



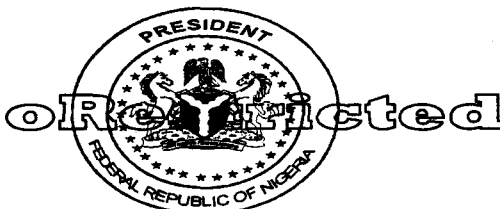
SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 23rd April, 2009

1. The Senate met at 10.30 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Deputy Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 22nd April, 2009 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Message from Mr. President:**
The Deputy Senate President announced that he had received a letter from the President, Commander-in-Chief which he read as follows:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

April 21, 2009

Distinguished Senator David Mark, GCON
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Brother,

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE OSUN STATE REPRESENTATIVE IN THE FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION (FCC)

The Federal Character Commission 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 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, the tenure of Osun State representative in the Federal Character Commission

has expired and there is need to fill the vacant position.

I have, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria decided to appoint Basorun Jonathan Oladele Awojisayo, whose Curriculum Vitae is attached herewith, as a member of the Federal Character Commission representing Osun State for a term of five (5) years.

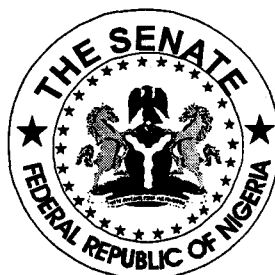
In accordance with the provision of section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution which states that the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate, I hereby present Basorun Jonathan Oladele Awojisayo for the kind consideration of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed:
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

4. Announcements:

(A) The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Patricia N. Akwashiki as follows:



Senator Patricia Naomi Akwashiki

Nasarawa North Senatorial District

21st April, 2009.

*The Senate President,
Federal Republic of Nigeria,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Your Excellency Sir,

LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

I wish to notify the Senate President and my fellow colleagues in the Senate that my traditional ruler, the Aren Eggon, Dr. Bala Angbazo, has found me worthy to be given the chieftaincy title, Gimbiyan-Eggon.

The conferment of this chieftaincy is on the 9th of May, 2009 at the Palace of the Aren Eggon in Nasarawa Eggon Local Government Area of Nasarawa State by 10.00 a.m. prompt.

I wish to use this medium to solicit for your prayers and best wishes.

Accept my highest regards.

Yours faithfully,

Signed:
Senator Patricia N. Akwashiki
(Gimbiyan-Eggon)

(B) **Acknowledgement:**

The Deputy Senate President acknowledged the presence of Students of the Department of Public Administration, Gombe State University, Gombe State who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings.

5. **Confirmation of Nomination:**

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nomination of Alhaji Mahdi Bukar (*Yobe State*) as a Member of the National Population Commission (NPC) (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to Committee on National Identity Card and National Population to report within two weeks.

6. **Motion:**

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:

Motion made: That the Senate notes with deep concern that the phenomena of cross-border incursions into and displacement of Nigerian villages with particular reference to the recent incident in Tungar-Kungi by the Beninois communities is threatening the peaceful co-existence of the ECOWAS Sub-Region;

Observes that the recent case in particular is the unprovoked aggression on a Nigerian village in the Western part of Kebbi North Senatorial District last week by the Beninois communities, which razed the Tungar Kungi village, eight kilometers into Nigeria, displacing thousands of peace-loving Nigerians from their lawful abodes, inflicting unquantifiable losses worth millions of naira all in the quest to control the richly endowed Nigerian land;

Notes also that the razed Tungar-Kungi village is situated about three kilometers from Lolo town in Bagudo Local Government area of Kebbi State and about eight (8) kilometers before the Nigerian-Benin-Niger border. The inhabitants of this village and other settlements around it are predominantly fishermen and farmers as the area is richly endowed with fisheries resources and fertile fadama land for rice cultivation and irrigation farming. This is the greatest envy of the neighboring Beninois communities who have no such endowment and as such feel naturally disadvantaged. They therefore feel that the Nigerian villages have to bequeath such land to them;

