



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 15 November, 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 Wednesday, 14th November, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. Announcements:
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings:
 - (i) Staff and Students of New Horizon School, Abuja
 - (ii) Staff and Students of Suleja Academy, Suleja, Niger State.
4. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:
Complaint Against Newspapers Publication:
Rising on Rules 42, 52, 15, and 116, Senator Uche Chukwumerije drew the attention of the Senate to publications in the Monday, 12th November, 2007 editions of the *ThisDay and Tribune*, Newspapers on the yet to be presented report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the screening of Ambassadorial nominees. He stated that the Newspaper publications had impugned his privilege as a Senator and that of the Senate collectively. He sought and obtained leave of the Senate for the issue to be debated as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance forthwith.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate notes the premature press publication of the report of Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee on the screening of ambassadorial nominees and the press report's attributing the Committee's decision on security reports; and

Concerned of the grave implications of the Newspaper publications to the Senate and to the nation's democracy.

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:
 - (i) Investigate the source(s) of this leakage and the veracity of the report;
 - (ii) Draws the attention of all Senators to the gravity of the offence of the disclosure of confidential business of the Senate as is stipulated in Rule 16;

- (iii) Directs that the report of Foreign Affairs Committee on ambassadorial nominees be submitted in the next legislative day to this Chamber;
- (iv) Directs that the full and unedited security reports on any rejected nominees, if any, should be submitted along with the Committee's main Report, to the Plenary Session or at least to the Senate Committee on Security and Intelligence; and
- (v) Re-affirms the basic canon of accountability in a democratic system that the final responsibility for a decision on issues designated to Senate rests squarely with the Senate, not any other body (*Senator Uche Chukwumerije*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

That further debate on the motion be deferred until when the Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the screening of ambassadorial nominees is presented to the Senate on Tuesday, 20th November, 2007 (*Senator Umaru Dahiru*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Question on main Motion as amended put and agreed to.

5. Communication from the House of Representatives:

The Senate Leader informed the Senate that he had received a letter from the House of Representatives on the election of a new Speaker and Deputy Speaker, which he read as follows:

That sequel to the resignations of Hon. Partricia Olubunmi Etteh and Hon. Babangida S.M. Nguroje as the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively;

Hon. Dimeji Sabur Bankole (Abeokuta South Federal Constituency, Ogun State) has been elected the Speaker of the House of Representatives on 1st November, 2007;

Hon. Usman Bayero Nafada (Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency, Gombe State) has been elected the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives on 1st November, 2007.

6. Appropriation Bill 2008 (SB. 20) (Adjourned debate) (Wednesday, 14th November, 2007):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resume debate on the Appropriation Bill 2008 (Senate Majority Leader).

The following Senators made contributions:

- (1) Senator James E. Manager
- (2) Senator Bala A. Mohammed
- (3) Senator Muhammad A. Muhammad
- (4) Senator Satty Davies Gogwim
- (5) Senator Dahiru Kuta
- (6) Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi
- (7) Senator Mohammed Adamu Aliero
- (8) Senator Nuhu Aliyu
- (9) Senator Akpan Aloysius Etok
- (10) Senator Felix K. Bajomo
- (11) Senator Nkechi Nwaogu

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- (12) Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim
- (13) Senator John N. Shagaya
- (14) Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba
- (15) Senator George Akume
- (16) Senator Umaru Dahiru
- (17) Senator Lee. L. Maeba
- (18) Senator Adegbo E. Eferakeya
- (19) Senator Audu Idris Umaru
- (20) Senator Zaynab A. Kure
- (21) Senator Smart Adeyemi

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly Read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Appropriation to report within four (4) weeks.

7. Committee on Establishment and Public Service:

Report on the Screening of Nominees:

Consideration of Report deferred to the next legislative day.

8. Committee on Police Affairs:

Report on the Screening of Nominees:

Consideration of Report deferred to the next legislative day.

9. Committee on Finance:

Report on the Screening of Ms. Omoigui Ifueko Marina:

Consideration of Report deferred to the another legislative day.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 20th November, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. (Senate Majority Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:50p.m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate