



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 5th July, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10: 50 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, 4th July, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **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

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PRES/134

July 4, 2007

Senator David Mark,
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

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My dear Senate President,

CONFIRMATION OF MINISTERIAL NOMINEES

In accordance with Section 147(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, hereby submit the following names, with their CVs, for confirmation by the Senate as Ministers:

S/No.	Name	State
1.	Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong	Adamawa
2.	Sen. John James Akpanudoedehe	Akwa Ibom

3.	Prince John Okechukwu Emeka	Anambra
4.	Ojo Maduekwe	Abia
5.	Mahmud Yayale Ahmed	Bauchi
6.	Mrs. Diezani K. Alison-Madueke	Bayelsa
7.	Senator Muhammed Sanusi Daggash	Borno
8.	John Ogar Odey	Cross River
9.	Mrs. Ekpiwhre Grace	Delta
10.	Igwe Aja-Nwachukwu	Ebonyi
11.	Major-Gen. Godwin Abbe (rid)	Edo
12.	Prince Dayo Adeyeye	Ekiti
13.	Fidelia Akubata, Njeze (Mrs)	Enugu
14.	Aishatu Jibril Dukku	Gombe
15.	Chief Charles Chukwuemeka Ugwu	Ino
16.	Alhaji Ahmed Garba Bichi	Kano
17.	Abba Sayyadi Ruma	Katsina
18.	Arc. Gabriel Yakubu Aduku	Kogi
19.	Halima Tayo Alao	Kwara
20.	Bode Augusto	Lagos
21.	Dr. Hassan Muhammad Lawal	Nasarawa
22.	Abdulrahman Hassan Gimba	Niger
23.	Chief Sarafa Tunji Isola	Ogun
24.	Prince Adetokunbo Kay ode	Ondo
25.	Senator Akinlabi Olasunkanmi	Osun
26.	Aderemi W. Babalola	Oyo
27.	Amb. Bagudu M. Hirse	Plateau
28.	H. Odein Ajumogobia	Rivers
29.	Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Gusau	Sokoto
30.	Barrister Ibrahim El-Sudi	Taraba
31.	Adamu Maina Waziii	Yobe
32.	Tijjani Yahaya Kaura	Zamfara
33.	Dr. Shamsudden Usman	Kano
34.	Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar	Gombe

While I trust your prompt confirmatory action, please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours most Sincerely,

Signed: UMARU MUSA
YAR'ADUA

Remark by the Senate President:

The Senate President admonished distinguished Senators to avoid the tendency to accept any form of gratification from any of the Ministerial nominees. He reiterated that no Senator has been authorised by the Senate to receive any gratification from any nominee, either on behalf of himself or the Senate.

The Senate President further warned that any nominee discovered to have tried to do that will be disqualified. He assured that the screening would commence on Tuesday, 10th July, 2007 and would be thorough, free and fair.

4. Announcement:

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following:

- (i) Students of Heritage Education Enterprise, Tunga, Minna, Niger State; and
- (ii) National Association of Polytechnic Public Administrative Students, Dorben, who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings.

5. Confirmation of Ministerial Nominees:

Screening of Nominees:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do consider and approve the procedure for the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, for the confirmation of Ministerial nominees in the following order:

- (i) The Clerk of the Senate will distribute copies of the Curriculum Vitae's of all the Ministerial nominees to Distinguished Senators between today, Thursday, 5th July, and tomorrow, Friday 6th July, 2007;
- (ii) Screening will commence on Tuesday, 10th July, 2007;
- (Hi) The nominees will each appear before the Senate;
- (iv) Mr. President will invite Senators to field questions; and
- (v) Thereafter the Senate will meet in the Committee of the Whole to consider the suitability or otherwise of each nominee (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

6. Collapse of the Road Infrastructure in Nigeria:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate observes the near collapse of the entire road infrastructure in Nigeria;

Concerned that the following Federal roads have collapsed and now pose a threat to the lives of the people of Nigeria: Benin-Ore-Shagamu Road; Zaria-Katsina-Kano Road; Ninth Mile-Nsukka-Makurdi-Lokoja - Abuja Road; Enugu-Port Harcourt Road; Enugu-Abakaliki - Calabar Road; Enugu - Onitsha Road; Onitsha - Owerri-Aba Road; Bauchi-Kari- Maiduguri Road; Warri- Patani-Yenegoa Road; Jos-Makurdi-Oturkpo Road; Argungu-Kangiwa- Kamba- Bunza - Kalgo Road; Sokoto- Jega-Yawuri-Kwantagora Road; Lokoja-Okene-Benin Road; Lagos-Shagamu-Ibadan Expressway; Hadejia-Nguru-Gashua-Bayamari Road;'

Observes that over one trillion naira was spent on road construction and rehabilitation in Nigeria in the past eight years with minimal or no impact on our roads;

Observes that the collapse of the road infrastructure has virtually cut off many parts of Nigeria, with its attendant negative impact on trade and commerce;

Observes that the collapse has led to a decline in agricultural activities, adversely affecting the movement of agricultural produce from rural to urban area and across the country, resulting in a slide in the country's agricultural output and the economy;

Notes with sadness the concomitant loss of lives as a result of the bad state of these roads, as evidenced by the chilling statistics reeled out by the Federal Road Safety Commission;

Observes that the loss of about 13 lives to road accidents daily and a yearly average of about 17,000 lives is a price too high and too prohibitive to pay for the failure of governance;

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) **urge** the Federal Government to reorganize the Federal Ministry of Works and its agencies especially the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) with a view to re-positioning them for the onerous task of rebuilding our roads;
- (ii) **urge** the Federal Government to undertake the immediate rehabilitation and the dualisation of major highways and interstate roads across the country;
- (Hi) *direct* its Committee on Works, when constituted to embark on audit of all road projects in Nigeria with a view to producing the raw data for further necessary legislative action;
- (iv) **further** directs its Committee on Works to liaise with the appropriate Government Agencies to ensure the rehabilitation or completion of all abandoned and on-going road projects across the country (*Senator Ayogu Eze and 10 others*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to reorganize the Federal Ministry of Works and its agencies especially the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) with a view to re-positioning them for the onerous task of rebuilding our roads;

Prayer (ii):

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to undertake the immediate rehabilitation and the dualisation of major highways and interstate roads across the country;

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provisions in prayer (i) and (ii) and renumber other prayers (iii) and (iv) as the new prayer (i) and (ii) sequentially:

Prayer (iii):

That the Senate do direct its Committee on Works, when constituted to embark on audit of all road projects in Nigeria with a view to producing the raw data for further necessary legislative action; and

Prayer (iv):

That the Senate do further directs its Committee on Works to liaise with the appropriate Government Agencies to ensure the rehabilitation or completion of all abandoned and on-going road projects across the country (*Senator James Manager*).

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

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do direct its Committee on Works, when constituted to embark on audit of all road projects in Nigeria with a view to producing the raw data for further necessary legislative action; and
- (ii) That the Senate do further direct its Committee on Works to liaise with the appropriate Government Agencies to ensure the rehabilitation or completion of all abandoned and on-going road projects across the country (**5. Res/007/07**),

7. Notice of Motions:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the under listed Motions on the Order Paper do serve as Notice of Motions for consideration the next legislative day:

- (i) The Growing occurrence of Collapsed Buildings in Nigeria;
- (ii) A Trust Fund for Public Office Holders; and
- (iii) Investigative Powers of the Senate (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

8. Adjournment:

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

Adjourned accordingly at 1.15 p. m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate