



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 18th January, 2007

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 Wednesday, 17th January, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. **Presentation of Bills:**

- (i) Ekiti State 2006 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2007 (SB.345B) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Ekiti State 2007 Appropriation Bill (SB. 345A.) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Special Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2007 (SB. 346) — *Read the First Time.*

4. **Motion:**

Keffi Central Market Fire Incidence, Nasarawa State:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That whereas on the 31st December, 2006, at about 8.30pm, a raging fire was spotted at the heart of the Keffi Central Market which lasted for about 24 hours before it was brought under control by men of the Nasarawa State Fire Service and the assistance of the Army from 30 Battalion Brigade stationed at Keffi and the general public;

WHEREAS, while the fire lasted, property worth over 500 million Naira was destroyed completely, including the Central Market Administrative Block;

WHEREAS, the market is the largest modern market in Keffi Western Senatorial District with traders from almost all States of the Federation including the inhabitants of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

WHEREAS, the fire has caused monumental loss to the economic lives of the people of Keffi and neighbouring States including FCT which has suffered one loss or another including the loss of five persons in the inferno while **victims** are in hospitals;

WHEREAS economic activities in Keffi have ground to a halt, while thousands of youths and women who are in one way or the other engaged in market business are now **roaming** the streets thus constituting serious social hazard to the State;

Be it resolved:

- j) (ii) (iii) That the Senate do send a high powered delegation to Lafia to sympathize with the Government and people of Nasarawa State;

Debate: That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims of this unfortunate calamity;

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to assist the people in their effort at rebuilding the market (*Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi*).

Prayer (i):

That the Senate do send a high powered delegation to Lafia to sympathize with the Government and people of Nasarawa State.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the words "a high powered delegation" and *insert* the words "the Senate Committee on Special Duties, Emergency and Conflict Resolution" instead thereof (*Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Prayer (ii):

That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims of this unfortunate calamity — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (Hi):

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to assist the people in its effort at rebuilding the market.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave *out* the word "people" in Prayer (Hi) and *insert* the words "State Government" instead thereof (*Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do send the Senate Committee on Special Duties, Emergency and Conflict Resolution to Lafia to sympathize with the Government and people of Nasarawa State;
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims of this unfortunate calamity; and
- (iii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to assist the State Government in its effort at rebuilding the market (*S. Res/01/07*).

S. 2007 Budget Proposal of the National Copyright Commission:

Motion Made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do consider the request by Mr. President Commander-in-Chief for the 2007 Budget Proposal of the National Copyright Commission as listed below:

Vote	Original Proposal	Proposed Reduction	Revised Proposal
Public Service Wage * Adjustment	8,000,000,000	142,600,000	7,857,400,000
Margin for Increased Costs	5,000,000,000	41.400,000	4,958,600,000
Adjustment to Capital Costs	2,000,000,000	20.000,000	1,980,000,000
Total	15,000,000,000	204,000,000	14,796,000,000

(*Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Appropriation to report the next legislative day.

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 Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi, CON as Chief Justice of Nigeria (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Confirmation of nominee deferred till next legislative day subject to the submission of all relevant documents.

7. Committee on Federal Character and Governmental Affairs:

Report on Federal Road Safety Commission (Amendment) Bill 2006 (SB. 57):

Motion Made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolved into the Committee of the Whole to resume consideration of the Report of the Committee on Federal Character and Governmental Affairs, on the Federal Road Safety Commission (Amendment) Bill 2007 (SB. 57). (*Adjourned Debate - Wednesday, 17th January, 2007*) (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL CHARACTER AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, ON THE FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007.

Clause 22: Careless and inconsiderate driving:

- (1) Any person who drives a motor vehicle on a highway without due care and attention, or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the highway shall be guilty of an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine of three thousand Naira or in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine of five thousand Naira or to imprisonment for six months or to both such **fine** and imprisonment.
- (2) Where a person is charged with an offence under section 21 (1) of this Act and the court is of the opinion that the offence is not proved, then at any time during the hearing or immediately thereafter the court may, without prejudice to any other power exercisable by the court, direct or allow a charge for an offence under this section to be preferred forthwith against that person and may thereupon proceed with that charge, so however that the person charged or his counsel shall be informed of the new charge and be given an opportunity, whether by way of cross-examining any witness whose evidence has already been given against him or otherwise, of answering the new charge, and the court shall, if **it** considers that he is prejudiced in his defence by reason of the new charge being so preferred, adjourn the hearing.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 22 be retained (*Senator Ike Ekweremadu*).

Debate:

Bill recommitted to Committee for further legislative action.

Chairman to report progress.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole resumed consideration of the Report of the Committee on Federal Character and Governmental Affairs on the Federal Road Safety Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2006 and recommitted the Bill to the Committee for further legislative action.

Question, that the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole; resolved in the Affirmative.

8. Institute of Debt Recovery Practitioners (Establishment, etc) Bill 2007 (SB. 341):

Motion Made and Question Proposed: That the Institute of Debt Recovery Practitioners (Establishment, etc) Bill 2007 be read the Second Time (*Senator Hosea Ehinlanwo*).

Debate:

By leave of Senate, Bill withdrawn,

9. Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 23rd January, 2007 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12.30p.m.

Ken Nnamani, GCON
President of the Senate