



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 21st September, 2006

1. The Senate met at 10: 15 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, 20th September, 2006 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. **Message from the Vice-President, Federal Republic of Nigeria:**
The Senate President announced that he had received a communication from the Vice-President, Federal Republic of Nigeria in response to the earlier communication received by the Senate from the President, Commander-in-Chief:

He informed the Senate that copies of the communication would be made available to Distinguished Senators when the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters submits its report on Mr. President's letter on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) report on the investigation of the Vice-President, referred to it two weeks ago.

4. **Privilege:**
Rising on Rules 14, 15 and 16, Senator Farouk B. Bunza invited the attention of the Senate to the inability of the Joint Committee of Finance, Appropriation and National Planning, to submit to the Senate their Report on the investigation of the Excess Crude Accounts within the stipulated time frame granted and opined that the action of the Joint Committee had infringed on his privilege and that of other Senators. He sought and obtained leave of the Senate to move a motion on the matter.

Motion made and Question Proposed: Whereas I have cited these points of order to bring to the attention of the Senate a breach of my privilege and the privilege of this distinguished Senate collectively by the Joint Committee of Finance, Appropriation and National Planning; and the Minister of Finance;

WHEREAS upon a motion I moved on 1st June, 2006, on illegal withdrawals from Federation Account, this distinguished Senate in its wisdom mandated the Committee on Finance and Appropriation and subsequently, Committee on National Planning to jointly investigate the matter and report back within three (3) weeks;

WHEREAS it is now almost four (4) months since the passing of the Resolution, the Senate is yet to receive the Report of the Committee;

WHEREAS *This Day* Newspaper in its edition of 17th September, 2006 reported that the Minister of Finance in far away Singapore has announced the withdrawal of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2006 by the President;

WHEREAS the Bill having been read the First Time has become the property of the Senate, and, unless otherwise so communicated and resolved, the Bill in accordance with the Senate Rules will go for Second Reading and subsequently through the other stages if the Senate so desires;

WHEREAS the press briefing by the Minister is a breach of my privilege as a Senator and of this Senate collectively;

WHEREAS there are incontrovertible evidence of withdrawals from the Federation Account continuing unabated.

Be it resolved: That

- (i) this Senate do direct the Joint Committee of Finance, Appropriation and National Planning to forward their report to this Senate by next legislative day because of the importance attached to that Resolution of the Senate and in view of the rather long time it has taken the Committee to report back;
- (ii) the Joint Committee proffer reasons for the delay in reporting;
- (Hi) the Senate do direct the Committee on Rules and Business to schedule the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2006 on the Order Paper for further action in accordance with Senate Rules.
- (iv) the Senate do urged Mr President, Commander-in-Chief to direct the Minister of Finance, the Accountant-General of the Federation and the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria to immediately stop further withdrawals from the Federation Account as it is an outright breach of the Constitution.

Debate:

Further consideration of the Motion deferred.

5. Adjournment:

Motion wade and Question Proposed: That the Senate do suspend other items on the Order Paper and adjourn till Tuesday, 26th September, 2006 at 10:00 a. m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 10. 40 a. m.

Ken Nnamani
President of the Senate