



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 23 January, 2008

1. The Senate met at 10.00 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 22nd January, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. Message from Mr. President:
The Senate President informed the Senate 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

January 21, 2008

PRES/134

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

Excellency and dear Brother,

**RE: CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN
AND MEMBERS IN THE FEDERAL CIVIL
SERVICE COMMISSION (FCSC)**

I refer to your letter Ref NASS/CS/R/04/9 dated 22nd November, 2007 in which you informed me of the kind approval by the Senate of my nominees for appointment into the Federal Civil Service Commission and the fact that Obong Uwah from Akwa Ibom State was not cleared.

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 154(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I herewith forward Dr. Akpama M. Akpama from Cross River State as replacement for confirmation as Commissioner, Federal Civil Service Commission. His Curriculum Vitae is hereby attached.

I would appreciate the usual expeditious consideration of the nomination by the Distinguished Senate.

Best regards.

Signed: **UMARU**
MUSA YAR'ADUA

4. Announcement:

The Senate President read a letter from the Special Adviser to Mr. President on National Assembly Matters as follows:



THE PRESIDENCY
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT
ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICE:
Federal Secretariat Complex,
Phase II, Shehu Shagari Way,
Garki, Abuja.
Tel: 09-2345252
Fax: 09-2345355

OUT REACH:
Three Arms Zone,
National Assembly Complex,
Maitama, Abuja.
Tel/Fax: 09-2340475

SAP/NASS/011/VII

21-01-08

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

BURIAL OF PA LAWRENCE EBELE JONATHAN:
FATHER OF MR. VICE PRESIDENT

I wish to respectfully write on behalf of Mr. Vice President and to kindly request for the list of Distinguished Senators that intend to attend the burial Ceremony of the father of the Vice President on the 25th and 26th of January 2008.

2. *It will also be appreciated if it will be indicated against each name those that intend to spend the night in Bayelsa to enable proper and adequate arrangement for the Distinguished Senators.*

3. *Accept my usual highest regards and consideration.*

Signed: **Senator (Princess) Florence**
Ita-Giwa, OON
Special Adviser to the President
on National Assembly Matters

5. Matters of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Grace F. Bent invited the attention of the Senate to the continued Gas Flaring in the Niger-Delta Region. She sought the leave of the Senate to present a Motion on the matter next legislative day.

Matter to stand over till next legislative day {Rule 42(2)}.

6. Motion:

The Abduction of 103 Sudanese and Chadian Children by Some French Aid Workers (L'arche De Love): Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do note that on October 25th 2007, 103 Sudanese and Chadian Children were illegally abducted by some proclaimed French Aid Workers;

Notes that the action by these so-called Aid Workers was barbaric as they were purely trafficking in human beings;

Notes that it contravened the International Humanitarian Law pertaining to the rights of the child in all ramifications;

Notes that it has also violated one of the resolutions passed recently by the Parliamentarians for Global Action Abuja;

Notes that the perpetrators of this heinous act have since been tried, convicted and sentenced by a Chadian Court to 8 years imprisonment and have since been deported back to France to serve their jail terms; and

Observes that this singular act calls to question the activities of a number of foreign workers parading Africa under the guise of aiding Africa.

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:

(i) Condemn this unwholesome act of these French self proclaimed aid workers;

(ii) Urge the French Authorities to ensure that the culprits serve out their jail terms maximally so as to serve as a deterrent to others; and

(iii) Urge the Federal Government to streamline and monitor the activities of Foreign Aid Organizations operating in Nigeria to ensure that their activities are consistent with our national interests and integrity (*Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do condemn this unwholesome act of these French self proclaimed Aid workers — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the French Authorities to ensure that the culprits serve out their jail terms maximally so as to serve as a deterrent to others.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision of Prayer (ii) (Senator Patrick E. Osakwe).

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

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to streamline and monitor the activities of Foreign Aid Organizations operating in Nigeria to ensure that their activities are consistent with our national interests and integrity.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "Aid" in line 2, insert the words "and other" (Senator Anyimchukwu Ude).

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

Further Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (Hi) as follows:

"That the Senate do advise African Governments to create through good governance, social and economic environment that discourages all forms of Child Abuse and Human Trafficking" (Senator Uche Chukwumerije).

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

Resolved:

(i) That the Senate do condemn this unwholesome act of these French self proclaimed aid workers;

(ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to streamline and monitor the activities of Foreign Aid and other Organizations operating in Nigeria to ensure that their activities are consistent with our national interests and integrity; and

(iii) That the Senate do advise African Governments to create through good governance, social and economic environment that discourages all forms of Child Abuse and Human Trafficking (S. Res/38/08).

7. Direction and Tempo of the War on Corruption:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do note that the war on corruption is one of the seven point agenda of the present administration;

Concerned that there is a growing concern by the Nigerian public and the International Community about the signals emanating from the recent developments at the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission;

Observes that this concern relates to the tempo and direction of the war on corruption and financial crimes;

Observes that virtually all our major partners in the International Community including Transparency International and the United Nations have expressed their concern;

Observes that recently the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes stated that it requires re-assurance before it continues with a \$30 million anti-corruption facility which it has planned for Nigeria;

Observes that the increase in Direct Foreign Investment in Nigeria and the delisting of Nigeria from the list of Non-cooperating Nations and Territories by Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is a direct result of the action of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) against the perpetrators of Advance Fee Fraud (419) and related offences, and a direct benefit of the gains Nigeria has made in the fight against corruption and economic and financial crimes; and

Observes that it is imperative that the Nigerian public and our International Partners are reassured about the tempo and direction of the war against corruption.

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:

(i) Urge the Federal Government to remain steadfast in its commitment to the war against corruption; and

(ii) Invite the Acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) on assumption of office to brief the Senate on the status of its activities and its plans to ensure that the war against corruption is sustained (*Senator Sola Akinyede*).

Debate:

Privilege:

Rising on Rule 15, Senator Ayogu Eze drew attention of the Senate to the claim by Senator Nuhu Aliyu that there are 419ers in the National Assembly. He averred that the remark was a breach of his privilege as a person and that of the Senate collectively. He therefore urged the Senate to prevail on Senator Nuhu Aliyu to either withdraw the statement or to substantiate his claim accordingly.

Matter accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privilege and Public Petitions to report in two weeks.

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to remain steadfast in its commitment to the war against corruption — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate Invite the Acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) on assumption of office to brief the Senate on the status of its activities and its plans to ensure that the war against corruption is sustained — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to remain steadfast in its commitment to the war against **corruption**; and
- (it) **That** the Senate do invite the Acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) on assumption of office to brief the Senate on the status of its activities and its plans to ensure that the war against corruption is sustained (*S. Res/39/08*).

8. Main Report on Senate Retreat:

Report stood down till next legislative day.

9. Interim Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions: Agonies of Depositors of Failed Banks and Financial Institutions:

Report stood down till next legislative day.

10. Presentation of a Bill:

A Bill for an Act to make Public Records and Information more freely available, provide for Public Access to Public Records and Information, Project Public Records and Information to the Extent Consistent with **the** Public Interest and the Protection of Personal Privacy, Protect Serving Public Officers from Adverse Consequences for disclosing Certain kinds of Official Information with authorization and Establish Procedures for the Achievement of those purposes and Related Purposes Thereof Bill 2008 (SB. 19).

Bill stood down till next legislative day.

11. Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn til! Thursday, 24th January, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1. 50 p.m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate