

**VOL. 1
No. 10**

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Tuesday
14th July, 2009**



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES

FOURTH REPUBLIC THIRD ASSEMBLY (SIXTH SENATE)

THIRD SESSION

SENATE OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

**Votes and Proceedings
Messages from Mr. President
Announcements
Presentation of a Report
Consideration of a Report
Adjournment**

0473

**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Tuesday, 14th July, 2009

The Senate met at 10.45 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, we have the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 9th July, 2009 before us for approval: Pages 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71?

Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke (Osun West): Mr. President, I move that the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 9th July, 2009 be approved.

Senator Dahiru Gassol (Taraba Central): Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 9th July, 2009 be approved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 9th July, 2009 be approved.

MESSAGES FROM MR. PRESIDENT

The President: We have some messages from Mr. President. The first one reads:

July 3, 2009

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

Dear Brother,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF
APPOINTMENT OF THE ZAMFARA STATE
REPRESENTATIVE IN THE FEDERAL
CHARACTER COMMISSION**

0474

The Federal Character 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(c) of the Third Schedule of the Constitution, the Commission shall comprise a Chairman and one member from each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. In this connection, there is need to fill the vacant position created following the death of the former Commissioner, Alhaji Sahabi Mohammad Kaura, representing Zamfara State 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 Ambassador Abdullahi Halidu Shinkafi, whose Curriculum Vitae is attached herewith, as a member of the Federal Character Commission representing Zamfara State for a term of five (5) years.

In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution which states that the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate, I hereby present Ambassador Abdullahi Halidu Shinkafi for kind consideration and confirmation by the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA
The President

Another letter from Mr. President reads:

July 6, 2009

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

Dear brother,

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE
PUBLIC SERVICE INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA
FOR ENACTMENT**

0475

I hereby introduce for formal consideration and passage into law by the Senate a Bill for an Act to Establish the Public Service Institute of Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith.

While I hope that the Bill would receive the usual prompt attention of the Distinguished Members of the Senate, please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)
UMARU MUSA YAR' ADUA
The President

The third letter from Mr. President reads:

July 7, 2009

Distinguished Senator David Mark, GCON
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

Dear Brother,

The Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) 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(d) of the Third Schedule of the Constitution, the Commission shall comprise a Chairman and not more than fifteen (15) other members. In this connection, there is an existing vacant position following the death of the former Commissioner, Alhaji Kasimu Idris, representing the cluster of Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa 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 Mr. Jonah Onukwu Ogbole whose Curriculum Vitae is attached hereto, as a member of the Federal Civil Service Commission representing the cluster of Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa States for a term of five (5) years.

0476

In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution which states that the appointment shall be subject to the confirmation by the Senate, I hereby present Mr. Jonah Onukwu Ogbole for consideration of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

UMARU MUSA YAR' ADUA

The President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This letter of appreciation is from Senator Bello Hayatu Gwarzo. He is a PDP Senator representing Kano North Senatorial District. The letter reads:

July 13, 2009

The President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly,
Abuja.

Mr. President, Sir,

APPRECIATION

I wish to kindly express my profound appreciation on the overwhelming demonstration of sympathy shown to me and my entire family by my Distinguished Colleagues under your able leadership on the passing away of my late mother on Sunday the 21st June, 2009.

I am, indeed, grateful Your Excellency by the presence of the Senate delegation in my personal residence in Kano as well as soothing words expressed in your personal letter to me. These contributed grateful to comfort us during that trying and difficult period.

I pray to Almighty God to reward you abundantly for the kind gesture.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Senator Bello Hayatu Gwarzo (PDP)

0477

Birthday Wishes

On behalf of all of us, I would like to wish our very Distinguished Deputy Whip of the Senate, a gentleman officer, a distinguished Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, distinguished Senator Mana Mohammed who celebrated his birthday on the 10th of July, 2009.

We did not sit that day so we did not have time. He is still a young man that is what I can assure you and he may be retired but he is not tired.

On behalf of all of us also, I wish our very distinguished Minority Leader, distinguished Senator Lawan Ma'aji Maina a happy birthday. His own birthday was on the 12th of July, but they did not put the year here. Again, I am told that he is young man and he has many more years to render service to this country.

On behalf of all of us I wish him a happy birthday.

Today, is the birthday of a very distinguished Senator, a former Governor of Jigawa State, distinguished Senator Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, born on 14th of July. He is also a young man, though he is not here with us. I would like to, on behalf of all of us, wish him a happy birthday. We shall telephone him in the hospital to tell him that.

PRESENTATION OF A REPORT

Report of the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation

Senator Teslim Folarin (Oyo Central): Mr. President, the first business of the day is the presentation of the Report of the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation on the screening of the following persons as Chairman and Members of the Governing Board of the Bureau of Statistics in accordance with Section 8 of the Bureau of Statistics Act.

Ambassador Greg Mbadiwe	Chairman
Alhaji Ali Badala Gumel	Member
Alhaji Sule Majidadi	Member
Alhaji Raimi Ayo Raji	Member

0478

Chief Franklin Edonkumoh Member

Captain Joe Agada Member

You may invite Senator Zainab Kure to move the Motion for the Senate to receive the Report.

Senator Zainab Kure (Niger South): Mr. President, I rise to move the Motion that the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, on the screening of the above-listed persons as Chairman and Members of the Governing Board of the Bureau of Statistics.

I so move.

Senator Dahiru Kuta (Niger East): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, on the screening of the above-listed persons as Chairman and Members of the Governing Board of the Bureau of Statistics.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, on the screening of those mentioned in the Order Paper, as Chairman and Members of the Governing Board of the Bureau of Statistics.

(Report accordingly laid on the Table)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

Report of the Committee on Sports and Social Development on the National Centre for the Elderly Persons (Establishment) Bill, 2009,

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, the first Order of the day is the presentation and consideration of the Report of the Committee on Sports and Social Development on the National Centre for the Elderly Persons (Establishment) Bill, 2009. You will recall that the Report of this Committee was laid in this hallowed Chamber on Thursday, 11th September, 2008.

0479

You may wish to invite the Chairman of the Committee on Sports, Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, to move a Motion for the presentation and consideration of the Report.

Senator Heineken Lopobiri (Bayelsa West): Mr. President, I rise to move that the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Sports and Social Development on the National Centre for the Elderly Persons (Establishment) Bill, 2009.

I so move.

Senator Garba Yakubu Lado (Katsina South): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Sports and Social Development on the National Centre for the Elderly Persons (Establishment) Bill, 2009.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Sports and Social Development on the National Centre for the Elderly Persons (Establishment) Bill, 2009.

The President: For the avoidance of doubt let me clarify that Senator Heineken October Lokpobiri, represents all the good people of Bayelsa West in his own interest.

Senator Heineken Lopobiri: Mr. President, the Senate at its Plenary Session on Tuesday, 6th May, 2008 read for the Second Time, the National Centre for Elderly Persons Bill and referred same to the Committee on Sports and Social Development for further legislative action. This Bill was sponsored by Senator Ganiyu Solomon, representing Lagos West Senatorial District.

Having received the referral, the Committee, because of the sensitive and vital nature of the Bill, held several meetings and adopted the following methodology. We called for submission of memoranda and, indeed, received memoranda from the public. We also had an interactive session with relevant stakeholders and also created forum for the people to defend their memoranda.

There was also a comparative study of other country's statutes and laws on older people and the Clause-by-Clause consideration by the Committee.

0480

After the Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill, out of the 23 Clauses of the Bill, the Committee observed as follows:

- i. That the title of the Bill be amended from Elderly Persons to Older Persons.
- ii. The Committee also observed that Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and Supplementary Provisions 1, 2, and 3 and Miscellaneous 4 and 5 and the Explanatory Memorandum be amended.
- iii. The Committee observed that Clause 24 should be retained
- iv. The Committee also observed that Clauses 4(2), 6, 7(2)(c), 8(1) and (3), 9(1)(a) and (b) and 9(2), 11(2) and (3), 13, 15(2), 16, 17(1) and 20 be deleted from the Bill.

The National Centre for Elderly Persons Bill is a landmark Bill that seeks to give legal support for this segment of our population who suffer untold hardship. It is a Bill that requires the support of each and everyone of because someday all us will be old people and this is virtually preparing the ground for our old age.

On behalf of the Committee on Sports, Social Development, I thank you very sincerely for this wonderful opportunity to serve.

The President: Let me take comments before we go to Clause-by-Clause consideration in the Committee of the Whole.

Senator George Anthony Manzo (Taraba North): Mr. President, I want to ask the Chairman of the Committee on Sports what informed his decision to change the title of the Bill from Elderly to Older before we go to Clause-by-Clause. I thought that the word; elderly is appropriate. I tried to check in the dictionary to see the difference between the words; older and elderly, I could not see.

Senator Omar A. Hambagda (Borno South): Mr. President, it is a mistake to change the title from elderly to older. If we look at the two words, older introduces the concept of comparison: old, older, oldest. Elderly is a word in its own right and is actually more appropriate in this context than

0481

older which introduces that concept. This is because we do not know where the old starts, so it creates problem of interpretation.

Senator Andrew Abidemi Babalola (Oyo North): Mr. President, I want to comment on the long title of the Bill. Whether we are using elderly or older, the long title is cumbersome by repeating the word elderly twice or even if we change it to older. We should remove the first elderly or older to make it read thus: *A Bill for an Act to establish the National Centre for purpose of providing welfare and recreational facilities for the elderly or older whichever one we finally choose and designing of development programme for the elderly persons in Nigeria.* We need to make it straightforward.

Senator Felix Kolawole Bajomo (Ogun West): Mr. President, I share the opinion expressed by the previous three Speakers. This is because in my view, older is not in anyway explicit, and does not give the right description to the group of people we are referring to, particularly, when you look at it from the concept of the fact that certain group of people in this part of the world could be disadvantaged like the disabled and elderly. In that particular concept, using the word elderly is more appropriate.

But having said so, this a very important Bill particularly from the point of view of the fact that the health of the nation is very important and this health of the nation is envisaged by the health in every person, even non-human beings like the birds. In the morning, you will see that birds usually stretch their legs and wings. The impact of good health and creating recreation for the elderly is very important from the point of view of the fact that they could unknowingly be discriminated against.

The President: Let us hear from somebody who is a possible beneficiary of this Bill.

Senator Jibril M. Aminu (Adamawa Central): Mr. President, I will like, on behalf of all the potential beneficiaries thank the younger generation for thinking of the elderly and arranging for sports for them. Let me say the kind of things we require, the first one is advocacy which is very important particularly on healthy living and obesity.

0482

Secondly, I hope that in all those Sports Centres they should ensure adequate facilities to examine them and ensure that there is enough First Aid facilities whenever you over exert an elder.

Finally, I would like to say that this arrangement should cover elders of all categories. I just hate to feel that this is a facility for people who can pay to go to Ikoyi Club or to go elsewhere. It is not enough to say for elders and then it turns out to be elite elders. I really think that ordinary elders should deserve this. Therefore, whatever this Centre does, it should ensure that it does not discriminate against any elder on grounds of age or status, so that the ordinary people would benefit from this Centre.

I would like to thank you once more for this and I hope the Senate will pass it for implementation by government.

Senator Dahiru A Kuta (Niger East): Mr. President, we require some clarifications here. When I celebrated my 60th birthday, I met you (*Interruptions*)

The President: You do not fall into the bracket covered by this Bill. (*Laughter*)

Senator Dahiru A Kuta: You told me that I was just beginning in life. But I have met some of my classmates who are not so advantaged. They have become so old that you cannot imagine that I senior them. So, it would be very difficult for us to know exactly who is an elderly person and requires the welfare we are talking about. There are people who were brought up in a very harsh environment. Some of such people are under the flyovers begging for arms. They look so old, yet they are young people. If poverty has struck them and they become old who then require support and welfare from the authorities?

The President: Well, when we go through the Bill we would discover whether it is by age or by outlook. But, that point you raised is an important one. It is the same point that was raised by Senator Jibril Aminu. By our context, we must take into consideration so many things. However, I believe by the time we go through the details, it would be made clearer.

0483

Senator Lokpobiri, if you can just respond to the issue of the change of title from *Elderly* to *Older* then we can go into Committee of the Whole to do the Clause-by-Clause consideration.

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri: Mr. President, I know that this issue would be raised at this point of consideration of this Bill and I have also been very well prepared to clarify all those areas where we might have one or two doubts.

First of all, I want to say that what Senator Kuta said about himself that is over sixty looking younger while some people below his age are looking more elderly than he is, is also one of the grounds why we decided that *Older* should be used. When you say *Elderly*, it presupposes that such persons are looking frail. *Older* better captures age than *Elderly*. That is one point.

Another reason we decided to amend it was that it is the trend all over the world. In 1967 when this law was first passed in South Africa, it was called the Aged Persons Act 1967. Up to 1998 it was still called the Aged Persons (Amendment) Act. But just in 2006, it was amended to be Older Person's Act 2006. The other one was the *Aged Persons Act* but because of the global trend, they changed it to the *Older Persons Act 2006* in South Africa.

In the United States of America, we have the *Older American's Act of 1965*. Also, in the United States in 1995, we have *Housing for Older Person's Act 1995*. The world is a global village, and I believe that we have to be at the same trend with other parts of the world.

The point I am trying to make is that in almost all the other jurisdictions where we found similar Acts, the trend has been *Older Persons Act* as in the United States of America. In South Africa, it is called the *Older People's Act*. So, that was the reason we decided to amend it to be in tandem with other parts of the world.

The President: Thank you. When we take the Clause-by-Clause consideration we would decide which one we want to take. But, I am not sure that your explanation has helped matters at all.

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

0484

Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya (Kano South): Mr. President, I second the Motion as moved by the Leader that the Senate resolves into the Committee of the Whole for the clause-by-clause consideration of the Report.

Question put and agreed to.

Report of the Committee on Sports and Social Development on the National Centre for the Elderly Persons (Establishment) Bill, 2009 (SB.15) – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Clause 1 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ELDERLY PERSONS)

The Chairman: The Report consists of 23 Clauses and I am sure we would go through them very quickly. Let us take comments first.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu West): Mr. Chairman, in view of the opinion earlier expressed by our very distinguished Colleagues in respect of Clause 1, I suggest that we revert to the extant provision which is using the word *Elderly* as opposed to the word *Older*, for reasons given by my Colleagues. This is because when you say *Older*, you are talking in comparative sense between two persons, but if you use the word *Elderly*, it has acquired its own meaning even in Nigeria, without any further definition. Besides, if other jurisdictions are using the word, *Older*, we are not bound to follow it. One hundred wrongs can never make one right. So, I suggest, respectfully, that we revert to the earlier provision of *Elderly* instead of *Older*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Senator Andrew Abidemi Babalola: Mr. Chairman, before we go further, I was thinking about the Long Title.

The Chairman: There is a sequence. When I come to the Long Title, which is usually the last item, then you make your correction.

Senator G. Anthony Manzo: Mr. Chairman, what is in the extant provision is Centre *and not* Agency.

0485

The Chairman: But what we have corrected is the words; *Elderly Persons* instead of *Older Persons*. *There is hereby established a body to be known as the National Centre for Elderly Persons in this Act referred to as "the Centre"*. That is the one we have taken.

Senator Mohammed Kabiru Jibrin (Kaduna Central): Mr. Chairman, I want to suggest a distinguishing feature between *agency* and *centre*. We should adopt the word; *agency* which means an office that caters generally for the older people including providing for the retirement home and other facilities rather than using the word; *centre* which connotes something like and incarceration, and perhaps, suggesting one place institution. Perhaps, I suggest that *agency* should be adopted for the wider purpose of taking care of the elderly people.

The Chairman: What you are suggesting is for it to read thus: *There is hereby established a body to be known as the National Agency for elderly persons (in this Act referred to as "the Agency")*

Is there any addition or subtraction to that one? There is Amendment because we are taking the extant Act but we are changing *Centre* to *Agency*.

Several distinguished Senators: There is no Amendment.

The Chairman: In whatever way you look at it, if you are amending *older* for *elderly*, it is an Amendment. They have recommended *national agency* and that remains, but we are amending *older* for *elderly*. So, why are you saying that there is no Amendment?

Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange: Mr. Chairman, our argument is that what they have recommended cannot be regarded as Amendment. In Clause 1, we have amended *older* to *elderly* that is Amendment but here they said *agency* and we are taking the *agency*. There is no Amendment there because we are taking their recommendation.

The Chairman: Read what you have said now because that was what I also said.

0486

Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange: What we should have here is: *There is hereby established a body to be known as National Agency for older person*. I am sorry this one will be amended.

The Chairman: I will now put the Question on Clause I(1)

Amendment put and agreed to.

Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan (Yobe North): Mr. Chairman, Sub-Clause (3) is discriminatory because we have elderly people in the local government areas as well. We should have the courage to go down to the local government headquarters, and in fact, those elderly people in the local government headquarters need care more than those in Abuja or the State capitals.

The Chairman: But these agency is a Federal Government Agency, can the States not from there set up their own agencies on similar basis? This is because my experience in this country is that when Federal Government goes down to the local government is a recipe for total inefficiency and non-compliance.

Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan: Mr. Chairman, if I will add, it depends on the provisions that are made. If the provisions are exclusively meant for Federal Government funding then, of course, there would be some problems; but even in that case, why are we going to the State Capitals?

Senator Annie Okonkwo (Anambra Central): Mr. Chairman, because this is a Federal Agency and for us to get full benefit of this agency, it could be established per zone, instead of putting it per State because the States may start to put up something for the elderly persons in their States.

Senator Jibril Aminu (Adamawa Central): Mr. Chairman, Senate should appreciate the importance of changing the name from *centre* to *agency*. Centre conveyed establishment put here and there, but an agency is different. Since the Senate has change that then the role of this agency will include developing policies, developing guidelines, conducting campaigns and also liaising with States and Local Governments and getting

0487

them to develop their own agencies. It is a very good thing that this has been changed to agency but we should appreciate that the functions are now wider and will encompass a lot of things including what the distinguished Senator Ahmed is worried about.

The Chairman: Senator Lokpobiri, would this agency also establish centres?

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri: Not at all. The Agency will not establish centres as contemplated in the earlier Bill where houses would be rented or, perhaps, built as centres where old people would be taken to and then catered for. That was the original concept and the reason we changed it to agency is because that is the trend all over the world. It is not part of our practise for me to take my grandmother to one location and then government would be giving her food, morning, afternoon and evening. The practise generally is that you stay at home and government would reach out to you. They will not establish centres.

The Chairman: With this explanation, we started considering the Bill on a wrong note, which means we did not really follow what the Bill was saying in our initial discussion. We were off trapped completely *ab initio*. This requires an entirely different concept and perception now.

Senator Joel Danlami Ikenya (Taraba South): Mr. Chairman, this Agency is going to be like any other Agency of Government like NAPEP. NAPEP is the creation of the Federal Government. The State Chapters of NAPEP appoint Co-coordinators to oversee poverty alleviation and other Federal Government policies.

I believe that this Agency would also be saddled with the responsibility of looking after elderly people. That implies that the Agency should have coordinators in the various States to locate those whom they need to help. I believe that the provision as recommended by the Committee is appropriate and we should retain it. This is because if you say since it is the agency of the Federal Government the States and the Local Governments should create theirs, one wonders the position of the Federal Government. The Federal Government covers the entire country. Who are the people that make up the Federal Government? It is the entire population of the country.

0488

I suggest that we should have representatives in various states so that they can reach out to them and have coordinated policies and work together to achieve what the agency intends to achieve. That is what it should be.

Senator Andrew Babalola: Point of Order, Mr. Chairman!

The Chairman: Senator Andrew Babalola, raise your Point of Order.

Senator Andrew Babalola: Mr. Chairman, I want to refer us to Section 14(2)(b) of the 1999 Constitution. With your permission, I will read it and it states: *The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.*

Why I am raising this Point of Order is that this Bill affords us a very unique opportunity to implement what is stated in our Constitution. As raised by Senator Lawan Ahmed, if we take this Agency to the grassroots it will achieve the purpose for which it was set up. We should put the Agency on first line charge in terms of funding. If we do that it would mark our beginning to address the welfare of the people of Nigeria and we would begin to have Government that people can associate with. We should look into the position of Senator Lawan and take the Bill to the local governments to be sponsored and financed by the Federal Government. It is only then that people can say that they have people oriented Government in Nigeria.

The Chairman: Why has this come as a Point of Order? (*Laughter*) You have only buttressed the point you made with the Constitution. When you raise a Point of Order, I have to rule. Why has this actually come as a Point of Order?

Well, Senator Andrew Babalola, I rule you out of Order.

Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the submissions made earlier by Senator Ahmed Lawan and Senator Jibril Aminu. I got confused when the Chairman of the Committee gave his explanation that this Agency is not going to establish centres. There is a need for this agency to establish centres so that its programme can reach the communities to enable it get to the elderly people in a group and assist them.

0489

It means that there is a need to have this agency at local government level. From the way the Committee Chairman is defining it, it means that we are going to go house to house to assist elderly people, and that would be very difficult even the Government cannot afford to do that. He should define his Bill or we should send it back to the Committee to redefine it and bring it back to the Senate.

The Chairman: The Senate has to decide what we exactly want before we can move any further. We should decide whether we want an Agency that would establish centres or an Agency that would just go around and be preaching to the people.

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw (Cross River South): Mr. Chairman, you have just echoed what was in my mind. People need to understand what we are trying to achieve. There are many voluntary agencies, Churches and some Mosques that operate homes for elderly people. What this Bill is trying to achieve is what Senator Jibril Aminu said, which is to try and set standards and policies so that those who want to set up such centres can be guided. The Federal Government, the State Governments, the Local Governments and Voluntary Agencies can be guided by the standards and policies set by this organisation.

We, in Nigeria are not yet at the point where every family takes their old people to a centre as the Chairman suggested. That is true, but in urban areas, keeping old people at home is becoming increasingly difficult for some people. So, some of these centres may become relevant. The point for this is to try and set up guidelines, policies and advocacy of what the special needs of elderly people will be and if you are setting up centres or homes, what you should provide and how the home should be run. So, this Agency is the correct approach.

Senator G. Anthony Manzo: Mr. Chairman, I want to align myself completely with what Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw has said. We must run away from the danger of creating yet another tango where you have littered all over the country such old peoples' homes that, perhaps, if not well run will be infested by rats and rodents.

0490

What I believe Senator Ganiyu Solomon who came up with this Bill is thinking is that in some places like Lagos and other parts of this country may well be ahead in terms of the way the society there is organised and may like to have centres. The overall thrust of this Bill should be to provide guidelines. We must not exclude the fact that they can set centres; they may start with few centres. But if you say that they should have it in each local government areas in the country, it will end up like the application of Federal Character principle which is not going to work very well. What we should do is to have the agency for the formulation of policy guidelines and set up centres in some areas.

Senator Isiaka Adeleke: Mr. Chairman, I want to refer us to Clause 5 on the *Functions of the Agency*. If we go through Clause 5(2)(g) to (h) on pages 5, 6 and 7 it will assist us in taking a decision.

The Chairman: My understanding of it is that this is an Agency that will regulate the way we look after our old people. If Senator Ibrahim Ahmad Lawan wants to set up an old peoples' home he would take a guideline from this. If the State Government wants to set up an old peoples' home, they will be guided by this. If churches or organisations want, this is the policy making body that will regulate the way old peoples' activities are run. That is my understanding of it. What has brought us to this point is because of Clause 1(3) which somebody said is discriminatory because it does not go up to the local governments. If that is the case, do we need to establish this agency at the local governments? This is an agency that if you want to run an old peoples' home in a local government, you come to the agency anywhere they are and get a copy of the guideline then you set up your old peoples' home.

Senator Ahmad Lawan: Mr. Chairman, the point raised by Senator Isiaka Adeleke, Chairman INEC would guide us properly. Clause 5 states the functions of the Council for the Agency. I believe that giving what is stated here, the Agency is also going to be involved in the establishment of such centres. It is stated very categorically here that the agency shall be responsible for the provision of basic welfare recreational facilities. What that means is that they would also establish such care centres.

0491

I would suggest that giving the kind of example we have in the establishment and management of Federal Government Colleges now Unity Schools, which are the standard set for the State Governments to emulate, the Agency should establish in each local government one of such centre so that the standard that are expected should be replicated by whoever wants. I believe that we can do Nigerians very good service if we show care for the elderly who would have given the very good and productive part of their lives.

The Chairman: Truly, I would be guided by the Senate, the Agency can set up its own centres if they want to. It is conditional. They may not have to set up any centre. I am just trying to see if I am right.

Senator Lokpobiri, truly by the provision of Clause 5, it appears as if it is compulsory for the Agency to establish these centres. If you read Clause 5 it says:

The Agency shall be responsible for the provision of basic welfare recreational facilities for the older as well as stimulate consciousness towards the attainment of higher levels of development and activity for older persons in Nigeria and promote International cooperation for the attainment of this objective.

How would it provide all these facilities? It would provide centres for recreation. Perhaps, when we get to that Clause we would amend it accordingly.

Now, with the new understanding, can we make progress? Does Clause 1(3) need Amendment at that level? What Senator Ahmad is suggesting is different from what the Bill is saying. He is suggesting *establishing centres*, and centres would imply that you can take your old parents there and leave them, but this is not what the Bill is saying.

Senator Nkechi Nwaogu (Abia Central): Mr. Chairman, actually, this very Bill is an intention to make Government establish old people's home or elderly centre. If it is to be a regulatory and supervisory body, it has not said so because a situation where you have to provide facilities for the centres in all the States, that would be good and it can form a standard. However, it has not so far

0492

said that it would also be responsible for monitoring and supervision of homes that would be established by individuals, corporate bodies, or other bodies that may want to have a home.

This Bill as we have it, is one that states that the agency would establish centres for the elderly. It does not say that it would play a role of monitoring or supervising elderly homes that would be established by individuals. That my understanding of this Bill.

There is nothing wrong if Government established one. We have Government Colleges and Universities along side private universities. We can go ahead to establish branches of government elderly centres, but this Bill must say that this Agency must be able to regulate and control private ones.

Senator John Nanzip Shagaya (Plateau South): My understanding of this entire Bill is that it would create an agency. I do, therefore, believe that we should first accept the principle of creating that agency. In the countries of the world that the Committee has quoted in this Bill, their agencies are not responsible for running any centre. They created agencies that provide guidelines for anybody who wants to establish an old people's home. To the best of my knowledge that is what operates in the United States, Europe and South Africa.

I believe that we accept that the principle of creating an agency is very desirable in this country. That agency should lay down regulations for any one who wants to create a centre, an NGO, a local or a state government. If the Agency itself wants to create a centre to serve as a demonstration centre, the agency should so do.

We have so many agencies, for example, the Corporate Affairs Commission. There are so many regulations guiding the establishment of a business or a company. You walk into the Corporate Affairs Commission and you get all the regulations and guidelines. We also have NIPC, anybody who wants to establish an industry in this country, goes there to get all the guideline and the assistance in setting up a business. If we do anything beyond that, we would be creating some kind of an agency that would be hard to manage. I think the Chairman has already alluded to that long time ago.

0493

The Chairman: Senator Lokpobiri, can you compare what you have now with the National Universities Commission. The Universities Commission gives a guideline on what you want to do, if you want to establish a university, but it has not gotten any university of its own. Federal Government has universities. Is this agency like that? I do not want us to mix it up, giving it the connotation of an agency and then midway through, we said that they are going to put up old people's home and all that. If you have not, then you will do well to go and streamline it whether it is going to be a regulatory agency specifically or a government body that would also establish its own old people's homes and centres. Meanwhile, I want you to compare it to the National Universities Commission so that I can get it clear.

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri: Senator Shagaya, made it very clear and you have also made it clearer. This agency will be like the National Universities Commission. It will not have its own old people's home.

I do not know why people are importing the word; *centre* into what is stated in Clause 5. Clause 5 contains the functions of the Agency, which primarily has to do with formulation of the framework and the guidelines for such older or elderly people's homes to be established across the country. If all those who have argued have taken pains to go through Clause 5, perhaps, it would have saved Senate some valuable time. I believe that it is made clear. The intention is never for this Agency to establish any centre of its own and harbour old men and women and carter for them.

Senator Anthony G. Manzo: Mr. Chairman, Constitutional Point of Order.

The Chairman: Point of Order, distinguished Senator Anthony Manzo.

Senator Anthony G. Manzo: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I want to refer to the Second, Third and Fourth Schedules of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

My Point of Order is to know the opinion of the Lawyers here and your humble self, Mr. Chairman, whether we actually need to pass this law or is it not something the States can do. This is because the care of the elderly people is something that is detected by the local society.

0494

In Part I of the First Schedule, if you go through the list, there is no where this law is captured. If you also go to the Concurrent List, it is not captured. Therefore, it should belong to Part III, Residual List hence, it is something the States and Local Governments can take care of. That is the point I want to raise.

The Chairman: But the same way Local Governments can establish universities and schools. This is because if you say this is like the National Universities Commission, then there is nothing wrong with what he is saying.

Senator Sola Akinyede (Ekiti South): Mr. Chairman, I would like to invite the attention of the Senate to the provisions of the Exclusive List, particularly item 60, that is, Schedule II, 60(B) on the: *The establishment and regulation of authorities for the Federation or any part thereof –*

(a) To promote and enforce the observers of the fundamental objectives and directive principles as contained in the Constitution.

I will now invite the attention of the Senate to the provisions of objectives in this area particularly, to Section 17(3)(f) which says: *The State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that –*

(f) children, young persons and aged are protected against any exploitation whatsoever against moral and material neglect.

By virtue of this Section the Federal Government has the power to regulate institutions in respect of the aged people and children.

The Chairman: Can we make progress, because we are just going round and round, we are not making progress at all. It is just an Agency; a regulatory Agency that is what he wants. So, we go in line with that objective of the Bill.

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw: Mr. Chairman, the confusion is arising because even though we have stated the objective of what the Bill should be, there are Clauses that suggest that the Agency is supposed to be establishing these centres. In the circumstance, we should stand it down, give it back to the Committee to go and correct those Clauses where suggestions are being made to the contrary that will conflict with the

0495

objective of the Bill otherwise, we keep going round. People are still thinking that the Agency is meant to establish centres and we have already said no. It would be easier to go through it if the Committee takes it back and address those areas where they have made suggestions to the contrary so that we can make progress.

Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Committee needs to take it back, even those of us agitating that the Agency should establish centres can provide some solution. When we reach, for example, Clause 5 dealing with the functions of the Agency, we would make it categorically clear that the Agency can establish, but it is purely a regulatory Agency. We do not need to refer it back to the Committee just to amend these Clauses in order to make the Agency a regulatory one.

Senator Abubakar Umar Gada (Sokoto East): Mr. Chairman, I am trying to observe the absence of financial implications to this Bill to be able to guide us.

The Chairman: We want to make progress on this Bill that is why I am not emphasising on Senator Ewa-Henshaw's point otherwise, I would have taken that one up. I have noted your observation. If there are financial implications we would ask him to bring it. With the understanding that it is regulatory can we make progress, please?

Senator Jibril Aminu: Mr. Chairman, the whole point of this Bill is to encourage certain facilities for the aged. The way we are going we are going to end up with regulations and there will be no centre. We are going to end up with regulation, beautiful Agency for regulation but there will be no centre. That is why I think your example of the National Universities Commission (NUC) which I happen to know very well is very good because the NUC does not establish university. The NUC is responsible for regulating degree awarding institutions and other higher institutions throughout the country, but at the same time they so set up the university. At a certain stage they gave up the universities to other people to run. But they do set up universities. They set up all the seven new universities in 1975.

We should not be in a hurry to expunge setting up centres from this Bill. They should be allowed to set up centres as model and also for advocacy so

0496

as to encourage the state and the local governments and other people to establish their own. If they do not have their own, we would end up with regulations but no centre.

The Chairman: I will put the Question now in favour of Clause 1(3)

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ELDERLY PERSONS) – as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CENTRE)

Question proposed.

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw: Clause 2(2) on the composition of the Board. First of all (b) says: *A representatives of the Ministry not below the rank of a Director.* It does not specify which of the Ministries. While (c) says: *A representatives of the Ministry of Finance not below the rank of a Director.* Which Ministry is referred to in (b)? I believe that one of the most important Ministries has been omitted that is the Ministry responsible for social welfare.

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri: It is defined in the definition Clause. The Ministry in this context means the Ministry in charge of Social Development that is, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.

The Chairman: It is better for us to specify it in Clause 2(2)(b).

Senator Ike Ekweremadu: Clause 2(2)(d) says: *Eight other members.* I think six should be enough, that is, one from each of the six geo-political zones.

The Chairman: Six other members, one from each geo-political zone.

Senator Ewa-Henshaw: I suggest the inclusion of a representative of the Ministry of Health.

The Chairman: Is there any objection to that?
(No response)

0497

Senator Andrew Babalola: Clause 2(2)(e) should read thus: *A Director-General who shall be the Secretary of the Agency of the Board.*

The Chairman: What we have here is correct; *The Director-General of the Agency shall be the Secretary of the Board.*

Senator Babalola: On the composition of the Board, it says: *There shall be a Chairman.* Why does it not say, a Chairman who shall be this and that.

The Chairman: It says the Director-General of the Agency shall be the Secretary of the Board. Is there any problem with that? I do not think so.

Senator G. Anthony Manzo: Further Amendment to the one made by the Deputy Senate President. In Clause 2(2)(d) should read thus: Six other members, one of which shall be a woman.

The Chairman: The problem with that is which zone will produce the woman. It means that out of the six geo-political zones one zone should produce a woman. Even Senator Joy Emodi is not quite happy with that one. Therefore, we should not take that correction.

Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan: Clause (2)(2)(d) I want to suggest that we have a representative of the elderly. There is no better representative of the elderly than if there is an association that caters for the welfare of the retired people. We are planning for them and they should be part and parcel of this Agency.

The Chairman: Is there an association of the elderly in this country? They do not have any association.

Senator Hosea O. Ehinlanwo (Ondo South): There is none.

The Chairman: Since they have no association, they do not need to be represented. They would be taken care of as much as possible.

Senator Lawan: As soon as this becomes a law and it is implemented, they will form an association if they do not have any now. Let us have the foresight to capture that so that they are represented.

0498

Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke: I want to refer us to Clause 2(2)(e), I believe there should be a *Director-General of the Agency* before the *Director-General*. There must be an established Director General before the Director General.

The Chairman: Clause 2(2)(e) says: *The Board shall consist of the following the Director-General who shall also be the Secretary of the Board.* Is there anything wrong with this Clause?

Senator Sola Akinyede: It is because of the way the Clauses are coined. In Clause 7(1) it says: *There shall be appointed for the Agency a Director-General* and that should have come before this provision and that is the problem. We have not got to Clause 7 where the appointment of a Director General is made. Clause 7 says: *There shall be appointed for the Agency a Director-General who shall be appointed by the President subject to the confirmation of the Senate.* That Clause should have appeared before this one. Before you say; *the Director General* there must be a *Director General*.

The Chairman: Is the amendment a *Director General of the Agency who shall be the Secretary of the Board*, a correct one?

Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange: The argument is that, *There shall be a Director-General* that is the establishment of a Director-General. It is that one you are going to qualify with; *the Director-General*. If you have not established a Director-General, you cannot have the Director-General. That is the argument. It is expected that Clause 7 should have come up before Clause 2.

The Chairman: When we are making an Amendment on any Bill, if you explain, you say the exact sentence. When you make an explanation and you sit down, you have still not made the point on the Bill. That was why I said that the correction we want now is: *The Board shall consist of the following - (e) a Director-General of the Board who shall be a Secretary.* Is that correction all right?

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw: Mr. Chairman that would be the position if the intention is for the Director-General to be a Member of the Board as well as the Secretary.

0499

0500

There are instances where the Director General is only the Secretary. I do not know what the Committee wants to achieve but if the intention is for the Director-General to be the Secretary and not a Member of the Board, then we should delete (e) from Clause 2 and explain the functions of the Director-General in Clause 7 where Senator Akinyede has suggested.

So, first of all, we need to determine if the Director-General is also to be a Member of the Board as well as the Secretary. If the answer is no, then we should delete it from here and take it to Clause 7.

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri: I think that the Bill as crafted is self-explanatory. The Director-General of the Agency shall be a Member of the Board and it is clearly stated here.

I want to crave the indulgence of distinguished Senators to look at this Bill in its entirety. There is no way somebody will say because Clause 7 is coming after Clause 2; the operative word here should not be 'the' but 'a'. In my opinion, we should look at the totality of the Bill. The intention is that we created a Board and then in Clause 7 we created the Office of the Director-General which shall be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Agency who is also a Member of the Board. I do not think there is any ambiguity in this Bill.

The Chairman: This is always my experience with Clause-by-Clause consideration. Very tiny point is picked up and the entire Bill is not looked at and then we argue and argue but unfortunately, it is a law you are making to make sure it takes care of all eventuality. So, you cannot jump it. You have to do it the way we are going now. It is a very slow process and there is no way of going through a shortcut.

Senator Ahmed Ibrahim Lawan: Mr. Chairman, I believe that this is going to be a specialised Agency, in my view, we need to specify the duties of the Director-General, because he is in charge of running this organisation.

Secondly, we also need to specify the type of qualifications or skills the Director-General should have because it should not just be anybody coming to occupy the seat. It is a specialised Agency.

The Chairman: All right, when we get to those areas we can do that. It does not need to be specified in Clause 2. Clause 2 is only naming the various appointments not whom and their functions yet.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Amendments are –

Clause 2(2)(b), is that the Ministry charged with the responsibility for social welfare and the Ministry of Health should be included. We amended Clause 2(2)(d) that six members, one per geo-political zone and 2(2)(e) that; a Director-General of the Agency who shall be the Secretary of the Board.

Amendments put and agreed to.

Clause 2 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE AGENCY) – as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 – (TENURE OF OFFICE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 – (CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 – (FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY)

Question proposed

Senator Joy Ifeyinwa Emodi (Anambra North): Mr. Chairman, I am sorry, I am taking us back to Clause 2(3)(a). I do not think that the Chairman and Members of the Board other than Ex-officio Members shall be appointed by the President subject to the confirmation by the Senate. I do not see any point forwarding those names to Senate for confirmation as that would amount to over-enlarging the responsibility of the Senate.

The Chairman: Where did you read from?

Senator Emodi: I read from Clause 2(3)(a) on page 3.

The Chairman: What is wrong with that?

0501

Senator Emodi: I do not think it is necessary to send the list to the Senate for confirmation. What about other equally important Boards? The President does not send the list of other Boards to the Senate for confirmation. The President can make the appointments. I know that this is an important Board but that would amount to over enlarging the responsibility of the Senate. I feel that it would be sufficient for the President to do the appointment just like he appoints Members of other Boards.

Senator Andrew Babalola: But other Boards do come here for confirmation

Senator Emodi: But not all of them.

The Chairman: Well, Senators James Manger and Jibril Aminu are not here, both of them do read the mood of the Senate correctly. The response from the Senate does not favour your stand.

Some distinguished Senators: It does.

The Chairman: But nobody raised it. *(Interruptions)*

All right, we will go back to it. You are suggesting that, it should be deleted. It is Clause 2(3)(a) that should be deleted and not Clause 2(3)(b). That is retained. That talks about persons with proven integrity. *(Interruptions)* Do you want that to go also? Senator Joy Emodi, what is your Amendment?

Senator Joy I. Emodi: My Amendment is that: *The Chairman and Members of the Board other than ex-officio members shall be appointed by Mr. President.*

The Chairman: Why include ex-officio members?

Senator Joy Emodi: They are appointed by virtue of their positions. The Ministry of Finance, for instance, will appoint a person to represent them. It is done in that way.

The Chairman: I am putting the Amendment on Clause 2(3)(a) and (b).

Amendment put and agreed to.

0502

We are still on Clause 5 before Senator Joy Emodi brought that one.

Senator Abdulaziz Usman (Jigawa North East): Mr. Chairman, in Clause 1, we changed *Older to Elderly*, consequently, we should change the word; *Older* here to *Elderly*.

The Chairman: Yes, *Older* and *Elderly* is *mutatis mutandis*. I hope that is very clear.

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

The Chairman: Senator Obiora, I hope that is the correct legal language?

Senator Ikechukwu John Obiora (Anambra South): Yes, Sir.

The Chairman: Thank you. Are there further Amendments to Clause 5?

Senator Andrew Babalola: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that we have agreed that this Bill should all be about providing basic rules and regulations, we need to amend Clause 5 to read as follows: *The Agency shall be responsible for stimulation of consciousness towards attainment of higher level of development and activities for older persons in Nigeria and promote international cooperation for the attainment of this objective.*

By this, we are removing the phrase; *provision of basic welfare and recreation facilities* so that we do not get confused.

The Chairman: Even though we discussed that ahead of time, I thought that the decision there was if for any reason they decide to provide recreational facilities, they can do so. I thought that was the understanding.

Senator Sola Akinyede: I propose as follows: *The Agency shall be at liberty to provide basic welfare.* We remove the words; *shall be responsible.*

The Chairman: That correction is appropriate. I will now put the Question on Clause 5.

Question put and agreed to.

0503

Clause 5 – (FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY) - as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 – (FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL) – deleted

Clause 7 – (APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL)

Question proposed

Senator Isiaka Adeleke: In Clause 7(1) we should delete the words; *subject to the confirmation of the Senate*. The appointment of a Director General should not be subject to the confirmation of the Senate.

The Chairman: Subject to confirmation of the Senate will go the same way as *Older* and *Elderly*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 7 – (APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL) – as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 8 – (THE SECRETARY AND OTHER STAFF OF THE CENTRE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 9 – (STAFF REGULATIONS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 10 – (PENSIONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 11 - (SOURCES OF FUNDING) – ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 12- (BUDGETARY PROVISIONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 13 - (EXPENSIS TO BE PAID OUT) - deleted

Clause 14 - (AWARD OF CONTRACTS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

0504

Clause 15 - (POWER TO ACCEPT GIFTS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 16 - (EXEMPTION FROM TAX) - ordered to be deleted

Clause 17 - (ANNUAL ESTIMATES ACCOUNTS AND AUDITS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 18 - (QUARTERLY REPORT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 19 - (ANNUAL REPORT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 20 - (ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AGENCY ETC) - deleted

Clause 21 - (REGULATIONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 22 – (INTERPRETATIONS)

Question proposed

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw: In Clause 22 we should amend *older* to *elderly*.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 22 – (INTERPRETATIONS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 23 – (CITATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill

Schedule – agreed to.

Long Title – as amended agreed to.

Senator Isiaka Adeleke: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to take us back to Clause 19. It says that: *The Board may with the approval of the Minister;* which of the Ministers because we have about three of them?

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri: Point of Order, Mr. Chairman!

0505

The Chairman: Point of Order, Senator Lokpobiri.

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri: My Point of Order is predicated on Order 53(6) which says: *It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the Senate has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive motion for rescission.*

The Chairman: During the Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill we should as much as possible try to be understanding of the Order because of the delicate and sensitive nature of Bills. If we go strictly by this order, we would not have been going front and back in any of these. Your Point of Order, though valid, is not sustained.

Senator Lokpobiri, which of the Ministers should they report to? They should report to the Minister charged with the responsibility. So anywhere it says the Minister, it should be the Minister charged with the responsibility.

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: I move that the Chairman reports progress.

Senator Kabiru Gaya: Mr. Chairman, I wish to second that the Chair 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 Sports and Social Development on National Agency for Elderly Persons (Establishment) Bill, 2009 and approved as follows:

Clauses 1 and 2 - as amended

Clauses 3 and 4 - as recommended

Clause 5 – as amended

Clauses 6 – as recommended

Clauses 7 to 23 – as recommended

Schedule - as recommended

Long Title - as amended

0506

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

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

Third Reading

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, I now move that the National Centre for the Elderly Persons (Establishment) Bill, 2009 now be read the Third Time

Senator Kabiru Gaya: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed

Deferment of Items on the Order Paper

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, because of crucial Committee meetings which would start from 1.00 p.m., I move that all other items on the Order Paper be stood down to another legislative day.

Senator Kabiru Gaya: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion moved by the Leader that all the remaining items on the Order Paper be stood down to another legislative day.

The President: Those crucial Committee meetings are for Committees on Federal Character, Media, Inter-Parliamentary, Works, Niger Delta, Business and Rules, Education, Public Accounts, INEC and Corrupt Practice and the Petroleum Industry Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn till tomorrow Wednesday, 15th July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

0507

Senator Kabiru Gaya: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do adjourn till tomorrow, Wednesday, 15th July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

Question put and agreed to.

0508

Resolved: That the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 15th July, 2009, at 10.00 a.m.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 12.45 p.m.