



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 5th November, 2008

1. The Senate met at 10.20 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, 4th November, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Closed Session:**
Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into a Closed Session to deliberate on issues relating to the Senate Second Retreat scheduled to hold in Kano (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Closed Session — **10: 35 p.m.**

Senate in Open Session — **11: 05 p.m.**

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session discussed issues relating to the Senate Second Retreat scheduled to hold in Kano.

4. **Announcements:**
 - (i) The Senate President acknowledged the presence of Staff and Students of Peoples's Comprehensive Academy (Secondary Commercial & Vocational Institute) Nyanya/Mararaba Boundary, New Karu L.G.A, Nasarawa State; and ASACS International Staff Basic School, Bwari, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings.
 - (ii) *Meeting with the Honourable Minister of Finance:*
The Senate President announced the scheduled Meeting of Senate Standing Committees with the Hon. Minister of Finance as follows:
 - (A) **Thursday. 06 November. 2008 at 10.00 a.m.**
 - (i) Committee on Finance

- (ii) Committee on Appropriation
- (iii) Committee on Works
- (iv) Committee on Education
- (v) Committee on Health
- (vi) Committee on Housing and Urban Development
- (vii) Committee on Federal Character and Inter-governmental Affairs
- (viii) Committee on Commerce
- (ix) Committee on Niger Delta
- (x) Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

(B) Friday, 07 November, 2008, at 10.00 a.m.

- (i) Committee on Power, Steel Development and Metallurgy
- (ii) Committee on Water Resources
- (iii) Committee on Environment and Ecology
- (iv) Committee on Defence
- (v) Committee on Air Force
- (vi) Committee on Navy
- (vii) Committee on Communications
- (viii) Committee on Petroleum (Upstream)
- (ix) Committee on Police
- (x) Committee on Foreign Affairs

(C) Friday, 07 November, 2008 at 3.00 p.m.

- (i) Committee on Industry
- (ii) Committee on Home Affairs
- (iii) Committee on Land Transport
- (iv) Committee on Science and Technology
- (v) Committee on Marine Transport

- (vi) Committee on National Planning
- (vii) Committee on Solid Minerals
- (viii) Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters
- (ix) Committee on Aviation
- (x) Committee on Information and Media

(D) Monday, 17 November, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

- (i) Committee on Women and Youth
- (ii) Committee on Sports
- (iii) Committee on Petroleum (Downstream)
- (iv) Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity
- (v) Committee on INEC
- (vi) Committee on ID and NPC
- (vii) Committee on Federal Capital Territory
- (viii) Committee on Establishment and Public Service
- (ix) Committee on Culture and Tourism
- (x) Committee on Local and Foreign Debts
- (xi) Committee on Public Accounts

(E) Monday, 17 November, 2008 at 3.00 p.m.

- (i) Committee on Gas
- (ii) Committee on Privatisation
- (iii) Committee on Banking and Other Financial Institutions
- (iv) Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions
- (v) Committee on Rules and Business
- (vi) Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa
- (vii) Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes
- (viii) Committee on Capital Market
- (ix) Committee on National Security and Intelligence

- (x) Committee on Anti-corruption
- (xi) Committee on Inter-parliamentary Matters

4. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Ayodele S. Arise invited the attention of the Senate to the Presidential Elections in the United States of America on 4th November, 2008 and the Victory of Senator Barack Obama. He sought and obtained the leave of Senate to introduce a Motion on the Matter.

Question that the Matter be debated forthwith, put and agreed to.

Motion made: That the Senate, aware that on 4th of November 2008, Senator Barack Obama became the President-elect of the United States of America thus marking the first time that a black man will attain such position in the 232 years history of American democracy;

Notes that by this election, America has once again proved to the world that nothing is impossible in America;

Notes further that though the 15th amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the black people of America the right to vote, this was only made practicable through the Voting Rights Act of Congress of 1965 and then the advancement of the American society to self-correct cannot be better demonstrated than through a man born only three years before America truly gave the black man the right to vote, has forty three years after become the President-elect of the United States of America;

Notes further and praises the roles of men of good character that were harbingers of this once in a life time occurrence :-

- It was Abraham Lincoln who in 1863 through the Emancipation Proclamation initiated the freedom of the slaves and this led to the 13th amendment of 1865 which abolished slave trade;
- Andrew Johnson supported, through the 15th amendments, the rights of the blacks to vote in 1870;
- The Kennedy dynasty saw to the civil right laws of the mid-sixties and enforced school desegregation; and
- Martin Luther King declared in his famous speech of August 1963 that *"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a Nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character"*.
- Today that dream has become a reality as Obama has been judged by America by the content of his character and not by his colour;

Notes further that Barack Obama is the 16th Senator to become the President of the United States of America; George Bush the 43rd President of the United States is the 16th Governor to become the President of America. This lesson should not be lost on this Senate as a reminder of the enormous responsibility Senators carry as leaders of the nation and that each one of them is a potential President of Nigeria and must, as such, carry themselves in such light through our activities both in the private and public arena;

Notes further that the black race represents less than 14% of the population of America yet a black man has been chosen over and above a white man and that clearly indicates that America and the Americans represent the best of the human race and their action is worthy of emulation.

Appreciates that America has demonstrated that quality, content of character and ability, stands shoulders high above colour of skin, geographical location of origin and other parochial issues when it comes to leadership of any nation and that America has defeated racial prejudice in all forms.

Notes further that America has through this election demonstrated that it is the nation for men of all races; a melting point of ideas and ideals and that this will in no small way renew the commitment of all nations to identify with America as a country where any man can attain any dream without limitation based on colour or gender; this is the opening gambit for women and other minorities to live the true creed that all men are created equal;

Notes also that of the 43 past Presidents of America, almost all can trace their roots to Europe hence this explains some of the deliberate efforts made by America to come to the aid of Europe at any point of need in time, the George Marshall plan of August 1947, when America decided to rebuild Europe after World War II, culminated in the fastest economic growth Europe ever witnessed in history. America invested about \$13 billion which could be an equivalent or over \$13 trillion of today's money. Posterity now beckons on the first American President of the African origin to as a matter of urgency set up a plan for Africa's development;

Aware that every depression in America has been reversed through massive construction and employment, and that Africa presents a fertile ground for such massive construction and industrialization which is a double edged sword for developing Africa while also empowering American businessmen; and

Believes that this is a season of change and hope for a new world.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) **To** congratulate Senator Barack Obama and the American people on this unique achievement;
- (ii) **Urge** through appropriate channels President-elect Senator Barack Obama to seize this historic opportunity to put in place a Marshall plan for the development of Africa such that Africa will be at par with other continents of the world;
- (iii) **To** strengthen our commitment to this Nation by working actively to remove all things that divides us as a Nation. In light of this to recommend to the Constitution Review Committee to forthwith remove any description bearing State of Origin, zoning and other limiting factors that can hamper our quest to become a great Nation and replace such with State or place of residence; and
- (iv) **Urge** the people of Nigeria and the rest of the world to pray for the President-elect for a successful tenure as President of the United States of America (*Senator Ay odele S. Arise*).

Debate

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do congratulate Senator Barack Obama and the American people on this unique achievement — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge through appropriate channels President-elect Senator Barack Obama to seize this historic opportunity to put in place a Marshall plan for the development of Africa such that Africa will be at par with other continents of the world — *Negatived.*

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate do strengthen our commitment to this Nation by working actively to remove all things that divides us as a Nation. In light of this to recommend to the Constitution Review Committee to forthwith remove any description bearing State of Origin, zoning and other limiting factors that can hamper our quest to become a great Nation and replace such with State or place of residence — *Negatived.*

Prayer (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the people of Nigeria and the rest of the world to pray for the President-elect for a successful tenure as president of the United States of America. — *Negatived.*

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do congratulate Senator Barack Obama and the American people on this unique achievement (**5. Res/016/2/08**).

5. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Nigeria Coast Guard (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB. 107).

Presentation of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

- (ii) Federal Medical Centres BUI 2008 (SB. 184).

Presentation of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

- (iii) Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria (Establishment, etc) BUI 2008 (**SB. 152**).

Presentation of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

- (iv) Deep Offshore and Inland Basin Production Sharing Contracts Act (Amendment) BUI 2008 (SB. 213).

Presentation of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

6. State of Naval Ordinance Depot Kirikiri, Lagos and the Need to Avoid a National Calamity:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another legislative day.

7. Committee on Power, Steel Development and Metallurgy:

Report on the Hydro-Electric Power Producing Areas Development Commission Bill 2008 (SB. 03): (*Adjourned Debate - Tuesday, 4th November, 2008*).

Further consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

8. Nigerian Trade and Competition Commission (Establishment) Bill 2008 (SB.80):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

9. Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill 2008 (SB. 142):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Thursday, 6th November, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.
(*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.20 p.m

David A. B. Mark, GCON

President,

Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.