



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 20 November, 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 Thursday, 15th November, 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 two letters from the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which he read as follows:
(A)

PRES/134



November 7, 2007

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

Excellency and dear brother,

NATIONAL SPORTS COMMISSION BILL 2007

I forward herewith, for your kind consideration and passage into law, the National Sports Commission Bill, 2007.

It is hoped that the Senate will pass the Bill in your usual expeditious manner.

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

Yours most sincerely,

Signed: UMARU MUSA
YAR'ADUA



(B) PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

November 7, 2007

*Distinguished Senator David Mark,
Senate President,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Ex and dear brother,

**LIBERIA: PARTIAL DEBT WRITE-OFF BY NIGERIA TO CONSOLIDATE
PEACE PROCESS AND FACILITATE RECONSTRUCTION**

I am writing to enlist the support of the Senate in respect of a proposal to write off aporiion of debt owed to Nigeria by Liberia. The proposed debt write-off is part of a broader initiative by the international community to assist Liberia clear its huge debt arrears owed to the World Bank, IMF and the African Development Bank. The debt owed to the African Development Bank (ADB), amounts to \$249 million. Of this amount, about \$48 million represents loans refinanced through the Nigeria Trust Fund window, which was set up by Nigeria in 1976 under ADB management, to assist poor African countries with soft loans towards meeting their developmental needs.

Since my assumption of office on May 29, 2007, the Liberian Government has made several passionate pleas to Nigeria to write off the debts owed to the Nigeria Trust Fund as well as help canvass support for debt relief from other creditors. Liberia's debt burden currently constitutes an impediment to the country's economic recovery and reconstruction efforis, which are needed to secure durable peace. The outstanding arrears owed to multilateral financial institutions are also standing in the way of the country accessing grants and concessional loans as well as benefitting from debt relief under the Highly-Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

In consideration of the above, the Federal Executive Council, at a recent meeting, endorsed a proposal to write off \$13 million out of \$48 million outstanding debt owed to Nigeria, as our contribution towards Liberia's debt arrears clearance process. This amount covers Nigeria's existing commitment (estimated at \$10.6 million) under a three-way burden sharing arrangement worked out by Liberia's development partners and provides an additional amount sufficient enough to bridge the financing gap, taking into account contributions from other donors as well as the African Development Bank. It also takes into account competing demands for the NTF's resources. The debt relief would be financed from a grant drawn out of the recycled net income earned by the Nigeria Trust Fund since inception and would not require appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. In this regard, the legal provision establishing the NTF allows for the retention of income earned for use as part of the Fund.

Distinguished Senate President, you may wish to note that a major rationale for endorsing this proposal is the need to consolidate Nigeria's previous efforts in securing peace, which involved tremendous sacrifice in terms of precious human lives, as well as huge investment in financial resources. There is a potential risk of Liberia sliding back into anarchy if progress is not made in achieving sustainable economic development, which will undermine our previous effort. An additional justification is the need to bolster Nigeria's foreign policy and strategic objectives of achieving peace and stability in the West African

subregion. Regional peace and stability constitute important pillars for Nigeria's long-term economic and social development. Moreover, Nigeria has historically provided leadership for achieving these goals in the African continent, both through ECOWAS and the African Union.

I also wish to point out that complementary to the above considerations, and in furtherance of our economic diplomacy objectives, Nigeria is intensifying bilateral discussions aimed at facilitating and enhancing the participation of Nigerian businesses in Liberia's emerging investment opportunities, as a means of increasing economic cooperation between the two countries.

In the light of the factors highlighted above, and in line with the recommendation of the Federal Executive Council, I am seeking the endorsement of the Senate to grant a debt write-off amounting to \$13 million, as Nigeria's contribution to Liberia's debt relief which will be offset from the recycled income earned by the Nigeria Trust Fund. My request is driven by this Administration's reiterated commitment to adherence to the rule of law, due process and transparency, and is in conformity with the constitutional provisions for providing grants to foreign countries (Section 164, sub-section 2), which stipulate that: "The Federation may make external grants to a foreign State or any international body in furtherance of the foreign policy objectives of Nigeria in such sum and subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the National Assembly".

While thanking you for your tireless efforts in fostering a productive working relationship, please accept. Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours most sincerely,

Signed: UMARUMUSA
YAR'ADUA

4. **Congratulatory Message:**

The Senate President on behalf of the Senate, congratulated the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Teslim K. Folarin on his appointment by the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, as the Amirul-Hajj of the Federal Government for the 2007 Hajj Operations.

5. **Announcements:**

(A) *Letter of Appreciation from Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC):*

The Senate President read a letter from the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) as follows:



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:
Labour House
Plot 820/821
Central Business District:
Fsdetwi Capi>ai RwkSri
ST : 09-2343345, 09-2346042.
09-2344342
Fax: 09-23^542. 09-2343345
E-mail

NIGERIA LABOUR CONGRESS

MOTTO: LABOUR CREATES WEALTH

LAGOS OFFICE:
28. Olojuwon
Off Opelegba
i Roail.
P. O. Rok S20. YaLa.
Lagos. - Nigeria
Fax 0* 5B4028S
22nd October. 2007

Distinguished Senator David Mark President
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly Three Arms Zone Abuja.

Your Excellency,

APPRECIATION OVER THE APPROVAL OF OFFICE SPACE
FOR THE NLC AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

We wish to express our profound appreciation for Your Excellency's gracious approval of an office space at the National Assembly to facilitate the parliamentary liaison of Organised labour. This represents a remarkable recognition of the need for mutually empowering partnership between the National Assembly and the labour movement in Nigeria. If operational, the office would help us track legislative developments

and keep the National Assembly leadership and membership abreast of concerns, activities and views of the NLC and its components.

At this point, we wish to respectfully request Your Excellency to avail us a date for the formal handing over of the office space to the NLC's national leadership.

Once again Sir, we thank you most sincerely for this goodwill gesture and take advantage of this opportunity to convey the assurances of our highest esteem.

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of the Nigeria Labour Congress:

Signed:

Mrs. Ladi Hiya
Ag. President

(B) The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings:

- (i) Imo State Students Association, University of Jos Chapter.
- (ii) Law Students Association, Kogi State University, Kogi State.
- (iii) Saint Mary Catholic Nursery/Primary School, Suleja, Niger State; and
- (iv) Lincoln International School, Kagini, Abuja.

6. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Customs, Excise Tariff, etc (Consolidation) Act (Amendment) Bill 2007 (HB. 1): — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Customs and Excise Management Act (Amendment) Bill 2007 (HB.2): — *Read the First Time.*

7. Motion:

The Environmental Degradation through Mining Activities all over the Country:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do note with serious concern the environmental degradation and total abandonment prevalent in our old mining areas especially Plateau, Enugu, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Kaduna, Kogi, Zamfara, Yobe, Gombe, Kano, Niger, Sokoto, and Benue States;

Notes further the health hazards and ecological destructions caused by mining activities in those areas which have been left un-rehabilitated according to International Convention;

Alarmed that the new Solid Mineral Policy of the Federal Government allows for continued environmental destruction and degradation, without adequate protection to the inhabitants of the mining areas and the ecology;

Observes that there is a complete absence of a compensation clause for both the old and new mining areas thereby causing dissention and disaffection among the various peoples whose areas are mined;

Concerned that the adverse effects on farmland, economic trees, grazing lands, towns and villages of the mining areas has serious consequences on the micro economic activities of the people; and

Concerned also that as in the Niger Delta, lack of consultation and collaboration with Local interests is over heating the polity and if left unchecked would in the future cause a national crises;

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:

- (i) Urge the Ministry of Solid Mineral Development and other relevant agencies to immediately rehabilitate all mining sites and pay adequate compensation with a view to arresting the imminent health crises in the areas;

- (ii) Take a holistic review of the Mineral and Mining Act 2007 to accommodate the interests of the local populace of the mining areas and protect the environment from undue degradation by ensuring implementation of rehabilitation programmes by the Mining Companies (*Senator Bala A. Mohammed*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Solid Mineral Development and other relevant agencies to immediately rehabilitate all mining sites and pay adequate compensation with a view to arresting the imminent health crises in the areas — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Take a holistic review of the Mineral and Mining Act 2007 to accommodate the interests of the local populace of the mining areas and protect the environment from undue degradation by ensuring implementation of rehabilitation programmes by the Mining Companies.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayer (ii) and insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:

"Direct the Committee on Environment to take a holistic review of the Mineral and Mining Act 2007 to accommodate the interest of the local populace of the mining areas" (*Senator Tawar U. Wada*).

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

Question on main Prayer as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Solid Mineral Development and other relevant agencies to immediately rehabilitate all mining sites and pay adequate compensation with a view to arresting the imminent health crises in the areas; and
- (ii) That the Senate do direct the Committee on Environment to take a holistic review of the Mineral and Mining Act 2007 to accommodate the interest of the local populace of the mining areas (S. Res/030/07).

**Committee on Police Affairs: Report
on the Screening of Nominees:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs, on the screening of the following Persons as Chairman/Chief Executive and Members of the Police Service Commission and approve the recommendations:

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION	STATE/ZONE
1.	Mr. Parry B. O. Osanyande, (DIG), Rtd.	Chairman/CEO	Edo/South-South
2.	Hon. Justice Akintola Olufemi Ejiunmi (Rtd), JSC, CON	Full-Time Member	Osun/South West
3.	Mrs. Fatima Abba Kyari Kura	Part-Time Member	Borno/Norfh East
4.	Ms. Comfort Obi (Nigeria Press)	Part-Time Member	Imo/South East
5.	Alhaji Habu Daura	Full-Time Member	Katsina/North West
6.	Dr. Otiye Igbuzor (Non-Governmental Human Rights Organisations in Nigeria)	Part-Time Member	Delta/South-South
7.	Dr. I. I. Adaji, OON (Organized Private Sector)	Part-Time Member	Benue/North Central

(*Senator Gbenga Oggunniya*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Committee Report (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs on the screening of the Chairman/CEO and Members of the Police Service Commission.

Nominees Recommended:

1.	Mr. Parry B. O. Osanyande, (DIG), Rtd.	Chairman/CEO	South-South
2.	Hon. Justice Akintola Olufemi Ejiwunmi (Rtd), JSC, CON	Full-Time Member	South-West
3.	Mrs. Fatima Abba Kyari Kura	Part-Time Member	North-East
4.	Ms. Comfort Obi (Nigeria Press)	Part-Time Member	South-East
5.	Alhaji Habu Daura	Full-Time Member	North-West
6.	Dr. Otiye Igbuzor(Non-Governmental Human Rights Organisations in Nigeria)	Part-Time Member	South-South
7.	Dr. I. I. Adaji, OON (Organized Private Sector)	Part-Time Member	North-Central
	<i>Debate:</i>		

Question:

"Will the Senate approve the nomination of Mr. Parry B. O. Osanyande, (DIG), Rtd (South-South) as the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Agreed to.*

Question:

"Will the Senate approve the nomination of Hon. Justice Akintola Olufemi Ejiwunmi (Rtd), JSC, CON (South-West) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Agreed to.*

Question:

"Will the Senate approve the nomination of Mrs. Fatima Abba Kyari Kura (North-East) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Agreed to.*

Question:

"Will the Senate approve the nomination of Ms. Comfort Obi (Nigeria Press) (South-East) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Agreed to.*

Question:

"Will the Senate approve the nomination of Alhaji Habu Daura (North-West) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Agreed to.*

Question:

"Will the Senate approve the nomination of Dr. Otiye Igbuzor(Non-Governmental Human Rights Organisations in Nigeria) (South-South) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Agreed to.*

Question:

"Will the Senate approve the nomination of Dr. I. I. Adaji, OON, (Organized Private Sector)(North-Central) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Agreed to.*

Chairman to Report progress.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole, considered the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs on the screening of the Chairman/CEO and Members of the Police Service Commission and approved the recommendation.

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Resolved in the Affirmative.

Confirmation of Nominees:

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Parry B. O. Osanyande, (DIG), Rtd (South-South) as the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Mr. Parry B. O. Osanyande, (DIG), Rtd (South South) as the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Police Service Commission accordingly confirmed.

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Hon. Justice Akintola Olufemi Ejiwunmi (Rtd), JSC, CON (South-West) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Hon. Justice Akintola Olufemi Ejiwunmi (Rtd.), JSC, CON (South- West) as a Member of the Police Service Commission accordingly confirmed.

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mrs. Fatima Abba Kyari Kura (North-East) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Mrs. Fatima Abba Kyari Kura (North-East) as a Member of the Police Service Commission accordingly confirmed.

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Ms. Comfort Obi (Nigeria Press) (South-East) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Ms. Comfort Obi (Nigeria Press) (South-East) as a Member of the Police Service Commission accordingly confirmed.

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Habu Daura (North-West) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Alhaji Habu Daura (North-West) as a Member of the Police Service Commission accordingly confirmed.

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. Otive Igbuzor(Non-Governmental Human Rights Organisations in Nigeria) (South-South) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?" — *Agreed to.*

Nomination of 'Dr. Otive Igbuzor (Non-Governmental Human Rights Organisations in Nigeria) (South-South) as a Member of the Police Service Commission accordingly confirmed.

Question:

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. I. I. Adaji, OON, (Organized Private Sector) (North-Central) as a Member of the Police Service Commission.?"¹¹ — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Dr. I.I. Adaji, OON, (Organized Private Sector) (North-Central) as a Member of the Police Service Commission accordingly confirmed.

8. Committee on Establishment and Public Service:

Report on the Screening of the Chairman and Members of Federal Civil Service Commission(FCSC):
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Screening of the following persons as Chairman and Members of Federal Civil Service Commission(FCSC):

S/N	Name	Designation	State of Origin	Cluster of State Represented
1	Amb. Ahmed Al-Gazali, OON, mm	Chairman	Borno	
2	Mrs. Sarah P. Chundung Dokotri	Member	Plateau	Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau
3	Obong Uwah	Member	Akwa Ibom	Akwa Ibom and Cross River
4	Mr. Agbo G. Chukwuemeka	Member	Enugu	Anambra, Ebonyi and Enugu
5	Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande	Member	Osun	Osun and Oyo
6	Amb. Z. M. Kazaure	Member	Jigawa	Kano and Jigawa
7	Dr. A. M. Yabani	Member	Yobe	Bauchi, Yobe and Borno
8	Alhaji Aliyu Wali	Member	Niger	Niger and FCT
9	Amb. I. Bindawa	Member	Katsina	Kaduna and Katsina
10	Chief (Mrs.) Ijeoma A. Umez-Eronini	Member	Imo	Imo and Abia
11	Alhaji Y. A. Yabo	Member	Sokoto	Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara
12	Hajiya Lami Buba	Member	Gombe	Adamawa, Taraba and Gombe
13	Alhaji Yusuf Olowu	Member	Kwara	Kwara and Kogi
14	Dr. J. O. Egberike	Member	Bayelsa	Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa

(Senator Mohammed 1. Ahmed).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Committee Report (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the screening on the Chairman and Members of the Federal Civil Service Commission.

Nominees Recommended:

1.	Amb. Ahmed Al-Gazali, OON, mni	Chairman	—
2.	Mrs. Sarah P. Chundung Dokotri	Member	—
3.	Obong Uwah	Member	North-Central
4.	Mr. Agbo G. Chukwuemeka	Member	South-South
5.	Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande	Member	South-East
6.	Amb. Z. M. Kazaure	Member	South-West
7.	Dr. A. M. Yabani	Member	North-West
			North-East

8.	Alhaji Aliyu Wali	Member	—	North-Central
9.	Amb. I. Bindawa	Member	—	North-West
10.	Chief (Mrs.) Ijeoma A. Umez-Eronini	Member	—	South-East
11.	Alhaji Y. A. Yabo	Member	—	North-West
12.	Hajiya Lami Buba	Member	—	North-East
13.	Alhaji Yusuf Olowu	Member	—	North-Central
14.	Dr. J. O. Egberike	Member	—	South-South

Debate:

Chairman to report progress.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole, considered the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the screening of the Chairman and Members of the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) and deferred further consideration of the Report till the next legislative day.

9. Committee on Foreign Affairs:
Report on the Screening of Nominees:

Consideration of Report deferred to the next legislative day.

10. Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions:
Report on the Alleged N400m Renovation Contract for the Residence of the President of the Senate and Alleged N2.5 Billion smuggled into the 2007 Supplementary Appropriation Bill by the President of the Senate:

Consideration of Report deferred to the next legislative day.

11. Adjournment:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 21st November, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. (Senate Majority Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:55p.m.

David A. B.Mark
President of the Senate