



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 8 April, 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 Tuesday, 18th March, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. Messages from Mr. President:
The Senate President announced that he had received three letters from the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces which he read as follows:
(A)



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

March 10, 2008

Rt, Hon. David Mark, GCON
President of the Senate, Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

Dear brother,

NOMINATIONS INTO THE BOARD OF THE SECURITIES
AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)

Pursuant to the powers conferred on me under Schedule 5-1 of the Investments and Securities Act 29 of 2007, I am delighted to forward the following names for various appointments into the Board of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), for your consideration and confirmation:

1. Senator Udoma Udo Vdoma
State of Origin: **Akwa Iborn - South/South**
Qualification: **LLB, BL.**
Present Status: Partner, Udoma Udoma and Partners
Nomination: **Part-Time Chairman**
2. Ms. Daisy Sunjuba Ekineh
State/Geo-political zone: Rivers State - South/South Qualification: **B.A (Bcons), M.A. (Dev. Studies)** Present Status: Director, Securities and Investment Services, SEC. Nomination: **Full-Time Commissioner (Operations)**
3. Charles Udora
State /Geo-political zone: **Enugu-South/IEast**
Qualification: **LLB, B. L, MBA, PGD**
Present Status: Director, Investigations & Enforcement, SEC
Nomination: **Full-Time Commissioner (Enforcement)**
4. Name: Lawal Sard Stores
State/Geo-political zone: **Katsina - North/West**
Qualification: **HND (Bus Admin.), PGDM, Cert, in IPS**
Present position: Director, Registration and Recognized Investments Exchanges (RRIE), SEC.
Nomination: **Full-Time Commissioner (Fin. & Admin).**

PART-TIME COMMISSIONERS:

5. Name: Ban. (Mrs.) Ronke Fatade
State/Geo-political zone: Lagos - South/West
Qualification: Lawyer and Finance Expert
Nomination: Part-Time Commissioner
6. Name: Yahaya Alt
State/Geo-political zone: Kogi - North Central
Qualification: Capital market expert

It is to be noted that the current Director-General/Chief Executive of SEC, Mallam Musa Al-Faki is from **Borno** State North/East zone. Dr. Oluwatobi Oyoseso from the South/West zone is the Managing Director of Nigerian Capital Market Institute - an arm of SEC, thus ensuring balance among geo-political' zones, in addition to the qualification and technical competence of the candidates.

Please, accept the assurances of my highest considerations.

Yours Most Sincerely,

Signed: **UMARUMUSA**
YAR'ADUA

(B)



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/I34
Senator David Mark, GCON
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

March 31st, 2008

Dear brother,

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT
OF ELDER LEKAM OFEM OKOI AS A MEMBER OF
FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION

The Federal Character Commission (FCC) is one of the Federal Executive Bodies established under Section 153(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. By the provision of Part 1 (C) of the THIRD SCHEDULE of the 1999 Constitution, the Commission shall comprise a Chairman and one member from each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. In this connection, a vacancy has now arisen in the composition following the expiration of tenure of Elder (Barrister) Lekam Ofem Okoi, the member representing Cross River State in the Federal Character Commission.

I have, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Sections 154(1) and 156(3) of the 1999 Constitution decided to re-appoint Elder (Barrister) Lekam, Ofem Okoi whose Curriculum Vitae is attached hereto as a member of Federal Character Commission for a second term of five (5) years.

In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which states that the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate, I hereby present the nomination of Elder (Barrister) Lekam Ofem Okoi for the kind consideration of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed: UMARU MUSA
YAR'ADUA



PRESIDENT,

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

March 20, 2008

The Senate President, Senate
Chambers, National
Assembly Complex,
Three-Arms Zone, Abuja.

Dear Brother,

PRESENTATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROHIBITION
BILL FOR CONSIDERATION AND PASSAGE INTO
LAW BY THE SENATE

I hereby re-introduce, for formal consideration and passage into law by the Senate, the above named Bill which was not passed at the time the preceding legislature stood dissolved.

This is in deference to the extant rules of the Senate which require that pending Bills be reintroduced before they can be deliberated upon by the incoming legislature.

While I hope that the Bill will receive the usual prompt attention of the Distinguished Members of the Senate, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Most Sincerely,

Signed: UMARUMUSA
YAR'ADUA

4. Announcements:

The Senate President read a letter from the Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu, CFR as follows:

(i)

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**



8th April 2008

His Excellency
Senator David Mark, GCON
President of the Senate
National Assembly Complex
Abuja

Your Excellency,

RIGHT ON THE MARK AT 60

It is with delight that, I on behalf of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria felicitate with you, our leader and our dear President on the occasion of your 60th birthday.

As the entire nation and your friends from all over the world celebrate your 60 years on earth, we join them in thanking God for a worthy life. It is indeed very significant that your 60th birthday comes at a time you are in the service of the National Assembly as its Chairman and the Senate as its President. You have discharged your responsibilities to the satisfaction of all of us and the admiration of the entire public. As President of the Senate, you have brought honour and respect to the institution. Under your leadership the red chambers has become truly the fountain of wisdom from where state craft and popular will flows. You ' have set standards of accountability and humility in public service. You are indeed a role model to the younger generation for who you have as well provided copious and profound road maps to their future in all your endeavour.

Your Excellency, we recall with satisfaction your role in bringing about the era of mobile telephony in Nigeria as communication minister, the sense of unity and patriotism you left behind in Niger State as Military Administrator, your incisive contributions as a member of the Armed Forces Ruling Council and your introduction of servant leadership as a concept in the senate administration. If life were to be man made, yours will be a designer's dream just as it is the delight of historians.

You decorated this sixty years with bright lights in different spheres of life including academics, military career, farming, politics, music, sports and above all philanthropy.

As you mark your 60th birthday, be assured Your Excellency, of our continuous prayer and good wishes for you and your family. We wish you many more years of purposeful life, good health and accomplishments. You are truly a leader in whom we are well pleased.

Happy Birthday our worthy President.

Signed:
Senator **Ike Ekweremadu, CFR**
Deputy President of the Senate
for and on behalf of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

(ii) *Conferment of Aare Onibon of Ibadan Land:*

The Senate President announced that the Senate Leader, Senator Teslim K. Folarin will be conferred with the traditional Chieftaincy Title of *Aare Onibon* of Ibadanland on Friday, 11th April 2008.

He urged Distinguished Senators to endeavour to honour the Senate Leader with their esteemed presence at the Conferment Ceremony. The Senate President further informed the Senate that Senator Andrew Babalola would coordinate Senators movement to and fro.

(iii) *Constitution of Joint National Assembly Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution:*

The Senate President announced that the Joint National Assembly Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution to meet with its counterpart in the House of Representatives would be constituted. He stated that a member will be selected from each States of the Federation. He therefore urged Senators to resolve among themselves on who to represent their respective States.

5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Ahmad Lawan drew the attention of the Senate to the stalemate on the 2008 Appropriation Bill which was passed into Law by the National Assembly on the 12th February, 2008 but yet to be assented by Mr. President. In view of the national importance of the Budget he sought and obtained the leave of the Senate for the matter to be debated the next legislative day.

Matter to stand over to the next legislative day.

6. **Presentation of Bills:**

(i) Police Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2008 (SB. 65) — *Read the First time.*

(ii) Nigeria Unified Field Institute Bill 2008 (SB. 59) — *Read the First time.*

7. **The 60th Birthday Anniversary of Senate President, Senator David A. B. Mark GCON:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate President do step aside to enable the Deputy Senate President preside over the debate on the 60th Birthday Anniversary of the Senate President (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

REMARKS ON THE 60TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY OF THE

Mr. President, My Distinguished Colleagues permit me to make a very brief remark on our amiable Senate President, Distinguished Senator David Alechenu Bonaventure Mark, as he clocks sixty years today.

Senator David A.B. Mark was born some sixty years ago, precisely on the 8th Day of April, 1948 at Otukpo, Otukpo local Government Area of Benue State. He started his formal Education in 1956 at St Francis Catholic practicing School Otukpo, had his Secondary Education at the Nigerian Military School (NMS) Zaria from 1962 - 66. He then proceed to the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) Kaduna where he did his 'A' level in physic, chemistry and mathematics. He was commissioned into the Nigerian Army as an officer in 1970. He also had his education and Military training both within and outside Nigeria as follows;

—	<i>School of signals, Blandford England</i>	—	<i>1970</i>
—	<i>College of Military Engineering, Poona</i>	—	<i>1971 -1975.</i>
—	<i>Military College of Telecommunication Engineering Mhow</i>	—	<i>1971 —1975</i>
—	<i>Command and Staff College, Jaji</i>	—	<i>1978 -1979</i>
—	<i>National Defence University, Washington DC</i>	—	<i>1990-1991</i>
—	<i>Harvard University, Harvard Boston</i>	—	<i>1991-1992.</i>

Distinguished Senator David A. B. Mark with his academic and military prowess held distinguished positions in both the Military and Political spheres, notable of which are the following:

MILITARY POSTINGS

- Staff Captain 'A' -1 Signal Brigade Apapa
- Signal Brigade Sports officer, Lagos
- Brigade Major - Signal Brigade, Lagos
- Commander 3rd Marine Signals Division, Port Harcourt
- Staff Officer Operations Headquarters Signals, Lagos
- Commandant School of Signals, Lagos
- Directing Staff, Command and Staff College, Jaji
- General Staff Officer, Grade I Coordination, Command and Staff College, Jaji
- Commander 1 Division, Headquarter and Signals, Kaduna
- Director of Telecommunications, Army Headquarters, Lagos.
- Commander Corps of signal
- ~ Faculty Director, National War College Lagos now NDC Abuja

POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

- Chairman, Abandoned Properties Implementation Committee,
- Military Governor of Niger State.
- Minister of Communications.
- Member, Armed Forces Ruling Council.
- Chairman, Senate Committee on Communications - June 1999— February 2000.
- Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking and Currency - Feb.2000-May 2003.
- Chairman, Senate Committee on Police Affairs - June 2003 - June, 2007.
- President of the Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria, June 2007 - to date.

As a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, representing Benue South Senatorial district since 1999, Senator Mark has left an indelible mark on the lives of his people in the following areas;

He has established at least a cottage industry in each of the Nine (9) Local Government Areas of Benue - South Senatorial district.

Established interest free traders, loan scheme to assist Women (aged and less Privilege) in their business.

- Set up the David Mark scholarship scheme (DMSS) since 1999 to cater for pupils and students from Primary to tertiary levels.
- Renovated some school buildings and initiated the construction of new ones.
- Completed an 18- hole Golf course for public use at Otukpo employing at least Fifty (50) persons.

- Established a Radio Station, Joy FM 96.5 in Otukpo which offers employment to more than forty (40) Nigerians.
- Currently building an open university study centre in Otukpo.

My highly respected Colleagues, you will agree with me that these are intimidating credentials. However, the owner does not intimidate others. He has a humble, gentle and friendly disposition. His Military antecedent notwithstanding, Senator Mark is an accomplished democrat and believes in the ideals and preservation of our democracy. He is a homely man, married with children, a very devout Christian and very religious.

My Distinguished Colleagues, this is wishing our beloved Senate President a Happy Birthday, many happy years ahead and a blissful tenure as the President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I therefore move that the Senate do congratulate Distinguished Senator David Alechenu Bonaventure Mark, Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the occasion of his 60th Birthday.

I so move.

Teslim K. Folarin
Senate Majority Leader

Debate:

Several Senators thereafter in their contributions poured encomiums on the Senate President on his attaining the age of sixty years.

Response by the Senate President:

The Senate President expressed appreciation to the Senate and to Senators for all that was said about him. He assured that all his actions shall be in the best interest of the Senate and prayed that the Senate remain united like a united family. The Senate President also promised to continue to preside over the Senate that is committed to a sound legislation which will backup the growth of democracy in the nation.

A thunderous standing ovation and three hearty cheers was given to the Senate President.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate President do resume the Chair (Senate Majority Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That consideration of the remaining items on the Order Paper be stood down to another legislative day (Senate Majority Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Closed Session:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into a Closed Session to deliberate on issues relevant to the workings of the Senate (Senate Majority Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Closed Session — 12. 55 p. m.

Senate in Open Session — 2. 20 p. m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in Closed Session deliberated on matters relating to the welfare of Senators and workings of the Senate.

9. Adjournment:

And it being 2.25 p.m. the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 9th April, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 2.25p.m.

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

CORRIGENDUM

In Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 18th March, 2008, at page 435 item No. 7, line 6 immediately after the words "question put and agreed to" *leave out* all the words up to item 8 and *insert* the following instead thereof:

"Request accordingly referred to the Committee on National Planning , Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to report back in two weeks: