

**VOL. 1
No. 16**

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Wednesday
29th July, 2009**



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES

FOURTH REPUBLIC THIRD ASSEMBLY (SIXTH SENATE)

THIRD SESSION

SENATE OFFICIAL REPORT

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**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Wednesday, 29th July, 2009

The Senate met at 11:05 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, we have the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 28th July, 2009 before us for approval: Pages 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139 140, 141, 142.

Senator Joy Ifeyinwa Emodi (Anambra North): Mr. President, I move that the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 28th July, 2009 be approved.

Senator Eme Ufot Ekaette (Akwa Ibom South): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion as moved

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 28th July, 2009 be approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**July Mass and Meeting of Roman
Catholics in Public Offices**

The President: The July Mass and meeting of Roman Catholics in Public Office will hold today, Wednesday, 29th July, 2009 at the Church of Assumption, Asokoro at 7.00 - 8.30 p.m. Confession is at 6.30 p.m. All Catholic Senators are enjoined to attend promptly.

(Signed)

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (SAN)
Deputy Senate Leader

**Meeting of the Senate Committee on the
Review of the 1999 Constitution**

The Senate Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution will meet today, Wednesday,

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29th July, 2009 at 2.00 p.m. prompt in the Meeting Room 211, Senate Building New Wing.

(Signed)

Senator Ike Ekweremadu CFR
Ikeoha Ndigbonile N'uwa
Deputy Senate President/Chairman of the Joint
Committee

Burial of Late Senator (Dr.) I. S. Matins-Yelowe

Further to our early letter dated July 3rd 2009, we again write to confirm that the burial for the late Senator has been fixed for Saturday, August 22nd, 2009 at Bakana, his home town in Degema Local Government Area of River State. Attached is the burial plan.

The family will appreciate it if His Excellency, the President of the Senate and the Senate can assist in whatever manner.

Thank you as we expect to hear from you.

(Signed)

For: Family of late distinguished Senator Matins-Yelowe.

We will make necessary arrangements to be properly represented at the burial.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2009

Senator Teslim K. Folarin (Oyo Central): Mr. President, the first business of the day is the presentation of the Bill standing in my name on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2009. You may invite the Clerk of Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2009 – presented by Senator Teslim K Folarin (Oyo Central) - *read the First Time.*

Education Tax Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009

The second business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Senator Mohammed K. Jibrin on the Education Tax Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

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

Education Tax Act (Amendment) Bill 2009 – presented by Senator Mohammed K. Jibrin (Kaduna Central) - *read the First Time*.

National Disaster Management Commission (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2009

The third business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Senator Grace Folashade Bent on the National Disaster Management Commission (Establishment, etc.,) Bill, 2009.

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

National Disaster Management Commission (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2009 – presented by Senator Grace Folashade Bent (Adamawa South) - *read the First Time*.

Labour Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009

The fourth business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Senator Gbemi Saraki on the Labour Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

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

Labour Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009 – presented by Senator Gbemi Saraki (Kwara Central) - *read the First Time*.

Federal Scholarship Board (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2009

The fifth business of the day is the presentation of yet another Bill standing in the name of Senator Joy Emodi on the Federal Scholarship Board (Establishment, etc.,) Bill, 2009.

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

Federal Scholarship Board (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2009 – presented by Senator Joy Emodi (Anambra North) - *read the First Time*.

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PRESENTATION OF REPORT

2007 Annual Report of the Auditor-General for the Federation

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, the sixth business of the day is the presentation of the Annual Report of the Auditor-General of the Federation on Accounts of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December, 2007, in accordance with Section 85(2) and (5) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

With your very kind permission, I move that the Senate do receive this Report.

Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan (Borno North): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do receive the Annual Report of the Auditor-General of the Federation on the Accounts of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, for the year ended 31st December, 2007, in accordance with Section 85(2) and (5) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do receive the Annual Report of the Auditor-General of the Federation on Accounts of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria for the Year ended 31st December, 2007, in accordance with Section 85(2) and (5) of the 1999 Constitution.

The President: The Leader of the Senate, you may, please, lay the Report.

(The Report is accordingly laid on the Table)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Confirmation of Nomination

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, the first Order of the day is a Motion requesting this Senate to consider the Request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nomination of Hon. Justice Daniel Dantsoho Abutu as the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, in accordance with Section 250(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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The purpose of this Motion on the Order Paper is for the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, to be referred to relevant Committee for further legislative action. I now move that this Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nomination of Hon. Justice Daniel Dantsoho Abutu, as the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, in accordance with Section 250(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Senator Ma'aji Lawan: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nomination of Hon. Justice Daniel Dantsoho Abutu, as the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court in accordance with section 250(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nomination of Hon. Justice Daniel Dantsoho Abutu, as the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, in accordance with Section 250(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The President: Are there any comments?

Senator Nicholas Yahaya Ugbanne (Kogi East): Mr. President, the only comment I have for now is that it is gratifying that a square peg is put in a square hole.

The President: I do not know whether they think this is a square peg, but this is to be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Human Rights and I am sure we can get it back in two weeks

Request of Mr. President accordingly referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Human Rights to be returned to the Plenary in two weeks time)

Confirmation of the Nominations of Ms Arunma Oteh and Mr. Ahmed Makele

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, the second Order of the day is another Motion requesting this Senate to consider the request of

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Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nomination of Ms. Arunma Oteh and Mr. Ahmed Makele as Director General and Executive Commissioner respectively, for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), in accordance with Section 5(1) of the Investments and Securities Act, 2007.

Again, the purpose of this Motion on the Order Paper is for the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, to be referred to the relevant Committee for further legislative action. I now move that this Senate do consider the request of the President, Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nominations of Ms Arunma Oteh and Mr. Ahmed Makele as Director General and Executive Commissioner respectively, for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in accordance with Section 5(1) of the Investments and Securities Act, 2007.

Senator Ma'aji Lawan: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nominations of Ms Arunma Oteh and Mr. Ahmed Makele as Director General and Executive Commissioner respectively, for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in accordance with Section 5(1) of the Investments and Securities Act, 2007.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of nominations of Ms. Arunma Oteh and Mr. Ahmed Makele as Director-General and Executive Commissioner respectively, for the Securities and Exchange Commission in accordance with Section 5(1) of the Investments and Securities Act, 2007.

The President: Ms Arunma Oteh is from where? I can hear a distinguished Senator saying, Abia State, therefore, distinguished Senator Abaribe, do you have any comment?

Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe (Abia South): Mr. President, I fully support the nomination.

The President: Distinguished Senator Uche Chukwumerije, have you any comment?

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Senator Uche Chukwumerije: I do not have.

The President: Distinguished Senator Yahaya Ugbane, do you have any comment?

Senator Nicholas Yahaya Ugbane: As far as this one is concerned, I have no comment.

The President: This one is not a square peg in a square hole? To, which Committee will it be referred to?

Some distinguished senators: Committee on Capital Market.

The President: Distinguished Senator Ganiyu Solomon, I hope two weeks will be all right for you to return it to us?

Senator Ganiyu Olarewaju Solomon (Lagos West): Yes, Sir,

The President: It is referred to the Committee on Capital Market to be returned in two weeks.

(Request of Mr. President accordingly referred to the Committee on Capital Market to be returned in two weeks time)

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, I like to step down the next item on the Order Paper to the next legislative day, which is tomorrow, 30th July, 2009.

Senator Ma'aji Lawan: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the next item on our Order Paper be stepped down to the next legislative day.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the next item on the Order Paper be stepped down to the next legislative day.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the Screening of Nominees for Appointment on the Governing Board of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)

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Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, the next Order of the day is the presentation and consideration of the Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the screening of the following persons as Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in accordance with Section 2(2) of the Niger Delta Development Commission Act.

