



# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 21 November, 2007

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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, 20th November, 2007 and approved same.

*By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.*

3. **Announcements:**
  - (i) *Letter of Invitation to 2008 Budget Dialogue:*  
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Zaynab A. Kure as follows:



*tutor Zaynab A*

Niger South Senatorial District  
Chairperson Senate Committee on National Planning.  
**Economic Affairs & Poverty Alleviation**

*The Senate President,  
Federal Republic of Nigeria  
NASS - Abuja*

*20th November, 2007*

*Mr Senate President Sir,*

### INVITATION TO A DIALOGUE SESSION ON THE 2008 BUDGET

*The National Democratic Institute, in collaboration with the Senate Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and with the support of the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDG's, has organized a dialogue session with distinguished Senators on the 2008 Budget.*

*The Session is poised to offer a veritable ground where the 2008 Budget and its pro-poor content in line with the MDG's, NEEDs and the seven point economic agenda of the Federal Government will be extensively discussed.*

*All Senators are kindly invited to attend and actively participate in the dialogue session which is scheduled to take place as follows:*

*Date: Thursday, 22nd November, 2007.*

*Venue: Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.*

*Time: 10: 00 a.m. Prompt.*

*Please accept the assurances of the Committee's highest regard.*

*Signed:*

*Senator Zaynab A. Kure*

*Chairperson,*

*Senate Committee on National Planning,*

*Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation.*

(ii) Letter of Appreciation:

The Senate President also read a letter from Senator Grace Folashade Bent as follows:

APPRECIATION FOR ATTENDING THE CONFERMENT  
CEREMONY OF TRADITIONAL TITLES

*Distinguished Senators are kindly informed that our own Distinguish Senator Chief (Dr.) Grace Folashade Bent do hereby humbly wish to express her deep, sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to His Excellency, the Senate President (Distinguished Senator David A. B. Mark) and all Distinguished Senators who made out time, inspite of their very tight schedules to attend the conferment of Traditional Titles of OTUNBA FIMOGBOYE EGBA and ERELU FIMOGBOYE EGBA, on herself and husband by His Royal Majesty, Oba Michael Adedokun Aremu Gbadebo, OkukenuIV, The Alake and Paramount Ruler of Egba Land, which took place at Abeokuta on Saturday the 17th of November, 2007. Your presence there indeed made a whole lot of difference!*

*May God bless and honour you all for gracing the occasion with your distinguished presence.*

*Signed:*

*SENATOR (DR.) GRACE FOLASHADE BENT*

4. Closed Session:

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

Senate in Closed Session — 11. 20 a. m.

Senate in Open Session — 12. 50 p. m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in Closed Session deliberated on matters that will ensure the efficient workings of the Senate.

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

*Current Situation in Bakassi:*

Rising on Rule 42 Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw drew attention of the Senate to the current situation in Bakassi and sought leave of the Senate to present a Motion on the issue the next legislative day.

*Matter to stand over till the next legislative day (Rule 42(2)).*

6. Committee on Niger Delta:

*Motion made and Question Proposed:* That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Niger Delta, on the Niger Delta Crisis (*Senator James E. Manager*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Laid.*

**7. Motion:**

*Frequent Cancellation of Scheduled Flights by Airlines in Nigeria:*

*Motion made and Question Proposed:* That the Senate do note the importance of an efficient air transport system to the economy of any nation;

*Notes* also the additional installation of navigational equipment and systems by the Federal Civil Aviation Authority of Nigeria (FCAA) in Nigerian airports for the attainment of efficient and regular flights;

*Observes* with dismay the increasing rate of cancellation of scheduled flights by Nigerian Airlines in various airports across the country;

*Observes* also that such cancellations are often sudden and without adequate compensation to consumers who have been denied boarding;

*Observes* that this frequent cancellation of flights have assumed an ugly dimension in contravention of section 71 (1) of the Civil Aviation Act 2006 which stipulates niter alia:

*"The Authority shall formulate schemes for payment of suitable compensation by carriers to passengers who are denied boarding, in specified circumstances, on flights from Nigeria to any point outside Nigeria, or on flights within Nigeria, for which they have confirmed reservation, or for any other kind of passenger grievances which in the opinion of the Authority have assumed significant level of public dissatisfaction".*

*Observes* that this frequent and sudden disruption of scheduled flights across the country has resulted in great inconvenience to passengers, loss of man hours, in very many other cases, huge financial losses in business transactions and with serious negative implication for the Nigerian economy; and

*Observes* that this practice is at variance with the intents and purposes of both the Consumer Protection Council Act, 1992 and the Civil Aviation Act, 2006.

*Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:*

- (i) Condemn* the frequent cancellation and disruption of flights by airlines in Nigeria without adequate compensation to passengers;
- (ii) Urge* the President, Commander- in Chief to direct the Federal Civil Aviation Authority (FCAA) to ensure that adequate compensation is paid to passengers who are denied boarding; and
- (iii) Direct* the Committee on Aviation to immediately and urgently come up with proposals for the amendment(s) of the Civil Aviation Act (CAA) 2006 to include provisions for compensation for passengers denied boarding and specific sanction on airlines perpetrating same (*Senator Teslim K. Folarin*).

*Debate:*

*Prayer (i):*

*Question:* That the Senate do condemn the frequent cancellation and disruption of flights by airlines in Nigeria without adequate compensation to passengers;

**Amendment Proposed:**

Immediately after the word "frequent" in line I, *insert* the word "unjustifiable" (*Senator Audu I. Umar*).

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

*Question on main Prayer as amended, put and agreed to.*

*Prayer (ii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the President, Commander- in Chief to direct the Federal Civil Aviation Authority (FCAA) to ensure that adequate compensation is paid to passengers who are denied boarding;

Prayer (Hi):

*Question:* That the Senate do direct the Committee on Aviation to immediately and urgently come up with proposals for the amendment(s) of the Civil Aviation Act (CAA) 2006 to include provisions for compensation for passengers denied boarding and specific sanction on airlines perpetrating same.

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out Prayers (it) and (Hi) and insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:*

"That the Senate do direct the Committee on Aviation to ensure that the FCAA gives effect to the provision of section 71(1) of the Civil Aviation Act 2006" (*Senator Ike Ekweremadu*).

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

*Question on the main Prayer as amended, put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

- (i) That the Senate do condemn the frequent unjustifiable cancellation and disruption of flights by Airlines in Nigeria without adequate compensation to passenger; and
- (ii) That the Senate do direct the Committee on Aviation to ensure that the FCCA gives effect to the provision of section 71(1) of the Civil Aviation Act 2006 (**S. Res/032/07**).

**7. Extension of Time of Sitting:**

*Motion made and Question Proposed:* That the Senate do sit this day beyond the time appointed of its sittings (*Senate Majority Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

**8. Committee on Establishment and Public Service:**

*Report on the Screening of Nominees:*

*Motion made and Question Proposed:* That the Senate do resume the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service, on the screening of the following persons as Chairman and Members of the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) and approve the recommendations:

| S/N | Name                                                         | Designation | State of Origin | Cluster of State Represented |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1   | Amb. Ahmed Al-Gazali, OON, mni                               | Chairman    | Borno           |                              |
| 2   | Mrs. Sarah P. Chundung Dokotri<br>( <i>Not recommended</i> ) | 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 |

(Senate Majority Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

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

Question put and agreed to.

### (SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

#### **Resumption of the 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 | — North-West    |
|      |                                     | Member   | — South-South   |
| 2.   | Obong Uwah                          | Member   | — South-East    |
| 3.   | Mr. Agbo G. Chukwuemeka             | Member   | — South-West    |
| 4.   | Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande           | Member   | — North-West    |
| 5.   | Amb. Z. M. Kazaure                  | Member   | — North-East    |
| 6.   | Dr. A. M. Yabani                    | Member   | — North-Centra  |
| 7.   | Alhaji Aliyu Wali                   | Member   | — North-West    |
| 8.   | Amb. I. Bindawa                     | Member   | — South-East    |
| 9.   | Chief (Mrs.) Ijeoma A. Umez-Eronini | Member   | — North-West    |
| 10.  | Alhaji Y. A. Yabo                   | Member   | — North-East    |
| 1 i. | Hajiya Lami Buba                    | Member   | — North-Central |
| 12.  | Alhaji Yusuf Olowu                  | Member   | — South-South   |
| 13.  | Dr. J. O. Egberike                  |          |                 |

##### *Nominee not Recommended:*

|    |                                |        |                 |
|----|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| 1. | Mrs. Sarah P. Chundung Dokotri | Member | — North-Central |
|----|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------|

##### *Debate:*

|    |                                |          |                                  |
|----|--------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Amb. Ahmed Al-Gazali, OON, mni | Chairman | — North-West — <i>Agreed to.</i> |
| 2. | Obong Uwah                     | Member   | — South-South — <i>Negated.</i>  |
| 3. | Mr. Agbo G. Chukwuemeka        | Member   | — South-East — <i>Agreed to.</i> |

|     |                                     |        |                                                  |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 4.  | Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande           | Member | — South-West — <i>Agreed to.</i>                 |
| 5.  | Amb. Z. M. Kazaure                  | Member | — North-West — <i>Agreed to.</i>                 |
| 6.  | Dr. A. M. Yabani                    | Member | — North-East — <i>Agreed to.</i>                 |
| 7.  | Alhaji Aliyu Wali                   | Member | — North-Central — <i>Agreed to.</i>              |
| 8.  | Amb. I. Bindawa                     | Member | — North-West — <i>Agreed to.</i>                 |
| 9.  | Chief (Mrs.) Ijeoma A. Umez-Eronini |        | — South-East — <i>Agreed to,</i>                 |
|     | Member                              |        | — North-West — <i>Agreed to.</i>                 |
| 10. | Alhaji Y. A. Yabo                   | Member | — North-East — <i>Agreed to.</i>                 |
| 11. | Hajiya Lami Buba                    | Member | — North-Central — <i>Agreed to.</i>              |
| 12. | Alhaji Yusuf Olowu                  | Member | — South-South — <i>Agreed to.</i>                |
| 13. | Dr. J. O. Egberike                  | Member |                                                  |
|     | <i>Nominee not Recommended:</i>     |        | — North-Central — <i>Consideration deferred.</i> |
| 1.  | Mrs. Sarah P. Chundung Dokotri      | Member |                                                  |

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 approved the nomination of 12 nominees, deferred consideration of 1 nominee and rejected the nomination of 1 nominee.

*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 Amb. Ahmed Al-Gazali, OON, mni (North-West) as the Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Amb. Ahmed Al-Gazali, OON, mni (North-West) as the Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mrs Sarah P. Chundung Dokotri (North-Central) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — *Consideration deferred.*

*Nomination of Mrs. Sarah P. Chundung Dokotri (North-Central) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly deferred.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Obong Uwah (South-South) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — *Negated.*

*Nomination of Obong Uwah (South-South) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly rejected.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Agbo G. Chukwuemeka (South-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Mr. Agbo G. Chukwuemeka (South-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande (South-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande (South-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Amb. Z. M. Kazaure (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Amb. Z. M. Kazaure (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. A. M. Yabani (North-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Dr. A. M. Yabani (North-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Aliyu Wali (North-Central) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Alhaji Aliyu Wali (North-Central) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Amb. I. Bindawa (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Amb. I. Bindawa (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Chief (Mrs) Ijeoma A. Umez-Eronini (South-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Chief (Mrs) Ijeoma A. Umez-Eronini (South-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Y. A. Yabo (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Alhaji Y. A. Yabo (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Hajiya Lami Buba (North-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Hajiya Eami Buba (North-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Yusuf Olowu (North-Central) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Mr. Agbo G. Chukwuemeka (South-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande (South-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande (South-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Amb. Z. M. Kazaure (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Amb. Z. M. Kazaure (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. A. M. Yabani (North-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Dr. A. M. Yabani (North-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Aliyu Wali (North-Central) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Alhaji Aliyu Wali (North-Central) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Amb. I. Bindawa (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Amb. I. Bindawa (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Chief (Mrs) Ijeoma A. Umez-Eronini (South-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Chief (Mrs) Ijeoma A. Umez-Eronini (South-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Y. A. Yabo (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Alhaji Y. A. Yabo (North-West) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Hajiya Lami Buba (North-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Hajiya Lami Buba (North-East) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Yusuf Olowu (North-Central) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Alhaji Yusuf Olowu (North-Central) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. J. O. Egberike (South-South) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission?" — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Dr. J. O. Egberike (South-South) as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission accordingly confirmed.*

9. **Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions:**  
***Report on the Alleged rWOOm 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.*

10. **Request for Virement:**

*Consideration of Report deferred to the next legislative day.*

11. **Committee on Foreign Affairs:**  
***Report on the Screening of Nominees:***

*Consideration of Report deferred to the next legislative day.*

12. **Adjournment:**

*And it being 2.20 p.m. the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Thursday, 22nd November, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.*

*Adjourned accordingly at 2:20p.m.*

**David A. B. Mark**  
*President of the Senate*