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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Thursday
29th October, 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, 29th October, 2009

The Senate met at 10:25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: The Senate is called to Order. Distinguished Senators we have the Votes and Proceeding of Wednesday, 20th October, 2009 before us for approval: Page 243, 244, 245,

Senator Dahiru A. Kuta: (Niger East), Mr. President, I have an observation on the third to the last line where it says: *The delegation was already on the Sudanese air space ...*, well, I do not know if the phrase *on the air* is correct but that is not really my observation. It goes further to say when it was informed that the plane could not land at Khartoum Airport, in view of repairs being undertaken, the word, *undertaking* there should be spelt with *en* and not *ing*.

The President: Secretariat there are two corrections; *the delegation was already in* and then *undertaken*. Page: 246 and 247.

Senator Abubakar Sodangi (Nasarawa West): Mr. President, I rise with all humility to move for the approval of the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 28th October, 2009 as amended.

Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim: (Yobe East), Mr. President, I rise to whole heartedly second the Motion that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 28th October, 2009 be approved as amended.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceeding of Wednesday, 28th October, 2009 be approved as amended.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ANPP Senators meeting with the National
Chairman**

The President: There would be a meeting of ANPP Senators with their Chairman at their National Secretariat at 12: 00 noon prompt. Senators are reminded to please attend including all the factions.

(Signed)

Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan

Birthday Wishes to Senators

We would like all of us together to congratulate distinguished Senator Blessing Ngozi Chris Anyanwu who celebrated her birthday yesterday. She is younger than a number of Senators here.

May I also, on behalf of all of us, congratulate the great Leader of the Senate, distinguished Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin who will be celebrating his birthday tomorrow?

Another distinguished Senator, Osita Bonaventure Izunaso will be celebrating his birthday tomorrow. He and the Leader are within the same age bracket.

The Great Leader we congratulate and wish you a happy birthday and if there is any other invitation, we would announce that later on.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

**Geneva Convention and Additional Protocols
Bill, 2009**

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin (Oyo Central): Mr. President, the first business of the day is the presentation of an Executive Bill standing in my name on the Geneva Convention and Additional Protocols Bill, 2009. You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

Geneva Convention and Additional Protocols Bill, 2009 - read *the First Time*.

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Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009

Mr. President, the second business of the day is also an Executive Bill standing in my name on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009. You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2009 - *read the First Time.*

The President: Now Secretariat, note because it is not fourth, it is Constitutional Amendment, that is what came from the Leader, that is what the Clerk has read out and that is what I read out also.

**National Institute of Hospitality and Tourism
(Est. etc.) Bill, 2009**

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: The third business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Senator Bako Gassol and none others on the National Institute of Hospitality and Tourism (Est. etc.) Bill, 2009. You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

National Institute of Hospitality and Tourism (Est. etc) Bill, 2009 - *read the First Time.*

**Unclaimed Dividends Trust Fund
(Establishment, etc) Bill, 2009**

Mr. President, the fourth business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Senator Ayogu Eze on the Unclaimed Dividends Trust Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2009. You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

Unclaimed Dividends Trust Fund (Establishment Etc.) Bill, 2009 – presented by Senator Ayogu Eze (Enugu North) – *read the First Time.*

**Joint Admission and Matriculation Board Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2009**

The fifth business of the day is the presentation of the Bill standing in the name of Senator Grace Folashade Bent, on the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009. You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

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Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 – presented by Senator Grace F. Bent (Adamawa South) – *read the First Time.*

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

**Committees' Sessional Report for the Period
June 2008 to June 2009**

Mr. President, the sixth business of the day is the presentation of the Sessional Reports of the following Committees contained in the Order Paper in accordance with Rule 102(d) of the Senate's Standing Order 2007 as amended. With your kind permission, I move that the Senate do now receive the Reports of the Committees in accordance with the Senate's Standing Order 102(d).

I so move.

Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan (Borno North): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do receive the Sessional Reports of the under-listed Committees in accordance with Rule 102(d) of the Senate's Standing Order 2007 as amended for the period June 2008 to June 2009.

Question put and agreed to.

The following Committees accordingly laid their Reports on the Table: Committee on Land Transportation, Committee on Local and Foreign Debts, Committee on Marine Transport, Committee on Information and Media, Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Committee on Aviation, Committee on Navy, Committee on Niger-Delta and Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream). Others were: Committee on Power, Steel and Metallurgy, Committee on Science and Technology, Committee on Solid Minerals, Committee on Sports, Committee on Women and Youth Development and Committee on Works.

**Presentation of Annual Report of the Auditor-
General of the Federation**

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: The seventh business of the day is the presentation of the Annual Report of the Auditor-General for the Federation on the accounts of the Government of

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the Federation of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December, 2008 in accordance with Section 85(2) and (5) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

With your very kind permission, I wish to move the Motion for the Senate to receive this Report.

Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan: Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Senate do receive the Annual Report of the Auditor-General for the Federation on the accounts of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, for the year ended 31st December, 2008 in accordance with Section 85(2) and (5) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report accordingly laid on the Table)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Successful Disarmament of Armed Groups in the Niger Delta

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, the first Order of the Day is the Motion standing in the names of Senators Nimi Barigha-Amange and 62 others on the Successful Disarmament of the Armed Groups in the Niger Delta by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. You may invite Senator Barigha-Amange to move his Motion.

The President: The Leader, what I have on my Order Paper is Successful Disarmament of Armed Groups in the Niger Delta by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange and Senator Grace Folashade Bent and Co-sponsors. Who of the two should I call to move the Motion?

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: I leave that to you to decide, Sir.

The President: That is all right. I call Senator Benjamin Nimi Barigha-Amange of Bayelsa East Senatorial District, just to avoid any confusion.

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Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange (Bayelsa East): Mr. President, this Motion is being sponsored by two eminent Senators: one from the down South and the other from the far North. My name is Senator Barigha-Amange (Bayelsa East) and her name is Senator Grace Folashade Bent from Adamawa South. We have other 56 Senators with us and the import of this is that all the minority Party Members are Co-sponsors of this Motion which shows the importance of the Motion. The Motion reads:

The Senate:

Notes that there were various armed groups in the Niger Delta since the year 2000 that is about nine years now.

Further notes that Government at various times tried to disarm the said armed groups by armed confrontation to no avail.

Mindful of the fact that the Niger Delta is the economic life-wire of Nigeria.

Cognizant of the fact that the Niger Delta is the hub of economic activities of many nations including the advanced countries, and that the crisis in the Niger Delta affects not only Nigeria but global.

Observes that the neglect or apathy of human and infrastructural development of the Niger Delta is not a misdeed of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua but of the various governments for the past 49 years.

Aware that the success of the Federal Government's laudable Seven Point Agenda depends on peace and security in the Niger Delta.

Conscious of the fact that armed confrontation has never solved crisis, even at the international level.

Acknowledges that it takes a man of peace to create amity between groups, communities and even nations.

Accedes that President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua is a man of peace.

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Agrees that President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua has successfully completed the first phase of the peace process in the Niger Delta.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:

- i. **Urge** the Federal Government to consciously and passionately complete the next level of the peace process in the Niger Delta.
- ii. **Send** a letter of congratulation to President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua for a feat that qualifies him for a Nobel Prize for Peace.

The President: I will take as many comments as possible but can I take comments of those who are not co-sponsors first?

Senator Mohammed Mana (Adamawa North): Mr. President, I rise to second this laudable Motion moved by Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange. We are all aware of the lingering crisis in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. I know this area very well having served in Port Harcourt for many years. The crisis there is as a result of years of neglect by various governments and it is only President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua who has taken the bull by the horn. Many other Leaders have tried in the past without success and this has cost Nigeria a lot in terms of revenue accruing to Nigeria from oil and gas and other resources.

We are all aware of the damaging effect of the neglect of the area. Farmers have not been able to go to their farms and the only thing left for the youths unfortunately, was to go to the bush and fight. Now, under the able leadership of our President under the auspices of the Peoples Democratic Party of Nigeria, he has been able to garner support from almost everybody and this Motion is seeking to congratulate the President. I will also use the opportunity to urge the President to continue with this effort so that we would have lasting peace and progress in that part of the country.

When one part of Nigeria is not happy there is no reason all parts of the country should be happy. We are one nation, one people and one destiny. Anything that affects any part of the country affects all parts of Nigeria. Therefore, all parts of Nigeria should praise the President and the good people of Niger Delta for assisting the President to have peace in our country. I, therefore, second this Motion.

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Senator Uche Chukwumerije (Abia North): Mr. President, may I first congratulate the movers of this Motion on a very able work they did on this by capturing the historic importance of what happened in the Niger Delta by given credit to whom credit is due. I thank them mainly in one spirit. An African proverb says that when you thank a person for a good job he has done, the person will be encouraged to do more.

With tremendous foresight and maturity, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's regime has restored peace to the Niger Delta. It is to the historic credit of this regime that it has solved, under a year, a problem which decades of military approach could not solve. I share the expectations of the Motion about the tremendous political, economic and social benefits that will accrue from this peace. But I also share and draw attention to a caveat in that Motion. It mentioned about the first phase and goes on to hope about the second level and that is where I want to concentrate my brief contribution.

For this peace to be lasting, I believe there are two more steps to be taken. The first step to be taken is the one that has already been taken on paper; namely, aggressive approach to development of Niger Delta but that is not enough. What we want to see soonest is the actual manifestation and execution of this development projects in the villages, creeks and the welfare of the people of the Niger Delta. I want to emphasise this because novel projects in Nigeria often end in the labyrinth of corruption in the country. We must not use this as an opportunity of throwing money at problems, which invariably end up in the pockets of elite groups.

The second step that must be taken is a step that may not be popular now with many people in Nigeria today. For many decades I have been a very strong proponent of strong centre and centralised wealth from my belief in the political dilemma of Africa to Nigeria's Federal set up, too. But recently, I am having a lot of second thought on this. When I took a comparative study of the secret of stability of United States of America and on the other hand the short-lived union called the Soviet Union and among the secrets one shock me very much; namely, the management and distribution of wealth. If you go to United States what impresses is that every single state in the United States finds out through its own efforts, in its backyard, something that sustains that state. I

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do not believe that Allah or God created any part of the world without giving enough resources to maintain itself what then is need is human ingenuity and that is what sustains the stability of United States.

On the other hand, why the Soviet Union failed was because of attempts to centralise wealth through Gorgia, others felt so deprived and this continued for a long time and what happened eventually was the collapse of the Union.

The point I am trying to make is, I do not know how to avoid the emotive word called resource control. We must have a regime that takes a dispassionate, fundamental appraisal of what will give us unity in this country and I believe that if we talk seriously the issue of resource control, every part of Nigeria would dig back into its trenches; look at its backyard and apply all its ingenuity and it would find something that would give it almost as much as oil. In the long run, the country would be far richer all round because you find that the country's wealth is as almost evenly distributed as that of the United States of America.

In conclusion, I believe that peace has been achieved in the Niger Delta and as I said earlier, that goes to historic credit of Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's regime. I believe that Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's regime could aim at being one of the greatest regimes in this country if he can do two things. One, on the issue of socialisation, management, distribution of wealth, let him think more seriously of the historic value of resource control. Two, on the political field, let him have the courage for the first time in Nigerian history to give us a lasting electoral reform and a sustainable free and fair election. If he does these two things, he is moving towards the status of Abraham Lincoln. So, those who are talking about Nobel Peace Prize, please keep it up now, let us go on and see the peace in the Niger Delta translated into lasting peace. I have made my submission.

Senator John Shagaya (Plateau South): Mr. President, I thank you for the opportunity to speak first amongst others after the Comrade. The first thing is to commend the Motion and recommend it for support of everybody that is in this Chamber.

One very serious comment I would want to make is that the Motion talks of nine years of standoff in the Niger Delta region which has brought about the presence of so many small arms.

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Here we are talking of proliferation of small arms that is being discussed not only in this country but also in the West African sub-region.

It is also known in history that lots of other crises that were outside the Niger Delta region have their sources of weapon supplies from the Niger Delta region. Also lots of the weapons that found their way into the Niger Delta region, some came from the Armed Forces armouries and some from the Police armouries. It is very unfortunate but it is true. It happened and quite a lot of Police and Military Officers have been court martialled while some are still facing cases and trails on those issues.

The other major source of arms supply which has not been discussed is that which came from some politicians who had their various armed groups. This, too, must be handled the same way as the Armed Forces one is being handled. If sources of weapons supply are traced to some politicians, highly respected Nigerians, they may have to face the same kind of trial that the Armed Forces Officers are facing.

Let me narrow a recommendation now to the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Police. If truly weapons acquired by public funds wrongly found their way for use by militants, I will suggest that the Nigerian Armed Forces comes up with a modification of the way their arms are held in the armouries. Here I am talking of classifications and codifications of such weapons. In the civilised system the digital world we live in, the GSM world we live in; the computerised age we live in, if arms are coded and classified, the movement of every weapon will be traced. Meaning that in future, we will drastically curtail the usage of weapons purchased for legitimate use of members of the Nigerian security forces. When we go to Prayers, I would suggest that that be added as the third Prayer.

I also have a suggestion on the modification of the Prayers and until we get there and I thought the sources of weapons is a very serious thing.

Senator Joseph Iorshagheer Akaagerger (Benue North-East): Mr. President, I have just a few remarks to make and the first is to join my Colleagues to commend the initiative of Mr. President for the disarmament in the Niger Delta. It is my hope and prayer that the conditions which

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became the consequence of the Niger Delta experience will never arise again because if they arise again, we are likely to do disarmament again but this is very unnecessary.

Again, I was very interested in this issue and very good response on Mr. President because the area involves a number of minorities and I belong to the minorities in this country I have been told so. It shows the response and responsiveness of government to agitations of every person in this country, whether you are small or big.

The happenings in the Niger Delta disclosed quite a number of issues, some of which we have left unattended to. There was a Truth and Reconciliation Commission if I remember, arising out of the conditions in the Niger Delta. Key players were mentioned and as usual in Nigeria when it comes to issues, nobody has been charged to court and nothing has been done. They are likely thinking that tomorrow this kind of situation would arise again and nothing would happen to them. I think attention should be given to this also.

Let me come to the issue of military capability with respect to what happened in the Niger Delta. Dear Nigerians, the military should not use excessive force on them but minimum force that is necessary. The question that the army was not capable during the years to deal with the situation was because the army was applying proportionate force to the circumstances.

Finally, I query the title of this Motion which says: *Successful disarmament...*, but we are saying that there are still some things to do. So, it has not been very successful as it is. It is only a phase and the next phase and the title should reflect the circumstances as it stands.

Senator Abubakar Tanko Ayuba (Kebbi South): Mr. President, I rise to give support to this Motion and urge my Colleagues to support it. For nine years the Niger Delta region has been of concern in this country, particularly, as it involved armed groups. There is no doubt that the wealth of this country lies in that region, and in so many fora it has been described that Nigeria's water ranks first or second most dangerous in the world where arm smuggling, bunkering, piracy, *et cetera*, exist.

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With the first phase which entails disarmament of the armed groups, one would say that it is a big step forward in the right direction towards finding lasting solution to the Niger Delta crisis. I have been privileged to have gone through the entire terrain of the Niger Delta being a member of the Naval Committee. I have seen it all, the inherent danger and concern of the people of the Niger Delta.

One must commend the President for this move which is noble and shows that he is a man of peace who wants to address issues that border on the minority question in this country. This is a very serious national issue. However, I must add that it is not only in the Niger Delta that we have proliferation of small arms; it is only peculiar in the Niger Delta because it has created a lot of harms.

I want to suggest in these Prayers that this phase be extended to other parts of this country where arms have found their way to, particularly, as we prepare for free elections in the year 2011.

Last week when I was listening to an AIT programme they were talking about GSM gun and I was pondering whether or not this weapon is in Nigeria already. The way things have gone, I believe this weapon could be in Nigeria and could be a very dangerous arsenal. When you see a man holding a GSM without knowing that it is a gun. If this is allowed to go into the hands of people who are not duly authorised to handle such arms, it could be a danger to this county.

Let me support the mover of this Motion and urge this Senate to support this Motion because it is a Motion in the right direction. I commend Mr. President.

Senator Ibrahim Mohammed Ida (Katsina Central): Mr. President, I want to say, like those who have spoken before me that this is a beautiful and timely Motion but for it to be appreciated, it is important for us to know what the amnesty programme comprise of.

Very briefly, the amnesty programme has three components, namely; disarmament and demobilisation of the militants, rehabilitation and integration of the militants and then the infrastructural development of the Niger Delta region. These are the things that constitute the

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amnesty programme. All we have seen so far is the expiration of the amnesty period and a closing of the time given for the first phase. From the statistics which my Committee has, that aspect has been very successful. This is because a substantial number of the militants have surrendered and a large quantity of arms has also been handed over to the authorities.

The next stage is the rehabilitation and the integration of the militants and that is being handled with vigour. This is because it involves screening of the militants to know who they are, what they want to do and how capable they are of doing what they want to do. From the information available to us, so many of them are very sincere in their quest to be re-integrated into the society. Many of them have expressed that they want to be craftsmen, engineers, workers in the oil industry and so on, and I think the system is in the process of determining where and who would go to. As at now, all those who have surrendered are being well catered for. They are being fed and given monthly stipends. All this is a sign of good gesture.

The third stage which is the infrastructural and economic development of the Niger Delta has many components, too. From information made available to us, the government is determined to specifically address the issues of the construction of the East-West highway, the construction of Atlantic coastal highway running from Ilaje-Koko-Burut- Brass-Nembe-Bonny to Ibaka, and the construction of the East-West railway running through Calabar - Port-Harcourt - Warri - Benin to Lagos. The first phase would start very soon from Calabar to Benin.

We have the development of internal waterways; we have the cleaning up of the environmental oil spillages that have blighted the ecosystem, the massive land reclamation and, indeed, the development of new towns. All these have either started or about to be started. It now behooves on us in this Chamber to please do whatever we can to show our support for this programme by giving the necessary financial appropriation support, and at the same time, taking real oversight interest to see that whatever funds are appropriated are used for the purposes intended.

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This is a unique scheme and it has never happened anywhere in the world. Nigeria has done it again. We had a civil war which we were able to finish on our own, on the doctrine of no victor no vanquish. We have done it once more. Let us all support the system. Let us all appreciate that those who were genuine militants felt rightly that they had a course to fight for, and having now realised that the road to peace does not lie through the muscle of the gun but through negotiation, they have now given themselves in, let us support them; let us support this government and let us please, support this Motion. I so submit.

Senator Nkechi Nwaogu (Abia Central): Mr. President, I am happy this morning about the reception of and response to this wonderful thought out Motion. On the issue of successful disarmament of the armed groups in the Niger Delta, I, on behalf of the good people of Abia Central wish to convey our congratulations to our able President.

The issue of the armed groups in the Niger Delta has been a worrying thing for every body in this country. For those of us that are living with it, we could not have had a better sigh of relieve than what we are having right now.

Inasmuch as we congratulate Mr. President of the country for this feat, I want this distinguished Chamber to note that this is the first step towards having sustainable and lasting peace within that region and in general, the entire country.

We would use this medium to talk to the Executive at this point in time over fulfillment of promises. In my place, it is said that when a child cries and points somewhere, it is either the mother or the father is there. This means that this agitation in the last nine years has been as a result of unfulfilled promises, as a result of feeling of hopelessness, and things not being done in the way they should be done.

For a successful disarmament of the militants as we have witnessed, we must not sit back on this peace that has been established in that place. We have seen economically that our oil production has gone up from 1.2 million barrels per day which was not our quota to two million barrels per day. This is an economic benefit that is now being enjoyed by everyone.

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My contribution this morning on this very Motion is to commend Mr. President and all that have contributed towards the emergence of this peace, and also to sound a note of caution that we must not renege on the promises that have been made. This area requires a commensurate development. They say, the hen that lays the golden egg must not be denied of the nutrient that comes from the egg. So, it is on this note that I commend Mr. President but I ask that we continue with the peace process that would usher in lasting peace.

(The Senate President steps out and the Deputy Senate President steps in)

Senator Eme Ufot Ekaete (Akwa Ibom South): Mr. President, I congratulate the President of this country for the successful execution of the disarmament of the militants in the Niger Delta. Through this process the government has been able to understand why the people took up arms. I am happy with the President because he was very patient to listen to all the voices that came from the Niger Delta region, starting from the eldest to the youth, to the militants themselves. He exhibited very matured attitude and that is why the surrendering of arms process has been very successful.

But as has been said, there must have been a cause for that agitation and I know that the government is addressing some of them. It behooves on the members of this Chamber especially during Appropriation to look at what vote would be able to start the process. The task before the people handling this process is quite enormous. Right now there are many facets in the rehabilitation process. They have to look for accommodation for these people who have been in the creeks for so many years. They have to re-orientate their thinking because some of them lived on fear and on drugs; so, for them to come out is a very big problem for them.

Of course, talking about the militants, they form a very small percentage of the youths of the Niger Delta. We have those of them who did not take up arms but were also not satisfied with that was happening in the region. They exercised their right by either talking to the militants or creating a peer situation where they could reach the militants to tell them that yes, you have brought the problem of the Niger Delta to the fore but it is time for us to

leave what we are doing so that Niger Delta could be developed, jobs could be created and people would be settled and that is going on now.

I know that this apparent peace that we see, we still have a lot of arms within the Niger Delta that have not been collected. We must do something to get those arms out. What we saw on the either the electronic or print media coverage is just a small fraction of the arms. The arms are still there, of course, we knew where the arms came from; the politicians like us were there, we used them as baits. Right now, the government is putting in a lot to address the issues of infrastructure and rehabilitate by giving them stipend but that is not enough because some of them have seen a lot of money in the process of agitation.

So, as National Assembly we must be able to help the Ministry that has been set up to be able to take on the task of resettling these people through provision of infrastructure, training, re-integration and other processes which are very many.

I thank Mr. President for helping that region because we have lost out for so many years. People could not get employment because some oil companies declared force majeure and packed out of the country. But they are now coming back. So, people from that region are quite happy but the task ahead is still very great. We implore Members of the Appropriations Committee to look passionately at the allocation to that region so that the tasks could be carried out to a successful end.

The Deputy President: Distinguished Colleagues, if we make our contributions brief, I am sure more people would contribute and we would be able to achieve more because we have a very long list and our Order Paper for the day is heavy. So, we would just take a few more then we take the Prayers.

Senator Nicholas Yahaya Ugbane (Kogi East): Mr. President, during the last Senate, there was a Report from the United States of America that in no time Nigeria would be a failed state and whilst making my contribution that time, I pointed to the problem of the Niger Delta that if that problem was not tackled, their prediction might come true. We thank Mr. President that he has been able to render that prediction a failure and so that brings the importance of this Motion to the fore.

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While commending the Executive President of Nigeria for what he has done, I would want him to see this as the beginning of many things to be done in the area because the area has been known to be volatile and causing a lot of political uncertainty, economic dislocation and other problems for this country. He should also realise that the Niger Delta area is the main artery of the country's economy providing over 80 *per cent* of the total revenue that is generated in this country as at today.

Therefore, I suggest that the Federal Government should embark on visible development of infrastructure in the area so that the people can begin to see the effect of the amnesty. Luckily, yesterday projects worth billions of Naira were awarded for the Niger Delta area. So, this is a step in the right direction.

But in the short run, I would want the government to embark on projects that can yield results within nine months; for instance, massive housing programme. This can be completed within nine months and the people from the region would begin to see visible signs of development while other things that take longer period like roads, ecological problems, *et cetera* are being tackled at the same time.

The other thing is to advise the people of the Niger Delta to exercise little patience because development has a time frame within which things can be done. So, they should realise and have confidence in the government that what the government has promised, the government would do. They should exercise patience so that government can realise its plans and objectives for the region.

Finally, peace is required by everybody. We need peace and tranquility for any meaningful development to be done and with this I think the future is very bright for Nigeria, the people of the Niger Delta and all of us.

Senator Andrew Abidemi Olugbenga Babalola (Oyo North): Mr. President, let me on behalf of myself and the people of my Senatorial District, say a very big congratulation to our President for having achieved this massive result in the Niger Delta.

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As Senator Ugbane said, the Western world has been predicting that in the next five to ten years Nigeria would be dismantled and the basis of this was the problem in the Niger Delta. That Mr. President has addressed this matter to me, is a mile stone achievement for him. I say big congratulations to him.

My prayer for him and his team is that God will continue to give him good health to be able to manage the affairs of this country through 2011 to 2015 and beyond.

The Deputy President: Thank you for your very short contribution.

Senator Anyim C. Ude (Ebonyi South): Mr. President, let me first of all say that it is doubtful that this struggle started nine years ago. I believe on record that Isaac Adaka Boro showed up with his own group in 1967, that is about 42 years ago. Looking back at what brought us to where we are, there are too many questions to be asked and sometimes we say things that may not go down well with everybody. I believe that the leaders of the Niger Delta at all levels, definitely, their actions or inactions contributed to this militancy. We are now celebrating that we are about to see the end. Now that Mr. President has done what he has done, it is one thing to win the war and another to keep the peace. What are the lessons?

I am sure that everybody would agree that corruption had a hand in inflaming the situation. How do we ensure that even the projects that are now being embarked upon corruption will not ruin those projects as they did in OMPADEC and the rest of them? It is, maybe, pleasant to know that the Federal Government is directly involved in this matter. Before now, it was being handled by NDDC or other lesser bodies, and we hope that with the Federal Government involvement, the situation will be different.

It is also alarming to note the quantity of arms that have come out of the Niger Delta during this process of disarmament. The questions are, how did these arms come in, in the first place? Who paid for them and what were the security agencies doing? These are the kind of questions we cannot just sweep aside. The security agencies have to tell us where they were when these arms came in. Now

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that we have been able to retrieve them, one hopes they would not allow them to fall back into the hands of armed robbers and the rest of them.

I believe that the key thing now is to sustain the peace that Mr. President has initiated.

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (Cross River Central): Let me start by joining those who have commended Mr. President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for this very historic opportunity. It requires a lot of courage and sense of history to see the future of the Niger Delta and the need for peace in the Niger Delta.

Let me also immediately commend the people of the Niger Delta for appreciating the need for dialogue at this point in time and the need for peace. This is because it is only in an atmosphere of peace that development could take place.

As I think about the recent agitation in the Niger Delta, that is the part of it that became militancy, I cannot help but think about an underlined irony in this agitation. The real agitation in the Niger Delta started when we had a 3 million man-march in the days of Abacha; when people were brought from all over the nooks and crannies of this country to see that development was possible in Nigeria when they saw what was happening in Abuja. The boys from the Niger Delta came to Abuja for that march and saw that development was, indeed, possible in this country if there was a will and they went back and started agitating that what was possible in Abuja should also be possible in their region. So, the agitation in the Niger Delta is actually a product of an irony and I hope that we keep an eye on history so that we do not lose the lessons of that irony.

In the past, three things were missing and that was why we had a situation in the Niger Delta. Good faith, goodwill and political will were missing. Now the current amnesty can only be an ingredient in a cocktail of solutions to the Niger Delta problem. But for those solutions to work these three ingredients that were missing in the past must be present, we must have goodwill, good faith and political will.

By cocktail of solutions what do I mean? Amnesty on its own can only create an atmosphere and an enabling environment for the other ingredients to be put in place. Those ingredients

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are; urgent human development of the people of the Niger Delta, urgent remediation of the environment of the Niger Delta and urgent infrastructural development of the Niger Delta. The people of the Niger Delta must be given a stake in their natural endowments. If we have all of these, then the amnesty will have meaning.

This amnesty also gives us an opportunity to reflect on the nature of our federalism. Since we are now undergoing Constitution review, we also have an opportunity to think more deeply on the nature of our federalism and it gives us an opportunity to reflect more deeply on fiscal federalism. Senator Uche Chukwumerije has made a point on that so I will not elaborate.

We must draw lessons from the recent agitations in the Niger Delta. Kidnapping started as a product of that agitation, today it has being exported to the South East where it has become mainstream business. Pipeline vandalism was a consequence of that agitation, today it has become a problem that we must resolve and I believe that we can resolve the issue of pipeline vandalism if the people of the Niger Delta have a stake in their natural endowments.

Lastly, the challenge before us today is to make the peace that this amnesty offers permanent and sustainable. I want to believe that the Almighty who gave Mr. President the courage to see the need for amnesty will also give him the courage to do everything that he needs to do to make sure that this peace is permanent.

The Deputy President: Distinguished Colleagues, as I said earlier, it is, indeed, a very popular Motion and I am sure everybody would have loved to speak but we need to conclude it. I want to join you in rejoicing with Mr. President and the rest of the country for the huge success of the amnesty programme and this has shown us as a great country capable of managing our own internal conflicts as has earlier been exemplified by the way we handled the civil war of 196-1970. We believe, like the civil war and the militancy in the Niger Delta, the issue of kidnapping and religious extremism will also pass away and we will be able to resolve them as well.

Having said this, let us please, go to the Prayers: Prayer (i) reads thus: *Urge the Federal Government to consciously and passionately*

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pursue the completion of the next level of the peace process in the Niger Delta.

Question put and agreed to.

Prayer (ii) reads thus: *Send a letter of congratulation to President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua for a feat that qualifies him for a Nobel Prize for peace.*

Senator Nicholas Y. Ugbane: Mr. President, I have an amendment. The issue of Nobel Prize is an international one, therefore, I would suggest that it reads: *Send a letter of congratulation to President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua for the feat.*

Amendment put and agreed to.

Resolved that the Senate:

- (i) *Urge the Federal Government to consciously and passionately pursue the completion of the next level of the peace process in the Niger Delta.*
- (ii) *Send a letter of congratulation to President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua for the feat.*

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Reports of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the Screening of Nominees:

Screening of Dr. Chinedu Kingsley Moghalu as the Deputy Governor of CBN

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, the second Order of the day is the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions, on the screening of Dr. Chinedu Kingsley Moghalu as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The Report of this Committee was laid yesterday, Wednesday, 29th October, 2009. You may now invite the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Nkechi Nwaogu, to move the Motion for the consideration of the Report.

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Senator Nkechi Nwaogu (Abia Central): Mr. President. I hereby move the Motion to seek leave of the Senate to consider the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the screening of Dr. Chinedu Kingsley Moghalu as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Senator Abubakar Sodangi (Nasarawa West): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by Senator Nkechi Nwaogu to be allowed to present her Report.

Question put and agreed to.

Senator Nkechi Nwaogu: The Senate at its Plenary sitting on Wednesday, 30th September, 2009 considered the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the appointment of Dr. Kingsley C. Moghalu as Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria. Accordingly, the Senate by its order of reference, proceedings of Wednesday, 30th 2009 referred this request to the Senate Committee on Banking and mandated it to screen the nominee and report back to the Senate. *(Interruptions)*

The Deputy President: We would prefer it if you can summarise the Report and I think that the most important aspect is on page 4 of the document.

Senator Nkechi Nwaogu: The Committee at the end of the screening exercise observed as follows:

1. That the nominee is an outstanding professional. He has worked in so many places;
2. He has held positions in four continents - North America, Europe, Asia and Africa;
3. That the appointment of Dr. Kingsley C. Moghalu is in compliance with Section 14 of the 1999 Constitution which requires the reflection of Federal Character;
4. That the nominee has been cleared by the Code of Conduct Bureau and the relevance security agencies, the Nigeria Police and the Security Services.

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The Committee recommended that we are satisfied with the academic and professional qualifications, competence, work experience and character of the nominee, and the Committee hereby recommends that the Senate do confirm the appointment of Dr. Kingsley C. Moghalu as Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

We so recommend.

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

Senator Ahmad Rufa'i Sani (Zamfara West): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that we do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider this Report.

Question put and agreed to.

The Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the screening of Dr. Kingsley C. Moghalu as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

(The Chairman in the Chair)

The Chairman: Are there comments on the Report?

Senator Sola Akinyede (Ekiti South): Mr. Chairman, my only comment is that I do not see any handsome banking experience in this nominee. I have looked through the CV he is well read and educated, there is no doubt about that but he has no practical banking experience. Maybe, he has theoretical experience but not handsome banking experience.

The Chairman: I will put the Question and you will express your views when we you.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Dr. Kingsley C. Moghalu as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chair do report progress.

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Senator Rufa'i Sani: Mr. Chairman, I second the Motion that the Chair do report progress.

Question put and agreed to.

(The Deputy President resumed the Chair)

The Deputy 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 nominee for the appointment as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria and approved the nomination of Dr. Kingsley Chinedu Moghalu as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

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

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

The Deputy President: Thank you.

Confirmation of Appointment

The Deputy President: Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. Kingsley Chinedu Moghalu as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Dr. Kingsley C. Moghalu as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Screening of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim as the Executive Director of NDIC

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President the third Order of the day is the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions on the screening of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim as the Executive Director of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC). The Report was laid on Wednesday, 28th October, 2009. You may wish to invite the Chairman of that Committee, Senator Nkechi Nwaogu to present her Motion.

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Senator Nkechi Nwaogu: Mr. President may I move that the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the screening of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim as the Executive Director of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC).

Senator Ayogu Eze (Enugu North): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by Senator Nkechi Nwaogu that the Senate do consider the Report of the screening of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim as the Executive Director of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do consider the Report of Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the screening of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim as the Executive Director of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC)

Senator Nkechi Nwaogu: Mr. President, the Senate at its Plenary Session on Wednesday, September 30th, 2009 considered the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation for the appointment of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim mni as the Executive Director of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation. The Senate after careful deliberation referred the request to the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions.

The Senate Committee on Banking observed at the end of the screening exercise that the nominee is very resourceful, diligent, articulate and competent to be appointed as the Executive Director of NDIC. That the nominee has vast knowledge having worked with NDIC already for several years.

In view of that the recommendation of the Committee is that the nominee having satisfied the academic, professional qualification, competence, work experience and character, the Committee hereby recommends Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim for your approval.

I so submit.

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

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Senator Mohammed A. Mohammed (Bauchi Central): Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report.

Question put and agreed to.

The Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the screening of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim as the Executive Director of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

(The Chairman in the Chair)

The Chairman: If there are no comments, I will put the Question. Would the Senate approve the nomination of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim as the Executive Director of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC).

Question put and agreed to.

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

Senator Mohammed A. Mohammed: Mr. Chairman you can now 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 nominee on the appointment of the Executive Director in the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation and approved the nomination of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim as the Executive Director in Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC).

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

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

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Confirmation of the Nominee

The President: Would the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim as the Executive Director of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do now confirm the appointment of Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim as the Executive Director of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, I now move that the Senate step down other items in the Order Paper till another legislative day.

Senator Mohammed A. Mohammed: Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Senate step down all other items in the Order Paper till another legislative day.

The Deputy President: I want to thank everybody. It has been a very resourceful day and we have done a lot of work, therefore, we have to proceed on a well deserved long weekend.

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Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do step down other items in the Order Paper till another legislative day.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, I now move that the Senate do adjourn till next week Tuesday, 3rd November, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Senator Mohammed A. Mohammed: Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Senate do now adjourn until Tuesday, 3rd November, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 3rd November, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 12.30 pm.