



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 19th November, 2008

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 Tuesday, 18th November, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**
 - (i) **Women Senators' Forum:**
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Eme Ufot Ekaette informing the Senate of the formation of Women Senators' Forum of the 6th Senate.
 - (ii) **Acknowledgment:**
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of Hazards Editors and Reporters from Imo State House of Assembly who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

4. **Petition:**
Rising under Rule 41, Senator George Thompson Sekibo sought the leave of the Senate to present a petition from Dr Joyce Shyngle Wigwe requesting the Senate intervention on the termination of his appointment by the Board of Nigeria — Sao Tome and Principe Joint Development Authority.

Petition accordingly presented and referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions.

5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**
Rising under Rule 42, Senator John N. Shagaya drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Ponzhi Tarok, His Majesty Edward Cirdap Zyattau OON, the paramount ruler of Lantang, Plateau State who joined his ancestors on Monday, 10th November, 2008 at the ripe age of 97 years.

He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present a substantive Motion on the matter next legislative day.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative day.

6. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Tenure of Office Bill 2008 (SB. 222) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) National Infrastructure Development Fund Bill 2008 (SB. 219) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) National Boundary Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2008 (SB. 225) — *Read the First Time.*

7. Committee on Petroleum Resources (Down Stream):***Report on the Investigation into the Matter of the Alarming Increase in the Prices of Kerosene and Diesel:***

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Down Stream), on the Investigation into the Matter of the Alarming Increase in the Prices of Kerosene and Diesel (*To be laid*) (*Senator Paulker Emmanuel*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

8. Nigerian Railway Corporation Act (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill 2008 (SB. 103):

Motion made: That the Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Railway Corporation Act. No. 20, 1955 (CAP N129, LFN, 2004) and the RE-ENACTMENT of the Nigerian Railway Corporation Act 2008, to Provide for Effective Rail Transportation, Infrastructural Development, Railway Concessioning, Implementation of the National Rail Policy, Determine Public Service Obligations, Effective and Efficient Passenger Services and the Establishment of a Regulatory Framework for Public/Private Participation and for Other Related Matters, be read the Second Time (*Senator Garba Y. Lado*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to Committee on Land Transport to report within 4 weeks.

9. Committee on Establishment and Public Service:***Report on the Problems Associated with the Implementation of the Pension Reform Act (PRA) 2004:***

Consideration of Report stood down to another Legislative day.

10. Committee on Solid Minerals:***Report on the Holistic Review of the Minerals and Mining Act 2007:***

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Solid Minerals on the Senate Resolution on the holistic review of the Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 to accommodate the interest of the local populace of the Mining Areas (*Senator George T. Sekibo*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

Recommendations:

- (i) That the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development should intensify effort in the implementation of the Act for the overall national interest since the provisions in the Act are sufficient enough to cater for the fears expressed by the Senate. Again, this will go

along way in boosting confidence in the people and will eliminate the doubts expressed by the public;

- (ii) That the implementing agency (i.e. the Ministry) should sustain and encourage massive enlightenment and sensitization of Nigerians particularly informing the public about the existence of the new Minerals and Mining Act and the gradual process of its implementation by the Ministry;
- (iii) That the members of the National Assembly should be involved in the enlightenment of their constituents. Similarly, States and Local Government Areas, and the media, should be encouraged to do same;
- (iv) That the review or amendment of the new law should not be contemplated now since several sections of the Act have answered most of the issues raised in the motion. It is also recommended that the Act should not undergo any amendments now as this is capable of sending wrong signals to the potential investors in the industry; and
- (v) That the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development should as a matter of necessity give regular report to the Senate through the Committee on the degree of implementation of the Act (*Senator George T. Sekibo*).

Debate:

Recommendation (i):

That the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development should intensify effort in the implementation of the Act for the overall national interest since the provisions in the Act are sufficient enough to cater for the fears expressed by the Senate. Again, this will go along way in boosting confidence in the people and will eliminate the doubts expressed by the public — *Question put and agreed to.*

Recommendation (ii):

That the implementing agency (i.e. the Ministry) should sustain and encourage massive enlightenment and sensitization of Nigerians particularly informing the public about the existence of the new Minerals and Mining Act and the gradual process of its implementation by the Ministry — *Question put and agreed to.*

Recommendation (iii):

That the members of the National Assembly should be involved in the enlightenment of their constituents. Similarly, States and Local Government Areas, and the media, should be encouraged to do same — *Question put and negated.*

Recommendation (iv):

That the review or amendment of the new law should not be contemplated now since several sections of the Act have answered most of the issues raised in the motion. It is also recommended that the Act should not undergo any amendments now as this is capable of sending wrong signals to the potential investors in the industry; and — *Question put and agreed to.*

Recommendation (v):

That the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development should as a matter of necessity give regular report to the Senate through the Committee on the degree of implementation of the Act — *Question put and negated.*

Resolved:

- (i) That the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development should intensify effort in the implementation of the Act for the overall national interest since the provisions in the Act are sufficient enough to cater for the fears expressed by the Senate. Again, this will go

a long way in boosting confidence in the people and will eliminate the doubts expressed by the public;

- (ii) That the implementing agency (i.e. the Ministry) should sustain and encourage massive enlightenment and sensitization of Nigerians particularly informing the public about the existence of the new Minerals and Mining Act and the gradual process of its implementation by the Ministry; and
- (iii) That the review or amendment of the new law should not be contemplated now since several sections of the Act have answered most of the issues raised in the motion. It is also recommended that the Act should not undergo any amendments now as this is capable of sending wrong signals to the potential investors in the industry (S. Res/018/2/08).

12. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Thursday, 20th November, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (Senate Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.25 p.m.

*David A. B. Mark, GCON
President, Senate of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria.*