



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 23rd June, 2009

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 Wednesday, 4th June, 2009 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Remarks by the Senate President on the Reconvening of the Senate for the 3rd Session:**



**The President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, DISTINGUISHED
SENATOR (DR.) DAVID A. B. MARK, GCON, FNIM, ON THE RESUMPTION OF
PLENARY ON TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD, 2009.**

Protocols

Let me first and foremost seize this opportunity to welcome my distinguished bosses back from the short recess which heralds the beginning of another legislative year that promises to be very fruitful.

I am aware, that, some of us stayed back attending to various Committees and other oversight functions during the break, in furtherance of the dedication and commitment to succeed, which this hallowed Chamber is determined to integrate into our national culture and work ethics.

As we resume plenary today, I wish to remind us of the great tasks that lie ahead. Failure, for whatever reasons, is not an option because of the place of the Legislature in national democratic affairs.

This session will be tasking but obviously an exciting legislative year in which we will consider among other bills, the constitutional amendment bill, electoral reform bill and petroleum industry bill. All these are promising to attract public and general interest from a cross section of industry players and other Nigerians.

I am sure that we all used the short recess to refresh and re-energize to undertake our primary legislative duties with greater vigour, dedication, determination and courage. Our priority during this session shall be to legislate on ways to improve the general well being of Nigerians through innovative legislations and take measures that will dramatically improve efficiency, empower families and impact on family life generally.

Dear colleagues, recall my last letter to you in which I drew attention on the need to work and interact more closely, with ministries, departments and agencies in preparation for the 2010 fiscal year. I am glad that some of the Committees have commenced the process of appraisal and interaction for this purpose. I commend you to please keep up the spirit.

The resilience, dreams and optimism of the average Nigerian about this country is not misplaced.

Nigeria's great potentials underscore this belief and we must not do anything to suggest the contrary. Ours is to contribute to the national effort and to live up to the ideal that here in Nigeria, we shall rise together.

In this new legislative year, the support and co-operation of our friends, the press, is of vital importance because only they can adequately and widely inform the public on the impact of our activities and direction of government. As partners, I believe the media will continue to courageously support the Legislature in our drive to sustain democracy and good governance in Nigeria.

As we settle down to business, I advise us to always call to mind the confidence and hopes which our fellow country men and women have vested in us. May the love of our country guide us in the tasks ahead.

Thank you and God bless Nigeria.

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

3. Messages from Mr. President:

The Senate President announced that he had received three letters from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief which he read as follows:

(A)



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

5th June, 2009

Distinguished Senator David Mark, GCON,
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone

Dear Brother,

VIREMENT OF FUNDS FROM THE FCT 2009 STATUTORY BUDGET TO FUND CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL LANES ON EACH CARRIAGE WAY OF THE OUTER NORTHERN EXPRESSWAY (ONEX) INCLUDING TWO FLY-OVER BRIDGES AND REHABILITATION OF AIRPORT ROAD FLY-OVER

Pursuant to Section 299 of the 1999 Constitution which vests legislative powers over the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja on the National Assembly, I hereby present for the kind consideration and approval of the Distinguished Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria a request for the virement of ₦25,791,449,579.00 (Twenty Five Billion, Seven Hundred and Ninety One Million, Four Hundred and Forty Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy Nine Naira) from the FCT 2009 Statutory Budget.

This request is to enable the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) fund the construction of additional lanes on each carriage way of the Outer Northern Expressway (ONEX) including two fly-over bridges and rehabilitation of Airport Road Fly-Over.

A detailed virement and augmentation proposal is attached for your guidance and ease of reference.

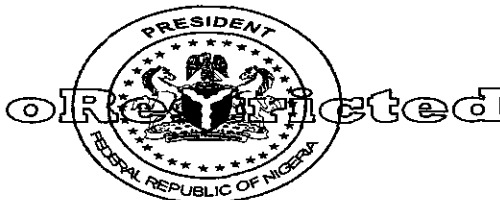
While hoping that this virement request will receive the usual expeditious consideration and passage by the Distinguished Senators, please accept Mr. Senate President the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed:

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

(B)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

4th June, 2009.

Senator David A.B. Mark, GCON,
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Brother,

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES AND OTHER RELATED OFFENCES COMMISSION (ICPC)

Section 3(3) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000 provides that the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission shall consist of a Chairman and twelve (12) other members, two of whom shall come from each of the six geo-political zones. In this connection, there is a vacancy in the composition of the Commission following the death of one of the members representing the North Central zone.

I have, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 3(6) of Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act 2000 decided to appoint Professor James O. I. Ayatse as a member of the Independence Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission.

In line with the provision of Section 3(6) of the Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act, which states that the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate, I hereby forward the nomination of Professor James O. I. Ayatse whose CV is attached herewith for the Senate's kind consideration and confirmation, please.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed:
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

(C)



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

10th June, 2009.

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

Dear Brother,

**BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTRIC POWER SECTOR REFORM ACT 2005
TO REPEAL THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY AND FOR MATTERS
CONNECTED THERETO**

I forward herewith for kind consideration and passage into law, the attached draft Bill for an Act to Amend the Electric Power Sector Reform Act 2005 to Repeal the Rural Electrification Agency and for Matters connected thereto.

Pursuant to the above, therefore, and in line with the powers vested in the National Assembly, I hereby present the said Bill for the kind consideration of the Distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

It is my hope that the Distinguished Senate will consider and pass the amendment Bill in your usual expeditious manner.

Please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed:
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

5. Announcements:

The Senate President read a letter from the President of the Republic of Finland, Tarja Halonen as follows:

(A)



Helsinki, 12 May, 2009

Your Excellency,

I want to thank you and the other Distinguished Members of the Senate for warmly welcoming me and my delegation to visit the Senate as part of my state visit to Nigeria in March.

It was a great honor to meet with you and your colleagues. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on issues close to the heart of all parliamentarians. I appreciate the inter-activeness and open spirit of our discussions that made the session lively and productive.

I also wish to thank you as one of the hosts for making my visit to Nigeria both an interesting and successful one. I believe that the visit further strengthens the friendship and cooperation between Finland and Nigeria. This friendship and cooperation extends also to the inter-parliamentary work which I hope will increase.

I would like to convey through you my warmest greetings to the Senate and its Distinguished Members who perform an essential role in Nigeria's democratic political system.

I wish you the best with all your endeavours with the work of the Senate.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed:

Tarja Halonen

President of the Republic of Finland

His Excellency

Mr. David Mark

President of the Senate

of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,

Abuja

(B) The Senate President also read a letter from Senator Sola Akinyede as follows:



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMMITTEE ON DRUGS, NARCOTICS, FINANCIAL

22nd June, 2009

*His Excellency Senator David A. B. Mark, GCON,
The Senate President,
National Assembly,
Abuja.*

Your Excellency,

HALIBURTON BRIBERY SCANDAL:
NOTICE OF JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

Members of the Joint Committee on the Haliburton matter constituted from the Committee on Drugs, Narcotics, Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption, Committee on Gas and the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters will hold its meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at 2pm.

Venue: Room 426, New Senate Building, National Assembly.

Members of the Joint Committee are requested to attend this meeting as the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice is expected to brief members.

Signed:

*Senator Sola Akinyede
Chairman, Joint Committee*

6. Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development:

Report on the Drought in the Northern parts of Nigeria:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development in respect of the Motion on the Drought in the Northern parts of Nigeria (*Senator Tawar U. Wada — Gombe South*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. Committee on Drugs, Narcotics, Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption:

Report on the screening of a nominee:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Drugs, Narcotics, Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption on the screening of Mr. Bako Abdullahi, as a member of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) (*Senator Sola Akinyede — Ekiti South*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

Debate:

Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Committee Report (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Recommendation:

Nominee recommended for confirmation:

Mr. Bako Abdullahi — *Agreed to.*

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Drugs, Narcotics, Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption on the screening of Mr. Bako Abdullahi, as a member of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and approved the recommendation.

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Confirmation of nomination:

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr Bako Abdullahi as a member of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC)?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Mr Bako Abdullahi as a member of the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC) accordingly confirmed.

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

Motion made: That the Bill for an Act to establish the Chartered Institute of Fraud Examiners and for matters connected therewith be read the Second Time (*Senator Joseph I. Akaagerger — Benue North East*).

Debate:

By leave of the Senate, Bill withdrawn.

9. National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (Amendment) Bill 2009 (SB. 204):

Consideration of the Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 24th June, 2009 at 10.00 a.m (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12.30 p.m.

Dr. David A. B. Mark, GCON

President,

Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.