



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 19th September, 2006

1. The Senate met at 10:25 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings: ,
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 14th September, 2006 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. Announcement:
Defection:
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Bello Maitama Yusuf and Senator Dalhat Danzomo as follows.



Bello MaUdma Yusuf
(Sardaunan Dutse) Chairman, Senate
Committee on Sports and Social Development

Mr. President of the Senate

13th Sept. 2006

RE: FORMAL DECLARATION FOR THE PDP IN THE SENATE

- (1) You may recall on the 7th of July 2006, our humble selves (Senator (Dr.) Bello Maitama Yusuf and Senator Dalha Dan Zomo) along side the following:-
 - (i) Our Executive Governor and His Deputy
 - (ii) Members of the House of representatives
 - (iii) All the members of the Jigawa State House of Assembly
 - (iv) All the members of the Jigawa State Executive Council
 - (v) Other political office holders from the State and our teeming supporters

Formally decamped from our former party, the all Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) to the Ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

- (2) *The occasion as Mr. President must have been aware was witnessed by the PDP National Chairman Dr. Ahmadu Ali and the Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Ibrahim Nasiru Manatu.*
- (3) *It is in view of the above, that we write to formally inform this. distinguished House of our membership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).*

*Long Live the Senate/
Long Live Nigeria's nascent Democracy//*

*Signed:
Senator (Dr.) Bello Maitama Yusuf*

*Signed:
Senator Dalha Dan Zomo*

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

Question put and agreed to.

Closed Session — 10.55 am

Open Session — 12.50 pm

The Senate President reported that in the Closed Session, the Senate deliberated on issues relating to the Standing Rules of the Senate and Senate Committees with a view to strengthening the general performance of the Senate.

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:
Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Fidelis Okoro drew the attention of the Senate to the tragic death of some top Military officers in a plane crash on Sunday, 17th September, 2006. He sought and obtained leave of the Senate to introduce a motion on the subject as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance to be debated forthwith.

Question that the matter be debated forthwith put and agreed to.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That whereas the air tragedy that befell the nation on Sunday 17 September, 2006 when a Dornier 228 military aircraft conveying very senior army officers from Abuja to Obudu Ranch crashed 18 nautical miles from its destination, claiming precious lives of 8 Maj-Generals, 2 Brig-Generals, 1 Lt. Col. and 3 others who were on a national assignment when the sun set on them. This sad incident it would be recalled was the second most fatal air crash involving military officers after the sad Ejigbo Air disaster of 1992 in which 192 military men perished.

WHEREAS, this latest air crash claimed the lives of finest senior Nigerian Army officers which included:

- (i) the General Officer Commanding 2nd Division, Nigerian Army — Major-General Nuhu Bamalli,
- (ii) General Officer Commanding 81 Division — Major-General Joseph O. Adesunloye
- (iii) Commandant Nigerian Army Ordinance Corps — Major-General Duniya
- (iv) Chief Standards and Evaluation (Army) — Major-General J. T. U. Ahmad
- (v) Military Secretary — Major-General J. O. Agbola
- (vi) Commandant Nigerian Army Corps of Signals — Major-General Peter Haruna
- (vii) Chief of Administration (Army) — Major-General S. M. Lemu
- (viii) Chief of Policy and Plans (Army) — Major-General S. O. Otubu
- (ix) Brigadier-General Y. J. Braimah

(x) Brigadier-General M. B. Bawa (xi)

Lt. Col N. A. Mohammed; and

(xii) the two Pilots of the NAF033, Dornier 228 plane — Wing Commanders S. Balogun and E. Adekunle.

WHEREAS this tragedy caused great loss to Nigerian nation and grief, agony and pains to the families, professional colleagues and local communities of the crash victims and Nigerians in general;

WHEREAS the accident occurred when the officers were on their way to Chief of Army Staff Retreat on (the future of Nigerian Military in the next decade), and therefore on active service to the nation;

WHEREAS air travel is very essential to the conduct of both military and civilian business and whereas the Sunday air crash involved one of the few functional air craft in the fleet of the Nigerian Air Force; and

WHEREAS even nature itself wept for this air tragedy through heavy down pour and the appearance of two big rainbows on the sky witnessed on that day.

Be it resolved: That

- (i) the Senate do send its heart felt condolences to all the families of the bereaved persons aboard the crashed air craft;
- (ii) the Senate do send a message through a Senate delegation to condole the Chief of Defence Staff and his Service Chiefs on the loss of high calibre military manpower;
- (in) the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of the departed souls; and
- (iv) the Senate urges the Ministry of Defence to ensure adequate funding of the Nigerian Air Force to enable it acquire functional aircrafts, search and rescue equipment as well as other necessary tools to bring it up to date with international standards (*Senator Ben N. Obi*).

Debate:

Prayers (i):

Question: That the Senate do send its heart felt condolence to all the families of the bereaved persons aboard the crashed aircraft — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Question: The Senate sends a message through a Senate delegation to condole the Chief of Defence Staff and his service Chiefs on the loss of high Caliber Military manpower, President Commander-in-Chief and the Minister (*Senator Fidelis Okoro*).

Amendment Proposed:

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

"That the Senate do send a condolence message to the President, Commander-in-Chief, and the Minister of Defence on this tragic event (*Senator David Mark*).

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

Prayer (in):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Defence to ensure adequate funding of the Nigerian Air Force to enable it acquire functional aircraft, search and rescue equipment, as well as other necessary tools to bring it up to date with international standards — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (iv):

Question: That the Senate do observed a minute silence in honour of the departed souls and further adjourned sitting to the next legislative as its practical demonstration of participation in the National mourning and respect for the falling heroes (*Senator Fidelis Okoro*).

Amendment Proposed:

Recap Prayer (iv) into two prayers as follows:

Prayer (iv):

Question: That the Senate do adjourn sitting to the next legislative day as a practical demonstration of participation in the national mourning and respect for the fallen heroes; (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

Prayer (v):

Question: That the Senate do observe one minute in silence in honour of the departed souls (*Senate Majority Leader*).

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

Resolved:

(i) That the Senate do send its heart felt condolence to all the families of the bereaved persons aboard the crashed aircraft.

(ii) That the Senate do send a condolence message to the President, Commander-in-Chief, and the Minister of Defence on this tragic event.

(iii) That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Defence to ensure adequate funding of the Nigerian Air Force to enable it acquire functional aircraft, search and rescue equipment, as well as other necessary tolls to bring it up to date with international standards.

(iv) That the Senate do observe one minute in silence in honour of the departed souls (*Res. S. /060/06*).

One minute in silence accordingly observed.

6. Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:

Report on the Customary Court Bill 2006 (SB. 50):

By leave of Senate consideration of Bill deferred to the next legislative day.

7. Committee on Health:

Report on the Federal Medical Centres (Constitution of Board, etc) Bill 2006 (SB. 93):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Health, on the Federal Medical Centres (Constitution of Board, etc) Bill 2006 (*Senator Martyns Yellowe*).

Question put and agreed to. Report Presented and Laid.

Consideration of Report deferred till the next legislative day.

8. Deep Offshore Inland Basins Production Sharing Contract Act (Amendment) Bill 2006 (HB. 129):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Deep Offshore Inland Basins Production Sharing Contract Act (Amendment) Bill 2006 be read the Second Time (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

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

9. Absorption of Qualified Graduates into the Nigerian Police Force Bill 2006 (SB. 278):

Consideration of Bill stood down.

10. Adjournment:

Motion wade and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 20th September, 2006 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.45p.m.