



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 22nd April, 2009

1. The Senate met at 10.30 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, 21st April, 2009 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcement:**
Acknowledgement:
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of members of Liberation Chambers, Faculty of Law, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings.
4. **Presentation of Bill:**
National Automotive Design and Development Council Act (Amendment) Bill 2009 (SB. 121) —
Read the First Time.
5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**
Rising on Rule 42, Senator Umar A. Argungu drew the attention of the Senate to the cross-border incursions into and displacement of Nigerian villages by Beninois communities and attendant consequences to the peaceful co-existence in the ECOWAS sub-region. He sought the leave of the Senate to present a motion on the issue the next legislative day.

Question that the matter be debated, put and agreed to.

Matter to stand over to the next legislative day {Rule 42(2)}.

6. **Motion:**
National Assembly Delegation to Liberia:
Motion made: That the Senate notes the trip by a delegation of the National Assembly to Liberia to visit the Nigerian troops on Peace Support Operations there;

Notes that the delegation was under the leadership of the Senate President and was made up of 3 Senators (Chairman and Vice Chairman of Defence and Army Committee, and the Deputy Chief Whip of the Senate) and 2 Members of the House of Representatives (Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Defence Committee);

Further notes that the 1st day of the visit was devoted to courtesy calls on the leadership of Liberia (the Acting President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the country), the Nigerian Ambassador to Liberia, the Senior Political and Military Representatives of United Nations Secretary General in Liberia and the High Command of our troops in Liberia;

Impressed that in appreciation of the sacrifices Nigeria is making to support peace in Liberia, in particular, and the sub-region in general, the Liberian Legislature has pledged to pass a resolution in support of Nigeria's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council;

Observes that the second day was devoted to visits to Nigerian troops at their areas of operation in Liberia and the inspection of their equipment;

Encouraged that during the visits, the Senate President observed the good work the Nigerian troops are doing in Liberia and commended them appropriately;

Happy that the morale of the troops was highly boosted by the visit; and

Further impressed that the delegation also interacted with Nigerians living in Liberia, during which useful exchanges were made, and the idea of Nigerian investors going to Liberia was stressed. The delegation returned to Nigeria in the early hours of 8th April, 2009.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) **Commend** the Nigerian troops on Peace Support Operations under UNMIL in Liberia for the good work they are doing in that country;
- (ii) **Call** on the Federal Government of Nigeria to continue with and even improve upon the logistic and welfare supports it is giving our troops on Peace Support Operation all over the world; and
- (iii) **Call** upon the Federal Government of Nigeria to take steps to prevail upon and encourage Nigerian entrepreneurs to exploit the goodwill established by Nigeria and avail themselves of the enormous investment opportunities existing in Liberia (*Senator Ibrahim M. Ida*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do commend the Nigerian troops on Peace Support Operations under UNMIL in Liberia for the good work they are doing in that country — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate do call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to continue with and even improve upon the logistic and welfare supports it is giving our troops on Peace Support Operation all over the world — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate do call upon the Federal Government of Nigeria to take steps to prevail upon and encourage Nigerian entrepreneurs to exploit the goodwill established by Nigeria and avail themselves of the enormous investment opportunities existing in Liberia

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "to" in line 1, *leave out* the words "prevail upon and" (*Senator Andrew Babalola*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Question on prayer (iii) as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do commend the Nigerian troops on Peace Support Operations under UNMIL in Liberia for the good work they are doing in that country;
- (ii) That the Senate do call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to continue with and even improve upon the logistic and welfare supports it is giving our troops on Peace Support Operation all over the world; and
- (iii) That the Senate do call upon the Federal Government of Nigeria to take steps to encourage Nigerian entrepreneurs to exploit the goodwill established by Nigeria and avail themselves of the enormous investment opportunities existing in Liberia (*S. Res/040/09*).

7. Privileges of the Floor:*Admission of Honourable Patrick Obahiagbon (Oredo Federal Constituency):*

Motion made: That the Senate do invoke Rule 17(e) to admit Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon, member House of Representatives, to the floor of the Senate (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon accordingly admitted.

8. Mental Health Bill 2009 (SB. 183):

Relying on Rule 89, Senator Anthony Manzo sought the leave of the Senate to withdraw the Bill.

Bill accordingly withdrawn.

9. Mining Cadastral Office (Establishment, etc.) Bill (SB. 207):

Relying on Rule 89, Senator George T. Sekibo sought the leave of the Senate to withdraw the Bill.

Bill accordingly withdrawn.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Thursday, 23rd April, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.05 p.m.

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