Notes further that the attack was carried out by over 2,000 people mobilized from five Benin villages and master-minded at Madikali village in Benin Republic. The sordid attack razed the entire Tungar-Kungi village to the ground leaving behind a pitiful situation of 1,500 displaced victims most of them women and children who sought refuge at a four-classroom primary school at Lolo town with no facilities to cater for them;

Warns that unless very urgent decisive action is taken by the Federal Government to nip such cross-border incursion in the bud, Nigeria would have a repeat of Bakassi situation in the North-West zone;

Notes further that there were several cases of similar border incursions in the past few years resulting in wanton destruction of lives and properties, leaving both the Bagudo LGA and Kebbi State Government helpless in dealing with the situation;

Observes that this action constitute a devastating loss to the Nigerian Government and a violation of the ECOWAS Treaty and unwarranted aggression against the innocent and peace-loving Nigerians in their country; and

Acknowledges the total absence of any Police or Army Barracks at such locations to deter the would-be cross border aggressors.

Accordingly Resolves to:

- (i) *Call on the Federal Government to immediately investigate the remote causes of cross-border incursions with the neighboring Benin Republic and take remedial measures to guard against recurrence of such incidences;*
- (ii) *Implore the National Emergency Management Agency to come to urgent aid of the thousands of displaced victims of this recent attack at Tungar-Kungi with necessary relief and resettlement package;*
- (iii) *Direct the National Boundaries Commission to urgently set the process in motion to resolve the areas of friction on the Nigeria/Benin Republic border;*
- (iv) *Urge the Federal Government to close all Nigeria/Benin Republic borders pending the resolution of the crisis; and*
- (v) *Call on the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency see to the setting-up of Police Barracks at those villages near the borders to deter such cross-border aggression (Senator Umar A. Tafidan Argungu).*

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do call on the Federal Government to immediately investigate the remote causes of cross-border incursions with the neighboring Benin Republic and take remedial measures to guard against recurrence of such incidences.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in Prayer (i) and insert the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do direct its Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Interior to conduct investigation into the matter and report within two weeks " (Senator Mahumd Kanti Bello).

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

Question on Prayer (i) as amended, put and agreed to.

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate implore the National Emergency Management Agency to come to urgent aid of the thousands of displaced victims of this recent attack at Tungar-Kungi with necessary relief and resettlement package — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate direct the National Boundaries Commission to urgently set the process in motion to resolve the areas of friction on the Nigeria/Benin Republic border — *Negatived.*

Prayer (iv):

Question: That the Senate urge the Federal Government to close all Nigeria/Benin Republic borders pending the resolution of the crisis— *Negatived.*

Prayer (v):

Question: That the Senate do call on the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency see to the setting-up of Police Barracks at those villages near the borders to deter such cross-border aggression.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in Prayer (v) and insert the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do call on the Federal Government as a matter of urgency to take immediate and concise steps to assert the sovereign rights of Nigeria (Senator Joseph I. Akaagerger).

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

Question on Prayer (v) as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do direct its Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Interior to conduct investigation into the matter and report within two weeks;
- (ii) That the Senate implore the National Emergency Management Agency to come to urgent aid of the thousands of displaced victims of this recent attack at Tungar-Kungi with necessary relief and resettlement package; and
- (iii) That the Senate do call on the Federal Government as a matter of urgency to take immediate and concise steps to assert the sovereign rights of Nigeria (*S. Res/041/09*).

7. National Assembly Service Commission Act 2000 (Repeal and Enactment) Bill (SB. 82):

Consideration of the Bill deferred to another legislative day.

8. Chartered Institute of Fraud Examiners (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2009 (SB. 108):

Consideration of the Bill deferred to another legislative day.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 28th April, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.
(*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 11.30 a.m.

Ike Ekweremadu, CFR
Deputy President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.