



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 13 February, 2008

1. The Senate met at 10.05 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, 12th February, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. Announcements:
 - (i) *Conference Committee on Appropriation Bill 2008:*
The Senate President named the underlisted as Senate Conferees on the 2008 Appropriation Bill:
 - (a) Senator Iyiola Omisore
 - (b) Senator Muhammad Maccido
 - (c) Senator Patrick E. Osakwe
 - (d) Senator Joy I. Emodi
 - (e) Senator Nicholas Y. Ugbane
 - (f) Senator Osita B. Izunaso
 - (g) Senator Audu I. Umar
 - (h) Senator Ahmed Makarfi
 - (i) Senator Moh'd Muhammed
 - (J) Senator Smart Adeyemi
 - (k) Senator Heineken Lokpobiri
 - (ii) The Senate President announced that there would be the conferment of the Nigerian National Honours, 2008 by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Date: 14th February, 2008

Time: 3: 00. p.m.

Venue: Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

- (iii) The Senate President read a letter from the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters as follows:



OFFICE:
Federal Secretariat Complex,
Phase 11, Shehu Shagari Way,
Garki, Abuja.
Tel: 09-2345252
Fax: 09-2345355
Email: sanass2005@yahoo.co.uk

OUT REACH:
Three Arms Zone, National
Assembly Complex, Maiama
Abuja. Tel/Fax: 09-2340475

SAP/NASS/102/VII

11-02-08

*The Senate Leader, Senate
Chambers, National Assembly
Complex, Abuja.*

My Dear Leader,

**FORWARDING OF INVITATION FOR INTERACTIVE
VALENTINE DINNER**

I wish to respectfully forward herewith invitation cards for Distinguished Senators for the Interactive Valentine Dinner with Distinguished Senators and the Executive Arm at the Congress Hall of the Transcorp Hilton Hotel on Thursday, 14th February, 2008.

Time: Dress 8.00 p.m.

Code: Smart Casual

Please accept my highest regards and consideration as I look forward to your attendance.

Signed:
Senator (Princess) Florence Ita-Giwa, OON
Special Adviser to the President
on National Assembly Matters

4. (A) Conferment of National Honour on the Senate President:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do note with pleasure the conferment of the National Honour of Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) on the Senate President, *Senator David Alechenu Bonaventure Mark*, by the President, Commander-in-Chief. Umaru Musa Yar'Adua;

Observes that the honour bestowed on the Senate President is in recognition of his selfless and dedicated service to the Nation and also a confirmation of his achievements and commitment to the advancement of the ideals of democracy in Nigeria;

Notes that the honour conferred on the Senate President is by extension an honour to the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as an Institution.

Accordingly resolve:

- (i) That the Senate do congratulate the Senate President for this great honour of the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) and wish him many more dedicated service to the fatherland; and
- (ii) That all Senators are hereby enjoined to accompany the Senate President to the investiture ceremonies (*Senator Teslim K. Folarin*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do congratulate the Senate President for this great honour of the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) and wish him many more dedicated service to the fatherland — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Question: That all Senators are hereby enjoined to accompany the Senate President to the investiture ceremonies — *Agreed to*.

Amendment Proposed:

Add a new Prayer (*Hi*) as follows;

"(*Hi*) That the Clerk of the Senate publish congratulatory message for the Senate President on the award of Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) in at least 4 (four) National Newspapers on behalf of the entire Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria" (*Senator Nicholas Y. Ugbane*).

Question that the amendment made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do congratulate the Senate President for this great honour of the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) and wish him many more dedicated service to the fatherland;
- (ii) That all Senators are hereby enjoined to accompany the Senate President to the investiture ceremonies; and
- (iii) That the Clerk of the Senate publish congratulatory message for the Senate President on the award of Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) in at least 4 (four) National Newspapers on behalf of the entire Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (**S. Res. /044/08**).

(B) Conferment of National Honour and a Chieftaincy Title on the Deputy Senate President:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do note the conferment of the National Honour of Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR) on the Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu by the President Commander-in-Chief, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

Notes also the conferment of the Chieftaincy title of Ochiagha Ndigbo (Commander General of Igbo Nation) on the Deputy Senate President by the Traditional Ruler of Nri in Anambra State who is the custodian of Igbo culture and tradition; and

Observes that these double honours conferred on the Deputy Senate President are in recognition of his meritorious service to the nation and his people. It is also a strong confirmation of his achievements.

Accordingly resolve:

- (i) That the Senate do congratulate the Deputy Senate President on these double barrel honours of Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR) and Ochiagha Ndigbo and wish him many more meritorious service to his people and the nation;
- (ii) That all Senators are hereby enjoined to accompany the Deputy Senate President to the investiture ceremonies (*Senator Teslim K. Folarin*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do congratulate the Deputy Senate President on these double barrel honours of Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR) and Ochiagha Ndigbo and wish him many more meritorious service to his people and the nation — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (it):

Question: That all Senators are hereby enjoined to accompany the Deputy Senate President to the investiture ceremonies — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do congratulate the Deputy Senate President on these double barrel honours of Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR) and Ochiagha Ndigbo and wish him many more meritorious service to his people and the nation; and
- (ii) That all Senators are hereby enjoined to accompany the Senate President and the Deputy Senate President to the investiture ceremonies (S. Res/045/08).

5. Gruesome **Murder of** Lawrence Nwankwo at **Rima** College, Malaysia:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate concerned about the gruesome murder of Mr. Lawrence Dennis Nwankwo of Obilagu Ukomi-Lokpanta in Umunneochi Local Government Area of Abia State;

Notes that the deceased in October 2005 applied and gained admission to study at Rima College in Malaysia;

Notes also that after satisfying the college requirements left Nigeria on the 7th of December, 2005 with Nigerian International Passport No. A2687685 and a Malaysian visa;

Notes further that on the 28th February, 2006 at about 9:45am, one Mr. Santhriran Ramasay from Rima College, Malaysia called Mr. Dennis Ogbonnaya Nwankwo (the deceased's father that the deceased was killed by unknown persons; and that he has equally informed the Nigerian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur;

Observes that the deceased's father called Pastor Lan Anderson and Dr. Joseph O. T. Odunsanya, Pastors of the church where the deceased worshipped to get the address of the Nigeria High Commission's Office after waiting to hear from the High Commission's Office to no avail;

Observes also that on 17th March, 2006 the deceased's father wrote to the Consular and the Nigeria High Commission in Malaysia for the return of the body of the deceased back to Nigeria; and on the 28th of March, 2006 the Nigeria High Commission in Malaysia replied informing the deceased's father that the Malaysian Police was investigating the cause of his death and that a copy of the same letter has been forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that the High Commission was waiting for directives from Abuja on the matter;

Notes that on the 16th June, 2006 the deceased's father received a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja asking him on the next step to be taken in respect of the remains of the deceased;

Notes also that the response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confused the deceased's father and on the 18th June, 2006 he photocopied the letter sent to the Nigeria High Commission in Malaysia to the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs who has never got in touch with the deceased's father on the matter;

Concerned that this situation has thrown the family of the deceased in total confusion, untold emotional distress, lack of faith in the ability of the Nigerian State to protect the rights and concerns of the citizens living abroad;

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:

- (i) Deplore the shoddy manner in which the Nigeria Government has handled the matter so far;

(ii) Urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nigerian High Commission in Malaysia to **facilitate** the return of the remains of the deceased for a decent burial at Federal Government Cost;

(iii) Urge the Federal Government to exert pressure on the Malaysian Government to expedite investigation into the cause of the murder and be made to pay necessary compensation to the family (*Senator Uche Chukwumerije*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do deplore the shoddy manner in which the Nigeria Government has handled the matter so far — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nigerian High Commission in Malaysia to facilitate the return of the remains of the deceased for a decent burial at Federal Government Cost — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to exert pressure on the Malaysian Government to expedite investigation into the cause of the murder and be made to pay necessary compensation to the family.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayer (Hi) and insert and new Prayer (Hi) instead thereof:

"That the Senate do direct its Committee on Foreign Affairs to investigate the circumstances leading to the death of Mr. Lawrence Nwankwo and the actions or inactions of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and report back to the Senate within 2 (two) weeks (*Senator Wilson Ake*).

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

Further Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

"Condemn in its entirety this gruesome murder of Mr. Lawrence Nwankwo by unknown person(s) at Rima College, Malaysia on the 28th February, 2006 (*Senator Osita Izunaso*).

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

Resolve:

(i) That the Senate do deplore the shoddy manner in which the Nigeria Government has handled the matter so far.

(ii) That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nigerian High Commission in Malaysia to facilitate the return of the remains of the deceased for a decent burial at Federal Government Cost.

(in) That the Senate do direct its Committee on Foreign Affairs to investigate the circumstances leading to the death of Mr. Lawrence Nwankwo and the actions or inactions of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and report back to the Senate within two (2) weeks; and

(iv) That the Senate do condemn in its entirety this gruesome murder of Mr. Lawrence Nwankwo by unknown person(s) at Rima College, Malaysia on the 28th February, 2006 (*S. Res/046/08*).

6. Committee on Foreign Affairs:

Report on the Screening of Dr. Sheikh Saleh Okenwa as a full time Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON):

Consideration of report deferred to the next legislative day.

7. **Adjournment:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 19th February, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1. 05p.m.

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