



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 9th March, 2010

1. The Senate met at 10.40 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, 4th March, 2010 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Message from the Acting President:**
The Senate President announced that he had received a letter from the Acting President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation which he read as follows:



**ACTING PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

SH/AGP/02

5th March, 2010

*His Excellency,
Senator David Mark, GCON,
President of the Senate,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Your Excellency,

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO APPOINT FIVE SPECIAL ADVISERS

Following my recent appointment as the Acting President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the responsibilities of my Office has increased tremendously. In order to cope effectively, I would require to appoint Five (5) Special Advisers.

2. *I am therefore, through this medium requesting for approval of the Senate of Nigeria accordingly.*
3. *Accept please, the assurances of my highest regards.*

Yours sincerely,

Signed:

Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCON

4. Announcements:

(A) Demise of Mrs Mary Okonkwo:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Annie C. Okonkwo as follows:



**THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

*Distinguished Senator David A. B. Mark, GCON
The President of the Senate
National Assembly Complex
Abuja*

4th March, 2010

Your Excellency My Boss,

RE: ANNOUNCEMENT/NOTIFICATION OF BURIAL ARRANGEMENT OF MY LATE MOTHER, MRS. MARY OKONKWO TO MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES IN THE PLENARY SESSION

I crave the indulgence of Your Excellency, the President of the Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria to announce in the plenary the burial arrangement of my late mother which comes up as detailed below.

Thursday 11th March, 2010

6.00 pm - Vigil Mass/Christian wake-keep at her country home at Iruebenebe, Ojoto.

Friday 12th March, 2010

9.00 am - Requiem Mass at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Ojoto.

12.00 noon - Interment at her country home.

1.00 pm - Reception/Condolences.

Very Important

Akanu Ibiam Airport, Enugu is currently closed from public use due to ongoing reconstruction work.

Distinguished Senators are hereby informed that special arrangement has been made with **ARIK Air** to depart Abuja on Friday 12/3/10 at 8.00 am to Sam Mbakwe Airport, Owerri (enroute to Ojoto via Onitsha-Owerri Road by Oba old Road) and back to Abuja by 5.00 pm through the same Airport.

Thanks Mr. President for your usual cooperation. Accept as always the assurances of my esteemed regards and considerations

Signed:

Senator Annie Okonkwo, KSJ, NPOM
(Agunaechemba)

(B) Acknowledgement:

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

- (i) Staff and Students of His Excellency International Schools, Karmo, Abuja; and
- (ii) Staff and Students of Mawo International Schools, Minna, Niger State.

5. Closed Session:

Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into a Closed Session (Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Closed Session - 11.05 a.m

Senate in Open Session - 1.45 p.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session discussed the recent Jos crisis exhaustively and resolved as follows:

The Senate:

- (i) condemns the recent crisis in Jos that has led to the loss of so many innocent lives. It is in our opinion one crisis too many. Our heart goes out to all those that lost loved ones during this recent crisis and indeed all previous crises. There can be no place for such barbaric acts in our democracy;
- (ii) believes that the crisis is not religious and we must resist any attempt to give it any religious coloration;
- (iii) urges all Nigerians especially leaders to be calm and steadfast and must not do or say anything that will aggravate the crisis. The Senate further urges Nigerians to demonstrate greater respect for the sanctity of human life. The issues of internal security especially intelligence gathering must be taken more seriously;
- (iv) notes with satisfaction the actions so far taken by the Acting President to address the issues;
- (v) urges the Federal Government to publish and implement all previous recommendations;
- (vi) urges the Federal Government to take steps to arrest and prosecute all those who carried

out this carnage and all those behind the crisis;

(vii) urges the Jos Community to learn to live together as brothers and sisters; and

(viii) observes one minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the recent Jos crisis (S.Res/3/070).

One minute silence accordingly observed.

6. Conference Committee on the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Bill: Report on the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Bill 2010 (SB. 81):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day

7. Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation: Report on Remuneration for Former Presidents, Heads of State, Heads of Federal Legislative Houses and Chief Justices of the Federation and Ancillary Matters Bill 2010 (SB. 153):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. The Veterinary Surgeons Act CAP. V3 (Amendment) Bill 2010 (HB 64):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 10th March, 2010 at 10.00 a.m. (Senate Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.55 p.m.

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