



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 17th September, 2008

1. The Senate met at 10.15 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, 16th September, 2008 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:

 - (a) Clerk, Deputy Clerk and other officers of the Zimbabwean Parliament; and
 - (b) National Association of Banking and Finance Students, Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma, Edo State.
4. **Presentation of Bills:**
 - (i) National Order of Precedence Bill 2008 (SB. 137) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (ii) Remuneration of Former Presidents, Heads of States, Heads of Federal Legislative Houses and Chief Justices of the Federation Bill 2008 (SB. 153) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (iii) Electronic Fraud (Prohibition) Bill 2008 (SB. 185) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (iv) Recovery of Premises Act CAP 544 LFN 1990 (Amendment) Bill 2008 (SB. 193) - *Read the First Time.*
5. **Presentation of Committee Sessional Reports:**

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Sessional Reports of the under-listed Committees for the period June 2007 - June 2008 (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

The following Committee Chairmen Laid their Sessional Reports:

- (i) Committee on Commerce;
- (ii) Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development;
- (iii) Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters;
- (iv) Committee on Health;
- (v) Committee on Finance;
- (vi) Committee on Inter-Parliamentary;
- (vii) Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream);
- (viii) Committee on Industry;
- (ix) Committee on Capital Market;
- (x) Committee on Privatisation;
- (xi) Committee on National Identity Card and National Population Commission;
- (xii) Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa/NEPAD;
- (xiii) Committee on Foreign and Local Debts;
- (xiv) Committee on Solid Minerals;
- (xv) Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Government Affairs; and
- (xvi) Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC),

6. Committee on Information and Media:

Report on the Freedom of Information Bill 2008 (SB. 19):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Information and Media, on the Freedom of Information Bill 2008 [*Senator Ayogu Eze*].

Question put and agreed to:

Report Laid.

7. Committee on Communications:

Report on the Nigerian Communications Commission 2008 Budget Proposal:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Communications, on the Nigerian Communications Commission 2008 Budget Proposal (*Senator Sylvester N. Anyanwu*).

Question put and agreed to:

Report Laid.

8. Committee on Communications:***Report on the 2008 Budget Proposal For the Universal Service Provision Fund;***

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Communications on the 2008 Budget Proposal For the Universal Service Provision Fund (*Senator Sylvester N. Anyanwu*).

Question put and agreed to:

Report Laid.

9. Motion:***Immediate Construction of the Second Niger Bridge Onitsha:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes the present dilapidated and precarious condition of the bridge across the River Niger at Onitsha which has been a source of concern to many well-meaning Nigerians especially Engineering Experts;

Aware that the bridge constructed and completed in 1965 is the only link between the South-Eastern States and the rest of the country and therefore occupies a significant position in the economy of this country;

Aware that as a result of the above reason, the bridge has seen very heavy human and vehicular traffic crossing over it through the years resulting in its rapid deterioration and structural weakness;

Aware also that the Federal Government's effort at maintaining the bridge has been anything but satisfactory the last maintenance being in the year 2005 after so much public outcry;

Concerned that the Federal Government has continued to ignore calls for the construction of a new bridge across the River Niger to prevent an immense disaster in the event of the collapse of the present bridge; and

Concerned that the muted idea of a private sector participation in the construction of this bridge is to say the least most unacceptable to the people of the South-East who demand nothing more than equitable and fair sharing of infrastructural development amongst the different geo-political zones in the country.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) ***Urge*** the Federal Government through the Ministry of Transport to as a matter of urgency take drastic steps to review the already awarded contract for the construction of a Second Niger Bridge and find out the reasons for its non-execution;
- (ii) ***Urge*** the Federal Government to review the present Public/Private Sector participatory arrangement for the construction of the Second Niger Bridge, with a view to terminating the contract as it is exploitative and anti-people;
- (iii) ***Urge*** the Federal Government to appropriate funds for the project in the 2009 Budget instead of the Public-Private Sector arrangement due to its importance to the economy of the South-East and the country in general to avert a possible calamity that will occur in the event of a collapse of the existing bridge; and
- (iv) ***Urge*** the Federal Government to ensure that another round of thorough maintenance work is immediately carried out on the existing bridge to prevent it from further deterioration as it is on the brink of collapse (*Senator Joy Emodi*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provisions in prayers (i) to (iv) and insert the following instead thereof:
 "Direct the Senate Committee on Works to ascertain:

- (i) the current situation of the bridge; and
- (ii) the position of the Public/Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement in respect of the Second Niger bridge and report within two weeks" (*Senator Ike Ekweremadu*).

Question that the amendment be made and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do direct the Committee on Works to ascertain the current situation of the bridge; and
- (ii) That the Senate do direct the Committee on Works to ascertain the position of the Public/Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement in respect of the Second Niger bridge and report within two weeks (*S. Res/006/2/08*).

10. Confirmation of Nominees:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nominations of the following persons as Chairman and Commissioners of the Nigerian Law Reform Commission (NLRC):

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION	GEO-POLITICAL ZONE
1.	Hon. Justice Atu Kalgo	Commissioner/Chairman	North West
2.	Prof. CO. Okonkwo (SAN)	Commissioner	South East
3.	Mr. Roland Ewubare	Commissioner	South South
4.	Mr. Kefas Magaji	Commissioner	North East

— (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to report within one week.

11. Confirmation of Nominations:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nomination of Mr. Emmanuel Teri Vahyala (*Adamawa State*), as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to report within one week.

12. Prohibition of Monopolies in Trade, Commerce or Industry Bill 2008 (SB.87):

Consideration of Bill deferred to the next legislative day.

13. Gas Flaring (Prohibition and Punishment) Bill 2008 (SB. 126):

Consideration of Bill deferred to the next legislative day.

14. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Thursday, 18th September, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.
(Senate Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 12.55p.m.

David A. B. Mark, GCON

*President, Senate of the Federal Republic
of Nigeria.*