1. Larry Koinyan AVM (Rtd) - Bayelsa - Chairman
2. Chibuzor Ugwoha – Managing Director – Rivers – Full Time Member
3. Arc. Esoetok Ikpong ikpong Etteh – Executive Director (Projects) – Akwa Ibom – Full Time Member
4. Pastor Power Aginighan – Executive Director (Finance and Accounts) – Delta – Full Time Member
5. Mr. Aloysius Nwagboso – Abia – Part Time Member
6. Chief (Barr.) Bassey Dan Abia – Akwa Ibom – Part Time Member
7. Mr. Anthony Orubo – Bayelsa – Part Time Member
8. Hon. Ekpo Asuquo Okon – Cross River – Part Time Member
9. Mr. Emmanuel O. Ogidi – Delta – Part Time Member
10. Hon. Jude I. Ise-Idehen – Edo – Part Time Member
11. Akeru Ikechukwu Joseph – Imo – Part Time Member
12. Barr. Benson G. Enikuomehin – Ondo – Part Time Member
13. Engr. Emmanuel I. Georgwill – Rivers – Part Time Member
14. Dr. Rabi Musa Kwankwaso – Representative of Non-Oil Mineral Producing States (N/W) – Part Time Member
15. Maj. Gen. Tunde Ogbeha (Rtd) – Representative of Non-Oil Mineral Producing States (N/C) – Part Time Member

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16. Alhaji Asheikh Jarma – Representative of Non-Oil Mineral Producing States (N/E) – Part Time Member

17. Dr. Daru Owei – Representative of Oil Producing Companies in the Niger Delta – Part Time Member

You will also recall that this Report was laid yesterday, Tuesday, 28th July, 2009. You may now invite the Chairman of NDDC, Senator James Manager to move the Motion for the presentation and consideration of the Report.

Senator James Manager (Delta South): Mr. President, I wish to move that I be allowed to present formally the Report of the screening of the Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission.

Senator Omar A. Hambagda (Borno South): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by Senator James Manager that he be allowed to present formally the Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the screening of the Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the screening of the Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Commission and approve the recommendations therein.

Senator James Manager: Mr. President, going by the mood of the Senate I will touch only the essentials; the details are there and I want to believe that all Members have received copies of the Report and read same.

The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at its sitting on 8th July, 2009 considered the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the confirmation of the nomination of the Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and referred same to the Committee on Niger Delta for further legislative action. The Committee met several times and by the grace of God Almighty the Report of the Committee was laid on the Table in this Chamber yesterday.

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The first person to be screened was Larry Koinyan, AVM retired from Bayelsa State as the Chairman of the Governing Board. He responded well to issues raised by the Committee members. He has a good knowledge of the Niger Delta region and believes that the engagement of youths in dialogue, useful activities and education can address the restiveness of the youths in the region.

The next person taken was the nominee for the position of the Managing Director, Chibuzor Ugwoha from Rivers State. During the screening he responded satisfactorily to the issues raised by the Committee members and promised to do his best to bring sustainable development to the Niger Delta region if confirmed for the position.

The next person screened was Arch. Ikpong Ikpong Etteh from Akwa Ibom State nominated for the position of Executive Director (Projects). The nominee responded well to questions and issues raised by the Committee.

The next person was Pastors Power Ziakede Aginighan from Delta State. The nominee responded brilliantly to issues raised by the Committee members. He also outlined areas where expenditure could be cut and re-directed for more project implementation.

The screening was done in the following order; Mr. Aloysius Nwagboso from Abia State, Chief Bassey Dan Abia from Akwa Ibom, Anthony Orubo from Rivers State, Hon. Ekpo Asuquo Ekpo Okon from Cross River State, Emmanuel Ogidi from Delta State, Hon. Jude Ise-Idehen from Edo State and Akeru Okechukwu Joseph from Imo State. Others were; Barr. Benson G. Enikuomelin from Ondo State, Engr. Emmanuel T. Georgewill from Rivers State, Dr. Muhammed Rabi Musa Kwankwaso from Kano State to represent the North/West zone, Major General Tunde Ogbeha (Rtd) from Kogi State to represent the North Central zone and Alhaji Asheikh Jarma from Adamawa State to represent North/East zone.

The other nominee was Dr. Daru Oweh re-nominated as a part time member representing oil producing company in the Niger/Delta.

Committee's Findings

The Committee made the following findings:

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- (1) That all the nominees have been given preliminary clearance by the Department of State Security
- (2) That all the nominees are educated, experienced and successful in their different fields of endeavour.
- (3) That all the nominees responded well to the issues raised by the Committee. They also have good knowledge of the Niger Delta region and the developmental challenges facing the Commission and the region.
- (4) That the following nominees have no petitions against their nomination.
 - (i) Larry Koinyan, AVM (Rtd)
 - (ii) Chibuzor Ugwoha
 - (iii) Arch. Esoetok Ikpong Ikpong Etteh
 - (iv) Pastor Power Z. Aginihan
 - (v) Chief (Barr) Bassey Dan Abia
 - (vi) Mr. Anthony Orubo
 - (vii) Hon. Ekpo Asuquo Ekpo Okon
 - (viii) Mr. Emmanuel O. Ogidi
 - (ix) Engr. Emmanuel Gerogewill
 - (x) Dr. Rabi Musa Kwankwaso
 - (xi) Maj. Gen. Tunde Ogbeha, and
 - (xii) Alhaji Asheikh Jarma.
- (5) That the following nominees have petitions against their nomination and most of the petitions were not accompanied by sworn affidavit. The petitions are as summarised in our Report against the names of the nominees. The details are there, too, but I just want to mention the names of those who have serious petitions. These are; Mr. Aloysius Nwagboso, Hon. Jude I. Ise-Idehen, Akeru Ikechukwu Joseph and Barrister Benson G. Enikuomelin.

Recommendations of the Committee; Nominees recommended for confirmation.

The Committee wishes to recommend the nomination of the following persons for confirmation:

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1. Larry Koinyan, AVM (Rtd) as Chairman of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).
2. Chibuzor Ugwoha as Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).
3. Arch. Esoetok Ikpong Ikpong Etteh as Executive Director (Projects) of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).
4. Pastor Power Ziakede Aginighan as the Executive Director (Finance & Accounts) of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).
5. Chief Barrister Dan Abia to represent Akwa Ibom.
6. Mr. Anthony Orubo to represent Bayelsa.
7. Hon. Ekpo Asuquo Okon to represent Cross River.
8. Mr. Emmanuel O. Ogidi to represent Delta State.
9. Hon. Jude I. Ise-Idehen to represent Edo State.
10. Akeru Ikechukwu Joseph to represent Imo State.
11. Engr. Emmanuel T. Georgewill to represent Rivers State.
12. Dr. Rabi Musa Kwankwaso to represent North West zone.
13. Major-Gen. Tunde Ogbeha, (Rtd) to represent North Central zone.
14. Alh. Asheikh Jarma to represent North East zone.

Nominees not recommended for confirmation now.

1. Mr. Aloysius Nwagboso, and
2. Barrister Benson G. Enikuomelin

The Committee is yet to conclude screening on these two nominees.

Nominee not recommended for confirmation

The nominee not recommended for confirmation at all is Dr. Daru Owei representing the oil-producing companies in the Niger Delta. He was invited for screening but did not show up. Up till now he has not communicated to the Committee the reasons behind his absence. His nomination is, therefore, not recommended for confirmation.

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Mr. President, on behalf of the Committee, I thank the Senate for giving us this assignment.

Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello (Katsina North): Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to commend the Chairman of the Committee for doing a very reasonable job and I believe his recommendations should be accepted.

I have only one very minor problem and that is with regard to my Colleague, whom I believe is also my friend to have called a former distinguished Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Major-General Tunde Ogbeha. I believe it is more honourable to call him Senator Tunde Ogbeha than Major-General because I have never known him to be answering that title. So, this is my only point of contention.

The President: As Senator Mana would testify, Senator Kanti Bello's observation is very apt and correct. Thank you very much.

Senator James Manager, for all intents and purposes, the man should be regarded as Senator Tunde Ogbeha. This is because Senator Mana has also dropped his rank of a Colonel here. (*laughter*)

Senator Abubakar Sodangi (Nasarawa West): Mr. President, I rise to commend the good job done by the Committee on NDDC headed by my learned Friend, a junior one for that matter, distinguished Senator James Manager. This is a very good job. It was very tasking but he has been able together with his Committee, bring the assignment to us timelessly.

I have an observation. My observation is on the representative of the North Central. In the last exercise that was conducted in this hallowed Chamber, the people of Nasarawa State raised some serious complaints that they were short-changed at that time because Plateau State had seven nominees for the Federal Board appointments. We wanted to be given that slot but one Alhaji Shuaibu was given. It was then agreed in principle that when next we have this nomination, it would come to Nasarawa because we are sisters. Unfortunately for us now, the nomination this time has gone to Kogi State. Unfortunately for us again, it went to our own man, Senator Tunde Ogbeha. As a Senator and as a true Nigerian, we know he can represent all our interests. But let it be on record that when next this

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kind of slot comes up, let Nasarawa State be remembered because we have been short-changed so many times in this kind of 'juicy appointments'. We want to join good Nigerians to serve, also.

