. 255)".
2. **Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service:**
Public Procurement Bill, 2007 (SB. 151)
 Senator Felix O. Ibru: - (Delta Central)
 "That the Senate do resume the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service, on the Public Procurement Bill, 2007 {SB. 151} (Adjourned debate - 9th May, 2007)".

3. Report of the Committee on Finance:
Petroleum Profit Act (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (SB. 177):
 Senator **Effiong D. Bob**: - (*Akwa Ibom North East*)
 "That the Senate do consider the Report of the .Committee on Finance, on the Petroleum Profit Act (Amendment) Bill, 2007 (SB. 177)".

CONSIDERATION OF A BILL

1. National Inland Waterways Authority Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2007 (SB. 358) - *Second Reading*
Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida: - (*Kaduna North*)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Date</i>		<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
	Rules and Business Assembly Complex	Tuesday, 15th	May, 2007	2. 00 p.m.	Committee Room 15
2.	INEC:	Tuesday, 15th	May, 2007	12. 00 noon,	(<i>Screening of Nominee</i>)
3	Housing and Urban Development	Tuesday, 15th	May, 2007	2. 30 p.m.	Hearing Room 02 Assembly Complex
4.	<i>Adhoc Committee</i> <i>Bill</i>)	Tuesday, 15th	May, 2007	2. 00 p.m.	{ <i>Nigeria Content</i>
5.	Capital Market Assembly Complex	Tuesday, 15th	May, 2007	2. 30 p.m.	Committee Room 19