



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (2)

Thursday, 18th December, 2008

1. The Senate met at 1.30 p.m. The Senate President read prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings (1) of Thursday, 18th December, 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

A SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, SENATOR DAVID A. B. MARK. GCON. ON THE 18TH OF DECEMBER, 2008 TO MARK THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR RECESS.

Distinguished colleagues, let me begin by first of all thanking God Almighty for seeing us, and our nation peacefully to the end of yet another year. In a year in which many nations have been battered by the ravages of nature and the foibles of man, our nation has largely been spared from agony and pain. For us as legislators, there are many more reasons to be thankful to God.

We have pursued with vigour, a legislative agenda that continues to have the betterment of the lot of the ordinary citizen as its driving force and center piece. In this connection, I must express my deep appreciation and gratitude to all of us for the prompt passage of the 2009 budget - even before the commencement period of the budget.

Distinguished colleagues, it is obvious to me that we were led by very deep patriotic convictions and empathy with the common man to overlook the many shortcomings of the budget proposals, and therefore averted the crippling stalemate that would have arisen between the legislature and the executive. I have no doubt that once again, history would record that when it mattered most, we as distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic were fired by noble ideals. I am convinced that as the New Year unfolds, our deliberations will continue to be guided by higher principles. We must remain unflinching and unwavering in our determination to place our nation above self, and the national interest above personal and parochial considerations.

It is my fervent prayer that the same ideals would guide us all as we embark next year on our legislative tasks, including the very solemn and crucial duty of amending the 1999 constitution.

I would like to commend our time-consciousness, and to urge that we keep it up and even improve upon it. The "African time" syndrome is just an excuse for sloppiness, and even tardiness. A nation that cannot keep to time cannot make progress.

Sloppiness and tardiness are traits that a nation in a hurry to develop cannot afford. They retard progress and impede the accomplishment of set objectives. As legislators, and therefore gatekeepers of the realm of the public good and democracy, we must leave a legacy of time-consciousness, of diligence and adroit pursuit of legislative goals. Punctuality and regularity must remain our motto, not only in the discharge of our legislative tasks, including our committee and oversight assignments, but generally, in all spheres of our lives.

I am glad that those who attend Senate functions now know that they must arrive on time. Distinguished colleagues, we must continue to show the way so that others may follow.

I thank you all, distinguished colleagues, for the candour, zeal and patriotism that you have all brought to bear in the discharge of our legislative assignments. It is my sincere wish that the coming year will fill you with even greater vigour and wisdom. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in advance.

God bless you all.

Senator David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate

4. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 13th January, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (Senate Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 2.20 p.m.

David A. B. Mark, GCON
*President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*