



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 28th June, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10: 35 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, 27th June, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

- (i) The Senate President acknowledged the presence of staff and pupils of Redeemers Private School, Karu who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings.
- (ii) The Senate President read a letter from Senator Ayogu Eze as follows:
*Reception in Honour of the Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu:
The Government and People of Enugu State will receive the Deputy Senate President on Saturday, 30th June, 2007 at Okpara Square, Enugu.*

Distinguished Senators wishing to accompany the Deputy Senate President will travel on Friday' by Arik Air. Departure time is 10:00 a.m. prompt.

Return flight to Abuja is Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Signed:

Senator Ayogu Eze

4. **Confirmation of Nomination:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces for the confirmation of the nomination of Ms Ifueko Omoigui, as the Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to. Request accordingly referred to Committee on Finance

(when constituted).

5. **Legislative Calendar:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive and adopt the Senate Legislative Calendar from Tuesday, 5th June, 2007 to Monday 14th January 2008 (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the Senate do adopt the Legislative Calendar from Tuesday, 5th June, 2007 to Monday 14th January 2008 (S. Res/004/07).

Legislative Calendar from Tuesday, 5th June, 2007 to Monday 14th January 2008 accordingly adopted.

6. Increasing Rate of Drop Calls due to Inefficient Global System of Mobile (GSM) Telecommunication Network:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate notes that telecommunication services are important tools in the socio-economic life of Nigerians;

Observes that Nigeria Mobile Telecommunication Subscribers are recently experiencing an increasing rate of drop calls occasioned by inefficient Global System of Mobile (GSM)telecommunication network;

Notes that all the GSM operators in the country have recently been experiencing terrible congestions which denied subscribers the ability to make or receive successful calls;

Observes that subscribers' expectations that the quality of service delivery which should increase as network matures have, however, been dashed;

Observes further that though they have continued to expand their network coverage beyond what existing infrastructure could carry, on investigation the 3 major operators namely MTN, Celtel and Globacom could not immediately provide the rate of drop calls on their networks; and

Concerned that consumers are being ripped off and made to pay for services which they did not enjoy.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Strongly* condemn the increasing rate of drop calls due to inefficient Global System Mobile (GSM) telecommunication network;
- (ii) *Direct* the National Communications Commission (NCC) to compel all service providers, MTN, Celtel, Globacom to refund customers for credits lost due to no fault of theirs;
- (iii) *Urge* the NCC, (the regulatory body) to carry out effective supervision of all the service providers in order to ensure efficient service delivery; i
- (iv) *Urge* the NCC to intensify supervision of service providers to ensure that infrastructural expansion is commensurate with subscriber-base; and
- (v) *Direct* its Committee on Communications when constituted to further look into these and other related issues contributing to the increasing rate of drop calls due to inefficient Global System of Mobile (GSM) telecommunication network and report to the Senate (*Senator Sylvester N. Anyanwu*).

Debate:

Prayer (i)\

That the Senate do strongly condemn the increasing rate of drop calls due to inefficient Global System Mobile (GSM) telecommunication network;

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in prayer (i) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do strongly condemn the inefficiency of GSM providers in Nigeria resulting in increased rate of drop calls" (*Senator Ike Ekweremadu*).

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

Prayer (ii):

That the Senate do direct the National Communications Commission (NCC) to compel all service providers, MTN, Celtel, Globacom to refund customers for credits lost due to no fault of theirs;

Amendment Proposed:

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

"Urge the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) to evoke appropriate provision of the law (agreement) to protect consumers for lost credit" (*Senator Elder A. Ude*).

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

Prayer (iii):

That the Senate do urge the NCC, (the regulatory body) to carry out effective supervision of all the service providers in order to ensure efficient service delivery;

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in prayer (iii) and insert the following instead thereof:

"Urge the NCC and other regulatory agencies such as the Consumer Protection Council and the Standard Organisation of Nigeria to carry out effective supervision of the service providers to ensure high quality and efficient service delivery" (*Senator Ibrahim M. Ida*).

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

Prayer (iv):

That the Senate do urge the NCC to intensify supervision of service providers to ensure that infrastructural expansion is commensurate with subscriber-base; and

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in prayer (iv) (Senator Bala A. Mohammed).

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

Another Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new prayer (iv) as follows:

"Urge the NCC (Regulatory body) and the Consumer Protection Council to compel all the GSM service providers to revert to 5% VAT in their tariffs and charges" (*Senator Audu I. Umar*).

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

Prayer (v):

That the Senate do direct its Committee on Communications when constituted to further look into these and other related issues contributing to the increasing rate of drop calls due to inefficient Global System of Mobile (GSM) telecommunication network and report to the Senate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in prayer (v) and insert the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do direct its Committees on Communications and Commerce when constituted to further look into the issues of drop calls, and the inefficiency of service providers of the Global System of Mobile (GSM) telecommunication network in Nigeria and report to the Senate within one month" (*Senator Osita B. Izunaso*).

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

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do strongly condemn the inefficiency of GSM providers in Nigeria resulting in increased rate of drop calls;
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) to evoke appropriate provision of the law (agreement) to protect consumers for lost credit;
- (iii) That the Senate do urge the NCC and other regulatory agencies such as the Consumer Protection Council and the Standard Organisation of Nigeria to carry out effective supervision of the service providers to ensure high quality and efficient service delivery;

- (iv) That the Senate do urge the NCC (Regulatory body) and the Consumer Protection Council to compel all the GSM service providers to revert to 5% VAT in their tariffs and charges; and
- (v) That the Senate do direct its Committees on Communications and Commerce when constituted to further look into the issues of drop calls, and the inefficiency of sendee providers of the Global System of Mobile (GSM) telecommunication network in Nigeria and report to the Senate within one month (*S. Res/005/007*).

7. **Adjournment:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 3rd July, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.25p.m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate