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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Thursday
17th December, 2009**



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES

FOURTH REPUBLIC THIRD ASSEMBLY (SIXTH SENATE)

THIRD SESSION

SENATE OFFICIAL REPORT

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**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Thursday, 17th December, 2009

The Senate met at 11:10 am

P R A Y E R S

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, let us consider the Votes and Proceedings of 16th December, 2009 beginning from page 325 to 327.

Senator Umaru Dahiru (Sokoto South): Mr. President, Paragraph 6, reads: *That the Senate do consider and approve the Report of the Conference Committee on the Virement Proposals in respect of the 2009 Appropriation Act, prepared by the under-listed Minister.* It should have been – *by the under-listed ministries* and not *Minister*.

The President: What is in the Order Paper of yesterday? Can anyone get a copy of the Order Paper for us? It should not read, *prepared by the under-listed Minister* anyway but reflect what is in the Order Paper of yesterday. The point is that this is a verbatim reporting. Though they are right but the correct word there should be *ministries* and not *Minister*.

Again, the Report of the Conference Committee cannot be prepared by either the Ministries or the Minister. The paragraph should read thus: *The Senate do consider and approve the Report of the Conference Committee on the Virement Proposals in respect of the 2009 Appropriation Act.* That is where it should stop because it is prepared by the Conference Committee. Secretariat, please take note.

Senator Umaru Dahiru: Paragraph 328 reads: *That the Senate do suspend Rule 17 to enable the Senate invite the nominees Honourable Ministers and Honourable Justices.* We only invited the nominees but they were accompanied by others, so the word; *accompanied* is omitted here. We did not invite the Ministers and the Justices as reflected here.

The President: Again you are right. It should have read; *invite the nominees accompanied by...*

Senator Joseph Akaagerger (Benue North-East): Mr. President, I have an amendment to make on paragraph 7 which is a minor punctuation. Paragraph 7 should read thus: *That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief and not Mr. President Commander-in-Chief.* There should be a comma after Mr. President.

Senator Sahabi Ya'u, (Zamfara North): Mr. President, I rise to move that the Vote and Proceedings of Wednesday, 16th December, 2009 be approved as amended.

Senator Patrick Enebeli Osakwe (Delta North): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by distinguished Senator Sahabi Ya'u that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 16th December, 2009 be approved as amended.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 16th December, 2009 be approved as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Change of Photograph for Year 2010 Calendar

The President: I have some announcements. The first one is from Senator Effiong Bob and it reads:

The production of Senate Year 2010 Calendar would commence at the end of this week. Distinguished Senators who wish to change their photographs used in this year's calendar should please, submit the replacement latest Friday, the 18th of December, 2009.

With warmest and sincere regards.

(Signed)

Senator Effiong Dickson Bob

**Senator Patrick Enebeli Osakwe's Return to the
People's Democratic Party**

The second announcement is from distinguished Senator Patrick Enebeli Osakwe and it reads thus:

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His Excellency,
Distinguished Senator David Mark,
President of the Senate.
Sir,

Return to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

I hereby wish to announce that I have returned to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) of which I was a founding member and a contributor to her growth and development since 1998. It was the circumstances before the 2007 Election that made me leave for the Accord Party (AP) on which platform I contested and convincingly won the election, but today such circumstances no longer exist.

My return to the People's Democratic Party is consequent upon a division in the Accord Party which has led to the emergence of two parallel National Executive Committees of the Party and all efforts made by me to ensure a United Party has failed. Therefore, in recognition of Section 68(1)(g) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I decided to retrace my steps and join the People's Democratic Party (PDP) as the Party of my choice.

While thanking you for your usual solidarity and support, please accept the renewed assurances of my highest regards.

(Signed)
Senator Patrick Enebeli Osakwe
(Delta North) PDP

Chief Whip, show him to a comfortable seat. Senator Mana, please, hold on and let Senator Osakwe have his seat first. Distinguished Senator Momora, can we have your Point of Order because a Point of Order must be taken immediately.

Senator Adeleke Mamora (Lagos East): Mr. Senate President, my Point of Order is Constitutional, coming under Section 68(1)(g).

The President: You may read please.

Senator Adeleke Mamora: Section 68(1) says: *A member of the Senate or the House of Representatives shall vacate his seat in the House of which he is a Member if –*

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(g) being a person whose election to the House was sponsored by a political party, he becomes a member of another political party before the expiration of the period for which that House was elected:

I am aware of the proviso attached. *(Interruptions)*

The President: Senator Mamora, do not respond to what is coming from the Floor, it is my duty to protect you. So read Section 68(1)(g) to the end.

Senator Adeleke Mamora: The remaining part of sub-Section (1)(g) reads:

Provided that his membership of the latter political party is not as a result of a division in the political party of which he was previously a member or of a merger of two or more political parties of factions by one of which he was previously sponsored;

It is not within the understanding of my humble self and I believe, this Senate that there is a division in Accord Party. To the best of my knowledge, when and where there is a division in a political party, it would be so stated by INEC, which is the body that controls and regulates political parties in this country. As long as INEC as the election management body has not made a pronouncement to that effect, it would not be proper, appropriate or right for us to say there is a division in that party. To the extent, I am calling your attention and, of course, the attention of my Colleagues in this Senate to that provision. I leave it for your judgment.

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw (Cross River South): Mr. President, I would like to remind my Colleague, Senator Mamora that the Section he has referred to in our Constitution does not specify INEC but a division in a party. It does not say that INEC should pronounce the division in a party.

The second point is that he does not belong to the political party, how then would he know what is going on inside the party. I have just been reminded by Senator Joy Emodi that my distinguished Colleague, Senator Mamora himself did the same thing. He went from AD to AC, although he decided to remain in Opposition. We are hoping that the next step he will take would bring him from Opposition to the PDP. So, Mr. President, please rule him out of Order.

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The President: I have to rule on your Point of Order, Senator Mamora. You raised the Point of Order and the appropriate person who can say whether or not there is division in his party is Patrick Osakwe himself, and he has said so. As a distinguished Senator, he did not just say so verbally, he also put it down in black and white for record. So, Senator Mamora, you know that I have real difficulty ruling you out of Order but this is one opportunity that I would not miss, so, I rule you out of Order.

What is your Point of Order distinguished Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim.

Senator Bukar Ibrahim Abba (Yobe East): Mr. President, my Point of Order is under Section 68(2) of the 1999 Constitution. Senator Mamora stopped at Section 68(1), he actually should have taken Section 68(2) along and that sub-Section it reads:

The President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as the case may be, shall give effect to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, so however that the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives or a member shall first present evidence satisfactory to the House concerned that any of the provisions of that subsection has become applicable in respect of that member. We have not seen any evidence.

The President: Distinguished Senator, there is no problem, can you read your Standing Order 64.

Senator Bukar Ibrahim Abba: Order 64 of the Senate Standing Order reads:

The President of the Senate in the Senate and the Chairman in any Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of the Order in the Senate and Committee respectively, and the reason for any point of Order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the Senate except upon a substantive motion after notice.

The President: I hope that is very clear to you because I have ruled on this point already, and you are making the same point. So, I rule you out of Order distinguished Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim.

The Chief Whip of the National Assembly, could you please, take distinguished Senator Patrick Osakwe to an appropriate seat? (*Distinguished Senator Patrick Osakwe was accordingly escorted to the Seat on the ruling People's Democratic Party section*)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Senator Patrick E. Osakwe (Delta North): Mr. President, Order 43, if I may read.

By the indulgence of the Senate and the leave of the President of the Senate, a Senator may make a Personal Explanation although there be no question before the Senate; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the Explanation. The terms of the proposed statement shall be submitted in detail to the President of the Senate when his leave to make it is sought.

As I told you, I just want to raise this Order so that I can say one or two things.

The President: It should not be subject to debate and no controversial matter should be raised.

Senator Patrick E. Osakwe: Mr. President, I feel highly humbled to be sitting on this isle of this hallowed Chamber. I feel that this is a single opportunity for me to thank the people who have been sitting here for the past two and half years for keeping here as it is because if it is not quiet enough, I would not want to join them.

I want to also use the opportunity to say thank you very much for the Leader of the Minority and to say whether those who raised Point of Order did not want me to go or not, I feel that they lack the onus to prevent me from coming to where I belong. I thank them all the same and I want them to come one by one because at the end of this Session, I do not think there would be anybody sitting there. I feel that this is the biggest party in Africa and the greatest party in Nigeria and this is the party where you have milk and honey. So, I want all of you to come and let us build PDP together. Let us build the stronger party together so that it would be stronger.

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I want to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity you have given me to exercise my fundamental right and I want to say that I would be my brother's keeper in the PDP family.

Thank you very much and God bless.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2009

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin (Oyo Central):
Mr. President, before going into the Order Paper, may I also, on behalf of Members of the ruling largest party in black and white Africa, welcome our own brother, Senator Patrick Osakwe back home.

The first business of the day is the presentation of an Executive Bill standing in my name on the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2009.

You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act
(Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2009 – *read the First Time*.

Nigeria Computer Security and Protection Agency (Est. etc) Bill, 2009

The second business of the day is also an Executive Bill standing in my name on the Nigeria Computer Security and Protection Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2009.

You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

Nigeria Computer Security and Protection Agency
(Establishment, etc) Bill, 2009 – *read the First Time*.

Institute of Management Information Technology (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2009

The third business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Senator T. U. Wada on the Institute of Management Information Technology (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2009.

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You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

Institute of Management Information Technology
(Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2009 – *read the First Time*

National Youth Development Agency (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2009

The fourth business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Senator Umar Argungu on the National Youth Development Agency (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2009.

Again, you may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

National Youth Development Agency
(Establishment, etc) Bill, 2009 – *read the First Time*

National Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2009

The fifth business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Senator Heineken Lokpobiri on the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2009.

You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

National Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation
Act Bill (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2009 – *read the First Time*.

Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Bill, 2009

The sixth business of the day is the presentation of a Bill, again standing in the name of Senator Heineken Lokpobiri on the Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Bill; 2009.

You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Bill, 2009
– *read the First time*.

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ORDER OF THE DAY

Rules and Business Committee: Presentation of Commemorative Publications

Mr. President, I move that we step down the first Order of the Day to another legislative day.

Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora: Mr. Senate President, I second the Motion as moved by the Senate Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

(By leave of Senate, the first item on the Order Paper stood down to another legislative day)

PRESENTAION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the Screening of Members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, I will like to re-arrange the Order Paper slightly. So, the first Order of the day is the Consideration of the Report of the Committee on the Niger Delta on the screening of the following as Members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). The names are as contained in the Order Paper. You will also recall that the Report of the Committee was laid on Tuesday, 24th November, 2009.

You may now invite the Chairman of that Committee, Senator James Manager, to move the Motion for the Consideration of his Report.

Senator James Ebiowou Manager (Delta South): Mr. President, I move that I be allowed to present the Report of my Committee on the screening of three nominees for the Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission as nominated by Mr. President.,

Senator Nicholas Yahaya Ugbanne (Kogi East): Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Senate do grant the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Niger-Delta leave to present his Report on the screening of the three nominees.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the screening of the Members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and approve the recommendation therein.

Senator James Ebiowou Manager: The Senate will recall that the initial Report on the screening of the Chairman and other Presidential Nominees for the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was considered on Wednesday, 29th July, 2009.

In the Committee's Report the Senate may further recall that legislative action on nominees representing Abia State, Ondo State and Oil Producing Companies was yet to be concluded. The Senate approved the recommendations of the Committee and confirmed the nominations of all other nominees excepting the nomination of Edo State representative, which ran contrary to the provisions of Section 109(e) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Subsequently, the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, sent in Mr. Joe Ukunoritsewumi Jakpa as a replacement for Dr Daru Owie earlier nominated as Part Time Member representing the Oil Producing Companies and Dr. (Sir) Ogbonna Jacob Anuruegbe as a replacement for Barrister Aloysius Nwagboso earlier nominated as Part Time Member representing Abia State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). These requests were considered by the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Niger Delta for further legislative action.

I will go straight to the recommendations because I am sure all of you have copies of this Report. I will start from the Findings.

Findings

Additionally, the Committee made the following findings:

- (a) That all the nominees are from Oil Producing Communities;
- (b) That the nominees have been given Police clearance;

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- (c) That the nominees are well educated, experienced and successful in their fields of endeavour;
- (d) That the nominees responded well to all issues raised by the Committee. They also have good knowledge of the Niger Delta region and are aware of the developmental challenges facing the Commission.

Committee's Recommendations

In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommends the nominations of the following for confirmation;

- (a) Mr. Joe Ukunoritsewumi Jakpa;
- (b) Dr (Sir) Ogbonna Jacob Anuruegbe;
- (c) Barister Benson G. Enikuomihin.

The Committee's Prayer

That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee and approve its recommendations.

Thank you.

The President: Is there any comment especially the two of you from Abia State? There is no need for comments if you are in support of the Recommendations.

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, I move that this Senate do now resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider this Report.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora: Mr. President, I second the Motion moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the Screening of the Members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission -
CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

(The Chairman in the Chair)

The Chairman: Senator James Manager, five Members did not sign the Report, what is the problem?

Senator James Manager: Mr. Chairman, those who did not sign are not opposed to the Report. In any case, some of them travelled at the time.

The Chairman: Senator Osakwe, are you opposed to the Report?

Senator Patrick E. Osakwe: (Delta North): Mr. President, I was not in Chamber the day the Paper was circulated for signature, so, I go with the position of the Committee.

The Chairman: Senator George Thompson Sekibo (JP) are you opposed to the Report?

Senator George T. Sekibo: Mr. President: I stand by the Committee's decision.

The Chairman: Senator Mohammed Bello, are you opposed to the Report?

Senator Mohammed Adamu Bello: No, Mr. President.

The Chairman: Where is Senator Chukwumerije?

Several distinguished Senators: He is not here.

The Chairman: All right, before I put the Question, Senator Dahiru Kuta are you opposed to the Report?

Senator Dahiru A. Kuta: Mr. President, I want to raise an observation particularly on Barr. Benson G. Enikuomhe. In the Report it is indicated that there was a kind of petition, maybe, the Committee should let us know what kind of petition it is just for our information.

Senator James Manager: Mr. President, I know that Ondo State is one. Initially, they had some disagreements but they have all come together fully including Senator Oguniya. That is what I discovered speaking authoritatively as the Chairman of the Committee. That is the position.

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The Chairman: Would the Senate approve the nomination of Mr. Joe Jakpa as a Member of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Dr. (Sir) Ogbonna Jacob Anuriegbé as a Member of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Barr. Benson G. Enikwuomhe as a Member of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, you may now report progress.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora: Mr. President. I rise to second the Motion ably moved by the Leader that you do report progress.

Question put and agreed to.

(The President resumed the Chair)

The President: The Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the screening of Mr. President's Nominees for appointment as Members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and approved the nomination of Mr. Joe Jakpa representing Oil Producing Companies, Dr. (Sir) Ogbonna Jacob Onuriegbé, Abia State and Barr. Benson G. Enikuomhe, Ondo State as Members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission.

Is this a true reflection of what transpired in the Committee of the Whole?

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

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Confirmation of Nominees

The President: Would the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Joe Jakpa as a Member of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. (Sir) Ogbonna Jacob Anuriegbé as a Member of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Barr. Benson G. Enikuomhe as a Member of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nominations of Mr. Joe Jakpa, Dr. (Sir) Ogbonna Jacob Anuriegbé and Barr. Benson G. Enikuomhe as Members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission.

On behalf of distinguished Senators, I congratulate the new Members. Except for Joe Jakpa whose nomination was not controversial, the other two had a lot of controversies. They should go there and be true members of the Board and should not fight those who opposed them or support only those who supported them. They represent their various states and they must see themselves as representing everybody in the State whose desire is to ensure that there is development in the Niger-Delta area.

I would like, on behalf of us, to also say congratulations to all of them and the distinguished Senators should please talk to these members so that they can relate equally to those who supported them and those who did not initially support them.

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Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the Screening of Members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, the fourth Order of the day is the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the screening of the following persons as members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Nigeria in accordance with section 12(4) of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, 2007. The names are as contained in the Order Paper.

You will also recall that the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief was referred to the Committee on Banking Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on Wednesday, 30th September, 2009. You may now invite the Chairman of that Committee, Senator Nkechi Nwaogu to move the Motion for the presentation and consideration of this Report.

Senator Nkechi Nwaogu (Abia Central): Mr. President, may I move the Motion that the Senate do receive and consider Report of the screening exercise of the Members of the Monetary Policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The Senate at its Sitting on Wednesday, 30th September, 2009 considered the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief on the confirmation of his nominees as Members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank. Accordingly, the Senate referred the request to the Committee on Banking for the screening of the Nominees. The Nominees are:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Dr. Adedoyin Salami | Member |
| 2. | John Osilaja | Member |
| 3. | Prof. Chibuike Ugochukwu Uche | Member |
| 4. | Dr. Shehu Yahaya | Member |
| 5. | Abdul-Ganiyu Garba | Member |

I will just go straight to the recommendation of the Committee on Banking.

Having satisfied with the academic and professional qualifications, competence, work experience and character of the nominees, the Committee hereby recommends that the Senate do confirm the following as Members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | Dr. Adedoyin Salami | Member |
| 2. | John Oshilaja | Member |
| 3. | Prof. Chibuike Ugochukwu Uche | Member |
| 4. | Dr. Shehu Yahaya | Member |
| 5. | Abdul-Ganiyu Garba | Member |

We so recommend.

The President: Is there any comment? (*No response*)

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: I now move that this Senate do now resolved into Committee of the Whole to consider this Report.

Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora (Lagos East): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion as ably moved by the Leader that the Senate do resolve to Committee of the Whole to consider the Report.

The President: Have you all got the Report? Senator Dahiru you are the only one without the Report.

Question Put and agreed to.

Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the screening of members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Nigeria in accordance with section 12(4) of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, 2007 –
CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

The Chairman: Senator Nkechi Nwaogu, those who did not sign have no serious objection, do they?

Senator Nkechi Nwaogu: Mr. President, I believe they are aware of this Report.

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Senator Patrick Osakwe (Delta North): There is no objection.

Senator Chimaroke Nnamani (Enugu East): I have no objection, Sir.

The President: Will the Senate approve the nomination of Dr. Adedoyin Salami as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of John Osilaja as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Prof. Chibuike Ugochukwu Uche as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Will Senate approve the nomination of Dr. Shehu Yahaya as a Member of the Monetary Policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Abdul-Ganiyu Garba as a member of the Monetary Policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. Chairman, you may now report progress.

Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora: Mr. Chairman, I rise to second the Motion that you do report progress.

Question put and agreed to.

(The President resumed the Chair)

The President: The Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on

the Screening of Mr. President's nominees for appointment as Members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria and approved the nominations of Dr. Adedoyin Salami, John Osilaja, Prof. Chibuike Ugochukwu Uche, Dr. Shehu Yahaya and Mr. Abdul-Ganiyu Garba as Members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank.

Is that a true reflection of what transpired in the Committee of the Whole?

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

Confirmation of Nominations

The President: Thank you. We will now go for their confirmation. Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. Adedoyin Salami as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of John Osilaja as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Prof. Chibuike Ugochukwu Uche as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. Shehu Yahaya as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Abdul-Ganiyu Garba as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

The nominations of Dr. Adedoyin Salami, John Osilaja, Prof. Chibuike Ugochukwu Uche, Dr. Shehu

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Yahaya and Mr. Abdul-Ganiyu Garba are hereby confirmed as members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Distinguished Colleagues, I would like to thank you for this confirmation and appeal to these new members that as they join the other members they should ensure that our Monetary Policy is on the right track in accordance with the set rules and regulations so that we can, at least, make sure that we do not fall victim of the current economic and financial meltdown. We wish them all the best and hope that by their inputs we would be able to steer this country on the right economic path and growth.

Thank you.

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, before taking on the other items on the Order Paper, I move that we go into Close Session.

Senator Olorunnimbe Mamora: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do go into Close Session.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do go into Close Session. *(Senate went into Close Session accordingly)*

Sitting suspended: 12.00 p.m.
Sitting resumed: 12.30 p.m.

(The Deputy Senate President in the Chair)

The Deputy President: Distinguished Colleagues, at the Close Session the Senators looked into matters of interest to the workings of the Senate. Is that the true reflection of what transpired in the Close Session?

Several distinguished Senators: Yes

Report of the National Assembly Conference Committee on the 2009 Virement Proposals (Revised)

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, the third Order of the day is the consideration of the Conference Committee Report on Virement Proposals. You will recall the Conference Committee's Report was recommitted to the Committee for further legislative action yesterday. As I understand, the Report is now ready.

You may now invite Senator Ahmed Maccido, Chairman, Appropriations Committee to move the Motion for the Senate to consider and approve the Conference Report.

Senator Ahmed M. Maccido (Sokoto North): Mr. President, I move that the Senate do consider and approve the Report of the National Assembly Conference Committee on 2009 Virement Proposals as revised.

Senator Anthony G. Manzo (Taraba North): Mr. President, I second the Motion ably moved by Senator Maccido.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: The Senate do consider and approve the Report of the National Assembly Conference Committee on 2009 Virement Proposals as revised.

Senator Maccido: Mr. President, this is the Report of the National Assembly Conference Committee on the 2009 Virement Proposals as revised.

1. The Senate should recall that the 2009 Executive request for virement was presented to the Senate and the House of Representatives respectively for approval. The two Chambers considered the request and approved it independently. The comparative analysis of the request as passed by both Chambers indicates some areas of differences as outlined below:

2. As a result of above differences, the Conference Committee was constituted to harmonize the positions of the two Chambers. The Conference Committee held an intensive meeting on Wednesday, 16th December, 2009 in furtherance of its mandate and harmonised the differences as follows:

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S/NO	MINISTRIES	AMOUNT VIRED	
		Capital	Recurrent
1.	Niger Delta Affairs	933,000,000	1,124,627,000
2.	Power	5,452,072,495	-
3.	Science & Technology	9,000,000	-
4.	Interior	33,000,000	56,086,178
5.	Defence	8,011,610,082	-
6.	Federal Capital Administration	6,150,000,000	-
7.	Aviation	1,946,189,738	-
8.	Agric and Water Resources	11,012,000,000	-
9.	Culture and Tourism (House Version adopted)	113,957,596	-
10.	Education	-	-
	Total	32,727,829,911	1,180,713,178

Total amount vired = ₦33,908,543,089

3. The harmonised position is hereby submitted for the approval of the Senate. The details of the Virement in respect of the Ministries mentioned above are also attached.

4. We so recommend.

(Mr. President resumed the Chair)

Senator Simon Ayogu Eze (Enugu North): Mr. President, I support that we approve the Virement as presented by the Chairman of Appropriations and also asking additionally, that for completeness of records the corrigendum from the House of Representatives be attached to the document so that it would form a

complete record of the documents of the Senate. With this few words I support that we pass this Virement.

The President: Any more comments? (No response)

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do approve the Conference Committee Report on the Virement Proposals in the 2009 Appropriation Act.

I sincerely hope that the Executive would implement this so that they can deliver the dividends of democracy to the people.

Before I call on the Senate Leader, you know all along that the Committee on Appropriations should work along with the Committee on Finance; the two Committees are to work together. When we passed this Appropriation to the Appropriations Committee, we forgot to mention Committee on Finance but it is almost automatic. I thought I should emphasise that. I know that Senators Maccido and Makarfi are working together in harmony without any problem.

Senator Ahmed M. Maccido: Mr. President, we have no problem.

The President: The Committee on Finance, please work with the Committee on Appropriations because you should need the revenue profile extensively.

From next week the Committees will be meeting with the various ministries that will come to defend their 2010 budget. I want to encourage you to ensure that you take these meetings seriously. You must ask questions, particularly on the implementation aspect of the budget to know if the ministries have the capacity to implement some the allocations we have given to them in the Budgets.

Suspension of Items on the Order Paper

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, I move that we step down the remaining items on the Order Paper till another legislative day.

I so move.

0687

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion as moved by the Leader that other items on the Order Paper be stood down till another legislative day.

I so second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do stand down other items on the Order Paper to another legislative day.

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, to enable us pass the Votes and Proceedings, I move that we adjourn for ten minutes and resume sitting by 1.30p.m.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora: Mr. President, pursuant to the reason adduced by the Leader, I rise to second the Motion that this Senate do adjourn till 1.30 p.m.

I so second.

Question put and agreed to.

Sitting suspended: 1.20 p.m.
Sitting resumed: 1.30 p.m.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, let us consider the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 17th December, 2009 beginning from Pages 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336. We should reflect the details of the virement we talked about which was an omission. Distinguished Heineken Lokpobiri should move for those corrections?

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri (Bayelsa West): Mr. President, I want to draw your attention to Page 336 and to move that the details of the virement in respect of the different Ministries mentioned be reflected.

I so move.

The President: The Secretariat should take note of that correction. Is there any other correction?

0688

Senator Ibrahim Mohammed Ida (Katsina Central): Mr. President, I rise to move that the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 17th December, 2009 be approved as amended.

Senator Audu Idris Umar (Gombe Central): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion as ably moved that the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 17th December, 2009 be approved as amended.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 17th December, 2009 be approved as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President as that is the only item on the Order Paper, I move that this Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 12th January, 2010.

I so move.

Senator Patricia Naomi Akwashiki (Nasarawa North): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that this Senate do hereby adjourn till 12th January, 2010.

I so second.

The President: Distinguished Senators, before I put the Question, I want to wish all of you a blessed Christmas. This is not actually an Xmas break for us because various Committees would continue to work on the Budget to enable us pass the Budget as quickly as possible.

Once again, I wish you all God's blessings and God's protection to your families and good tidings. Those of you who would want to travel should realise that the roads now are very busy, therefore, be careful as you go.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 12th January, 2010.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 10.00 a.m.