



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 9th September, 2008

1. The Senate met at 10.10 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, 13th August, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Remarks by the Senate President:**



The President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, HIS EXCELLENCY,
SENATOR DAVID A. B. MARK GCON ON THE RESUMPTION OF THE SENATE ON
TUESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2008**

Your Excellency, The Deputy Senate President,

Your Excellency, The Senate Leader,

Your Excellencies, Principal Officers of the Senate,

My Bosses, Distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,

I wish to heartily and most sincerely welcome all of you back from your well deserved recess.

As I welcome you back today, let me also acknowledge with pride and a deep sense of satisfaction, the fact that most of our Committees were at work during the recess. Many Committees continued with their oversight activities while at the same time, Members kept close ties with their respective Constituencies. I commend you all for the various efforts calculated towards making your impact felt by your Constituents and urge you to sustain the tempo; I am however aware that our main or primary duty is here in Abuja. This notwithstanding we need to draw a balance between Abuja and our Constituencies, bearing in mind, the old adage that a river that forgets its source shall go dry prematurely. But our main duty is here in Abuja.

I also wish to appreciate and commend you for your prompt response to the call to duty by cutting short your break and returning to the Chamber on the 13th of August to consider and pass the 2008 Budget Amendment Bill. I thank you for placing national issues above personal consideration and urge you to maintain this spirit of patriotism and nationalism.

Let me also welcome back in a special way, our Colleagues who within the period of the recess undertook the Lesser Hajj [Umrah]. I am sure the trip would be of immense blessings to the Senate and the nation at large.

Worthy of note is also the fact that the annual Muslim Ramadan fast began shortly before our resumption. May the blessings of the Ramadan fast be upon us all and the nation as we pray for the successful completion of the special month in the Muslim Calendar.

As we return, the expectation of the people is naturally and rightly high. Among others, our people anxiously await action on the constitutional amendment.

You would recall that before we proceeded on recess, we had announced the names of our Colleagues who would represent us in the Constitution Review Committee.

It is heartwarming to note that the House of Representatives has also named its membership. We can for all intent and purposes declare that we are set to kick start the process. The Joint Committee should be inaugurated early next week, God willing.

I am confident that the various Committees would accord all the pending bills the deserved attention and ensure that they are expeditiously attended to. On this note, I urge all Committee Chairmen to ensure that bills which have been referred to their Committees are returned for necessary legislative action within the shortest possible time. Already, the Body of Principal Officers has requested the Business & Rules Committee to come up with the comprehensive table showing the distribution of such pending bills. I appeal to all Committee Chairmen to expedite action on this so that we can collectively live up to the expectation of our people. I equally want to assure all of us that no report received from any Committee will be swept under the carpet.

While we look forward to receiving the 2009 budget estimates, I wish to remind the Executive of the overriding desire for early passage of the Budget. For this to materialize, the National Assembly would require adequate time. It is therefore our desire that we receive the Budget on time to enable us conclude necessary Legislative action that would make it possible for the bill to be signed into law on 1st January, 2009. Discussions between the National Assembly Committees and the Executive is important to ensure this.

At this juncture, I wish to assure all Nigerians that our determination and commitment to the enactment of Laws that will positively touch on the lives of our citizens remains unshaken. This Senate shall not deviate from its earlier covenant with the people. We shall continue to conduct our affairs in a transparent and open manner. We welcome constructive inputs and criticism and encourage the general public to take interest in our affairs and activities.

To our invaluable friends, members of the press, we will continue to solicit your partnership in the project Nigeria and welcome your constructive criticism in the course of your Legislative reportage. We urge you to resist the desire and temptation to promote grandstanding which is not likely to positively impact on the lives of the people whom we represent. You should therefore continue to focus your attention on your anticipated role expectations of educating and informing the public on activities within the National Assembly.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, let me once more convey the unquantifiable appreciation of the Leadership for the support and cooperation it has continued to enjoy from all our bosses. On behalf of the Body of Principal Officers, I wish to renew the assurances to be fair, just and equitable in all decisions and above all to be guided by the fear of God.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, I once more warmly welcome you back I look forward to a result oriented Session.

Thank you and May the good (Lord) Almighty God bless and protect all of us.

Signed:

Senator David A. B. Mark [GCON]

President of the Senate

4. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Public Procurement Act (Amendment) Bill 2008 (SB. 125) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) National Centre for Prisoners Reformation and Rehabilitation Bill 2008 (SB. 112) — *Read the First Time.*
- (Hi) Pharmacists Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (8B. 117) — *Read the First Time.*

5. Ad-hoc Committee on a Full Scale Investigation on the Management of the Nation's Sports: Report on the Ad-hoc Committee on a Full Scale Investigation on the Management of the Nation's Sports:

Rising under Order 43, the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Heineken Lokpobiri explained the inability of the Committee to present its report and sought the leave of the Senate to lay the report the next legislative day.

Question put and agreed to.

Laying of Report deferred till the next legislative day.

6. Committee on Capital Market:

Report on the Institute of Capital Market Registrars (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB. 109):

Rising under Order 43, the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Ganiyu Solomon explained the inability of the Committee to present its report and sought the leave of the Senate to lay the report on another legislative day.

Question put and agreed to.

Laying of Report deferred till another legislative day.

1. 2008 Budget Proposal For the Universal Service Provision Fund:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, on the 2008 Budget Proposal for the Universal Service Provision Fund (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Communications to report within two weeks.

8. Confirmation of Nominations:

Confirmation of Appointments of Chairman and Members of Fiscal Responsibility Commission:

Motion made: That the Senate consider the request of Mr. President Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nominations of the following persons as Chairman/Members of the Board of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC):

S/No	NAME	DESIGNATION	GEO-POLITICAL ZONE
1.	Aliyu Yelwa	Chairman	North-West
2.	Debo Adesina	Member	Civil Society
3.	Suleman Abubakar	Member	Organised Private Sector
4.	Mohammed Z. Sada	Member	Organised Private Sector
5.	Yau Gimba	Member	North-East (Gombe)
6.	Sylvanus E. Ogoriseme Mordi	Member	South-South (Delta)
7.	Adewuni Abitoye	Member	South-West (Ondo)
8.	Shuaibu Abdullahi Kore	Member	North Central (Nasarawa)
9.	Benson Upah	Member	Organised Labour
10.	Chris Anaetochukwu Okewulonu	Member	South-East (Imo)

(Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Finance to report within two weeks.

10. Confirmation of Nominations:

Confirmation of Appointments of Chairman and Members of the Board of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC):

Motion made: That the Senate consider the request of Mr. President Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nominations of the following persons as Chairman and Members of the Board of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC):

S/NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	GEO-POLITICAL ZONE
1.	Chief Ernest Shonekan	Chairman	South-West
2.	Hakeem Sanusi	Member	South-West
3.	Mansur Ahmed	Member	North-West
4.	Bernard Verr	Member	North-Central
5.	Clement Owunna	Member	South East
6.	Comfort Sira Wiwa	Member	South-South

7.	Joe Kyari-Gadzama	Member	North-East
8.	Aisha Sheikh	Member	North-West

(Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Works to report within two weeks.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 10th September, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.
(Senate Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 11.00 a.m.

David A. B. Mark, GCON
President of the Senate