



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 23rd January, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10:20 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, 18th January, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Messages from Mr. President:**
The Senate President announced that he had received two letters from the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria which he read as follows:
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PRES/134

22 January, 2007

The Rt. Hon. Ken Nnamani, President of



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Senate, National Assembly
Complex, Three Anns Zone,
Abuja.

Dear President of the Senate,

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF DR. HAROLD OLUSEGUN
DEMURENAS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NIGERIAN
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

By the provision of Section 8 of the Civil Aviation Act of 2006, I have decided to appoint Dr. Harold Olusegun DEMUREN, whose Curriculum is herewith attached, as the Director-General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, NCAA.

*In line with the provision of Section 8, sub-Section 1 of the Civil Aviation Act 2006, I hereby present Dr. Harold **Olusegun** DEMUREN for confirmation by the Senate.*

I look forward to your early action.

Yours sincerely,

**Signed: OLVSEGUN
OBASANJO**

iii)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/13

18 January, 2007

*The Rt. Hon. Ken Nnamani,
President of the Senate,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly Complex, Three-Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear President of the Senate,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF
MEMBER IN THE REVENUE MOBILIZATION,
ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION**

The Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission is one of the Federal Executive Bodies established under Section 153(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

*By the provision of Part 1 (N) of the **THIRD SCHEDULE** of the 1999 Constitution, the Commission shall comprise the Chairman and one member from each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory. In this connection, following the death of Alhaji Bello Kware, who was representing Sokoto State in the Commission, I have decided to appoint Alhaji Aliyu Muhammad as Commissioner representing Sokoto State in the Commission.*

The CV of the candidate is herewith attached, please.

In line with the provision of Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution which states that the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate, I hereby present Alhaji Aliyu Muhammad for confirmation by the Senate.

I look forward to your early action.

Yours sincerely,

**Signed: OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO**

3. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Electoral Act (Amendment) **Bill 2007 (HB.293)** — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Miscellaneous Offences Act (Amendment) **Bill 2007 (SB. 321)** — *Read the First Time.*

4. Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation

Report on the Screening of Nominees:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive and consider the report of the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, on the screening of the following persons as members of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission

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|-------|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| (i) | Rev. Fagboyegun Ajibola Edward | Ondo State | Member |
| (ii) | Alhaji A. O. Anjorin | Lagos State | Member |
| (iii) | Alhaji Salihu Jega | Kebbi State | Member |
| (iv) | Alhaji Ahmed Iliyasu | Bauchi State | Member (<i>Senator Gbemi R. Saraki</i>). |

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented and Laid.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Report of the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, on the screening of the following persons as members of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission

Debate:

Recommendations:

That the Senate do confirm the nominations of the underlisted persons as members of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission

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|-------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| (i) | Rev. Fagboyegun Ajibola Edward | Ondo State | Member — <i>Agreed to.</i> |
| (ii) | Alhaji A. O. Anjorin | Lagos State | Member — <i>Agreed to.</i> |
| (iii) | Alhaji Salihu Jega | Kebbi State | Member — <i>Agreed to.</i> |
| (iv) | Alhaji Ahmed Iliyasu | Bauchi State | Member — <i>Agreed to.</i> |

Chairman to report.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, on the screening of the members of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission and confirmed their nominations

Question, That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Resolved in the Affirmative.

Confirmation:

Question:

"**Will** the Senate confirm the nomination of Rev. Fagboyegun Ajibola Edward (Ondo State) as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission?" — *Resolved in the affirmative.*

Nomination of Rev. Fagboyegun Ajibola Edward (Ondo State) as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission accordingly confirmed.

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji A- O. Anjorin (Lagos State) as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission?" — *Resolved in the affirmative.*

Nomination of Alhaji A. O. Anjorin (Lagos State) as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission accordingly confirmed.

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Salihu Jega (Kebbi State) as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission?" — *Resolved in the affirmative.*

Nomination of Alhaji Salihu Jega (Kebbi State) as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission accordingly confirmed.

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Ahmed Iliyasu (Bauchi State) as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission?" — *Resolved in the affirmative.*

Nomination of Alhaji Ahmed Iliyasu (Bauchi State) as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission accordingly confirmed.

5. Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development:

Report on the National Council of Animal Science Bill 2007 (HB. 03):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do consider the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on the National Council of Animal Science Bill 2007 (HB. 03) (*Senator Mohammed S. Ohiare*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented and Laid.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

National Council of Animal Science Bill 2007 (HB. 03)

Debate:

Bill recommitted to the 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 considered the Report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on the National Council of Animal Science Bill 2007 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.

6. Joint Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:

Report on the Issues Bordering the 2007 General Elections:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive and consider the report of the Joint Committee on INEC and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters, on issues bordering on the Voters Registration Exercise and the 2007 General Elections (*Senator Nicholas Y. Ugbane and Senator Oserheimen A. Osunbor*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented and Laid.

*Deb
ate:*

Recommendations:

- (i) That the ongoing electronic voter registration, should continue as it is in the overall national interest. Successful electronic voter registration holds the key to drastic reduction, if not complete elimination, of rigging of elections. This will boost people's confidence in the ballot box and strengthen our democracy — *agreed to.*
- (ii) That the Independent National Electoral Commission should be encouraged to complete the exercise in view of the fact that it has shown before the Joint Committee, commendable determination to deliver credible elections — *negatived.*
- (iii) That the Independent National Electoral Commission should sustain and encourage massive enlightenment and sensitization of Nigerians particularly informing the public about the credibility, efficacy and reliability of electronic voter registration and the sequence of events leading up to the elections — *negatived.*
- (iv) That voter apathy currently prevailing must be reversed with the help of distinguished Senators through enlightenment of their constituents. Similarly, other members of the public, including the media, are encouraged to do same — *negatived.*
- (v) That the Senate should amend Section 10 (5) of the Electoral Act by reducing the number of days from 120 days to 60 days. The section provides:
"The registration of voters, updating and revision of the register of voters under this section shall stop not later than 120 days before any election covered by this Act".

This amendment will not have any adverse effect on INEC's preparedness for the elections. This will give further opportunity to those eligible persons who may still be left out by 14 February, 2007 — *agreed to.*
- (vi) That the Independent National Electoral Commission should give regular report to the Senate on the prospects and problems associated with the ongoing exercise — *negatived.*

Resolved:

- (i) That the ongoing electronic voter registration, should continue as it is in the overall national interest. Successful electronic voter registration holds the key to drastic reduction, if not complete elimination, of rigging of elections. This will boost people's confidence in the ballot box and strengthen our democracy; and
- (ii) That the Senate should amend Section 10 (5) of the Electoral Act by reducing the number of days from 120 days to 60 days. The section provides:
"The registration of voters, updating and revision of the register of voters under this section shall stop not later than 120 days before any election covered by this Act".

This amendment will not have any adverse effect on INEC's preparedness for the elections. This will give further opportunity to those eligible persons who may still be left out by 14 February, 2007 (*S. Res/02/07*). •

8. Extension of Time of Sitting:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do sit this day beyond the time appointed for its sitting (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

9. Closed Session:

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

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Closed Session — **1. 35 p.m.**

Senate in Open Session — **3.05 p.m.**

The Senate President reported that the Senate in Closed Session discussed issues very dear to the security and welfare of Senators.

10. Adjournment:

And it being 3. 10 p.m. the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 24th January, 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 3.10p.m.

Ken Nnamani, GCON
President of the Senate

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