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**Tuesday
13th January, 2009**

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES

FOURTH REPUBLIC

**THIRD ASSEMBLY
(SIXTH SENATE)**

SECOND SESSION

THE SENATE OFFICIAL REPORT

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**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Tuesday, 13th January, 2009

The Senate met at 10.35 a. m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators we have the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 18th December, 2008, for approval and adoption. Page 379, 380,

Senator Hassan Mohammed Gusau: (Zamfara Central) Mr. President, I rise to move that the Votes and Proceedings of 18th December, 2008 be approved and adopted.

Senator Gbenga Ogunniya: (Ondo Central) Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Votes and Proceedings of 18th December, 2008 be approved and adopted.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of 18th December, 2008 be approved and adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Letters from Mr. President

This is a letter from Mr. President dated 19th December, 2008 which reads:

Senator David Mark

Dear Brother,

Request for Confirmation of Appointment of Alhaji
Abdullahi Al'Bashir Mohammed and Yusuf
Mohammed Anka as Members of the National
Population Commission

The National Population Commission is one of the Federal Executive bodies established under Section 153(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. By the provision of Part 1 Sub-Section (J) of the Third Schedule of the Constitution, the Commission shall comprise a Chairman and one person from each

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State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

In this connection, there are two vacant positions of Commissioners representing Kebbi and Zamfara States in the Commission. I have, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, decided to appoint Alhaji Abdullahi Al'Bashir Mohammed of Kebbi State and Alhaji Yusuf Mohammed Anka of Zamfara State whose CV's are attached hereto as Commissioners in the National Population Commission. In line with the constitutional requirements I consulted with the Council of States at its meeting of Tuesday, 25th November, 2008 on the appointment of the two candidates.

I hereby, present the nominations of Alhaji Abdullahi Al'Bashir Mohammed and Alhaji Yusuf Mohammed Anka for confirmation by the Senate.

Yours Sincerely

(Signed)

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

President

This is another letter from Mr. President dated 20th October (sic), 2008 which reads:

Distinguished Senator David Mark

Dear Brother,

Request for Confirmation of Nominee for Appointment
as Director General National Institute for Policy and
Strategic Studies

The National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Act provides for the establishment of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies. The relevant Section of the Institute's enabling Act provides that there shall be an officer of the Institute to be known as the Director General who shall be appointed by the President.

The tenure of the former Director General of the Institute has expired. I have, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 5(2) of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Act Cap 51 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, decided to appoint Professor Ahmed Denbo Danfulani whose CV is attached herewith as the Director General of NIPSS.

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In accordance with Section 5(2) of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Act, I hereby, present Professor Ahmed Denbo Danfulani for the kind consideration of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours Sincerely

(Signed)
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA
President

There is yet another letter from Mr. President dated 6th January, 2009 which reads:

Distinguished Senator David Mark

Dear Brother,

**2009 DRAFT FCT STATUTORY BUDGET
PROPOSALS**

Pursuant to Section 299 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which vests legislative powers over the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja on the National Assembly, I hereby present the 2009 Draft FCT Statutory Budget Proposals to the distinguished Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

While hoping that the Budget Proposals will receive the usual expeditious consideration and passage by the distinguished Senators, please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurance of my highest regards.

Yours sincerely

(Signed)
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA
President

**The Visit of the Staff of International Narcotics of
USA**

The President: I wish to acknowledge the presence of the following who are in the Gallery to observe Senate proceedings: Michael M Makaldo, Director of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement in the Embassy of the United States of America and Mr. Ronald L. Noland, Legal Attaché of the Embassy of the United States of America.

I wish them fruitful observation of our proceedings.

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Happy Birthday Wishes

The President: Whilst we were on holidays some of our Colleagues celebrated their birthday. Typically, we wish them happy birthday, long life and prosperity. These people are: Senator Mahmud Bello Kanti, 1st January; Senator Mohammed Mallam Mujitaba, 1st January; Senator Usman Abdulazeez, 1st January; Senator Kaka Yale Mallam, 3rd January; Senator Bajomo Felix Kolawole, 7th January; Senator Uche Chukwumerije, 11th January and Senator Lawal Ahmed Ibrahim 12th January.

I hope you all had good birthday celebrations.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE SENATE
PRESIDENT**

**Distinguished Senator David Bonaventure Mark
(GCON)**

The President: Distinguished Colleagues, let me, on behalf of all us, welcome ourselves back from our very short recess. I hope that even though it was a working recess, you had enough time to relax with your families. So very often it is our families that do not get enough time to spend with us, our political friends and Colleagues always take so much out of our time but I hope that you used the break to spend some time with the family particularly with the children and the wife.

National Awards to Some Distinguished Senators

Whilst we were on our short recess, the nation did great honour to some of our Colleagues, the Leader of the Senate, Senator Teslim Folarin was awarded the National Honour of Officer of the Republic (OFR). Also distinguished Senator Ahmed Makarfi was awarded National Honour of Commander of the Niger (CON) and distinguished Senator Argungu was also awarded the National Honour of Officer of the Niger (OON). I was there to represent all of us and I want to thank those of you who had time to be there. I got a notice to be there with them also.

We wish them lots of luck and more honours in future and I would like to, on behalf of all of us, say congratulations to them.

Global Financial Meltdown:

Expectations from the Nation

As you would realize, the expectations from the nation is very high particularly in the face of the global

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financial meltdown, the fluctuations in the oil prices, the rapid declining value of the Naira, the effect of the global warming and the change of baton in the United States of America. These are all issues that would affect us in this country. The nation expects that we take them into consideration and that we do our level best to ensure that the dividends of democracy are delivered to the ordinary Nigerians on the streets and to do that we have to take our oversight functions very seriously and ensure strict implementation of the budget.

Armed Forces Remembrance Day

This week is Armed Forces Remembrance Week and the final day will be Thursday, 15th January, 2009. Those of you, who can find the time, please, attend the Wreath Laying Ceremony which is in remembrance of fallen heroes.

Wrong Placement of Signboard

There was a signboard this morning directing only the Presiding Officers to drive up the front gate. That signboard has been removed because it was put in error. All of us are entitled to use the front gate but I advise that you use the back gate because of the congestion at the entrance. Actually, we are trying to control the traffic coming up here. So, please, try to use the gate which is reserved for us. However, that signboard has been removed as it was put in error.

Executive Session

There will be a Close Session tomorrow morning from 10 o'clock. So, we will start sitting tomorrow with Close Session.

Once more I want to congratulate you for our ability to keep to time and we will definitely continue with that this year.

Award of an Honorary Doctorate Degree on the Senate President, Distinguished Senator David Mark by the National Open University of Nigeria

Senator Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu West): Your Excellency, distinguished Colleagues, just to add to what the President has said, I am sure you are aware that Mr. President was honoured with an honorary doctorate degree by the National Open University of Nigeria because of his commitment to education not only in Benue State but also in the entire country.

Your Excellency, on behalf of our Colleagues, we want to congratulate you and wish you many more years

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of continued service to this country through your commitment to education.

May God bless you, Sir.

The President: Thank you very much. We will wash it together with those who got National Honours Awards.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

Petroleum Industry 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 Petroleum Industry Bill, 2009. You may wish to invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

The President: The Clerk of the Senate, read the Short Title of the Bill.

Petroleum Industry Bill, 2009 (SB.236) (Executive) – *read the First Time*.

Millennium Development Agency Bill, 2009

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, the second business of the day is the presentation of the Bill standing in the name of Senator Kabiru I. Gaya on the Millennium Development Agency Bill, 2009.

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

The President: The Clerk of the Senate, read the Short Title of the Bill.

Millennium Development Agency Bill, 2009 (SB232) sponsored by Senator Kabiru I. Gaya (Kano South) – *read the First Time*.

Tobacco Control Act (Repeal and re-Enactment) Bill, 2009

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, the third business of the day is the presentation of the Bill standing in the name of Senator Adeleke O. Mamora on the Tobacco Control Act (Repeal and re-Enactment) Bill, 2009.

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

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The President: The Clerk of the Senate, read the Short Title of the Bill.

Tobacco Control and Act (Repeal and re-Enactment) Bill, 2009 (SB.221) – *read the First Time*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SCHEDULE OF LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, the first Order of the Day is the presentation of the Schedule of Legislative Business of the Senate from Tuesday, 13th January, to 29th June, 2009.

You may wish to invite the Chairman of Rules and Business, Senator Aloysius Etok to move the Motion for the Senate to receive the presentation of the Schedule of Legislative Business of the Senate from Tuesday, 13th January to Tuesday, 2nd June 2009.

Senator Aloysius A. Etok (Akwa Ibom North West): Mr. President, we have already circulated copies of the Schedule of the Senate Legislative Business from the period covering January 13th to June 2nd 2009. This is because our Committee shares your justifiable feeling of urgency and commitment to the expeditious consideration and processing of the various Bills still awaiting passage into law. Consequently, it is necessary to make the following clarifications:

- (i) That the schedule is only a guide to legislative action as it is amenable to new legislative business and contingencies arising within the same timeline;
- (ii) That Senators and Committee Chairmen whose Bills and Reports may have been omitted are invited to send such complaints to the Chairman or Clerk of the Rules and Business Committee for addition as such omissions are unintended;
- (iii) We invite the Chairmen of Committees who find the dates attached to their Bills to proffer dates to the Chairman of the Committee as indication of preference since the Committee can only confirm such dates where there are no subsisting schedule in contention.
- (iv) Chairmen and Clerks of Committees are requested to circulate their reports to Senators immediately after laying them on the Table to enable Senators prepare for the debate at the Committee of the Whole. Also we appeal to Senators to direct their Legislative Aides to always pack their copies in the Legislative Bags for their use during debates.

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Finally, I wish to invite all of us to join hands with the Committee to make 2009 an exceptionally productive and fulfilling legislative year.

I hereby move that the Senate do receive the Schedule of Legislative Business covering the period, Tuesday, 13th January, 2009 to Tuesday, 2nd June, 2009.

The President: Distinguished Senator Simon Ayogu Eze, are you in the Committee?

Senator Ayogu Eze: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion moved by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Business, Senator Aloysius Etok, that the Senate do receive the Schedule of Legislative Business in the Senate starting from Tuesday, 13th January to Tuesday, 2nd June, 2009.

The President: I will take comments and then put the Question at the end of the discussions.

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw (Cross River South): Mr. President, there are a number of omissions. The one that occurs to me is that nowhere in this Schedule do we have any of the Public Hearings that we have held to be discussed or debated and I am wondering whether or not those Public Hearings are meant for debate.

Senator Anyim Chukwu Ude (Ebonyi South): Mr. President, in line with what my distinguished Colleague has just said, the Report on Aviation and the issues contain therein are completely omitted here. I thought that we should start doing something right from the beginning of this year if we must improve the situation in our Aviation sector. I am surprised that it is completely omitted here.

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, it is not an omission. We are aware that there are outstanding reports that this Senate needs to deal with. What we have here are specifically Bills. When we put together that of the outstanding reports as mentioned by Senator Ewa-Henshaw and Senator Anyim Ude we will bring it to the Senate.

The President: It is all right. We will take all the Reports. We are going to slate them take them as quickly as possible, particularly those Reports that are ready. Let me also say that we must complete those Reports that are not ready within the shortest possible time so that we can take them, too.

Senator George Thompson Sekibo (Rivers East): Mr. President, if what I am seeing is what is contained

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here, then there is need for further work on this submission. I am aware that the four Bills that I brought had gone through First Reading. One of the Bills has been listed twice. The other three Bills are not here. Although distinguished Senator Aloysius Etok said we should forward them to him. Now, if others are also to forward such omissions to him it means that this Schedule only stands as a draft; it cannot be the final paper.

I would suggest we give him some time to make further input. If three of the four Bills I brought are not here, it means that some other persons are also having similar omissions. We can give the Committee on Rules and Business this week to put in all those that were omitted and then bring it forward next week.

Senator Anthony George Manzo (Taraba North): Mr. President, let me draw attention to page 13 of the presentation, serial number 148 titled *Consideration of Bills to be discussed*. Bill No.2 on that same day is titled: *Nigerian Cooperative Society Development Agency Bill, 2008*. It is supposed to be sponsored by me. I am not a sponsor of that Bill. Perhaps, the correction could be taken.

The President: Are you saying that it is not your Bill?

Senator Anthony G. Manzo: It is not my Bill.

The President: It is all right.

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, this is supposed to be a guide. It is by no means a perfect document. That is why the Chairman said, if any Senator has any input, he should get back to him.

The President: It is just for us to note. When Senator Etok was making his presentation, he said that if there are omissions and you want to make changes in it, you talk to the Rules and Business but we need this guide as a working paper. There is no way in which he can put everything in here. The valid point really is the issue of the reports that have to be taken; any other thing here can be corrected by the Rules and Business Committee.

Senator George Sekibo, your correction should be noted. Otherwise, it will become another Motion which would say, do not adopt this because the question at the end of the day would be for us to receive and accept this.

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Senator Tawar Umbi Wada (Gombe South): Mr. President, I want to lend my support to what Senator Sekibo has said. We should adopt this as a draft, and then give our input. There are a lot of things that we really need to be put in. The purpose of giving our input is to be guided by this Schedule. It is important to know when your Bill is slated for discussion and when it is not so that you can get prepared for it. Members will also know the specific day when a particular Bill is coming up. The moment the paper is made sacrosanct, to my mind, it would assist us in knowing when a Bill is coming. So, let us just take it as a draft; give them some time, and also make our inputs and in two weeks time, let them bring a clean copy for adoption. That is the best way to go about it.

Senator Abubakar Danso Sodangi (Nasarawa West): Mr. President, what Senator T.U. Wada said has no place in this presentation. The fact that we have been given this document does not mean we are not going to get a new Bill. New Bills will come. Are we saying that because a Bill or a Report is not included here, we are not going to attend to it? That is not true. This is a guide and I want to believe that the number of Bills itemised here are far more in number than the few that are omitted. As the presenter has said, there is room for accommodating every omission.

I would appeal to my Colleagues to adopt this document as a guiding document so that we can accommodate as many more Bills as we can. That is my position.

The President: Senator T. U. Wada, no matter how much input you make into this document, it cannot become sacrosanct. We should get that clear.

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

The President: The danger in it is that, if you do it that way, if a Bill comes up and a Senator wants his Bill moved forward or backwards, we cannot tamper with it. So, it remains a guide.

Senator Omar A. Hambagda (Borno South): Mr. President, I just want to lend support to what Senator Sodangi has pointed out. This document is a guide. There is no point adopting it. We can only note it. These are the documents that are currently before the Rules and Business Committee. This is the record that we intend to take. If there are any new ones that come on a daily basis, they will be inserted and adjusted accordingly.

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What we need is to note it; that is all. There is no question of adopting or making it sacrosanct. It is only a guide.

Senator Nkechi Nwaogu (Abia Central): Mr. President, I am a bit confused. Yes, it is a guide but there are omissions. There are Bills that had gone through First Reading and they are not here. Therefore, bringing in new ones is a different matter altogether because there are Bills that had gone through First Reading. One of my own Bills is not listed here and I believe others are suffering the same fate.

Yes, this Schedule forms a guide because it helps us in attending to Bills in terms of debate but at the same time, we should ask the Committee to receive from us those Bills that had gone through First Reading that are omitted here before we talk about new ones. This is because some of these Bills were read the First Time three or four months ago and I see no reason why they should be omitted. They should be added immediately and given slots between now and June.

The President: The Question I will put now is that we receive and note the presentation by the Rules and Business. Senator Etok, can I amend your Motion to read that?

Senator Aloysius A. Etok: It is all right.

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw: Mr. President, I beg to move that we amend Senator Aloysius Ekot's Motion to read that we receive and note and request for further updating of our Reports and Bills. As Senator Nkechi Nwaogu said, it is obvious that there are Bills and Reports that are ready which are not here. There is no reason why those ones should not be here. Thereafter, we can talk about new Bills. So, that Schedule needs to be updated even before any new Bill comes.

The President: You know it can be updated. It is implied. That is really the basis of noting and not approving it.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do receive and note the Schedule of Legislative Business in the Senate from Tuesday, 13th January to Tuesday, 2nd June, 2009 as presented by the Rules and Business Committee.

The President: Senator Aloysius Etok, you will, please, collate, update and then circulate the updated version.

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PRESENTATION OF REPORT(S)

Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, the second Order of the day is the presentation of the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Screening of the following persons as Chairman, Director-General/CEO and Members of the National Pension Commission. The names as contained in the Order Paper are as follows:

S/NO.	NAMES	DESIGNATION
1.	Chief Oluwole Alani Adeosun, OON	Chairman
2.	Mohammad Kabiru Ahmad	Director General/CEO
3.	Pius Nnaemaka Akubueze	Member
4.	Ms. Eyamba Theresa Henshaw	Member
5.	Musa Abdullahi Ibrahim	Member
6.	Manzuma Tsoeda Mamman	Member

You may wish to invite Senator Ahmed Mohammed to move the Motion for the Senate to receive the Report.

Senator Mohammed I. Ahmed (Kwara North): Mr. President, I wish to move that the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service, on the Screening of the following persons as Chairman, Director General /Chief Executive Officer and Members of the National Pension Commission.

- i. Chief Oluwole Alani Adeosun (OON) - Chairman
- ii. Mohammad Kabiru Ahmad - Director-General/CEO
- iii. Pius Nnaemaka - Member
- iv. Ms. Eyamba Theresa Henshaw - Member
- v. Musa Abdullahi Ibrahim - Member
- vi. Manzuma Tsoeda Mamman - Member

Senator Omar A. Hambagda (Borno South): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion moved by Senator

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Ahmed, Chairman Committee on Establishment and Public Service, that the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on the Screening of Nominees for the National Pension Commission (PENCOM).

Question put and agreed to.

(Report Laid on the Table)

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Screening of Ambassadorial Nominees

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, the third Order of the day, is the presentation and consideration of the Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the Screening of the following five (5) Non-Career, and six (6) Career Ambassadorial Nominees for appointment as Ambassadors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The names are as contained in the Order Paper.

You will also recall that this Report was laid in this hallowed Chamber on Tuesday, 2nd December, 2008. So, without wasting much of our time, you may wish to invite Senator Jibril Mohammed Aminu to present his Report.

Senator Jibril Mohammed Aminu (Adamawa Central): Mr. President, may I use this opportunity to wish all of us a Happy New Year; in fact, two new years; the Lunar and the Solar years.

I have the honour to present to the Senate for approval, the Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the Screening of eleven (11) Ambassadorial Nominees. The screening was held on 29th October, 2008 and the Report was laid before the Senate on December 2nd 2008. Scheduling problems made it impossible for the Senate to consider the Report on time.

The Senate may recall that on Wednesday, 8th October, 2008 at its sitting, considered the request of Mr. President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Umar Musa Yar'Adua, for the confirmation of eleven (11) Ambassadorial Nominees to serve as principal representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, overseas. Accordingly, the Senate referred this request to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs for detailed screening of the nominees and to report back to Senate within one week.

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On Wednesday, 15th October, 2008 the Committee met and deliberated on the assignment and the procedure to be adopted for its conduct. The assignment which was expected to be reported within the stipulated period could not be achieved because the Committee did not receive the relevant documents on the nominees until about eight days after the referral. This was earlier reported to Senate in a personal explanation.

They were eleven nominees submitted by His Excellency, Mr. President of the Federal Republic and they were categorised into two namely; Career and Non-Career Ambassadors listed as follows:

Non-Career Nominees

S. No.	Name	State	Gender
1.	Ambassador Aminu Bashiru Wali	Kano	Male
2.		Katsina	Male
3.	Hon. Isaac Onuh	Kogi	Male
5.	Chief Lawrence Nwuruku	Ebonyi	Male
5.	Mrs. Nkoyo Toyo	Cross River	Female

Career Nominees

S/NO.	NAME	STATE	GENDER
1.	Mr. H. Abdullahi	Niger	Male
2.	Mr. I. Bature	Katsina	Male
3.	Mr. L. O. Akindele	Oyo	Male
4.	Mr. Samuel Folorunsho Aiyedona	Lagos	Male
5.	Mr. R. O. Eze	Enugu	Male
6.	Amb. Ghali Umar, mni	Kano	Male

The Committee carefully and thoroughly conducted a screening exercise of all the

Nominees and having been satisfied with their qualifications, exposure, conduct, character, experience, and general performance, hereby recommends them for confirmation.

The attached Annexure I shows the disposition of all Nigerian Ambassadors state-by-state. I believe that the document is available to every Member. All the Members of the Committee signed except those who for unavoidable reasons were unavailable to do so.

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I think with your permission, there is hardly any need for me to go over all of these, but if it is your pleasure, I shall do that. I want to make two comments and appeal to Senate very honestly.

We have sought for all the usual information on these candidates. That is, their code of conduct, Police Report, Security Report and other information, and there were no petitions that we could remember. We did not have problem with any Nominee at all, but there were two that I would like to raise, and I appeal to Senate that I do so.

The first one is the Non-Career Ambassador from Kogi State. The newspapers reported on their headlines that the Nominee did not know where Georgia is and could not also name the capital of Jigawa State. That is true, because I asked him the questions. I asked him about the capital of Taraba State and he answered correctly that it is Jalingo. It is in mentioning the Capital of Jigawa State that he failed. I believe that by now he must have known the Capital of Jigawa State.

I also asked him about Georgia. He mentioned what should be the more important Georgia which is the state of Georgia in America where Jimmy Carter, Andrew Young, Martin Luther King and James Brown came from. He could not remember the other Georgia around the Caspian Sea. The reason he was asked that question was because we were aware of some skirmishes in the Georgia around the Caspian Sea at that time. Therefore, he remembered one Georgia but not the other. But, he was not completely ignorant.

We considered all of these things and decided to recommend to Senate to approve his candidature because I am sure he is going to learn. We are always learning and I believe that the Nominee by now must have corrected his short comings and the distinguished Senate should look at it sympathetically.

The second one is the case of Mr. Samuel F. Aiyedona who actually is a Career Diplomat. Although state of origin does matter, Career Diplomats are civil servants who are pursuing their careers and are entitled to their promotions within that limit. Mr. Aiyedona said that his mother is from Lagos State and his father is from Kogi State. He was born in Kogi State and he schooled there. We had some discussions with our Colleagues from Lagos State, and I am very delighted at the generosity and understanding that Mr. Aiyedona is, indeed, from Lagos State and can be passed on that basis. I appeal to Senate to look at that also.

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I will also like to ask Senate to look at the dispositions of Ambassadors attached on the last two pages of this Report. You will find that the distribution is quite fair and this is really because of the insistence of this Senate that distribution must be fair. I will like to pay tribute to Senators who were very vigilant and insisted that this distribution should be fair. That is the way we should do our job.

It is my pleasure to present to you this Report, and invite the Senate to approve it so that they can be Ambassadors and Principal Representatives of Nigeria, Overseas.

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

Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan (Borno North): I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do resolve into Committee of the Whole to consider the Report of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs in relation to the Nominees.

Question put and agreed to.

Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, on the Screening of Career and Non-Career Ambassadorial Nominees - CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

The Chairman: Distinguished Colleagues, are there comments?

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (Cross River Central): Mr. Chairman, I am a Member of the Committee and I took part in the exercise. I agree entirely to the Report. I also agree to the comments made by the Chairman of the Committee, distinguished Professor Jibril Aminu that as much as possible, this Senate has tried to ensure fairness and equity in the distribution of ambassadorial slots to states in this country. But, I would like to say that there is one aspect. That aspect is entirely within the purview of Mr. President but I believe that this Senate, as the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is duty bound to make a comment when we see some shortcomings.

That aspect relates to the posting of ambassadors. Today, we have a situation where the two ambassadors from Cross River State are posted to Mali and Burkina Faso; two neighbouring French speaking countries. I know for certain that we, of Cross River State, do not

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have any peculiar expertise in the Sahara. So, I think that when it comes to posting of ambassadors, there should be equity.

A situation where ambassadors from one state are posted to Category 'A' Missions and two ambassadors from another state are posted to our backyard is totally unacceptable and unfair. This comment need be passed on to Mr. President.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora (Lagos East): Mr. Senate President sitting in the Chair, I cannot but agree with my friend and Colleague, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba in giving his due respect and recognition to the Chairman of this Committee, Professor Jibril Aminu, whom he referred to as the *Headmaster* but I fondly refer to him as the ranking link-man of Adamawa State. Of course, he is my very senior professional Colleague.

I appreciate the pre-empting encomium showered on Lagos State Senators by the Chairman. But then, much as Lagos is a place of opportunities, a land of magnanimity, where everybody and anybody is allowed to be; we should not create the impression as if Lagos State does not have competent persons to occupy positions of honour. It is in that regard that I am seeking the understanding of my entire Colleagues in this Senate.

If you turn to page 18 of the Report, under item 9, Mr. Samuel F. Aiyedona; item 9(c) states that there was no petition against the nominee. To the best of my knowledge, there was a petition. Whether the petition has merit or not is another issue but there was a petition. I think we need some clarification on that.

Secondly, if you also turn to page 19 of the Report, Mr. R. O. Eze, is also from Lagos State. In fact, even here, some of my Colleagues are wondering how Mr. R. O. Eze could by any stretch of imagination be regarded as a Lagosian. The clarification we are seeking is that the Chairman of the Committee said in respect of Aiyedona that the mother was from Lagos, but that is really not the issue. The issue which I have referred to is on the petition that I am aware was sent. I want clarification on this Mr. R. O. Eze as well. Further comments will be made after the clarification.

The Chairman: Mr. R. O. Eze is from Enugu State, and not Lagos State.

Senator Grace Folashade J. Bent (Adamawa South): Mr. Chairman, I will never be tired of talking

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because that is my responsibility as a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

May I use this medium to bring to the fore the gross injustice being done to the Nigerian women? I am not a feminist. We keep talking about this. My Colleagues will be wondering why we keep raising the issue of women participation in all spheres of our human endeavours in Nigeria. I am not convinced that in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we do not have competent career female diplomats who have the wherewithal and the integrity of an Ambassador to be given slots.

My Colleague here is asking if I am representing women. I am representing every member of this country, and indeed, the people of Adamawa South Senatorial District but we cannot close our eyes to this gross sidelining of the Nigerian women.

You may recall that about five women were dropped from the Cabinet of Mr. President and he ended up replacing just two. Now we have eleven nominees that had been cleared by the Nigerian Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs; you have just one woman, not even three or four. What is the sin of the Nigerian women? We should begin to look inward and know that the more we keep the Nigerian women at the background of decision-making in this country, the more we are saying that Nigeria has not come of age.

All over the world, women are being given their due positions. We are not competing with the men folk; all we are saying is, give us a chance to contribute to the progress of Nigeria.

The Chairman: Senator Bent, if you look at Annexure 1, there are women who are career diplomats. The problem with career diplomats is that their promotion is strictly in accordance with seniority. We should not sit down here and say that people must be promoted. We should give the benefit to those who supervise them. If they rise through the ranks and are due to be ambassadors they will be made ambassadors unless you have any specific case.

Adamawa State has a career diplomat there who is a woman. Like the Armed Forces, we must be careful when we want to discuss promotions of career people. If they are qualified they will be put forward. We cannot say because we want gender sensitivity, we should begin to move people forward unless you know of a woman who is qualified and has been denied. Otherwise, this general statement will not suffice.

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Senator Grace Folashade Bent: I raised the issue when the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs came and he actually tried to apologise and adduce some reasons why they had problems having to do that and he said he was going to correct it. I am not talking about the situation that I have not taken cognizance of. The issue is that there is still problem about the promotion of these career women even in the Ministry and the Hon. Minister has promised to do something about it.

Talking about political nominees – non-career; are we saying we do not have qualified women that could be nominated? It is not just career nominees only; we are talking of both career and non-career nominees even in the political arena. It is a fundamental problem we cannot just overlook.

Senator Joseph Iorshagher Akaagerger (Benue North-East): Mr. Chairman, it is for the sake of this document going into record that I want to make an observation on paragraph 2(d) at page 8. It is in respect of Ambassador Adamu Daura.

At paragraph 2(d), it is stated that he was a member of the House of Representatives from 1999 to 2004. It is not clearly stated whether or not he broke off in the second term to go for Ambassadorial appointment. I want to guess that it was 2003 and not 2004.

Lastly, with respect to Annexure 1 at page 3 of this same document; paragraph 27 has tabulated the summary in respect of Ogun State with a total of five ambassadorial appointees and if you look at some states here, they have only one. FCT, Zamfara and Kano States have one ambassadorial appointee each. Benue State has only two ambassadorial appointees. The disparity looks too great.

I recommend that when next the Committee looks at this issue, it must reflect Federal Character as well so that Benue State can have three or four ambassadorial appointees and then the other states like Kano State with only one ambassadorial appointee can move up to have two or three appointees unlike Ogun State with a wide margin of five ambassadorial appointees.

The Committee also failed to tell us the reason for that disparity; maybe they can throw more light on this issue.

The Chairman: If these dates are correct, you may have to offer an explanation. In the past, we had problem of career diplomats who were at the tail end of their career and I recall that we had an exhaustive debate as to whether we should make them ambassadors

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or not. I believe that the argument then was that when they join the Foreign Service, the pinnacle of their service is to become ambassadors. Even, if they are ambassadors for only two weeks, they will still leave with the title of His Excellency, Ambassador so and so or whatever the name is. If this information is correct, maybe, we should find out why he is still in service. That is the beginning of it. So, you should check on the dates.

Senator Umaru Dahiru (Sokoto South): Mr. Chairman, let me refer to the Annexure of the Report at page 2 where it is mentioned that Sokoto State has no career ambassador because there is no qualified officer. I stand to say that the information is not correct. Indeed, we have an officer, Isa Sokoto by name; all his life he has been in the Foreign Service. In fact, at one time, he was heading the Mission in Sudan as Consular-General and right now, he is a level 16 Officer.

On several occasions I had meetings with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs complaining why this man, a level 16 Officer for almost two or three years, has not been nominated for ambassadorial appointment, yet we find people on levels 15 and 14 at one time being brought here for ambassadorial confirmation. At GL. 16, I do not know what he wants. The next promotion is either an ambassador or Director or Permanent Secretary and he keeps on telling me that I should wait. Now, we are with a whole Report saying that we do not have anybody. That man is being frustrated. He has been coming here complaining to us.

I want this Report corrected. Next time, if they furnish us with the names of career ambassadors from our own particular area without that man's name, I will certainly object. So, we should take note of this.

The Chairman: Again, you may be on Level 14 but also have to be recommended. It is not automatic that once you are on Level 14 you must be made an ambassador. I do not think so. You said the man served in Sudan. Is that right?

Senator Umaru Dahiru: Yes, Sir.

The Chairman: Did he serve as an ambassador?

Senator Umaru Dahiru: No, he served as a Consular General.

The Chairman: Have you seen his report from there?

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Senator Umaru Dahiru: Yes, Sir.

The Chairman: You must do enough homework on individual cases before we begin to raise it here. The fact that you are a Level 16 Officer does not automatically mean you must be sent to represent this country. I do not know if you have really gone through his report. We have to put all these into consideration before the names are forwarded to us.

What is stated here is that there is no qualified person from Sokoto State who can be appointed as career diplomat. You had better find out from the Ministry first whether or not there is anything against his record. We cannot sit down here and say because somebody is on Level 16; he must be made an ambassador.

Senator Abubakar Danso Sodangi (Nasarawa West): Mr. Chairman, I am a Member of this Committee. I want to inform the Senate of our constraints. As Senator Akaagerger said, five career ambassadors came from Ogun State. Maybe, the fault is not from us. At the time of recruitment, maybe, the people of Ogun State had the opportunity and they all came in and rose through the ranks up to ambassadorial grade of Level 14.

So, it is not our problem to tell them that they must not bring people from Ogun State if they are too many. That is the first thing you should understand. We also raised the issue in the past that we should reject them but, as you rightly said, how can we reject people on account of their number as career diplomats. That is our constraint.

Secondly, and this is very important, it is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that will go through the records of every nominee; and say that this man has worked in this place as a consular and that his records are clean. Thereafter, he is brought to us.

Much as we agree with the Federal Character, we also agree that our states should be represented; that is our problem.

With due respect, these people have been brought to us; we have screened them and they are qualified. We cherish the Federal Character principle but we beg of the Senate to approve what our Committee has presented to you.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu West): Mr. Chairman, returning to page 20 of this document in respect of Mr. R. O. Eze; if you look at item (e) referred

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to by Senator Rufa'i Ahmed, you will notice that there is a broken service. Between 1976 and 1981 was five years. Apparently, he started a fresh job with the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1981. So, there is a broken service between 1976 and 1981. Apparently, the Committee looked at his record in the Foreign Ministry and I am aware that the man is presently in his 50s and still a young man. So, I urge this Senate to look at his service starting from 1981.

I believe that the Chairman of this Committee will respond to some of these issues, but having looked at the document before me, it appears to me that the service in question is the service starting from the year 1981; five years after he had left whatever service he had with the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Senator Simeon Olasunkanmi Oduoye (Osun Central): Mr. Chairman, mine is observation and I request for correction.

I will draw your attention to Annexure 1, page 3, serial No. 29 of the submission where you have *Ohun*. I believe they intended to write *Osun*, and if it is so, that serial No. 29 should be amended to read *Osun* State. That is the observation.

Senator Satty W. Gogwim (Plateau Central): Mr. Chairman, I actually wanted to raise an observation on what Senator Joseph Akaagerger raised as to the number of both Career Diplomats and Non-Career Diplomats allocated to Ogun State against others who have less number of such nominees.

The second observation I wanted to raise is the one on page 19 where Mr. R.O. Eze was slated against Lagos State. Senator Mamora has raised that observation as well.

The Chairman: But you were still raising your hand after Senators Mamora and Akaagerger had spoken. (*Laughter*)

Senator Munirudeen Adekunle Muse (Lagos Central): Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that this is a voluminous Report presented to this Chamber by the Committee. They have done a very good job. However, I want to refer us again, as has been done by Senator Mamora to page 18 where it is said that there was no petition against the nominee said to be from Lagos State. In fact, there was a petition by concerned people of Lagos State on Mr. Aiyedona, and I want us, Sir, to suspend the confirmation of Mr Aiyedona for now. Let us ask for his service record for investigation before his confirmation is treated.

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Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange (Bayelsa East): Mr. Chairman, the annexure on page 3 is very critical and we have to look at it a second time. For example, if Kano State has nobody under Career Diplomat, I do not believe that they do not have people under Non-career or Political. So, the reason given that a state will get three Career and two Political Diplomats is not satisfactory. It is disservice; it is against the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as well as the Federal Character principle. So, if Kano and Enugu States cannot produce people under Career Diplomat, they should have been compensated under Political Diplomat. The idea of giving five (three career and two non-career) to a state and one to another state, is not justifiable. If you look at Kano and Ogun States population wise, Kano State is bigger than Ogun State. So, this is not correct and we must have to condemn it.

The Chairman: We have heard this, and the point for us to note is that for career, truly, if you do not have candidate, there is little anybody can do. My advice would be for you to advise members of your constituencies to join the Armed Forces and the Foreign Service when they advertise them, because there is nothing anybody can do if you do not have Career Diplomats or members in the Services. As for Political, I believe we have noted that and there is no point over-emphasising that any more.

Senator Chris N. Anyanwu (Imo North): Mr. Chairman, the point had been made but I think it is worth re-emphasising. First of all, I want to congratulate the Committee for doing a good job. The area I am emphasising is the attachment.

For once, we are seeing what is going on in Foreign Affairs clearly. We have heard many stories about the imbalance both in career and non-career appointments, but it was not until now that we have it on paper that we can see it playing up.

I believe we are here on the basis of equality of states and the Constitution guarantees that. There is also a provision on Federal Character. That means we have to try and balance things. But a situation where you can see from the paper here deliberate imbalance, denial of some areas of their privileges; I want to use example of Imo State. It is not true that Imo State does not have enough career officers. As of last year, there were, at least, three career Ambassadors. They have reportedly been weeded out and there have been lots of stories of how these people were weeded out. Now, we have only one career and one non-career diplomat and both of them are women. We have eminent sons who are of that Ambassadorial level and who can be Ambassadors. I do

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not see why a State like Ogun should have three career Ambassadors and two non-career Ambassadors and Imo State has one career Ambassador and one non-career Ambassador. I will not be worthy of a seat in this Chamber if I do not mention it and this kind of imbalance should not happen in this country any more.

As for Sokoto State, serial No.33, it says, *there is no qualified career officer hence an additional slot was given them in non-career*. That is the way it ought to happen. If you do not have in one, then you have to go the other way to remedy that shortfall.

I do not subscribe to approving of these nominations as they are. It should be thrown back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to get their acts right and rectify this imbalance which is very unjust.

The Chairman: Distinguished Senators, there is the risk of sounding like broken record. You do not know the total number of your own personnel who are there in the ministry. In the first place, these facts are not available to you. Secondly, you cannot sit down here and write a Report of your members in the ministry. He has to earn a good report. You cannot be doing your own job here and be doing the ministerial job for them. Regardless of what the information is, my advice is that you should advise members of your constituencies to join the Foreign Ministry. This is because their promotions there cannot be decided on the Floor of this Chamber and we should not belabour that issue because we have said enough.

Senator Ibrahim Ida (Katsina Central): Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend the Committee for a job well done particularly, because at their invitation I was there when they were doing it.

One thing struck me when I saw the thorough way in which they were drilling the candidates. It occurred to me that if we could apply the same procedure in respect of the screening of Ministers, we would end up getting better results. I know the inefficiency lies in the provision of Section 147(1) of the 1999 Constitution which states *inter alia*: *There shall be such offices of Ministers of the Government of the Federation as may be established by the President*.

Whereas the law that governs other screening specifically provides for Mr. President to nominate for specific offices. In respect of the Ministers, all that Section 147 says is that there should be Ministers, and they should be screened by the Senate.

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I would like to urge this Senate that we take the opportunity of the Constitutional Amendment that is coming on to remove that lacuna on Section 147 and prevail on the Executive to let the Senate know the specific office for which it is nominating a Minister. In that case, we would save time because all Nominees can be screened at the same time and we would be more thorough because people would be nominated for jobs that they are best suited.

Senator Anthony G. Manzo (Taraba North): Mr. Chairman, let me commend Senator Jibril Aminu for the work we did in this Committee, and also inform this respected Chamber that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a unique Ministry that is full of internal contradictions.

As of fact, we know from the way the Ministry is organised that for the next five to ten years we are going to have this apparent imbalance where you have for some states, like Ogun, many career officers in the service. Obviously, if they have done nothing wrong, you cannot deny them Ambassadorial appointments.

The second point is that when it comes to appointing Ambassadors, there are two groups. You have officers within the Ministry and officers outside the Ministry. Officers outside the Ministry are usually referred to as people from Agencies and NIIA. Frankly speaking, if you take the point raised by Senator Umaru Dahiru from Sokoto, it may well be that if you investigate that Grade Level 16 Officer, he may be from the Agency, and the tendency over the years has been to play down on the appointment of these kinds of officers as Ambassadors.

Finally, we should not dwell too much insisting on federal character on certain positions because what Kano State may have lost in the appointment of Ambassadors, it may well have gained from the fact that they have two Ministers. Sometimes what State A would gain or lose in certain appointments would be subtracted or made up in other appointments. I think that the intent of that Section of the Constitution is that in totality, appointments by the Executive when all things are taken into consideration shall be on the basis that each state has a fairly reasonable representation.

The Chairman: Senator Jibril Aminu, there are some key issues that have been raised that you need to address particularly in the case of Lagos State. I also would like you to address the issue of Mr. R. O. Eze and Mr. Onuh whom you said did not answer questions properly but you think he had a memory lapse momentarily and you feel he has recovered from it now.

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The question was a fundamental one, the Capital of Jigawa State.

Senator Jibril Aminu: Mr. Chairman, let me start by thanking you for giving us the opportunity to comment, and also to apologise for any typographical lapses.

Mr. Eze is from Enugu State and not Lagos State. I have not been able to confirm whether he is related to Senator Ayogu Eze but he is from Enugu State. Then there was an issue where somebody was said to have worked from 1999 to 2004. That is clearly wrong. It was 2003.

I will also like to apologise for the confusion over the age of the Nominee who was supposed to have worked from 1967 to 1976. Actually, he was born in 1950 and by today, he is 59 years. Secondly, he went to Pitman College in 1966. He could not possibly have been a Secretary if he went to Pitman College in 1966 and he did Advanced Pitman Shorthand Course in 1973. I think that he was just trying to bluff. The man started working in the Foreign Affairs Ministry in 1981, so he is nowhere near there. The Senators from Enugu State should call him and pull his ears about the way he fills his CV. But right now, he has not done anything wrong. There is nothing abnormal about him. He should be allowed to pass.

On Lagos and Kano and perhaps some other Cities, they share one great quality. There are so many people who come there and benefit. Late Senator Yari Gandi of blessed memory, stood up in this Chamber and said that of all the Governors of Kano, the only one from Kano is distinguished Senator Kabiru Gaya and he sits there. All the others are from all corners of Nigeria. I believe it is the same thing with Lagos. They have a Governor and it is doubtful whether he is a Lagosian. Can you compare a Governor to an Ambassador? This is what you get when you come from a very big city. The father of that Nominee came from Kogi to hunt for money in Lagos State and in addition he got a wife there. So, he is a Lagosian and I would like the people of Lagos State to accept it that way, please.

There is a question about the Senator from Kogi State. It is a question of appeal to the Senate and I am really appealing to the Senate because this man answered some of the questions correctly. It just happened that the newspapers picked on this and they always do this to us, picking on what we do and widen it. I am sure if then he did not know the capital of Jigawa State, he now knows and he would never forget

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it. If he did not know where Georgia is, the Georgia of Johnson Stalin, I am sure by now he would have known.

I am just saying that this kind of lapse does occur to every one of us at a time, and I am appealing to Senate to overlook it. If he has not been able to answer any of the questions, we would have been hesitant to recommend him and we were not afraid of recommending him. This Nominee is not such a bad case and I am appealing to the Senate President and to the Senate to please forgive him.

If there are other things that I have forgotten, I beg for your pardon, but I appeal once more to the Senate to consider these names and pass them so that they can assume duty because we have been on it for a long time.

The Chairman: I should put the Question now?

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

Approval of Ambassadorial Nominees

The Chairman: I will now put the Question that the Senate do approve the nomination of Ambassador Aminu Bashir Wali as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman: I will put the Question that the Senate do approve the nomination of Ambassador Adamu Daura as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman: I will put the Question that the Senate do approve the nomination of (Hon.) Isaac Onuh as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria?

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman: I will put the Question that the Senate do approve the nomination of Mrs. Nkoyo Toyo as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman: I will put the Question that the Senate do approve the nomination of Chief Lawrence Nwurukwu as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

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The Chairman: I will put the Question that the Senate do approve the nomination of Mr. H. Abdullahi as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman: I will put the Question that the Senate do approve the nomination of Mr. L. Bature as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman: I will put the Question that the Senate do approve the nomination of Mr. L. O. Akindele as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman: I will put the Question that the Senate approve the nomination of Mr. Samuel Folorunsho Aiyedona as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman: I will put the Question that the Senate do approve the nomination of Mr. R. O. Eze as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

The Chairman: I will put the Question that the Senate do approve the nomination of Ambassador Ghali Umar, mni as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. Chairman, I move that you now report progress.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora (Lagos East): 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 Foreign Affairs on the screening of ambassadorial nominees and approved the nominations of the following:

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Non-Career Nominees

Ambassador Aminu Bahir Wali

Ambassador Adamu Daura

Hon. Isaac Onuh

Mrs. Nkoyo Toyo

Chie Lawrence Nwurukwu

Career Nominees

Mr. H. Abdullahi

Mr. L. Bature

Mr. L.O. Akindele

Mr. S. F. Aiyedona

Mr. R.O. Eze

Ambassador Ghali Umar, mni

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

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

Confirmation of Ambassadorial Nominees

The President: I will now put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Ambassador Aminu Bashir Wali (Kano) as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Ambassador Aminu Bashir Wali as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: I will put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Ambassador Adamu Daura as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Ambassador Adamu Daura as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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The President: I will put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Hon. Isaac Onuh as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Hon. Isaac Onuh as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: I will put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mrs. Nkoyo Toyo as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mrs. Nkoyo Toyo as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: I will put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Chief Lawrence Nwurukwu as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Chief Lawrence Nwurukwu as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: I will put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mr. H. Abdullahi as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mr. H. Abdullahi as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: I will put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mr. L. Bature as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mr. L. Bature as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: I will put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mr. L. O. Akindele as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mr. L. O. Akindele as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: I will put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mr. Samuel Folorunsho Aiyedona as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mr. Samuel Folorunsho Aiyedona as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: I will put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mr. R. O. Eze as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Mr. R. O. Eze as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: I will put the Question that the Senate do confirm the nomination of Ambassador Ghali Umar, mni as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do confirm the nomination of Ambassador Ghali Umar, mni as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: The nomination of the following non-career and career nominees are confirmed as Ambassadors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

Non-Career Nominees

Ambassador Aminu Bashir Wali

Ambassador Adamu Daura

Ambassador Isaac Onuh

Chief Lawrence Nwurukwu - (Ebonyi)

Mrs. Nkoyo Toyo - (Cross River)

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Career Nominees

Mr. H. Abdullahi - (Niger)

Mr. L. Bature -(Katsina)

Mr. L. O. Akindele - (Oyo)

Mr. Samuel Folorunsho Aiyedona - (Lagos)

Mr. R. O. Eze - (Enugu)

Ambassador Ghali Umar, mni - (Kano)

Having confirmed all the Ambassadors as submitted by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I would like to add that distinguished Senators should, please, encourage people from their constituencies to honour all these Federal Government employment advertorials because it is very difficult when you do not encourage your people to join the Civil Service. For those who joined the Foreign Service, their desire is to rise to the pinnacle.

We cannot sacrifice efficiency on the alter of Federal Character. Efficiency is extremely important in whatever we do in this country because as Ambassadors they represent us and we must send out the best to represent us in this country.

CONSIDERATION OF BILL

Institute of Registered Safety Professionals of Nigeria (IRSPON) Bill, 2008 (SB. 142)

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Registered Safety Professionals of Nigeria.

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, the fourth and last Order of the day is the Second Reading of the Institute of Registered Safety Professionals of Nigeria (IRSPON) Bill, 2009. The sponsor of this Bill, Senator Tawar U. Wada, has asked that this Bill be stood down to another legislative day.

I now move that this Bill be stood down to another legislative day.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion moved by the Leader that this Bill be stood down to another legislative day.

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Question put and agreed to.

(Bill by leave of the Senate stood down to another legislative day)

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, I now move that this Senate do now adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday, 14th January, 2009 at 10 00 a.m. prompt.

Senator Adeleke O. Mamora: I rise to second the Motion moved by the Leader that this Senate do adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday, 14th January, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

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The President: Before I put the Question, I would like to inform distinguished Senators that there will be a Close Session at 10.00 a.m. tomorrow, not 10.05 a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do stand adjourned till Wednesday, 14th January, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 12.30 p.m.