



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 26th April, 2006

1. The Senate met at 10:20 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, 25th April, 2006 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of Students of the Department of Banking and Finance from Benson Idahosa University, Edo State who had come to observe Senate Proceedings from the Gallery.

4. **Motion:**
Sokoto Central Market Fire Incident:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That whereas on the 13th of April, 2006 at about 8.20 p.m. a raging fire was spotted at the heart of the Sokoto Central Market which lasted for about 72 hours before it was brought under control by men of the Sokoto State Fire Service, the Army and the Police;

WHEREAS while the fire lasted, property worth N10 Billion were destroyed including the Central Market Administration Block and Court;

WHEREAS the market is the largest modern market in Northern Nigeria built in 1979 and commissioned in 1980 with traders from all over the country and some West African Countries such as Niger, Chad, Mali, Cameroun, etc;

WHEREAS this fire has caused monumental damage to the economic lives of the people of Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi States with virtually no family in Sokoto which has not suffered one loss or another;

WHEREAS economic activities in the State have grinded to a halt, while thousands of youths who are employed through the market are now roaming the street thus causing another serious social hazard to the State;

Be it resolved: That the Senate do:

- (i) send a high-powered delegation to sympathise with the Government and people of Sokoto State over the incident;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to assist the Sokoto State Government in its efforts at rebuilding the market; and

- . (iii) commend the prompt response by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), which has started delivering relief materials to the victims of the fire (*Senator Sule Yari **Gandi***).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do send a high-powered delegation to sympathise with the Government and people of Sokoto State over the incident — *Agreed to*.

. *Prayer (ii):*

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to assist the Sokoto State Government in its efforts at rebuilding the market — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate do commend the prompt response by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), which has started delivering relief materials to the victims of the fire — *Negated*.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do send a high-powered delegation to sympathise with the Government and people of Sokoto State over the incident;
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to assist the Sokoto State Government in its efforts at rebuilding the market (*S. Res/046/06*).

5. Confirmation of Nomination:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do consider the request by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the nomination of Mr. Philip Etomike Umeadi (Jnr.), as a Commissioner in the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Nomination accordingly referred to the Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission to report within one week.

6. Confirmation of Nomination:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do consider the request by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the nomination of Dr. Darn Owei to replace Engr. Samuel Edward Inyang as a Member of the Niger-Delta Development Commission (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Nomination accordingly referred to the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission to report within one week.

7. Joint Sitting of The National Assembly:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do sit with the House of Representatives in a Joint Session to receive an address by President HU JINTAO of the People's Republic of China on Thursday, 27th April, 2006 at 11.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the Senate do sit with the House of Representatives in a Joint Session to receive an address by President HU JINTAO of the People's Republic of China on Thursday, 27th April, 2006 at 11.00 a.m. (*S. Res/047/06*).....

8. Committee on States and Local Government Administration:
Conference Report on the Border Communities Development Agency Bill 2006 (SB.147):
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive and consider the Conference Report on the Border Communities Development Agency Bill, 2006 {SB. 147} (Senator Iyabode Anisulowo).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

9. Nigerian Content Development in the Oil and Gas Industry Bill 2006 {SB. 280):
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Nigerian Content Development in the Oil and Gas Industry Bill, 2006 be read the Second Time (Senator Lee Maeba).

Debate:

Question put and Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to report within four weeks.

10. Adjournment:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Thursday, 27th April, 2006 at 10.00 a.m. (Senate Majority Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 1. 00p.m.

Ken Nnamani
President of the Senate