Please, as our leader from the North Central, I believe that next time such appointment will not pass Nasarawa and Benue States to go to Kogi State. Maybe, Benue has got enough share but Nasarawa, as a sister State is lagging behind.

The President: Is there a Benue representative here?

Senator Smart Adeyemi (Kogi West): Mr. President, I rise to commend the Committee for a job well done and to equally commend President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua for nominating one of the very outstanding Senators in the last dispensation, who equally doubles as my predecessor in office and a very strong opinion leader of our Senatorial District as a member of this Commission.

I must say that this is another indication of fairness, justice and equity, (*Interruptions*) We must commend this government that it is known for justice, fairness and equity and to have appointed one of our opinion leaders. I am sure that he is a great gentleman who will perform creditably well in this Commission.

Senator Ehigie Edobor Uzamere (Edo South): Mr. President, I rise to oppose the nominee from Edo State based on lack of consultation with me and my leaders of Edo South Senatorial District. Permit me to give you the preamble on how I stand alone at this moment (*Interruptions*).

The President: Please, there is much movement around. Senator Uzamere, as always, any time we call a Senator, he stands alone. Two of you cannot stand up at the same time. After you I am going to call on Senator Ugbesia who is sitting next to you to also stand alone and make his contribution.

Senator Ehigie Uzamere: Mr. President, initially, we the distinguished Senators from Edo State agreed that we were not going to clear this nominee. This decision was taken in the house of Senator Odion Ugbesia. We also agreed that we must meet with the other four states to take a common stand and the states involved are; Ondo, Edo, Abia and Imo States. Surprisingly, my two

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Colleagues wrote to the Committee on Niger Delta without my consultation. They said Edo State Caucus in the Assembly; what is a caucus? How can you have a caucus without a Member from Edo South Senatorial District that is in the majority? However, I believe that the future is bright for those who stand firm to their belief and in their people.

If it is the wish of the Senate to clear a serving Member of the Edo State House of Assembly when we are trying to reduce unemployment, I have no objection. But, I want to stand as a man of integrity, a man of honour. I may not come back in 2011 but I want to be remembered in this Senate as a man that if I stand by you, I remain with you. I cannot eat from both sides of my mouth.

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me this ample opportunity to speak to you and to my dear Colleagues.

The President: I listened very attentively, but I must say that I did not quite get your conclusion. Do you support or you are not in support? You were very eloquent up to that final stage but I want to make sure that I got you right.

Senator Ehigie E. Uzamere: Mr. President, in this Senate we say that two Senators is a pass mark, so if it is the wish of this Senate so be it but I do not support that we clear this Nominee and the reason is that I stand on the mandate of my people. We do not want the gentleman to be cleared. But if my other two Senators decide otherwise, I have no alternative. We were not consulted but let the Senate conclude on what should be done.

The President: Did you say that the Nominee is currently in the Edo State House of Assembly as a serving Member?

Senator Ehigie Edobor Uzamere: Yes, Sir.

Senator Odion Ugbesia (Edo Central): Mr. President, I am not alone on this matter. It is true that when this nomination was first announced, I had reservation and based on that, the three of us met and we said we should communicate our reservations to the Leadership of the Party which we did.

The President: What was that decision?

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Senator Odion Ugbesia: The decision was that the nomination was done without initial consultation. But that has since been taken care of. I was properly consulted. I was fully briefed on how the decision was taken and it was a decision taken by the President that the Governor should nominate the Member. As a law abiding citizen and a faithful Party member, I have since changed my position on this matter and endorsed this candidate without reservation.

The President: Let us hear from distinguished Senator Braimoh.

Senator Yisa Braimoh (Edo North): Mr. President, first of all, I commend the Senate Committee on NDDC for a job well done. I have read the Report and I am quite impressed with the screening exercise and the modalities they employed.

Coming to the candidate, Hon. Jude Ise-Idehen, yes, he is a serving Member of the Edo State House of Assembly. His predecessor in office who is the out-going Member of the NDDC Board, was a serving Member of Edo State House of Assembly when he was appointed onto the NDDC Board in 2004. He remained in the Edo State House of Assembly between 2004 and 2007 up till the last dispensation and relinquished his position in the Assembly after 2007 but remained a Member of the NDDC Board up till a couple of months when the Board was dissolved.

The job for which Hon. Jude Ise-Idehen is being recommended, is a part-time job. He does not have to resign. The job does not pose any problem for him in the House. He is a fit, proper and competent person to remain a Member of Edo State House of Assembly and at the same time, a part-time Member of the NDDC. That is on the one hand.

On the other hand, I wish to align myself with the statements of my Colleague, Senator Odion Ugbesia. I confirm that the elders and leaders of Edo State PDP at the State level and at the National level adequately consulted me on the nomination of Hon. Ise-Idehen and beyond that, the Executive Governor of Edo State consulted me and had useful deliberations with me and Senator Ugbesia. I am fully satisfied and convinced that Hon. Jude Ise-Idehen is a fit and proper person to serve on this Board and I, therefore, urge our Colleagues to support the nomination.

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Just to put this matter to rest, there are two Senators from Edo State backing this nomination and we have a tradition in this hallowed Chamber. I hope there will be no difficulty in keeping with the tradition.

Beyond that, I would have thought that Hon. Ise-Idehen being a serving Member of a State House of Assembly, if he is to come into this Chamber for a confirmation exercise, in our tradition, he would have taken a bow and be asked to go because he is a Member of a Legislature.

Several distinguished Senators: No!

Senator Yisa Braimoh: We have had Members of the State Houses of Assembly who came to this Senate in the past. *(Interruptions)* Be that as it may, I do urge my Colleagues to support the recommendations of the committee.

For purposes of emphasis, I wish to draw the attention of the Senate to the fact that all the 12 Members of this Committee led by Senator James Manager signed this Report.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu West): Mr. President, this matter is becoming very serious and some legal and constitutional issues are involved. If you look at the 5th Schedule of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria dealing with Code of Conduct of Public Officers, Paragraphs 1 and 2, particularly 2(a) read thus:

(1) A public officer shall not put himself in a position where his personal interest conflicts with his duties and responsibilities.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing paragraph, a public officer shall not:-

(a) receive or be paid the emoluments of any public office at the same time as he receives or is paid the emoluments of any other public office.

A member of the House of Assembly of a State is a public officer by the virtue of this Constitution and then, a member of the NNDC Board is also a public officer. So, the man should decide which one he would take. Unless he is going to receive salary in respect of one only otherwise, he would be contravening the provisions of this Constitution.

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The President: Paragraph 2(b) says that except where he is not employed on full time basis.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu: That is if he is engaged in private enterprise. It is not for public office.

Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello: Point of Order, Mr. President!

The President: That is all right. What is your Point of Order, Senator Kanti Bello?

Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello: I want to buttress the point raised by the Senator Ekweremadu, with Section 109(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which says: *A member of a House of Assembly shall vacate his seat in the House if:-*

(e) save as otherwise prescribed by this Constitution, he becomes a member of a commission or other body established by this Constitution or by any other law;

A Member of the House of Assembly giving this kind of job shall vacate his seat.

The President: Senator Kanti Bello, your Point of Order is sustained. That is simple and straightforward. It is very clear. There is no ambiguity in that at all.

Senator Grace Folashade J. Bent (Adamawa South): Mr. President, I am being overwhelmed by this noise.

The President: You said that you are overwhelmed by the arrival of who?

Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange (Bayelsa East): Point of Order!

The President: What Order?

Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange: My Point of Order is Order 56(10) and it reads: *During a sitting all Senators shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones.* While the First Lady was making her presentation there were lots of noises.

The President: Senator Amange, I rule you out of Order.

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Senator Grace Folashade J. Bent: First, I want to commend Senator James Manager and his Committee Members for a job well done. However, as good as this Report is, one major thing has dented it and that is the fact that we have very competent, solid and great men of integrity on this Board, unfortunately, where are the great women of integrity in Nigeria on this Board?

No matter how palatable this Report may sound to you, my male distinguished Colleagues, I think this is injustice, unfair and it is not gender sensitive enough to the good women of Nigeria. We have women of great competence and good integrity who can equally serve on this Board. But to my consternation, out of 17 great men of integrity on this Board, no single woman is there. What has Nigerian women done to deserve this?

This is a big question that I am posing to this Senate, Senator James Manager and all the Members of this Committee. They should have raised this issue when they were doing the screening. Nobody raised the issue that there is no single woman on the list. The truth must be said at all times and I will never desist from saying the truth. I am a woman; I must protect the interest of women in this country.

The President: Senator Grace Bent, unfortunately, your statement of fact has no place here. It is a fact that there is no woman on the list. But this is the wrong time to make that statement because the list was not manufactured or produced by the Members of the Committee and there was nothing they could have done. In addition, you did not appear before this Committee to protest that there was no woman on the list.

This Chamber is very gender sensitive and we are very considerate when it comes to gender issues. The protest that you made now is misplaced because it has no relevance with this document.

Senator Grace Folashade J. Bent: I am equally protesting to the relevant authorities. So, I am referring to the people that did the nomination.

The President: No, you have made your point. I heard you well and I also understood you. Please, can you read our Standing Order 63?

Senator Grace Folashade J. Bent: Order 63 reads:

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Whenever the President of the Senate or the Chairman rises during a debate, any Senator then speaking or offering to speak shall sit down, and the Senate or the Committee shall be silent so that the President of the Senate or the Chairman may be heard without interruption.

The President: You must learn to listen to me because I listened to you. I heard and understood your explanation but I am saying that we got this letter long ago from Mr. President. You could have written to Mr. President that out of 17 men there must be a woman.

Senator Grace Folashade J. Bent: I stand to be guided.

The President: Let me take comments on objections so that we can go ahead and do the clearance. Do you have any objection, Senator Maima Ma'aji?

Senator Ma'aji Lawan (Borno North): Mr. President, I am not raising an objection but to make a very important observation. The Committee has done a good job and I commend them for that. We thank Mr. President, for nominating a representative from Borno State to represent the North-East geo-political zone.

Alhaji Asheikh Jarma is a very respected elder and he is from my Constituency in Borno North. Against his name on item 16 on page 5, there is the name Alhaji Asheikh Jarma, the State written against this name is Adamawa, I want the Senate to note that he is from Borno.

Lastly, Alhaji Asheikh Jarma, apart from everything that was listed, Minister, Elder and others, he was an elected Governor of Borno State in 1983. That was not mentioned and it is a very serious omission. Even his ministerial appointment was listed but that was omitted. He is a democrat, an elected member and a much respected Elder. I would like this Senate to take note and correct that.

Once again, we thank Mr. President for the nomination and we thank the Committee for a job well-done. We support him with all sincerity and with our voice and weight.

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The President: That observation is very valid. If he was sworn in as a Governor and it is not reflected here, it is a serious omission. Alhaji Asheikh Jarma was a Governor in Borno State in 1983. Even if it was for one day once he was sworn-in, he was a Governor, so that is a serious omission.

For Benson Enikuomehin from Ondo State, you said he was born about fifty years ago, does it mean that he does not know his date of birth?

Are there any more comments, please?

Senator Satty W. Gogwim (Plateau Central): Mr. President, last week, I complained about nominations of members' of federal Parastatals and today, Senator Sodangi, also complained. Last week, a member of the Federal Civil Service Commission was picked from Nasarawa State, therefore, the appointment of Senator Tunde Ogbeha is in order, because I am also from North Central State. There is no reason for us to complain about his nomination.

The President: Senator Danso Sodangi, is well guided by your comments.

Senator Joel Danlami Ikenya (Taraba South): Mr. President, Alhaji Asheikh Jarma, is not from Adamawa State, he is from Borno State.

The President: That is the point raised by Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan

Senator Joel Danlami Ikenya: Mr. President, if you could recall, a member of the Police Service Commission was nominated and we raised a very serious alarm, it was noted by the Senate and by you. Another one has come and I want it to be noted so that the injustice that is done to our State should be discovered. A time will come when it will be analysed whether Taraba State is really part of this country. Yes, we are very close to Cameroon but that is not to say we are not part of this country. If the basis for nomination is being a former Governor, we have former Governors as well.

The President: You have made the point and Senate have noted it. Your request is for us to note it and I said I have noted it.

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Senator Joel Danlami Ikenya: I also want you to make the views known to Mr. President. Maybe, this type of injustice is not of his making. I want it to be taken seriously. I am sure someone like Senator Smart Adeyemi is jubilation because injustice has been removed from his part. I hope one day it will be my turn.

The President: There are six states in most of the geo-political zones. If there is only one person, he can only come from one state. There is no way in which he can come from two or three states at the same time.

Senator Joseph Iorshagheer Akaagerger (Benue North-East): Mr. President, law is better applied than exercised when there is fairness. There are obstacles available to the nominee from Edo State, which were not made available to him at the screening stage. Firstly, Section 109 of the Constitution provides that he shall vacate his seat when appointed a member of a Commission or a Board.

The President: Senator Akaagerger, I have ruled on that matter. You are discussing an issue on which I have ruled.

Senator Joseph Iorshagheer Akaagerger: I am making one point that the nomination of this candidate be stood down until the issues are exhausted.

The President: We have not come there yet. I have only ruled on an issue which has been brought before us.

Senator Ibrahim Mohammed Ida (Katsina Central): Mr. President, first of all, I want to comment on two of the candidates. For Kwankwaso, we are very appreciative, he deserves it and he got it.

I want to draw attention to the comments of the Committee in respect of Barrister Benson Enikuomehin. It is my submission that the Committee has not been very fair to the gentleman. I said so against the backdrop of the fact that if you look at page 6, on Mr. Aloysius Nwagboso, all the issues levelled against him were virtually of the same stance as that of Mr. Enikuomehin. The answers he gave were such that he was able to exonerate himself in some cases through the submission of documents in others just by mere submission.

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But in respect of Mr. Enikuomehin, he had four allegations against him. The first was that there were some dispositions against his appointment. Secondly, that he is not a member of PDP. The third one is subjective that only a certain category of people within his constituency has monopolised federal appointments. The fourth allegation was a very clear one and from the Report, he has given a good account of himself.

In respect of the first allegation, some people came to support him which shows clearly that number one allegation against him was not correct. The second one is a very simple case, he is either a member of PDP or not. He said he is a member and I am sure he might have presented some documents before the Committee to defend himself.

In respect of the forth allegation, he said clearly that he was not involved. I see no reason he should be treated differently from Mr. Nwagboso. I believe that he has given a good account of himself and the Senate should please, disregard the recommendation that he should not be considered for confirmation now and I urge the Senate to confirm him now.

The President: It is very difficult for you to just get up here and say that what this other twelve people have looked at should be discarded and disregarded right away just because you raised some few issues. You have raised your points but the conclusion is what disturbs me.

Senator Nicholas Yahaya Ugbane (Kogi East): I have a Point of Order and it is Order 43 on Personal Explanation. May I read or give explanation?

The President: I cannot allow you to read because it has to be submitted to me in writing. You have not done so and you have not discussed anything with me. Read the conditions under which you can come under personal explanation. Obviously, any issue you may raise here will have some level of controversy. So your Point of Order is not sustained.

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (Cross River Central): Mr. President, may I move that this Senate do now resolves into Committee of the Whole to consider the Report of the Senate Committee on the Niger Delta on the confirmation of nominees for the Board of the NDDC?

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Senator Ma'aji Lawan: Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Senate do resolve into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Report on Mr. President's nominees for NDDC Board.

Question put and agreed to.

The Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the screening of persons as Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) –
CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Chairman: Will the Senate approve the nomination of Air Vice Marshal Larry Koinyan (Rtd) as Chairman of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission.

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Chibuzor Ugwoha as the Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Arch. Esoetok Ikpon Ikpong Etteh as the Executive Director (Projects) of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Pastor Power Aginighan as the Executive Director (Finance and Accounts) of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Barrister Dan Abia as Part Time Member representing Akwa Ibom on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Mr. Anthony Orubo as Part Time Member representing Bayelsa State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

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Will the Senate approve the nomination of Hon. Ekpo Asuquo Okon as a Part Time Member representing Cross River State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Mr. Emmanuel O. Ogidi as Part Time Member representing Delta State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: Mr. President, I have a Constitutional Point of Order. It is under Section 109 of the 1999 Constitution. If you permit me, I will read.

The Chairman: Please, read.

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: My Point of Order is under Section 109(e) of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria and it reads: *A member of a House of Assembly shall vacate his seat if –*

(e) save as otherwise prescribed by this Constitution, he becomes a member of a commission or other body established by this Constitution or by any other law.

Section 2 of the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution states: *Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing paragraph, a public officer shall not –*

(a) receive or be paid the emolument of any public office at the same time as he receives or is paid the emolument of any other public office; or

(b) except where he is not employed on full time basis, engage or participate in the management or running of any private business, profession or trade but nothing in this sub-paragraph shall prevent a public officer from engaging in farming.

I am raising this point of order even though the points have been raised earlier on so that we would be guided in terms of the next candidate. I think those two Sections would apply, especially Section

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109. If we pass that candidate, he automatically loses his seat in the House of Assembly. We should be properly guided on that point.

The Chairman: Actually, this point was raised and I ruled on it and I thought that my ruling was almost automatic. I would put the Question and if people answer in a wrong way, that would reflect on him. That was made very clear when I made my ruling.

I would not rule on your Point of Order because I have ruled on it before. This is one case where surplusage is not good.

Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw (Cross River South): Mr. President, if you have ruled already, there is no need putting the Question. We have heard the Point of Order that was raised by the Deputy Senate President and the Chief Whip which means that he cannot be approved for this position. That is the ruling; so there is no need putting the Question.

The Chairman: I ruled during the debate. You would give the answer in the affirmation. So they are two distinct things. This is the approval. During the debate, I ruled on it. The approval here will come from you. If I put the Question your answer would determine my ruling. Your answer would be in consonance with my ruling but we cannot just jump it. Even if during the discussion we say we are not confirming somebody, I still have to put the Question because I moved from that seat to this place for confirmation. The point he raised is only to remind us, but not to stop me from putting the Question. Procedurally, I have to put the Question.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Honourable Jude I. Ise-Idehen as a Part Time member representing Edo State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)?

Question put and negatived.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Akeru Ikechukwu Joseph as a Part Time member representing Imo State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)?

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Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Engineer Emmanuel T. Georgewill as a Part Time member representing Rivers State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Dr. Rabiun Musa Kwankwaso as a Part Time member representing the Non-Oil Mineral Producing States, North West Zone on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Senator Tunde Ogbeha as a Part Time member representing the Non-Oil Mineral Producing State, North Central Zone, on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate approve the nomination of Alhaji Asheikh Jarra as a Part Time member representing the Non-Oil Mineral Producing State, North East Zone, on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)?

Question put and agreed to.

Now, I will put the Question on those not recommended and the issue of screening. I would combine the two.

Several Senators: What of the last one?

The Chairman: Oh! The doctor? I do not know why we did not discuss that. Can you do anything about him because he is produced by the oil companies? Can the Committee do anything about him?

Senator James Manager: Mr. Chairman, this is the third time the Senate is screening nomination from the Presidency for the Board of Niger Delta Development Commission. Senator Patrick Osakwe was the Chairman of the Committee. We are going by precedent. Ordinarily, the nominee of the oil producing companies supposed to also appear for screening but he did not appear at all. That is what is reflected on the record.

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I want to seize this opportunity to also say that Senator Ugbane is the only person whose signature is not appearing on the Report. He is willing to sign because he was not around when we signed the Report.

The Chairman: Can we have clarification from the representative of the oil companies?

Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange (Bayelsa East): Mr. Chairman, that position is meant for an Executive of an Oil Producing Company and the person is normally appointed by OPGS. The man concerned was appointed when he was serving but he retired just before he was appointed. So, the position has been moved to another company altogether. He called and said that he would not like to involve himself knowing fully well that he is not qualified for now to be a member of the Board. The person to sit there must be somebody serving in an oil company.

Senator Patrick Osakwe (Delta North): Mr. Chairman, mine screening was a continuation of what Senator Yisa Braimoh started. I did not really have the opportunity of screening him. But having said that, that position is a position where the oil companies come together and nominate one person to represent them. I will suggest that we leave it the way we left the other two names so that instead of saying that we did not recommend, it will look as if we rejected it. If we leave it the way we left the other two, at any other time we will continue the screening. The screening is continuous, just like we said in the first two. Any time they bring somebody, we can screen the person and recommend instead of saying that we did not recommend him for approval.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu: I have problem with that and that of 'B' which we raised earlier. When we send a report to the Committee for consideration, and they come up with a number of recommendations, it has been the tradition of this Senate to take a decision in each of them which will be either we accept it or reject it. In the case of Edo State, we have refused to accept the recommendation to clear the nominee. They are now saying they want to suspend the issue of these other two. If we keep quiet what will we say is our Resolution? It cannot be taken for granted that they have not finished. If they have not finished, so they

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are asking for time. We need to decide that we are giving them time to do that. If we keep quiet, on what basis will they continue the discussion? They cannot say that we granted them permission to continue because we have not signified that intension to allow them to continue.

So, I suggest that you put the Question to enable them to continue the discussion otherwise they cannot continue because no decision has been taken on it.

The Chairman: That was the question I wanted to ask, and I got stuck in putting the Question. The question here will be; do we approve that they continue the screening of the remaining two candidates.

Senator Umaru Dahiru (Sokoto South): Mr. Chairman, I have a Point of Order. For our own guidance, I will like to refer us to Orders 123 and 128 of Senate Standing Orders, 2007 as amended. Order 123 reads:

Following a meeting of the Committee for the purpose of confirming nominees at which a nominee was not confirmed, on or before 14 working days from the tabling of the certificate, pursuant to paragraph 121 during which no Committee meeting for the purpose of confirming nominees has taken place, which ever shall come first, a report shall be made by the Committee and adopted by the Senate that the Senate will not confirm the nominee.

Order 128 says:

The Senate shall determine whether or not it concurs in the appointment of the nominee at the conclusion of the meeting held to confirm the appointment of the nominee unless any member requests that the Committee defer its determination for up to 7 calendar days to a future meeting of the Committee; if it reports, the Committee shall state whether or not it concurs in the appointment of the nominee, and may state its reason therefor.

The essence of drawing attention to this Order is to show that we have been guided by our own Rules. Apparently, the Committee, in making its recommendation, has not followed the guidelines in either postponing the confirmation of the remaining individuals or rejecting the two. So, the

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rules are there for us to follow and I plead that we follow our own rules so that we are able to do justice to these cases at stake.

The Chairman: What is your conclusion?

Senator Dahiru: My conclusion is that we should follow our Rules and since the Rules have not been followed we cannot simply abide by their own decisions to reject the remaining nominees, since, particularly, one of them was not able to come for screening

The Chairman: We are not rejecting the nominee here. You have not really added anything to it. The question I put is still correct.

Senator Kanti Bello: I believe that the question you have put is correct but I am of the opinion that it will only be on the two nominees because some people were calming that it should be three, it should not be; it will be for the two. For the third one, my suggestions is that we write to Mr. President, telling him that this man did not turn up, maybe, they will present another nomination.

The Chairman: I know the point you have raised and I have read it. The Committee can ask for extension of time. That is basically what this amounts to at the end of the day. We cannot tell the Committee not to ask for extension of time. This is because this rule does not stop us from giving the Committee additional time to go ahead with their work. My ruling is that the Committee should be given additional time to continue. So, my question is still all right. I will put the Question now that the Committee be allowed extension of time to continue with the screening nominees, Aloysius Nwagboso and Barrister Benson G. Enikumehin as Part Time Members on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission.

Question put and agreed to.

The ruling on the oil companies representative based on what Senator Amange said, I do not know those who were there before, if it is only reserved for somebody who is still serving in the oil company or the oil companies can just get any person of their choice, which is the correct thing. We can step down decision on this one until we get a clarification on it. So, I will put the Question on that.

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Question put and agreed to.

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: Mr. Chairman, I now move that the Chair do report progress.

Senator Mai'ji Lawan: I second the Motion that the Chair do now report progress.

Question put and agreed to.

(Mr. President resumed the Chair)

The President: The Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the screening of President's nominees for appointment as Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and approved the nominations of:

1. AVM (Rtd) Larry Koinyan Chairman
2. Chibuzor Ugwoha Managing Director
3. Arch. Esoetok Ikpong Etteh Full time Member
4. Pastor Power Aginighan Full time Member
5. Barr. Bassey Dan Abia Part Time Member
6. Mr. Anthony Orubo Part Time Member
7. Hon. Ekpo Asuquo Okon Part Time Member
8. Mr. Emmanuel Ogidi Part Time Member
9. Akeru Ikechukwu Joseph Part Time Member
10. Engr. Emmanuel T. Georgewill Part Time Member
11. Dr. Rabi Musa Kwankwaso Part Time Member
12. Senator Tunde Ogbeha Part Time Member
13. Alhaji Asheikh Jarma Part Time Member

The Senate further granted extension of time for the Committee to screen Mr. Aloysius Nwagboso as Part Time Member and Barr. Benson G. Enikuomelin as Part Time Member.

The Senate stood down for further consultation the screening of Dr. Daru Owei as Part Time Member. Hon. Jude I. Ise-Idehen's nomination was not recommended.

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

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Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

Confirmation of Nominations

The President: I will put the Questions straight away. Will the Senate confirm the nomination of AVM Larry Koinyan (Rtd) as the Chairman of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Chibuzor Ugwoha as Managing Director of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Arch. Esoetok I. Etteh as Executive Director (Projects) of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Pastor Power Aginighan as Executive Director (Finance and Accounts) of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Barr. Dan Abia as Part Time Member representing Akwa Ibom on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Anthony Orubo as Part Time Member representing Bayelsa State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Hon. Ekpo Asuquo Okon as Part Time Member representing Cross River State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

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Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Emmanuel Ogidi as Part Time Member representing Delta State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Akeru Ikechukwu Joseph as Part Time Member representing Imo State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Engr. Emmanuel T. Georgewill as Part Time Member representing River State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. Rabiul Musa Kwankwaso as Part Time Member representing the non-oil mineral producing State; North West zone on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Senator Tunde Ogbeha as Part Time Member representing the non-oil producing State; North Central zone on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Asheikh Jarma as Part Time Member representing the non-oil mineral producing State; North East zone on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

Question put and agreed to.

There is no need for question on the other two because they are not for confirmation.

Will the Senate reject the confirmation of Hon. Jude I. Ise-Idehen as Part Time Member representing Edo State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission?

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Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do hereby confirmed the nomination of the following people as Chairman and Members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission:

1. AVM (Rtd) Larry Koinyan Chairman
2. Chibuzor Ugwoha Managing Director
3. Arch. Esoetok Ikpong Etteh Full time Member
4. Pastor Power Aginighan Full time Member
5. Barr. Bassey Dan Abia Part Time Member
6. Mr. Anthony Orubo Part Time Member
7. Hon. Ekpo Asuquo Okon Part Time Member
8. Mr. Emmanuel Ogidi Part Time Member
9. Akeru Ikechukwu Joseph Part Time Member
10. Engr. Emmanuel T. Georgewill Part Time Member
11. Dr. Rabiul Musa Kwankwaso Part Time Member
12. Senator Tunde Ogbeha Part Time Member
13. Alhaji Asheikh Jarma Part Time Member

The nomination of Hon. Jude Ise-Idehen as Part-Time Member representing Edo State on the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission is hereby rejected by the Senate.

Congratulations to all those who have been screened and whose nominations have been confirmed by the Senate. The Niger Delta Development Commission is a very important Commission and we believe that if they function properly, youth restiveness in the Niger Delta area would be reduced to the barest minimum. They have the responsibility to live up to expectations and more importantly to ensure that our confirmation is rightly done and that the trust that the people have reposed on them is not misplaced.

We wish all of them best of luck and hope that their results would begin to show sooner than later.

**Report of the Committee on Communications
on the 2009 Budget Proposal for the Nigerian
Communications Commission**

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: Mr. President, the fifth Order of the day is the consideration of the

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Report of the Committee on Communications on the 2009 Budget Proposal of the Nigerian Communications Commission.

You would recall that the Report was laid on the Table yesterday, Tuesday, 28th July, 2009. You may wish to invite Senator Sylvester Anyanwu to move the Motion for the Senate to consider the Report of the Committee.

Senator Sylvester Anyanwu (Imo North): Mr. President, I rise to move the Motion to present formally, the Report of the Communications Committee on the Nigerian Communications Commission Budget Proposal for the year ending 31st December, 2009 to the Senate.

The President: You are to present the Report, so you do not need to move a Motion any more.

Senator Sylvester Anyanwu: Mr. President, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Budget proposal for the year ending 31st December, 2009, was forwarded to the Senate by the President, Commander-in-Chief, for consideration and approval and was read in the Chamber on Tuesday, 2nd June, 2009. It was immediately referred to the Committee on Communications for further legislative action *vide* Order 40(2) on Wednesday, 3rd June, 2009.

Nigerian Communications Commission Budget Proposal for the Year 2009

The Commission appeared before the Committee on Wednesday, 22nd July, 2009 to defend its Budget proposal. After exhaustive deliberations, the Committee resolved to adopt the proposal as presented by the President, Commander-in-Chief, as highlighted below.

The total revenue for the Year 2009 was N31,565,639,000.00 and amount brought forward from Year 2008 Income was N8,207,375,000.00. Total revenue available for 2009 Budget stood at N35,773,014,000.00.

The total expenditure as forwarded to the Committee for the Commission for the Year 2009 stood at N39,640,215,000.00. We observed from the proposal submitted that the Revenue for that year was N39,773,014,000.00 only. Their total

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expenditure for Year 2009 stood at N39,640,215,000.00 only. This indicates a revenue surplus of N132,799,000.00. The revenue summary as broken down in this form is as follows:

The receipts and payments accounts for the period ending 31st December, 2009 shows budgeted income of N31.5 billion while recurrent and capital expenditure stood at N6.1 billion and N7.9 billion respectively.

Revenue	N
Licensing Fees	- 787, 000,500.00
Total Recurrent Expenditure	6,123, 042,000.00
Total Expendit	- 7,924, 529,000.00
Transfers to Federal Government	6,293,700,000.00
Transfers to USPF	7, 444,479,000.00
Subvention to Digital Bridge Institute, Administration/Operational Cost	2,000,000, 000. 00

(USPF is an arm of NCC and by the Act setting them up they are supposed to transfer 40 *per cent* of their income)

(Digital Bridge Institute is the telecommunications Institute in Nigeria)

(There were some attachments I included but there was a mistake in the stapling)

Recommendation

It is, therefore, recommended that the Budget proposal of N39,773,014,000.00 be approved for Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) as presented by the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, of course, less the surplus that will be kept with NCC.

That is my Report.

The President: We will take comments but I must say that this presentation is very confusing. Your Vice Chairman has also not signed.

Senator Sylvester N. Anyanwu (Imo North): My Vice Chairman is on course.

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The President: If there are no comments I can put the Question then we pass it. Do you have the same figures with the House of Representatives?

Senator Sylvester Anyanwu: We are doing the same thing but because of the time we decided to pass it as it came from there.

Senator Mohammed Makarfi (Kaduna North): Mr. President, the way the budget is arranged does not look like a budget. Budget is made up of Recurrent and Capital Expenditure. Of course, if you have statutory transfers, they are either capital or recurrent and they are so placed. If you look at the Recurrent Expenditure there which is ₦6.1 billion and Capital ₦7.9 billion, then, you have projects, which are either recurrent or capital in nature, but they are separately stated. It does not show a total picture of Capital or Recurrent Expenditure as the case may be.

Also, if I may recall, when we were doing the Revenue Profile on the 2009 Budget, NCC was one of the agencies that came to us. According to the record that was made available to us, they had surplus or reserve of over ₦10 billion and here I can see balance brought forward as only ₦8.2 billion. These are some of the problems with these kinds of agencies. There supposed to be coordination between all the relevant Committees that have to do with revenue yielding Agencies so that we do not miss out on some issues. I do not know what to believe either the figures made available to us then or the figures that I am seeing now as unspent funds brought forward.

The President: The fact of the matter as he rightly pointed out is that they brought back what they got from the Presidency. That is not the correct thing. They should have done a little more homework. However, we are running out of time for the year and since they have synchronized this with the House of Representatives, it is better for us to get this done with. But next year we should make sure that we look at it in details. I will then put the Question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do approve the Budget proposal of ₦39,773,014,000 for Nigerian Communications Commission as presented by the Committee.

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Senator Sylvester Anyanwu and Members of your Committee, for the next Budget you should do a lot much more than this.

Report of the Committee on Communications on the 2009 Budget Proposal for the Universal Service Provision Fund

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: The sixth Order of the day is the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Communications on the 2009 Budget Proposal for the Universal Service Provision Fund.

You will recall that the Report was laid yesterday, 28th July, 2009. You may wish to invite Senator Sylvester N. Anyanwu to present the Report.

The President: Senator Anyanwu, is there any difference between this one and the first one we treated in terms of your presentation?

Senator Sylvester Anyanwu: There is a difference. I think you were part of the NCC Act when the USPF Fund was created and the 40 *per cent* revenue of NCC goes to USPF according to the Act. Ordinarily, both of them could have come together, but I do not know why they sent them differently from the Presidency. However, it came like that and we treated it in the same manner.

The President: What I want to know is whether what was sent from the Presidency is what you reproduced. There is really nothing new that you added or subtracted here. Where is your recommendation? The copy I have has not shown the recommendation. However, is there any comment on this?

Senator Mohammed Makarfi: Mr. President, again, if you look at the details on pages 2 and 3 you will see the total Revenue as ₦10,231,572,000.00 and you look at the total Expenditure ₦9,222,788,000.00 but what is being recommended to be spent is the revenue. This is wrong because what we are to approve is the Expenditure and not Total Revenue that is available.

The President: My own page 3 is reflecting something else. After the recommendation, total Revenue in this one is N39 million. The

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recommendation I have here says: *It is, therefore, recommended that the budget proposal of N10,231,572,000, be approved for Universal Service Provision Fund.* But the page 3 there, is showing N39 million.

Senator Anyanwu, truly, this paper has to be withdrawn, because what Senator Makarfi has just pointed out is that the fund available is N10 billion. It is the Expenditure that we are supposed to approve. Rather all the Revenue generated is what you are recommending for Expenditure.

Senator Sylvester Anyanwu: Mr. President, let me explain. If you look at page 2, there is a Cash Reserve of N1,008,784,000.00 that is a Cash Budget Surplus. We are not asking them to spend it. Actually, what Senator Makarfi is saying is that they should spend what has been budget for that is the total Expenditure of N9 billion. The other one goes to their Reserve.

Under their Act, they have Funds Management Committee. They are to apply that Excess Reserve in the management of the Fund. That Fund forms part of the total 2009 Fiscal Expenses and Planning which means by next year they will be bringing forward like the other one, to 2010. That is the explanation. On page 2, that surplus should not be left hanging.

Senator Yisa Braimoh: Mr. President, just to assist my Chairman, if you look at that same page, review the 2008 Budget, what they call actual, at the very bottom of that page, we have N1,480,143,000 being the surplus for 2008, which was carried forward to the next column which is 2009 actual where you have Cash Reserves. That N1,480,143,000 was brought forward from 2008 to 2009 as Reserve of the earlier Year. So, at the very bottom, you have N1,008,784,000.00 which is going to be carried forward to 2010, being the surplus of Expenditure of N9,222,788,000.00. I think it is perfectly in order.

The President: Can I put the Question then?

Senator Mohammed Ida: Mr. President, before you put the Question, I want to make an observation here which I think is also applicable to the one we have just passed. The original submission was read here on 2nd June, 2009 and it is supposed to be for the final year, January to December 2009.

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My concern really is, why it should take six months for the Budget to reach here. How were they operating before the budget was submitted here? In respect of the National Budget, the Constitution is very clear as to how the President can fund its Expenditure in the event of a delay in the passage of the Budget. But here we have a situation whereby the Budget itself is brought to this Chamber in June. Really, what happened between January and June? I would like to know.

The President: That point was made with the NCC Budget. We do not have an answer here. Senator Anyanwu, you should try and find out from them how they have been operating for the last seven months. This Budget came to you, you did not change anything and you took more than a month to bring it back.

Senator Sylvester Anyanwu: We were waiting to reconcile with the House of Representatives because their own came late. As for coming late, the fault is not NCC, as we pointed out last year, this Budget was sent to the Presidency in September and it came to us by June. Since January we have been chasing this particular Budget.

The President: But how have the NCC been operating?

Senator Sylvester Anyanwu: The only thing they have been doing is paying salaries.

The President: May I put the Question then please. There are issues here that are just not clear, but we should not hold this Budget down any further. Next year if the Budget comes like this, we would reject it. That is my suggestion. We would just allow them to be able to operate this year. Both Senators Maikafi and Ida have raised very valid points.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do approve the Budget Proposal of N10,231,572,000.00 only for the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) as recommended by the Committee.

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**Report of the Committee on Drugs, Narcotics,
Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption, on the
Screening of Professor James O. I. Ayatse,
North Central**

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: Mr. President, the seventh Order of the day is the presentation and the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Drugs, Narcotics, Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption on the screening of Prof. James O. I. Ayatse from the North Central as a member in the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC).

You will recall that the Report was laid yesterday, Tuesday, 28th July, 2009. You may wish to invite the Chairman of the Committee Senator Sola Akinyede to present his Report.

Senator Sola Akinyede (Ekiti South): Mr. President, I rise to present the Report of the Senate Committee on Drugs, Narcotics, Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption on the screening of Prof. James O. I. Ayatse for confirmation as a member of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission.

The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at its Plenary sitting on Wednesday, 24th June, 2009 considered the request by the President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the under-mentioned nominee as a member of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and referred same to the Senate Committee on Drugs, Narcotics, Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption for further legislative action vide Votes and Proceedings of 24th June, 2009.

The nominee appeared before the Committee on Tuesday, 21st July, 2009 for screening. During the screening exercise, several questions relating to the background, educational qualifications, work experience, impression and perception of the war against corruption of the nominee as well as general questions were asked.

Committee findings

Arising from the screening exercise, the Committee noted that:

- i. Prof. James Ortese Iorzua Ayatse was born on the 12th May, 1956.

- ii. He is from Mbakan, Shagev – Ya Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State representing the North Central Geo-Political Zone.
- iii. He holds B.Sc; MSc and Ph.D degrees in Biochemistry and a Master of Business Administration (MBA).
- iv. He is a member of several professional bodies and has published several journal articles.
- v. He was a Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (2001 to 2006).
- vi. He is presently a full-time employee of the Federal Government as a Professor of Biochemistry at the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi.
- vii. He is currently a member of the Governing Council of one of the Federal Universities of Agriculture, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike.
- viii. During the interaction with the nominee, he was asked which position he prefers. To remain a lecturer in the University or to be a member of the ICPC. He stated that he has a tenure appointment with the Federal Government as a Professor of Biochemistry until he retires at the age of 65.
- ix. Section 3(3) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000 provides:

The Commission shall consist of a Chairman and twelve other members, two of whom shall come from each of the six geo-political zones:

- (a) A retired Police Officer not below the rank of Commissioner of Police;
- (b) A Legal practitioner with at least 10 years post call experience;
- (c) A retired Judge of a superior court of record;
- (d) A retired public servant not below the rank of a Director;
- (e) A woman;

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- (f) A youth not being less than 21 or more than 30 years of age at the time of his or her appointment, and
- (g) A chartered accountant.
- x. Having regard to the provisions of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000 stated above, the nominee does not fall under any of the above-mentioned categories.
- xi. Consequently, the nominee is presently not qualified to be a member of the ICPC principally because he is still in the employment of the Federal Government and has not retired from service. If he resigns his appointment, he may be re-presented.

Recommendations

In the light of the above, the Committee does not recommend that the Senate do confirm the appointment of the nominee as a member of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission.

The Committee expresses its gratitude for having been given the opportunity to conduct this screening.

The President: Are there any comments? (*No response*) This appears to me like a simple straightforward thing. He has made a choice for himself and I do not think we can do anything outside that. We have just looked handled the case from somebody from Edo State. It is not our prerogative to replace him here so, it is not Nasarawa yet.

Senator Joseph Iorshagheer Akaagerger: Mr. President, it is not that I represent the nominee because he comes from my Constituency but I just want to make an observation and I believe completely on the Report of the Committee. However, I want to remark that details of appointments and other relevant credentials in future may be attached to such Report so that I do not raise an observation like I am doing now.

The President: We have had too many Reports here and this cannot be an exception. They have not been bringing details. We just went through NDDC Report and they did not attach their

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details. We just accepted the Report and believed that what our Colleagues told us was a correct story. I think this is a straightforward Report. He made a decision for himself and I do not think we can go any further. I will put the Question in favour of the recommendation of the Committee.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do not confirm the nomination of Professor James Ortese Iorzua Ayatse as a member of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission.

Report of the Senate Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Screening of Mr. Jonah Onuku Ogbole, Benue Plateau and Nasarawa States as a Commissioner in the Federal Civil Service Commission

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: Mr. President, the eight Order of the day is the presentation and consideration of the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the screening of Mr. Jonah Onuku Ogbole representing Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa States as a member in the Federal Civil Service Commission.

You would recall that the Report was laid yesterday, 28th July, 2009. You may, therefore, wish to invite Senator Muhammed I. Ahmed Chairman of the Committee on Establishment to present the Report.

Senator Muhammed I. Ahmed (Kwara North): Mr. President, I rise to present the Report of the Senate Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the screening of Mr. Jonah Onuku Ogbole as Commission for Federal Civil Service Commission representing Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau States.

The Senate at its Plenary Session on Tuesday, 15th July, 2009 considered the request by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the confirmation by Senate of Mr. Jonah Onuku Ogbole as a member of the Federal Civil Service Commission representing Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau States and referred same to the Committee on Establishment and Public Service for further legislative action.

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The membership of the Committee is stated below.

The Committee Action

The Committee requested for and received from the Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Relevant Certificates
- Clearance from State Security Service
- Police Report on Finger Prints Search
- Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Slip (Asset Declaration)

Original of the above listed documents were duly sighted. The nominee was screened on Tuesday, July 21, 2009.

Findings

In the course of interview with the nominee and scrutiny of his documents as submitted, the Committee noted that:

- He was born on December 31, 1947.
- He holds a First Class (Hons.) Degree in Political Science from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, LLB (Hons.) and B.L. from University of Jos.
- He was a Director in the Civil Service of the Federation and served in the Federal Ministries of Internal Affairs, Commerce and Defence from where he retired on October 22, 2004.
- He was Secretary to the Plateau State Government and Head of Service between 1993 and 1996.
- He was also Secretary to the Nasarawa State Government and Head of Service, between 1996 and 1997.
- He responded well to issues raised during the screening exercise.

Two Senators representing Nasarawa and Plateau States sat with the Committee as observers and made the following submissions.

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(a) **Nasarawa State:** Nasarawa State has no objection. (The representative who spoke on behalf of Senators from the States paid glowing tribute to the nominee and concluded that he was a right and fit person for the position.

(b) **Plateau State:** The Senator from Plateau who represented the two Senators accepted that the nominee was a right and fit person for the position because of his character, experience and exposure. He however protested the nomination of a candidate from Nasarawa instead of Plateau. He has no objection in passing the nominee. His objection are stated below:

He also demanded that future appointments should take his view into consideration that the federal character as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution should be considered when next nominations are slated for the North Central State.

Conclusion

The Committee noted that the nominee was a fit and proper person with cognate experience to occupy the position of a Commissioner in the Federal Civil Service. This was corroborated by Senators from Plateau State.

The principle of Federal Character as enshrined in Section 171(5) of the 1999 Constitution should be respected in future appointments to promote national unity.

Recommendations

Mr. President, distinguished Senators, having considered the character, exposure and experience of the nominee and submissions made by stakeholders, the Committee found him fit and recommends that Senate adopts the Report and confirms Mr. Jonah Onuku Ogbole as Commissioner for Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC).

On behalf of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service, I thank you all for the opportunity given to us to serve.

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Senator Joseph Iorshagheer Akaagerger: Mr. President, not just the credentials that speak for this nominee from the cluster states of Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa States but the nominee is a person I personally know. He is a Nigerian of outstanding character in every respect and I urge the Senate to quickly confirm his nomination.

The President: Senator Ahmed, you called the Senators from Nasarawa and Plateau, what of the Senators from Benue? There are three Senators from Benue State. Can we have further comments, please?

Senator Abubakar Sodangi: Mr. President, I want to say it here for emphasis that all of us from Nasarawa State, including surprisingly Senator Patricia Akwashiki who was there fully with us.

Senator Patricia Naomi Akwashiki: I was not there.

Senator Sodangi: We were all there. But you gave us your approval in principle and all of us here supported the recommendation and the nomination of Jonah. To us, just as the last speaker said, *ipsa loquitor*, the document speaks for itself. This is an erudite and excellent personality. He would serve Plateau, Benue, Nasarawa and, indeed, Nigeria.

I support the presentation by Senator Ahmed and I urge my Colleagues that this is a very good Nigerian that would serve all of us. I thank you for the support given to us.

Senator Satty Gogwim: Mr. President, the Committee did a very beautiful job and the recommendation is quite apt. I know Jonah as a person. He is a round peg in a round hole. I am very happy that the observations we have been raising all along have been captured in pages 3 and 4. Therefore, I want to urge that the nominee as recommended be passed.

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: Mr. President, I now move that this Senate resolves into the Committee of the Whole to consider this Report.

Senator Patricia Naomi Akwashiki: Mr. Senate President, I wish to second that the Senate resolves into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report.

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Question put and agreed to.

Report of the Senate Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Screening of Mr. Jonah Onuku Ogbole, Benue Plateau and Nasarawa States as a Commissioner in the Federal Civil Service Commission – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Chairman: I will just put the Question straight away.

Senator Anyim C. Ude (Ebonyi South): Mr. Chairman, I have a question. I am referring to item 4(b) on page 4 where it says: *The principle of federal character as enshrined in Section 171(b) of the 1999 Constitution should be respected in future appointments to promote national unity.*

This issue has been coming up from time to time and my question is: is it that the Presidency does not recognise or remember this? If not, do we really collate these observations and pass on to them so that they can avoid this problem.

The Chairman: My simple experience here is, no matter whom you bring this matter would come up. That is my experience here because only one person is representing a cluster of states and he can only come from one of those states that he represents. We will note it, but where it becomes excessive then we can address it. Taking North Central for instance, if the next person comes from Kwara State then Benue or Kogi State would complain. It would be excessive where people from one particular state continue to represent a cluster of states. If it is not lopsided then we do not have to worry too much. Let me put the Question again.

Question put and agreed to.

Senator Ndoma-Egba: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chair do report progress.

Senator Patricia Akwashiki: Mr. Chairman, I second the Motion that the Chair do report progress.

The Chairman: You have adjusted very quickly

Question put and agreed to.

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(Mr. President resumed the Chair)

The President: The Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the screening of Mr. President's nominee for appointment as a Commissioner in the Federal Civil Service Commission representing Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa States and approved the nomination of Mr. Jonah Onuku Ogbole.

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

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

Confirmation of Nomination

The President: Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Jonah Onuku Ogbole representing Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa States as a member in the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate confirm the nomination of Mr. Jonah Onuku Ogbole representing Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa States as a member in the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC).

We want to congratulate Mr. Jonah Ogbole for his confirmation and I want to thank the Senators from Plateau, Nasarawa and Benue States for their cooperation. There was no acrimony at all. We hope that in the same spirit, in the North Central Zone when nominations come they would stand united.

I want to thank the Senators for the confirmation and would like to advise Mr. Jonah Ogbole to be up and doing because the Civil Service Commission is a very important Commission. There is unemployment in the land and the Civil Service Commission must live up to the expectations.

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CONSIDERATION OF A BILL

Certified Institute of Public Accountants Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Nigeria, 2009

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: Mr. President, the tenth Order of the day is the Second Reading of a Bill for Certified Institute of Public Accountants of Nigeria 2009.

You will recall that the Bill was read the First Time in this Chamber on 28th October, 2008. But considering the time now, it will be practically impossible for us to continue with this item. So, I move that this item be deferred to another legislative day.

Senator Patricia Akwashiki: Mr. President, I rise to second that the matter be deferred to another legislative day.

Question put and agreed to.

(By leave of Senate, the next item on the Order Paper was deferred to another legislative day)

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba: Mr. President, having exhausted our Order Paper for today, may I move that this Senate adjourns to Thursday, 30th July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

Senator Patricia Akwashiki: Mr. President, I rise to second that this Senate do adjourn to Thursday, 30th July, 2009 at 10.00a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do stand adjourned till Thursday, 30th July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 1.50 p.m.