



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 15 January, 2008

1. The Senate met at 10.00 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Deputy Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 9th January, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Messages from Mr. President:**
The Deputy Senate President informed the Senate that he had received two letters from the President, commander-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which he read as follows: (A)



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/J34

January 9, 2008

Senator David A. B. Mark,
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers, National
Assembly Complex, Three
Arms Zone, Abuja.

Excellency and Dear Brother,

RE: CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

I write to acknowledge receipt of your three letters apprising me of the Senate's kind confirmation of the appointments of the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, the Auditor-General of the Federation, as well as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank.

Please accept, as usual, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Best regards,

Signed: UMARU
MUSA YAR'ADVA

(B)



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

January 10, 2008

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

Excellency and dear brother,

**REVERSAL OF DECISION TO PURCHASE VEHICLES FOR
CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICE HOLDERS**

Mr. President of the Senate would recall that at the inception of this Administration, the issue of procurement of vehicles for Ministers and other Political Office Holders was considered and Government then thought it appropriate to purchase and provide dedicated official vehicles to Ministers, Special Advisers and Permanent Secretaries. This was mooted in consideration of the nature of the Junctions of these aforementioned officers.

However, the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) has advised that embarking on this action would tantamount to a breach of the "Certain Political, Public and Judicial Office Holders (Salaries and Allowances, etc) Act No. 6 of 2007", a line which my Administration is not willing to tow. Similarly, I have observed the negative perception of the public towards the intention behind the procurement of the vehicles.

Consequently, I have brought the matter before the Federal Executive Council which at its meeting' of 9th January 2008 vacated the earlier Council conclusion that gave approval and meaning to the exercise. You may, therefore, wish to take note of this development, and, accordingly adjust all records before you as appropriate.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my consideration and fraternity to you and the Distinguished Senate at all times.

Kind regards,

Signed: UMARU
MUSA YAR'ADUA

4. **Closed Session:**
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into a Closed Session to deliberate on issues relevant to the workings of the Senate (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Closed Session 10. 50 a. m.

Senate in Open Session 12. 40 p. m.

The Deputy Senate President reported that the Senate in Closed Session deliberated on matters that will ensure the effective and efficient workings of the Senate.

5. Presentation of Report:

Parliamentary Delegation to the Senate of the Kingdom of Swaziland:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Senate Parliamentary Delegation to the Senate of the Kingdom of Swaziland (Monday 5th — Friday November, 2007) (*Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

6. Motion:

Delineation of Electoral Wards/Constituencies by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do observe that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is preparing to embark on the delineation of Electoral Wards/Constituencies across the country;

Notes also that this is in consonance with Sections 71, 72, 73, 74, and 75 of the 1999 Constitution and Section 108(3) of the Electoral Act 2006 which mandates Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to review the division of every Area Council into Wards at intervals of not less than 10 years and may alter such Electoral Wards to such extent as it may consider desirable in the light of the review;

Observes further that INEC has already issued a press release informing Nigerians that it has concluded arrangements to carry out this constitutional mandate;

Notes that this exercise is of utmost importance to both elected representatives and other Nigerians in general; and

Concerned that INEC should make adequate preparations and ensure effective publicity in order to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:

(i) Direct its Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ascertain the level of preparedness of INEC to conduct the exercise and to report back within two weeks; and

(ii) Urge Senators and indeed all Nigerians to take interest in this all important exercise (*Senator Effiong D.Bob*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do direct its Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ascertain the level of preparedness of INEC to conduct the exercise and to report back within two weeks.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "within" in line 2, insert the word "four" (*Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke*).

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

Question on Main Prayer as amended, put and agreed to.

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge Senators and indeed all Nigerians to take interest in this all important exercise— *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

(i) That the Senate do direct its Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ascertain the level of preparedness of INEC to conduct the exercise and to report back within four weeks.

- (ii) That the Senate do urge Senators and indeed all Nigerians to take interest in this all important exercise (**S. Res/037/08**).

7. Committee on Appropriation:

Report on the 2008 Appropriation Bill (SB. 21):

Consideration of Report deferred to later day.

8. Armed Forces Remembrance Day:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of the fallen heroes (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

One minute silence accordingly observed.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 22nd January, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1. 25 p.m.

Ike Ekweremadu
Deputy Senate President