



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 9 April, 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, 8th April, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. Announcements:
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Gbenga Babalola as follows: (i)

OYO NORTH **SENATORIAL** DISTRICT Vice
Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture

2005

*77th Senate President National
Assembly, Federal Republic of
Nigeria*

Dear sir,

Your Excellency,

**NOTICE OF FLIGHT SCHEDULE FROM ABUJA TO IBADAN FOR THE
PROPOSED CHIEFTAINCY TITLE THAT IS BEING CONFERRED ON THE
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, SENATOR TESLIM K. FOLARIN**

I wish to invite all distinguished Senators who are interested in attending the above-mentioned ceremony to indicate their interest by writing their names on the list of interested persons placed at the entrance of the Chamber.

The flight is scheduled to leave Abuja by 8.00 a.m. Friday morning and return to Abuja at 3.00 p.m. in the afternoon.

Thank you.

Signed:

Senator A. A. Babalola

Vice Chairman

Senate Committee on Agriculture

(ii) The Senate President also read a letter from Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi as follows:



MASARAWA WEST SENATORIAL DISTRICT FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THREE ARMS ZONE, PMB 141. GARKI ABUJA. TEL. 09-6276202

9,

*The President of the Senate
National Assembly Abuja.*

ANNOUNCEMENT

- A. *The Distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on FCT, the Chairman and Members of the House Committee on Housing are hereby reminded that the Public Hearing on Sales of all Federal Government Properties in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and other sundry matters commences today, Wednesday, 9th April, 2008 at 11.00 a.m. The Venue is Senate Hearing Room I and you should please all attend promptly.*
- B. *His Excellency, Senator David A. B. Mark, President of the Senate, is to declare the occasion open.*
- C. *All Members of the Committee and Distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria are cordially invited to attend, please.*

Signed:

Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi

Chairman

Senate Committee on FCT

4. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2008 (SB .78) - *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) National Commission for the Eradication of Child Destitution (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB.84) — *Read the First Time.*

5. Motions:

Appropriation Bill 2008 (Veto Over-Ride):

That the Senate do recall that the National Assembly passed the 2008 Appropriation Bill on the 12th February, 2008 and a final clean copy of the Bill was transmitted to Mr. President Commander-in-Chief for his assent on 20th February, 2008 vide letter Ref: NASS/CNA/115/VOL./21/66;

Recalls also that Mr. President Commander-in-Chief made some observations and sent the Bill to the Senate on 22nd February, 2008; vide a letter Ref: PRES/134/;

Notes that the National Assembly duly considered the observations made by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief and sent the Bill back to Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief with the details vide letter Ref: NASS/CNA/115/VOL/21/79 of 13th March, 2008 and NASS/CNA/115/VOL.21/90 of 28th March, 2008, for his assent;

Notes further that more than 70% of the observations raised by Mr. President, C-in-C were addressed, accommodated and promptly sent back to Mr. President, C-in-C for his assent;

Observes that it is now more than 30 days from 20th February, 2008 since the 2008 Appropriation was passed and formally sent to Mr. President, C-in-C for his assent;

Considers the inability of Mr. President, C-in-C to signify his assent to the 2008 Appropriation Bill within 30 days of his receipt of the Bill on 20th February, 2008 as a Veto; and

Relying on Section 59(4) of the 1999 Constitution which stipulates:

"Where the President, within thirty days after the presentation of the bill to him, fails to signify his assent or where he withholds assent, then the bill shall again be presented to the National Assembly sitting at a joint meeting, and if passed by two-thirds majority of members of both Houses at such joint meeting, the bill shall become law and the assent of the President shall not be required."

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:

Invoke the legislative powers granted to the National Assembly in Section 59(4) of the 1999 Constitution and hereby commence the process of overriding the Veto of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief on the 2008 Appropriation.

Withdrawal of Motions:

Rising on Rule 51, Senator Ahmad I. Lawan sought and obtained leave of the Senate to withdraw the Motion.

By leave of Senate, Motion accordingly withdrawn.

6. Enhancing Agriculture in Nigeria for Self Sufficiency in Food Production:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do affirm that Nigeria is endowed with fertile land without any natural disaster such as earthquake, tornadoes, volcanic eruption, earth tremour, snow, heavy rainfall, flood disasters etc;

Observe that the huge sum of money, to the tune of 360 billion naira annually used for importation of rice can easily be used internally to boost the agricultural sector through the provision of irrigation fanning;

Note that if Nigerian government adopts a policy of giving tractors and fertilizers to farmers at subsidized rate, this will enhance agricultural initiatives for food production;

Observe that irrigation is a major part of agricultural success in Nigeria, and if adopted with modern farming facilities, the farmers would have bumper harvest - Kano State is a typical example as about 30% of land areas in the state is under irrigation.

Accordingly resolves that the Senate do:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government through the Ministry of Agriculture to procure tractors, farm implements, fertilizers, vaccines, etc for farmers at very subsidized rates (i.e) Federal Government to give 40% and should encourage State Governments to give 20% and Local Governments 10%;
- (ii) Urge the Federal Government to constitute a viable co-operative society that would monitor and supervise farmers, disseminate useful information, organize seminars, distribute fertilizers with accurate records and liaise with government as a link between the farmers and government;

- (iii) Urge the Federal Government to encourage private participation on farming by provision of agricultural loan scheme with little or no interest, to farmers through co-operative societies-individual small farmers should be encouraged by government whereby land and forest is cleared and given to them free;
- (iv) Urge the Federal Government to incorporate farming training into NYSC Scheme, whereby the Youth Corpers are trained for 3 - 4 months in their service year;
- (v) Urge the Federal Government to adopt and develop intervention strategies on commodity by commodity basis of specified crop production within each zone to help in massive food production based on the principle of comparative advantage; and
- (vi) Urge the Federal Government to earnestly initiate irrigation farming as this is the most prominent strategy to increase agricultural yield so that the same farm land can be utilized for three farming seasons per annum (*Senator Kabiru I. Gaya*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words of the Prayers and **insert** the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do urge the Federal Government through the Ministry of Agriculture to provide adequate mechanism for the nation to be self-sufficient in food production" (*Senator Lee Maeba*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government through the Ministry of Agriculture to provide adequate mechanism for the nation to be self-sufficient in food production (*S. Res/058/08*).

7. Committee on Finance:

Report on the Screening of Nominee:

That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Finance, on the screening of Ms. Omoigui Ifueko Marina, as Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and approve the recommendation.

Consideration deferred to another legislative day.

8. Committee on Petroleum Upstream:

Report on the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Bill 2008 (SB. 81):

That the Senate do resume consideration of the Report of the Committee on Petroleum Upstream on the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Bill 2008.

Consideration deferred to another legislative day.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Thursday, 10th April, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1,50p.m.

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