



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 5th September, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10: 45 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 4th September, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. Messages from Mr President:
The Senate President informed the Senate that he had received three letters from Mr President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which he read as follows:
(A)



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

August 21, 2007

Senator David Mark,
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers, Three
Arms Zone, Abuja.

Ex and dear brother,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF NASARAWA
STATE NOMINEE IN THE REVENUE MOBILIZATION
ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION (RMAFC)**

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 a Chairman and one member from each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. A vacancy has now arisen in the composition of the Commission following the resignation of the Commissioner representing Nasarawa State, Professor Onje Gye-Wado.

I have, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria decided to appoint Engr. Polycarp Azige whose Curriculum Vitae is attached hereto as a member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission.

In accordance 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 Engr. Polycarp Azige for confirmation.

Yours Most Sincerely,

Signed: UMARU
MUSA YAR'ADUA

(B)



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

August 8, 2007

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

By Dear Brother,

2007 APPROPRIATION AMENDMENT BILL AND 2007
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL,
PART II

I forward herewith, for your kind consideration and passage into law, the 2007 Appropriation Amendment Bill and the 2007 Supplementary Appropriation Bill, Part 11.

Consistent with our medium-term fiscal objectives, the Appropriation Amendment Bill and Supplementary Appropriation Bill seek to provide additional resources to support reform in the public service.

This carefully targeted spending proposal is designed to enhance effective service delivery in the public sector.

It is my hope that the Distinguished Senate will pass the Appropriation Amendment Bill and the 'Supplementary Appropriation Bill in your usual expeditious manner.

Please accept, Senate President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours Most Sincerely,

Signed: UMARU
MUSA YAR'ADUA

(C)



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

August 29, 2007

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

Ex. and Dear Brother,

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS IN THE FEDERAL
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (FCSC)

The Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) 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(D) of the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution, the Commission shall comprise a Chairman and not more than fifteen (15) other members. In this connection, the tenure of the Chairman and thirteen (13) Commissioners in the Federal Civil Service Commission expired between 30th October, 2006 and 15th May, 2007.

I have therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, decided to appoint the following as Chairman and Commissioners in the Federal Civil Service Commission:

S/N	Name	Designation	State of Origin	Cluster of States Represented
1	Amb. A. Algazali OON, mni (Renominated)	Chairman	Borno	—
2	Mrs. Sarah P. Chundung Dokotri (New Nominee)	Member	Plateau	Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau
3	Obong Uwah (Renominated)	Member	Akwa-Ibom	Akwa Ibom and Cross River
4.	Mr. Agbo G. Chukwuemeka (New Nominee)	Member	Enugu	Anambra, Ebonyi and Enugu
5.	Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande (New Nominee)	Member	Osun	Osun and Oyo
6.	Amb. Z. M. Kazaure (Renominated)	Member	Jigawa	Kano and Jigawa
7.	Dr. A. M. Yabani (Renominated)	Member	Yobe	Bauchi, Yobe and Borno
8.	Alhaji Aliyu Wall (Renominated)	Member	Niger	Niger & FCT
9.	Amb. I. Bindawa (Renominated)	Member	Katsina	Kaduna & Katsina

10.	Chief (Mrs.) ijeomaA. Umez-Eronini (New Nominee)	Member	Imo	Imo and Abia
77.	Alhaji Y. A. Yabo (Renominated)	Member	Sokoto	Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara
12.	Hajiya Lami Buba (Renominated)	Member	Gombe	Adamawa, Taraba and Gombe
13.	Alhaji YusufOlowu (New Nominee)	Member	Kwara	Kwara and Kogi
14.	Dr. J. O. Egberike (Renominated)	Member	Bayelsa	Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa

The Curriculum Vitae of the new nominees are attached.

The under-listed two (2) Commissioners, whose tenure will expire between 2008 and 2011 are not affected by the exercise:

S/N	Name	State of Origin	Cluster of States Represented	Date of Expiry
1.	K. F. Adebolu	Ekiti	Edo, Ondo & Ekiti	4th March 2008
2.	Engr. Salih Adeshina Egberongbe	Ogun	Lagos & Ogun	26th Feb. 2011.

In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which states that the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate, I hereby present the fourteen (14) nominees listed above for confirmation by the Senate.

Yours Most Sincerely,

Signed:
UMARUMUSA YAR'ADUA

4. Announcement:

The Senate President announced read a letter from Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi as follows:

This is to inform distinguished Senators that the Nasarawa State Study Centre of the National Open University of Nigeria is to be commissioned today, 5th September, 2007 by 3:30 p.m. in Lafia by His Excellency, the President of the Senate.

I wish to invite all distinguished Senators to accompany His Excellency, the President of the Senate to Lafia by 1:30p.m. today.

Thank you for identifying with Nasarawa State.

Signed:
Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi
Dan Malikin Nasarawa

5. Remarks by Senate President:



The President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
DISTINGUISHED SENATOR DAVID MARK ON THE RESUMPTION
OF THE SENATE ON TUESDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

WELCOME BACK

Your Excellency,

The Deputy Senate President,
The Senate Leader,
The Senate Minority Leader,
Other Principal Officers of the Senate,
Distinguished Colleagues,

It is with a very high sense of duty and responsibility that I delightfully welcome you back from our recess. Six weeks ago the Senate, in keeping with its approved calendar, proceeded on recess after the successful screening and confirmation of forty ministerial nominees of Mr. President in keeping with Sec 147[2] of the 1999 Constitution.

You would recall that shortly before the suspension of plenary, I implored us all to utilize the period of the recess to among other things; interact with our constituents and undertake outreach activities that are consistent with the expectations of our various constituencies, not forgetting however to allocate sufficient time to our family imperatives as well as socialize with other groups and formations whose wise counsel and advice could enrich and positively impact on our legislative duties and responsibilities. In doing so, I was guided by the adage that a river that forgets its source would sooner than later go dry.

I am highly delighted and thankful to God Almighty for his journey mercies and protection to each and every one of us and as Lawyers would say, the facts speak for itself. Notably, the refreshed and robust outlook of my colleagues is an affirmation to the fact that the recess has positively impacted on our health and has enabled us to reposition ourselves to respond to the challenges that confront us as a nation.

A brief of major events that occurred during the recess reveals among others; that while we were away, The First President of The Senate of the Fourth Republic and prospect of democratic humanism, Evan Enwerem, passed on. In the same vein, one of our colleagues, Distinguished Senator Bode Olajumoke, Chairman, Senate Committee on Navy lost his son in a ghastly motor accident; parts of our nation were engulfed with incidences of flood that raked wanton consequences. Of particular note was the case in Plateau South Senatorial District where close to 50 (fifty) lives were lost alongside properties worth millions of Naira. Port-Harcourt, the capital of Rivers State was held hostage for weeks leading to the imposition of curfew by the Government. There was also an attempt to redenominate our currency by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). A twenty-two man panel on Electoral Reform was inaugurated by The President and Commander in Chief, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. The N.N.P.C. which has remained the life wire of the nation has also undergone some major restructuring; while the President's desire to declare a state of emergency in the key sectors of Energy, Security, Education etc remain unabated and on course.

Of course, within our vicinity, there is the issue of the controversy surrounding the renovation of the residence of The Hon. Speaker and that of the Deputy Speaker and as is usual, the matter is already in the public domain.

Distinguished colleagues, you will agree with me that the catalogue of events as enumerated above pose varied challenges to us as a legislature and we must rise to these occasions just as we remain prepared to handle such other legislative duties as confirmation of statutory appointments, overseeing the performance of the budget as well as the expeditious passage of budget 2008.

In readiness for the task afore stated, we had since constituted 54 (fifty four) committees shortly before proceeding on our recess. I am delighted to note that even before and during the recess, we had cause to inaugurate some of the committees. May I therefore appeal to the Chairmen of those Committees that are yet to be inaugurated to ensure that they get it done within the first two weeks of our resumption.

Needless for me to remind us of the fact that a cross section of our citizens have kept vigil on the National Assembly over the long awaited constitutional amendment. This Senate cannot afford to shy away from this responsibility, neither can it afford the luxury of keeping at abeyance the process that would kick start this all important undertaking.

Accordingly, while I welcome us back from our recess, the point must be stressed that the task ahead of us is quite enormous but largely surmountable, given our resolve and determination to make this Senate an unparalleled one in all constructive ramifications. To attain the desired height, the Senate Services Committee has worked round the clock to ensure that the enabling environment under which Distinguished colleagues would work optimally have been put in place.

As we settle down to business, I wish to assure all Nigerians of our preparedness to remain amenable to input and admonition from civil society organizations as well as individuals on all matters that shall be put on the table for consideration. We look forward to good partnership with members of the Fourth Estate of the realm, the Press, in the collective responsibility and task of crafting laws that would make for good governance and attendant economic prosperity that will launch our nation into the league of the first top twenty economies by the year 2020 as envisaged by our President. This, for us, is a task that must be done, in order that the labour of our heroes past shall never be in vain.

Let us therefore arise with a common resolve to fast track the processing of Bills that are now before our respective Committees or even those that may be subsequently referred to us in the pursuit of the emergence of a truly one nation, that is bound in freedom, prosperity, peace and unity. On our part, our earlier pledge and covenant for transparency and commitment to due process remains unshaken and unequivocal.

On this note, may we now rise and observe a minute of silence in honour of all those that lost their lives in the flood disasters as well as the Port-Harcourt mayhem.

May their souls and the souls of all the departed find eternal rest, Amen.

Senator David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate

6. 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.

Senate in Closed Session — **11:15 a.m.**

Senate in Open Session — **1:20 p.m.**

The Senate President reported that the Senate in Closed Session deliberated on issues bordering on national security and matters relevant to the workings of the Senate.

7. Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do stand down items (1) and (2) on the Order Paper till the next legislative day (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

8.

Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Thursday, 6th September, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:25p.m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate