



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 27th May, 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 Thursday, 22nd May, 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 two letters from Mr. President Commander-Chief of the Armed Forces which he read as follows:

(A)

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

May 16, 2008

*Senator David Mark, GCON,
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers, Abuja.*

Dear brother,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF TWO
MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

The Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) 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 I (D) of the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution, the Commission shall comprise a Chairman and not more than fifteen (15) other members. In this connection, there are two existing vacant positions following the expiration of tenure of the under listed members:

S/No	Name	Designation	State of Origin	Cluster of States
1.	Alh. Kasimu Idris	Member	Nasarawa	Benue, Nasarawa & Plateau
2.	K, F. Adebolu	Member	Ekiti	Edo, Ondo & Ekiti

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 Alhaji Kasimu Idris and Chief K. F. Adebolu whose CVs are attached hereto as members of Federal Civil Service Commission for a second and final 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 nominees listed above for the kind consideration of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely,

Signed:

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

(B)

**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/134

May 21, .2008

*Distinguished Senator David
Mark, President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers, National Assembly
Complex, Abuja.*



Dear brother,

**PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE DESIGN AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BILL FOR CONSIDERATION
AND PASSAGE INTO LAW BY THE SENATE**

I hereby introduce for formal consideration and passage into law by the Senate, the above named Bill with warm appreciation to you and your distinguished colleagues for the spirit of patriotism with which you are conducting your statutory functions to move our great nation forward.

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 sincerely,

Signed:

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

4. Announcements:

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

- (i) The Clerk and his team of Legislative Officers, Kwara State House of Assembly; and
- (ii) The Students of Preliminary and Remedial Studies, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna.

5. **Motion:**

Tragic Death of one Officer and forty-five (45) men of the 243 Battalion of the Nigerian Army in a ghastly motor accident:

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the Federal Republic of Nigeria has always been at the fore front of providing leadership in the promotion of sub-regional, regional and global peace. In fulfillment of this role, Nigeria currently deploys troops to other parts of the world as part of the United Nations (UN) or African Union (AU) Peace Keeping Operations. One of such deployment is to Darfur in the Sudan;

Notes that until May, 2008, one of the Units deployed in Darfur, Sudan was 243 Recce Battalion which is based at Mungonu in Borno State. After 6 (six) months tour of duty, the Unit in question returned to Nigeria on Tuesday, 20th May, 2008, through the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja. At about 0600hrs on Wednesday 21st May, 2008, the Unit set out from Abuja on its journey to its base at Mungonu in Borno State in a 7 troop carrying vehicles convoy;

Notes that the return of these gallant soldiers, after a successful tour of duty naturally elicited joy amongst the larger Nigerian Army, the Armed Forces family and indeed the nation. Sadly and most tragically, however, the convoy was involved in a fatal road accident along Kari-Potiskum road on Wednesday, 21st May, 2008. In the event, 1 (one) officer and 45 (forty-five) soldiers lost their lives in that tragic accident;

Notes that 6 (six) others have sustained serious injuries and are presently under medical care;

Notes that the burial of the departed Military Personnel was conducted with full Military honours on Friday, 23rd May, 2008 at the National Military Cemetery, Abuja. The sad event was presided over by the President, Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who cut short a foreign tour to return to Nigeria for the occasion; and

Affirms that despite the tragic incident, Nigeria will continue to support International and regional efforts to maintain, global peace and foster human security. The unfortunate incident would only embolden and renew the commitment of the Country to the international community in line with the well known African tradition of being our brother's keepers.

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:

- (i) Express its concern over the incident by sending a letter of condolence to the President, Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces;
- (ii) Send a message of condolence through a Senate delegation to the Hon. Minister of Defence; and
- (iii) Observe a minute silence in honour of the 46 departed heroes of the 243 Recce Battalion of the Nigerian Army (*Senator Ibrahim M. Ida*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

That the Senate do express its concern over the incident by sending a letter of condolence to the President, Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

That the Senate do send a message of condolence through a Senate delegation to the Hon. Minister of Defence — *Negated*.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:

"That the Senate do direct the Committee on Defence and Army to investigate the circumstances surrounding the accident and report back to the Senate" (*Senator Uche Chukwumerije*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Another Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:

"That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Defence to put a mechanism in place to facilitate the immediate payment of the deceased entitlements to their families without delay and direct the Committee on Defence and Army to monitor it (*Senator Joy Emordi*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Further Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

"That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to place all the children of the departed soldiers on scholarship from primary to university" (*Senator Ahmed I. Mohammed*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Prayer (v);

That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of the 46 departed heroes of the 243 Recce Battalion of the Nigerian Army — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do express its concern over the incident by sending a letter of condolence to the President, Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces;
- (ii) That the Senate do direct the Committee on Defence and Army to investigate the circumstances surrounding the accident and report back to the Senate;
- (iii) That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Defence to put a mechanism in place to facilitate the immediate payment of the deceased entitlements to their families without delay and direct the Committee on Defence and Army to monitor it;
- (iv) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to place all the children of the departed soldiers on scholarship from primary to university; and
- (v) That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of the 46 departed heroes of the 243 Recce Battalion of the Nigerian Army (*S. Res/070/08*).

One minute silence accordingly observed.

6. Legal Aid Act 1976 (Amendment) Bill 2008 (SB. 74):

Motion made: That the Bill for an Act to amend comprehensively the Legal Aid Act 1976 (as amended by Decree No. 22 of 1994) in June with International Standards and to provide for the Establishment of Legal Aid and Access to Justice Fund into which Financial Assistance would be made available to the Council on behalf of the indigent citizens to prosecute their claims in accordance with the Constitution and further to empower the existing Legal Aid Council to be responsible for the operation of a scheme for the grant of Legal Aid and Access to Justice in certain matters or proceedings to persons with inadequate resources in accordance with the provision of this Act, 2008 be read the Second Time (*Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to report within four (4) weeks.

7. Chartered Institute of Capital Market Registrars Bill 2008 (SB. 109):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate *do* adjourn till Wednesday, 28th May, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Motion on Adjournment:***Children's Day Celebration:***

The Deputy Senate President on behalf of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria wished the Nigerian Children a Happy Children's Day celebration and promised that the Senate will continue to make laws that will impact positively on their lives.

Adjourned accordingly at 12. 45 p.m.

David A. B. Mark, GCON

President of the Senate