



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 26th June, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10: 05 a.m. The President read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 6th June, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership (Senator- Elect):**
Senator- Elect Dr Chimaroke Nnamani (Enugu East) took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as required by law.
4. **Message from Mr President:**
The Senate President informed the Senate that he had received a letter from Mr President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which he read as follows:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

June 14, 2007

*The Senate President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Sir,

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF FEDERAL
INLAND REVENUE SERVICE (FIRS)

Pursuant to Section 11 of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act, 2007,¹ I have the honour to present, for the confirmation of the Senate, the appointment of Ms IFUEKO OMOIGUI as the Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

Accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurance of my best regards at all times.

Yours Most Sincerely,

Signed: UMARU MUSA
YAR'ADUA

5. **Announcement:**

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan as follows:

SENATOR MAINA MA'AJI LAWAN

■ - ■ ■

National Assembly Complex

6th June, 2007

The President of the Senate, National Assembly Complex, Three Arms Zone, Abuja.

SENATE MINORITY LEADERSHIP

In accordance with order 30 (1) of the Senate Standing Orders, Senators of the Minority Parties namely ANPP, AC, PPA and ACCORD Party met today, the 6th of June, 2007 after the adjournment of the Senate and unanimously elected the following to constitute the Minority Leadership of the Senate:

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| (i) | Senate Minority Leader | — | Senator Maina Ma 'aji Lawan |
| (ii) | Senate Minority Whip | — | Senator Ahmad Rufa 'i Sani |
| (iii) | Senate Deputy Minority Leader | — | Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora |
| (iv) | Senate Deputy Minority Whip | — | Senator Arc. Kabiru Ibrahim Gay a |

I have further been mandated by the meeting to convey same to your good office to allow for the completion of the formation of the body of Principal Officers of the Senate.

Yours faithfully,

Signed:

SENATOR MAINA MA'AJI LAWAN

For & on Behalf of all ANPP, AC, PPA & ACCORD Party Senators.

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6. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance :**

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Uche Chukwumerije invited the attention of the Senate to the recent release from detention by the Federal Government of the Leaders of Odua Peoples' Congress (OPC) and Niger-Delta Peoples' Volunteer Force (NDPVF), Alhaji Mujaheed Asari Dokubo. He however, lamented the inability of the Federal Government to also release the Leaders of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) which he observed was against the principle of equity and social justice. He sought the leave of the Senate to introduce a motion on the matter.

By leave of Senate, matter stood down to the next legislative day.

7. **Message to the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the Speaker, House of Representatives:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That a message be sent to Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Speaker, House of Representatives, informing them that a quorum of the Senate has assembled and that the Senate Leadership has been fully constituted as follows and ready to receive any communication:

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| (i) | Senate President: | — | Senator David Mark (Benue South) |
| (ii) | Deputy Senate President: | — | Senator Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu West) |

(Hi)	Senate Majority Leader	—	Senator Teslim K. Folarin (<i>Oyo Central</i>)
(iv)	Senate Chief Whip	—	Senator Mahmud K. Bello (<i>Katsina North</i>)
(v)	Deputy Senate Majority Leader	—	Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (<i>Cross River Central</i>)
(vi)	Deputy Senate Chief Whip	—	Senator Mohammed Mana (<i>Adamawa North</i>)
(vii)	Senate Minority Leader	—	Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan (<i>Borno North</i>)
(viii)	Senate Minority Whip	—	Senator Ahmad Rufa'i Sani (<i>Zamfara West</i>)
(ix)	Deputy Senate Minority Leader	—	Senator Olorunnimbe A. Mamora (<i>Lagos East</i>)
(x)	Deputy Senate Minority Whip	—	Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya (<i>Kano South</i>)
(<i>Senate Majority Leader</i>).			

By popular acclamation, the appointments were approved.

8. **Motion:**

Strike action by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and other Trade Unions:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate notes the recent nation wide strike embarked upon by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) on Wednesday, 20th June, 2007;

Notes also that the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) demanded for a reversal in the pump price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) from N75 to N65; a total reversal of the increase in the Value Added Tax (VAT) from 10 % to 5 %; reversal of the sale of Kaduna and Port Harcourt Refineries and the implementation of 15% salary increase for Civil Servants;

Notes further that the Federal Government entered into dialogue with the NLC and the TUC and agreed to a reduction in the pump price of PMS from N75 to N70, the reversal of the Value Added Tax (VAT) from 10% to 5%, the implementation of the 15% increase in workers' salary from January 2007 and the suspension of further action on the sale of Kaduna and Port Harcourt Refineries;

Observes that the strike action which generated a lot of tension across the country, almost crippled the economy and brought all socio-economic activities to a halt has now been called off leading to the restoration of normalcy in the polity.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) Commend the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) for the mature manner the strike was handled without recourse to undue violence:
- (ii) Commend the President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces for his positive intervention in the crisis without recourse to high-handedness:
- (Hi) Commend the Senate leadership for the meditative role it played towards the resolution of the crisis:
- (iv) Constitute a Special Committee to initiate further dialogue on all the contending issues with **all** the Stake holders in order to avoid future occurrence (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Prayer (i): **Amendment**

Proposed:

Insert a. new prayer (i) and re-numbered subsequent prayers accordingly as follows:

"Commend Nigerians for remaining calm and supporting the democratic process through **out the period** of the strike action" (*Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Prayer (ii):

Commend the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) for the mature manner the strike was handled without recourse to undue violence:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the word "undue" in line 2 (Senator Ibrahim M. Ida).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Prayer (iii):

Commend the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces for his positive intervention in the crisis without recourse to high-handedness:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the words "without recourse to high-handedness" in line 2 (Senator Eferakeya A. Erhiawarie).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Prayer (iv):

Commend the Senate leadership for the mediatory role it played towards the resolution of the crisis —
Agreed to.

Prayer (v):

Constitute a Special Committee to initiate further dialogue on all the contending issues with all the Stake holders in order to avoid future occurrence

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision of prayer (v) and insert a new prayer (v) as follows instead thereof: "Constitute an Ad-Hoc Committee to understudy all the contending issues and report back to the Senate for further legislative actions" (Senator Tawar U. Wada).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new prayer (vi) as follows:

"Urge the appropriate Government Agencies to ensure strict compliance with the new rates" (Senator Olorunnimbe A. Mamora).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) Commend Nigerians for remaining calm and supporting the democratic process through out the period of the strike action;
- (ii) Commend the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) for the mature manner the strike was handled without recourse to violence;
- (iii) Commend the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces for his positive intervention in the crisis;
- (iv) Commend the Senate leadership for the meditative role it played towards the resolution of the crisis;
- (v) Constitute an Ad-Hoc Committee to understudy all the contending issues and report back to the Senate for further legislative actions; and
- (vi) Urge the appropriate Government Agencies to ensure strict compliance with the new rates
(S. Res/001/07).

9. **Ad-Hoc Committee on the Strike Action** by Nigerian **Labour** Congress (NLC):
The Senate President named the following Senators as Chairman and Members of the Ad-Hoc Committee:
- | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|----------|
| (i) | Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw | — | (South-South) | Chairman |
| (ii) | Senator Omar Hambagda | — | (North East) | Member |
| (iii) | Senator Umaru Dahiru | — | (North West) | Member |
| (iv) | Senator Iyabode Obasanjo-Bello | — | (South West) | Member |
| (v) | Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi | — | (North Central) | Member |
| (vi) | Senator Abaribe Enyinnaya | — | (South East) | Member |

Ad-Hoc Committee to report back in two weeks.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Closed Session — **1: 15 p.m.**

Open Session — **2:20 p.m.**

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session discussed issues affecting the security and welfare of Distinguished Senators. v

11. **Adjournment:**
And it being 2.35 p.m. the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 27th June, 2007 at 10:00 a. m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate