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**Thursday
7th May, 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**

Thursday, 7th May, 2009

The Senate met at 12.25 p.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, the Senate is called to order. We have the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 6th May, 2009 before us for approval. Pages 687, 688, 689.

Senator Bello Hayatu Gwarzo (Kano North): Mr. President, page 689, item 5, under a Motion ably moved by Senator Kabiru I. Gaya on the death of Senator Kura Mohammed, the first paragraph of the Motion reads: *That the Senate notes that Senator Kura Mohammed who was one of the distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the 3rd Republic...* Late Senator Kura Mohammed was a Senator in the 4th Republic and not 3rd Republic.

The President: Secretariat, it is 4th Republic and not 3rd Republic. Pages 690 and 691.

Senator Paulker Emmanuel (Bayelsa Central): Mr. President, I rise to move that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 6th May, 2009, be approved as amended.

Senator Andrew Abidemi Babalola (Oyo North): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion.
Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 6th May, 2009, be approved as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Conferment of Chieftaincy Title on
Deputy Senate President**

The President: This is to inform the distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that His Excellency, the Deputy Senate

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President, Senate Ike Ekweremadu would be conferred with one of the highest Chieftaincy Titles in Igboland by the Chairman of the South East Council of Traditional Rulers, His Royal Highness, Eze (Dr) I. Z. Iluomanya, on Saturday, 16th May, 2009 at Obinugwu, Orlu in Imo State, by 12 noon prompt.

Distinguished Senators willing to attend are to indicate by putting down their names in the list being passed round to enable us prepare for necessary logistics.

Thank you.

(Signed)
SENATOR OSITA B. IZUNASO

**Invitation to the Conferment Ceremony of
Chieftaincy Title of Gimbia Egon on
Distinguished Senator Patricia Naomi
Akwashiki**

I wish to respectfully remind my distinguished Colleagues of my Conferment ceremony as Gimbia Egom, on the 9th of May, 2009 at 11.a.m. at Nasarawa Egom.

May God bless you as you honour me with your presence.

(Signed)
SENATOR PATRICIAL NAOMI AKWASHIKI

**Members of the National Assembly 10th
Anniversary Celebration Committee**

The following are Members of the National Assembly 10th Anniversary Celebration Committee:

1. Senator Ayogu Eze - Chairman
2. Senator Smart Adeyemi - Member
3. Senator Ibrahim Ida - Member
4. Senator Bala Mohammed - Member
5. Senator Eme Ufot Ekaette - Member
6. Senator Felix K. Bajomo - Member

The inaugural meeting of the Central Planning Committee holds on Monday, 11th May, 2009 at Senate Hearing Room 1 at 12 noon.

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PRESENTATION OF A REPORT

Report of the Committee on Capital Market on the Chartered Institute of Capital Market Registrars Bill, 2009 (SB.109)

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin (Oyo Central): Mr. President, the first business of the day is the presentation of the Report of the Committee on Capital Market on the Chartered Institute of Capital Market Registrars Bill, 2009 (SB.109).

You may wish to invite Senator Ganiyu O. Solomon to move the Motion for the Senate to receive the Report.

Senator Ganiyu O. Solomon (Lagos West): Mr. President, I rise to move that the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Capital Market on the Chartered Institute of Capital Market Registrars Bill, 2009.

Senator Aloysius Akpan Etok (Akwa Ibom North-West): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion as ably moved by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Capital Market.

Question put and agreed to.

Report accordingly laid on the Table

ORDERS OF THE DAY

COSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Land Use Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009

(Second Allotted Day)

(Adjourned Debate on Question 6th May, 2009)

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, the first Order of the Day is the resumption of the adjourned debate on the Land Use Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

You will recall that we commenced debate on the Bill yesterday and deferred further legislative action till today, Thursday. I now move that this Senate do resume the debate of the Land Use Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamowora (Lagos East): Mr. President, I rise to second the

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Motion as moved by the Leader that this Senate do resume debate on the adjourned Land Use Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do resume debate on the Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 by Amending the Land Use Act Cap L15 Laws of the Federation 2004 and for Related Matters.

The President: We stopped the debate yesterday and I have some names of Senators who did not speak yesterday but who will speak today.

Senator Ani Okonkwo (Anambra Central): Thank you Mr. President for given me the opportunity to speak on this very important Bill. Honestly, I would not fail to commend the Executive for coming up with this Bill at this point in time realising that there is nothing the country could do especially in terms of food security without amending the Land Use Act. We cannot fail to recognise a President that have set down Seven Point Agenda for himself and from all indications he is pursuing them and ensuring that all the problems that may arise to hinder any of his Agenda is being tackled. I believe that may be the reason this particular Amendment to the Land Use Act is put forward for us to consider.

I want to seize this opportunity to urge all my Colleagues that we definitely have to support this Amendment despite the fact that it is about Constitutional Amendment. We cannot say that because we are not amending the Constitution as a whole we cannot take very important issues in the Constitution and amend them such as this Land Use Act. I believe that is the only way we can not only handing over the lands to the Governors but to also liberalise the use of land.

For example in other countries of the world, for example, UAE (United Arab Emirates) in 2002 they liberalised their Land Use Act and that has facilitated a lot of foreign investments in that country. UAE is a haven for foreign investments and there have been massive investments in infrastructure especially housing. We are looking forward to see how we can encourage commercial farming because this country is blessed with vast land including desert. We must be able to use what

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God has given to us to attract genuine investors that can develop this land. It does not make any sense for people to have land and do not make use of it. In some areas you will see vast land being claimed by a small community. I do not believe that can bring development. This particular aspect of the Land Use Act needs to be amended so that we can attract sufficient funds to develop the land.

There are a lot of people interested in commercial farming in this country but they have problem in getting land. We cannot fold our arms and allow the opportunity we have in this country to escape us. Our country is one of the most significant countries that could attract foreign investments. We need to make things easy for people to come into this country. We cannot use bureaucracy to scare people away. We need to enact laws that can help us realise these things and amending the Land Use Act will be a major step towards early development.

A lot of my Colleagues have mentioned the reasons for their belief that the Act must be amended. I do not want to go back to that but I want to seize this opportunity to say that amending this Act will definitely open up Nigeria and attract all the good things we expect.

Senator Bukar Ibrahim Abba (Yobe East): Mr. President, this is a very important Bill which an attempt is being made for its Amendment. I just started going through the actual Act itself when Mr. President called me to speak.

My problem as I was looking at this document yesterday was that it appears the whole debate is being made around just two words. The issue of consent and assignment and I found it extremely difficult to know how terribly different these two words are. As I was just going through the first page, I did not see anything so radical in the attempt being made to change this Land Use Act. Is it the issue of consent, which is domiciled in the Governors and the assignment, which is being brought in to replace consent? The Lawyers who are around can please help me out. What is the difference between consent and assignment?

When I was a Governor for 10 years, I never had any problem with the Land Use Act. During the 10 years I was a Governor, I never knew of a case when anybody went to Court on this.

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The President: I think you were a Governor for more than 10 years. Were you not a Governor along with the Governor Audu in Kogi State?

Senator Bukar Ibrahim Abba: I was a Governor for 10 years and obviously land is invested in the Office of the Governor. There was a time I was a Commissioner of Land for four years during which period I was acting on behalf of the Governor, we never had any problem with the Land Use Act. So, during all these 14 years I had been there I never had any problem with this. I did not really know what has arisen now that makes it so necessary for us to spend days debating. Whether consent or assignment, I believe what really matters is for the Governors or whoever else is representing them to understand that land is God giving, it is for everybody and it should be used in the interest of everybody so that we can develop and move fast as a country and as a State.

So, the main problem really is the way and manner people use this document rather than what is contains in it that really creates problem in areas where problem exists. We had never had any problem for 14 years. Nobody has taken us to court and we had never had any individual or group complaining about getting land. People who are not from Yobe State or Borno State had got land. They always have their ways of getting the land one way or the other and nobody has ever impeded progress in those areas on the basis of this or any other document.

So, I rest my case here. Whether you use the word consent or assignment, it all depends on how you utilise it. That is what really makes all the difference

Senator Otaru Salihu Ohize (Kogi Central): Mr. President, I want to start my contribution by saying; I am fully in support of the Land Reform Bill for two reasons. First, is the right of man to ownership of land and second is to help the President remove one of his seven burdens.

In the Book of Genesis, when man was created the first right he was given is ownership of land and land too was equally the first wealth bestowed on man by God until 1978 in Nigeria when the government took that right. Today, we have a God-fearing President who wants to return the right to the ordinary man in Nigeria. Ordinarily, elsewhere

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in the world, there would have been war in 1978 when that right was taken.

From the United Nations statistics of war, 95 per cent of wars fought were over land such that in 1978 if Nigerians were aware of the right that was taken from them they would have fought over it. So, we thank God that today, the President of Nigeria has the wisdom and the fear of God to return that right. So, I am in support of the Land Reform Bill because it is pro-masses.

Secondly, when Mr. President drew his Seven Point Agenda and he went on campaign, based on this Seven Point Agenda Nigerians voted for him and there have been complaints everywhere that up till today not even half of the seven have been executed. So, we should not provide a way for Mr. President to pass the blame on the National Assembly.

If we support the passage of this Bill one of the Seven Points Agenda would have been removed and he would be left with six. So, I am in support of the Land Reform Bill.

Senator Paulker Emmanuel (Bayelsa Central): Mr. President, a lot has been said about this Bill. The importance of land has also been so expressed yesterday that I need not repeat it. But all the same, I do lend my voice in support of the area that the Bill specifically seeks to amend.

If you have been in business and you are going for mortgage and then you have to wait for the consent of the Governor, considering the fact that the duties of the Governor entail a lot, getting that consent would take about three years and if the business requires to be established within three months, it would be very difficult for you to secure facilities from the bank. So, I support in its entirety that that area of the Land Use Act as presented by the Executive be amended.

One thing touched me so dearly when the lead debate was being presented by no mean person than the Leader of this hallowed Chamber. Permit me to just highlight the No. 7 point, which the Leader of the Senate mentioned. If you do permit, I will just read the synopsis of that area. *To ensure that individuals, families and communal ownership of land are respected, encouraged and protected.* Just as my Colleague from Kogi State said, not until 1978 the real right of ownership of land in this

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country was vested on the people. When Mr. President mentioned in his Seven Point Agenda that land reform was one of the areas he will tackle, the people I represent thought that the reform would go beyond what we are seeing in this Bill.

The issue of who owns land and whatever that is on the land belongs to him or her has been a subject of debate in this country. The law courts recognise the fact that whatever you have on the land belongs to you. So, if my Colleague sitting by my side decides to erect a building on my land and I go to court and obtain judgment that the parcel of land belongs to me, whatever that is on that land is mine. But the problem in the country is that what is beneath the land belongs to every person in this country.

My people have been talking about resource control for a while now. I am referring to the minerals that are deposited in the land. I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention that. When we are making contributions about reforming the Land Use Act, we should take into consideration those things that are beneath the Land. If I own a land, it means that all those things beneath the land on which I have claim equally belong to me.

I just want to make this point which we must note that the people I and some other people represent have a lot of resources buried in their land. Even beyond the Niger Delta are there are a lot of solid mineral resources. It is necessary for this country to recognise that fact. In some societies across the world, what is obtainable is paying of royalties to (*Interruptions*)

Senator Smart Adeyemi (Kogi West): Point of Order, Mr. President!

The President: Point of Order, distinguished Senator Smart Adeyemi.

Senator Smart Adeyemi: Mr. President, I will be reading from Order 53(4) which says: *A Senator must confine his observations to the subject under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.*

Distinguished Senator Emmanuel Paulker seems to be deviating from the main issue that we are discussing. I am not actually against the details of what he is saying but I must say that it is not yet time for us to go into resource control and other

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issues affecting the Niger Delta people and, indeed, the federation as a whole. I want to believe that the issue we are discussing is the Land Use Act and he has spoken so well about it. If there is need for him to go further, he should wait until when we start amending the Constitution and start discussing about the structure of the nation and by extension, the Niger Delta issue. The time to discuss the Niger Delta problem will still come. Many of us who, of course, believe in some of the things he is saying will not hesitate to give him the support. But for now that should wait.

The President: You are also discussing the Niger Delta issue. (*Laughter*) You have made your Point of Order and you do not need to say whether or not you support the discussion on the Niger Delta.

Distinguished Senator Smart Adeyemi is correct. The subject matter is land reform and not resource control. You started very well but you are now devoting so much time to resource control. Do you have anything more to add or are you still going on the route of resource control?

Senator Emmanuel Paulker: Mr. President, since you have sustained his Point of Order, I will try to round up. All what I was saying is not resource control *per se* neither was it restricted to Niger Delta but let me round up. I thought we are talking about land reform and if it goes beyond the ambit of what the Executive has so far presented, in trying to contribute to a Bill before us I do not think we are restricted to the confines within the area the Bill seeks to amend. That was the area I was going.

The President: The danger with where you are going is that it has gone beyond the land reform to resource control, which is a different subject matter.

Senator Emmanuel Paulker: Mr. President, having said that I support the Bill in its entirety. There is need for us to reform land, which is one of the most important attributes man requires in life. Vesting the interest of the land on those who own the land is very necessary. With those few comments, I lend my support to the Amendments.

The President: These are the distinguished Senators who wanted to speak yesterday. We dealt with this Bill extensively yesterday, unless somebody wants to raise an issue he feels so strongly has not been raised.

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Senator Dahiru Kuta (Niger East): Mr. President, mine is just an observation.

The President: Please, go ahead.

Senator Dahiru Kuta: Unfortunately, I was not here yesterday and I am happy that this Amendment is coming now after we have suffered a lot from the Land Use Act, particularly, the host community of the FCT. But that is not what I am talking about now.

My observation is on page 1, line 12. The Bill refers to Section (N) of the Act. The 2004 Land Use Act does not have Section (N).

The President: Can you guide us through please because I have not found it.

Senator Dahiru Kuta: It is page 1, line 12, Serial No. 5, where the Bill refers to Section (N) of the Act but there is no Section (N) in the 2004 Land Use Act.

The President: Has any other Senator found the point he is making? Let me see the Bill, please. (*A copy of the Bill passed to the President*)

Senator Joseph Iorshagher Akaagerger (Benue North-East): Mr. President, let me first of all talk about the compendium to put the matter that Senator Kuta has put in perspective.

In 1990 the entire Laws of the Federation of Nigeria were codified into LFN (Laws of the Federations of Nigeria 1990). Then, the National Assembly passed that law which has become a reference material.

In 2004, an attempt was made by a South African Company, Lexis-Mexis to codify the Laws again because of the several changes and Amendments that the National Assembly has made over the period. It became necessary, therefore, to put them together in 2004 that is why we have Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004. Unfortunately, what the National Assembly did in 1990 was not done in 2004 so, I do not think that it has even formed a Law for us to be referred to. LFN 2004 is not yet a Law, properly so called, which can be referred to. The Bill, though refers to 2004 it is only referring to the codification that was done that time putting together every Law available in the country.

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On the substantive issue which Senator Kuta has raised is on line 12 of the draft Bill which refers specifically to Section 5 that Section (N) of the Act is amended by. When you now pick the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and go to that same Section 5, you would not find Subsection (N) there. That is the point that he has raised now.

The President: The point is noted. Is it all right for me to put the Question on the Second Reading of this Bill unless somebody has a very strong point to make?

Senator Andrew Babalola Abidemi (Oyo North): Mr. President, let me first of all say that I was not in the Senate yesterday when the issue actually came up. When the Land Use Act was being discussed for Amendment, I recollect that immediately after the General Elections in 2007, the PDP Senators were invited to a seminar by Professor Mabaogunje and we were informed that this would probably come to the Floor of the Senate. The main purpose behind the proposal was the issue of cadastral land mapping which is the essence of making land commercially viable in Nigeria so that our farmers back home whatever they have could be presented at any point to guarantee loans and from banks.

What I am saying is that, if they have not read this Amendment, our hope eventually when it goes to the Committee stage the original idea of this proposal which was behind the proposed Amendment of the 1978 Act should be included in it.

The President: Is there any other point? (*No response*) I thank you distinguished Colleagues.

The debate yesterday and even today has been very lively. No doubt, as I said yesterday, it is a historic debate and it is really the beginning of the Amendment of the Constitution. You would recall that when I inaugurated the Joint Constitutional Review Committee, my emphasis was that we should take those issues that are less controversial and once we get the procedure and the process of amending the Constitution right, then it would become a more routine exercise and less controversial. I think that this Land Use Act (Amendment) Bill is one in which we are all on the same wave length.

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I want to use this opportunity to appeal to the Joint Committee Members to please put behind personal egos on the issue of Chairmanship and Co-Chairmanship so that the Joint Committee can begin to work together. This is because Constructional Amendment is an exercise that, to me, would require a lot of dedication and patience and painstaking. It is an opportunity for us to really show how patriotic we are. I am not in real favour of a complete review of the Constitution. If we could amend the areas that we think are urgent and could be simply amended, we would have made a lot of progress.

I want to thank all of you for your contributions which I have helped to enlighten and educate the general public including myself. I think it is proper for me to put the Question on the Second Reading of the Bill now.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time.

The President: To which Committee should it be referred? Is it to our own Committee on Constitution Review? Or should it go to the Committee on Judiciary and the Constitution Review Committee combined?

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: In my lead debate yesterday, I suggested that we commit this Bill to the Senate Committee on Constitution Review and I still stand by that. You would recall that the membership of the Constitution Review is one per state and even the Chairman of the Judiciary is part of that Committee. The whole idea is that the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Constitution Review and the Deputy Senate President, would now in his wisdom, form a sub-Committee to deal with this Bill. I believe that is the most appropriate thing to do.

Senator Audu Idris Umar (Gombe Central): The main target of the Amendment is the Land Use Act. The Constitutional issue there is the procedure to be adopted. Strictly speaking, the substance of the Amendment is on the Land Use Act. The application of the Constitution is only for procedural purposes and to that extent, for us to have adequate legislative input, this Bill should be referred to the relevant Committees of the Senate

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dealing with land matters and this has to do with the House Committee and the Committee on Judiciary and Legal Matters.

We are talking about both substantive and procedural laws. What is of importance in this matter is the substantive law which is the Land Use Act. Procedurally, the constitutional provision would follow but the substance of the Amendment is the Land Use Act. Therefore, this Bill should not be referred to the Joint Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution.

Senator Tawar Umbi Wada (Gombe South): Mr. President, while I agree to some extent with my Colleague from Gombe Central that the substance of the Amendment is the Land Use Act, generally, the Land Use Act itself is part of the Constitution as envisaged in Section 315(5). It goes on to specifically say that you cannot amend any of these Laws which include the Land Use Act except in line with the processes of the Amendment of the Constitution. To my mind, it makes the Land Use Act itself part and parcel of the Constitution.

Even the Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives has no bearing to the Constitution on the procedure of Amendment. In that circumstance, I will suggest that we refer this matter to our Judicial Committee and the segment of the Constitution Amendment Committee of the Senate. The two of them can sit jointly and tackle the issue completely. That is the way I look at it. We can continue like this. If the House of Representatives is not ready to continue with the Constitutional Amendment; we can do our own and pass it to them for concurrence. That is simple.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora: Mr. President, I listened to the argument of my Friend and Colleague, Senator Idris, he was talking of substance and procedure. With the follow up by Senator T. U. Wada, it is obvious that we cannot separate the two. There is no way that we can separate the two in this instance by virtue of Section 315(5) of the Constitution and we have to marry this with Section 9(2) of the Constitution which talks about the procedure for amending or altering the provision of the Constitution. So, there is no way you can separate this two. As a result, I subscribe to the suggestion that we refer this matter to the Senate Committee on the Constitutional Amendment and, of course, by extension to the Joint Committee.

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Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello: Mr. President, I want to buttress what my distinguished Colleague, Senator Mamowora has said. The issue is that the Land Use Act is, in fact, part of the Constitution that has not been written and lumped into that Constitution. That is what it is. This is because everything you are to do to amend the Constitution with the exception of the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles is exactly the same when you are going to amend the Land Use Act. Therefore, this should be referred to the Committee on the Constitution Review.

Senator Joseph Iorshagher Akaagerger: Mr. President, first and foremost, I have failed to share the view that a very simple matter is being theorised unnecessarily and being beclouded with several introductions and so on that do not help us. Looking at the history of the Joint Committee on the Constitution Review, to my mind, practically and so far, it is comatose. But this is an issue that we need re-engineering and quick response with respect to the Land Use Act to come into line with the mood of the nation at the moment as far as the economic goes.

What does the Constitution say? With your permission, Sir, Section 9 outlines the procedure for Amendment. Subsection (1) gives you the scope, the ambit and the boundaries and it says: *The National Assembly may, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, alter any of the provisions of this Constitution.* You have, therefore, been allowed the latitude by this same Constitution to alter any aspect of the Constitution.

Subsection (2) specifically addresses the issue which confronts us and it says that:

An Act of the National Assembly for the alteration of this Constitution, not being an Act to which Section 8 of this Constitution applies, shall not be passed in either House of the National Assembly unless the proposal is supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds majority of all the members of that House and approved by the resolution of the Houses of Assembly of not less than two-thirds of all the States.

These issues are very clear. If you look at Section 62 which addresses the issue of the Joint Committee and you look at the provisions of this Section which allows the Senate to also take a

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resolution to pass an Act here, we are free to do that by sending it to the Committee on Judiciary and the one dealing with Land, as earlier suggested. Then we shall short-circuit the whole process instead of going to argue about Co-Chairman, Chairman and all that, the Senate on its own will proceed to save time and then kick-start the process of amending the Land Use Act which will become very useful to us.

So, I strongly suggest that the relevant Committees including Judiciary will look at the issue and then we will continue.

The President: When you did your introduction I thought you had a simpler and more straightforward solution. But, in fact, you beclouded the whole thing with even more confusion than those who spoke before you.

Senator Ahmad Rufai Sani (Zamfara West): Mr. President, I want to explain to him that what my Senate Leader is saying is not Joint Committee on the Constitution rather it is the Senate Committee on the Review of the Constitution so that we can marry everything together with the Amendment of the Constitution. All the English he has spoken was just trying to confuse the entire discussion.

The President: The explanation that the Minority Whip has given is necessary. As you know, we have the Joint Committee and we have our own Committee that is part of the Joint Committee. What we are saying is to refer it to our own Committee on Constitutional Review. They do not need to bring the House of Representatives into that equation yet. This is because there is no doubt as to whom the Chairman of that Committee is. Senator Akaagerger, you are a member of that Committee. Are you a Co-Chairman with the DSP?

Senator Akaagerger: No! *(Laughter)*

The President: There is no doubt about the Chairmanship of that one.

Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke (Osun West): Mr. President, I still want to believe that we need to send this Bill to the relevant Committees in the Senate before it goes to our own Constitutional Amendment Committee. This is because there are some technical aspects of the Land Use Act that the Committees on Judiciary and probably Housing

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would be able to point out to our own Constitution Amendment Committee. We are all saying the same thing from different angles.

The President: The advantage of our own Constitutional Review Committee is that almost everybody who is in the Judiciary is also a member of that Committee. Senator Idris, are you a member?

Senator Idris: I am not a Member, Sir.

The President: But Senator T.U. Wada is a Member. The additional advantage there is that it is a Member per State. We will give it to them and ask the Committee on Judiciary to advise them. That is they can co-opt the Judiciary Committee. Senator Manzo is the Rule saying another thing?

Senator Anthony Manzo: Mr. President, I concur with Senator Adeleke because land issue is not a judiciary thing. There is a social issue which is going to involve all the States and since this Constitutional Review Committee has a Senator from each State, it means that along the line you will hear views of the people from those States. So, it will be more relevant that way.

Senator Sahabi Ya'u (Zamfara North): Mr. President, the Senator that has just spoken has said it all. The whole thing is a social issue which relates to States and Local Governments. I wonder why the States and Local Governments Committee should not form part of this Committee that you are trying to hand over the issue to. All along I felt that the States and Local Governments Committee should have handled this issue alone but since there is a Committee on Constitution Review in the Senate, I would not mind forming part of that Committee to produce a good work.

The President: So, I would put the Question in favour that it be referred to the Committee on Constitution Review.

Question put and agreed to.

The Committee can consult the Committee on Judiciary or any other Committee that they find relevant. This matter is in the front burner at the moment. It is one matter we should get back as quickly as possible. We should give the Committee four weeks to report back.

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Bill referred to the Committee on Constitution Review and to report back within four weeks.

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, may I respectfully move that we step down the next Item on the Order Paper to another legislative day.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the next Item on the Order Paper be stood to another legislative day.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, I move that this Senate do now adjourn till next week Tuesday, 12th May, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. prompt

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that this Senate do adjourn till next week Tuesday, 12th May, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Briefing by the Security Agents on Piracy

The President: Before I put the Question, I have an announcement to make. On Tuesday, 12th May, 2009 at 12 noon we will have a Closed Session and a briefing from the Security Agents. We want the National Security Adviser for Foreign Affairs to brief us on the issue of piracy.

Please tell our other Colleagues who are not here so that we will all be present for that briefing. It will not be covered.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 12th May, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 1.30 p.m.