



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 21st October, 2008

1. The Senate met at 10.10 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, 16th October, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Presentation of Bills:**

- (i) Nigerian Citizens in Diaspora Commission (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB. 198) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) National Essential Commodities Commission (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB.203) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Nigeria Building Regulatory Agency (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB. 197) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency Act (Amendment) Bill 2008 (SB. 204) — *Read the First Time.*

4. **Motion:**

Amendment of Senate Standing Order 111 Pursuant to Rule 110 of the Senate Standing Orders:
Motion made: That the Senate do note that the amendment as effected in the last Senate was possibly an act of inadvertent error of judgment which the present Senate ought to correct;

Observes that Rule 110, particularly 111 (ii) as it is, is inconsistent with legislative best practices and tradition generally;

Further observes that Section 64 subsection 1 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria states;

"The Senate and the House of Representatives shall each stand dissolved on the expiration of a period of four years commencing from the date of the first sitting of the House;"

This Section connotes that—
"All business shall cease

No business of the Senate can exist in a vacuum ie. without the presence of its members.

The inauguration of a new Senate necessarily signifies that all business must start *de novo*.

Notes that Section 60 of the Constitution grants the Senate "power to regulate its own procedure".

However, this power is not absolute as the Section says:

"Subject to the provisions of this Constitution" Hence S.60 and S.64 must be read together;

Convinced that fresh Senators who were not party to issues in the preceding Senate might be denied the opportunity of any meaningful input thus eroding their legislative mandate;

Concerned that the retention of the Rule could foreclose injection of fresh ideas based on new realities and better understanding of issues;

Convinced that the retention of the clause could create a crisis situation for a new administration particularly in lawmaking where a presidential veto existed over a bill passed by a previous Senate,

Convinced that allowing for wholesale "carryover" or "roll over" of legislative business from the previous Senate to the succeeding Senate may predispose to legislative complacency,

Accordingly resolves:

That the entire Order 111 be deleted and substituted with the following words: (i) The legislative business of the Senate which remains undetermined at the close of a session of the Senate shall be resumed and proceeded with in the same manner as if no adjournment of the Senate had taken place; and all papers referred to Committees and not reported upon at the close of session of the Senate shall be returned to the office of the Clerk of the Senate and retained until the next session of the Senate when they shall be returned to the several Committees to which they had previously been referred. "

- (ii) Bills not signed into law at the close of the life of the Senate maybe fast tracked in a manner stated in Section 79 of the Senate Rules if such bills are reintroduced into the succeeding Senate (*Senator Olorunnimbe A. Mamora*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 110(4), proposed amendment was referred to the Committee on Rules and Business to set aside another date for its consideration.

5. National Ambulance Services Agency Bill 2008 (SB.28):

Motion made: That the Bill for an Act to Establish the National Ambulance Services Agency and for Other Matters connected therewith, 2008 be read the Second Time (*Senator Anthony G. Manzo*).

Debate:

Question put and negatived.

Bill accordingly rejected.

6. Global Financial Crisis:***Invitation of the Federal Executive Economic Team:***

Motion made: That the Senate do suspend Order 17 to enable the Senate admit the invitees to the Floor of the Senate to brief the Senate on the Global Economic Crisis and its Impacts on the Nigerian Economy (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Honourable Minister of Finance, Dr. Shamsudeen Usman; Hon. Minister of Economic Planning, Senator Muhammed Sanusi Daggash; Chief Economic Adviser to Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Dr. Tanimu Yakubu Kurfi and the Governor of Central Bank, Prof. Charles Soludo led by the Special Adviser to Mr. President on National Assembly Matters, Senator Abba Aji were admitted to the Floor of the Senate.

Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to receive briefings from the invitees (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Briefing on the Global Financial Crisis and its Impacts on the Nigerian Economy by the Ministers of Finance; and National Planning, the Chief Economic Adviser to Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria.

Briefings:

Chairman to report progress.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole received briefings on the Global Financial Crisis and its Impacts on the Nigerian Economy from the Ministers of Finance; and National Planning, the Chief Economic Adviser to Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

The Session involved questions and answers while other related issues were also raised, addressed and discussed.

Question put and agreed to.

7. Adjournment:

And it been 3.40 p.m Senate adjourned accordingly till Wednesday, 22nd October, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

David A. B. Mark, GCON

President,

Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.