



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 19 February, 2008

1. The Senate met at 11.00 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 13th February, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. Message from Mr. President:
The Senate President announced that he had received a letter from the President, Commander-in-Chief, of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which he read as follows:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

February 13, 2008

PRES/134

Senator David Mark, President
of the Senate, Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

Ex and dear brother,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF BORNO
STATE NOMINEE IN THE REVENUE MOBILIZATION,
ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION (RMFAC)**

The Revenue Mobilization and Fiscal Commission is one of the Federal Executive Bodies established under Section 153(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. By the provision of Part 1 (N) of the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution, the Commission shall comprise a Chairman and one member from each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

In this connection, a vacancy has now arisen in the Commission following the expiration of tenure of Alhaji Mala Alamai, the Borno State Representative in the Commission.

I have, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Sections 154(1) and 156(3) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria decided to appoint Alhaji Umar Abba Gana whose Curriculum Vitae is attached herewith as a member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission representing Borno State for a term of 5 years.

In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution which states that the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate, I hereby present Alhaji Umar Abba Gana for confirmation.

Best regards,

*Signed: UMARU
MUSA YAR'ADUA*

4. Announcements:

(i) The Senate President read a letter from Senator Adeleke O. Mamora as follows:



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone, PAB 141, Garki, Abuja, Nigeria.
☎ +234 (09) 264 0463 Fax: 09-234 0465
E-mail: senadmamora@yahoo.com
DISTRICT OFFICE:
2, Jekidan Street, Ikot, Gbagada, Lagos.
☎ 01-876 9337.

February 18, 2008

Thro:

*The President of the Senate
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.*

TO ALL SENATORS

MAMORA AT 55

The scripture says "Teach us O Lord to number our days so that we might apply ourselves to the path of wisdom "

Last Saturday, February 16, 2008 marked the 55th year of my earthly sojourn. Amazing grace of God has been my portion these past years, for which I remain profoundly grateful to Him.

A publishing company has deemed it fit to do apolitical biography on me in commemoration of this event.

The public presentation of the book will be done in due course, details of which will be communicated to you accordingly.

Thank you for your cherished brotherhood and friendship. I

remain,

*Signed:
Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora*

- (ii) The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Pupils of St. Bartholomew's Nursery and Primary School, Kubwa who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

5. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Nigeria Congressional Medal of Honour Award Bill 2008 (SB. 48) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) State of the Nation Address Bill 2008 (SB. 61) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Abolition of Discrimination Against Women Bill 2008 (SB. 66) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Education Tax Fund Act (Amendment) Bill 2008 (SB. 68) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Financial Crimes Court (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB. 72) — *Read the First Time.*

6. Motion:

Failure of Super Eagles in 26th Africa Cup of Nations:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do observe the growing importance of sports, especially soccer, as one of the major sources of promoting national self-esteem and cultivating positive international image;

Concerned about the inglorious exit of Nigeria from the 26th Africa Cup of Nations competition in Africa and the deeper implications of the defeat to the nation's self-worth and international (especially African) standing;

Recalls that the defeat fits into a history of dismal performance in which Nigeria has won the Cup only twice in her fifteen appearances out of twenty six editions of this prestigious continental competition;

Observes also that mis performance compares very poorly with the performances of several, less endowed, African States;

Notes that the advantages of successful management of sports include, on the home front, enhanced youth motivation and discipline, reinforced national pride and sharpened consciousness of nationhood and, on the international front, a favourable image and higher respect;

Concerned that Nigeria has not been able to reap these benefits because of her record of epileptic and dismal performance in international competitions;

Observes further that the cheerless history of defeats and continual loss of respect have created dissatisfaction and depression in the generality of the people;

Notes further that the Sports Ministry's traditional quick-fix approach comprising a pattern of cycles of panic management measures, spells of euphoria, and relapses into defeat and recriminations, has proved futile;

Concerned that the pattern of mediocre performance, re-enacted in recent African Cup of Nations' will perpetuate itself, if the desired remedy is limited to such quick-fix panic measures;

Determined to find a clean break with this inept and lackluster past.

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:

- (i) Condemn in the strongest possible term the poor performance of our Super Eagles in the 26th Edition of the Nations Cup held in Accra, from 20th January to 10th February, 2008;
- (ii) Urge Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, to immediately (i) disband the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) and National Sport Commission (NSC), and (ii) sack the national coach, Berti Vogts, as a minimum evidence of Nigeria's determination to initiate a new beginning;
- (iii) Invite the Minister of Sports to explain to the Senate the circumstances of our dismal and deplorable performance in the just concluded 26th Edition of the Nations Cup in Ghana and other international competitions in general, and to show to the Senate the Ministry's blueprint for well-articulated and comprehensive national sports development, designed to nurture and sustain grass-root-based home-grown integral sports structures;

- (iv) Direct the Committee on Sports to organize public hearing on the management of our soccer and sports in general and report its findings to the Senate within 3 weeks (*Senator Uche Chukwumerije*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do condemn in the strongest possible term the poor performance of our Super Eagles in the 26th Edition of the Nations Cup held in Accra, from 20th January to 10th February, 2008 — *Agreed to.*

- (ii) Urge Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, to immediately (i) disband the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) and National Sport Commission (NSC), and (ii) sack the national coach, Bert Vogts, as a minimum evidence of Nigeria's determination to initiate a new beginning;

- (iii) Invite the Minister of Sports to explain to the Senate the circumstances of our dismal and deplorable performance in the just concluded 26th Edition of the Nations Cup in Ghana and other international competitions in general, and to show to the Senate the Ministry's blueprint for well-articulated and comprehensive national sports development, designed to nurture and sustain grass-root-based home-grown integral sports structures;

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in Prayers (ii) and (Hi) (Senator Ayogu Eze).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (iv) Direct the Committee on Sports to organize public hearing on the management of our soccer and sports in general and report its findings to the Senate within 3 weeks;

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in Prayer (iv) and insert the following instead thereof:

"Direct the Committee on Sports to conduct full-scale investigation including public hearing on the management of our Sports in general and the dismal performance of our team in Ghana 2008 African Cup of Nations Competition and report within 3 (three) weeks" (*Senator Omar A. Hambagda*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Main prayer as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do condemn in the strongest possible term the poor performance of our Super Eagles in the 26th Edition of the Nations Cup held in Accra, from 20th January to 10th February, 2008;
- (ii) That the Senate do direct the Committee on Sports to conduct full-scale investigation including public hearing on the management of our Sports in general and the dismal performance of our team in Ghana 2008 African Cup of Nations Competition and report within 3 (three) weeks (5. Res/047/08).

7. Committee on Foreign Affairs:

Report on the Screening of Nominee:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the screening of Dr. Sheikh Saleh Okenwa, as a full time Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) and approve the recommendation (*Senator Jibril Aminu*).

Recommendation:

That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Dr. Sheikh Saleh Okenwa, as a full time Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON).

Report presented and Laid.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the screening of Dr. Sheikh Saleh Okenwa, as a full time Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the screening of Dr. Sheikh Saleh Okenwa, as a full time Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON).

Nominee Recommended: Dr.

Sheikh Saleh Okenwa. *Debate:*

Question:

"Will the Committee approve the nomination of Dr. Sheikh Saleh Okenwa, as a full time Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON)?" — *Agreed to.*

Chairman to report progress.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole, considered the Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the screening of Dr. Sheikh Saleh Okenwa, as a full time Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) and approved the recommendation.

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Confirmation of Nominee:

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. Sheikh Saleh Okenwa, as a full time Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON)?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Dr. Sheikh Saleh Okenwa, as a full time Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) accordingly confirmed.

- 8- **A Bill for an Act to Provide a Framework for the Development and Management of a Health System within the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to Provide for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 (SB.50):**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Bill for an Act to Provide a Framework for the Development and Management of a Health System within the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to Provide for Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 (SB.50) be read the Second Time (*Senator Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Health to report within 4 (four) weeks.

- 7, **Adjournment:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 20th February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1. 30p.m.

David A. B. Mark, GCON
President of the Senate