



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 24nd May, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10:50 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 23rd May, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcement:**
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Students of the following Schools; who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings.

- (i) Oasis International School, Kado Estate
- (ii) Bankys Private School, Ganduwa Estate, Abuja
- (iii) Abiodun Tony Ozurumba Memorial College, Nyanya
- (iv) Muslim Students Association, Auchi Polytechnic

4. **Closed Session**
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into a Closed Session to deliberate on matters relevant to the workings of the Senate (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Closed Session — 11.20 a. m.

Open Session — 12.10 p. m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on issues relating to its Valedictory Session. The Senate agreed on the Time Table and drew a programme of action to wind down this Distinguished Senate and make way for the next one.

5. **Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation:**
Report on the Session June 2003 to May 2007:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive the Sessional Report of the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation for the period June 2003 to May 2007 (*Senator Gbemi R. Saraki*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented and Laid.

6. Motion:

House Bill for Concurrence:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That whereas the House of Representatives had passed the Handicapped Persons Public Buildings (Special Facilities) Bill 2007 (HB. 31) and seeks Senate concurrence on it;

Whereas the Bill is currently undergoing Legislative Processes in the Senate and will require more time to harmonise with the House of Representatives;

Be it resolved:

That Senate do give concurrence without amendments to the Bill as passed by the House of Representatives (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

That Senate do give concurrence without amendments to the Bill as passed by the House of Representatives — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That Senate do give concurrence without amendments to the Bill as passed by the House of Representatives (*S. Res/026/07*).

7. Report of the Conference Committee on the Nigerian Council for Management Development Act (Amendment, etc) Bill 2007 (SB. 256):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive and adopt the Report of the Conference Committee on the Nigerian Council for Management Development Act (Amendment, etc) Bill 2007 (*Senator Gbemi R. Saraki*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

8. Privilege:

Rising on Rules 14, 15 and 18 Senator Saidu M. Dansadau drew the attention of the Senate to a publication in the Leadership Newspapers of Thursday, 24th May, 2007 indicating the intention of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief to dissolve the National Assembly on May, 29th 2007, the same day he will be handing-over to the President-Elect. Senator Saidu M. Dansadau observed that the said publication portends danger to our nascent democracy and is a breach of Section 64(1) and (3) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Debate:

Ruling from the Chair:

The Senate President ruled that while the Newspaper publication may not be authentic, the Senate should not rely on speculations. He stated that the Senate will continue to conduct its legislative business up till June, 3rd 2007 in accordance with its legislative Calender.

9. Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions:

Report on the Agonies of Depositors of Failed Banks and Financial Institutions:

By leave of the Senate, Report stood down.

10. Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Miscellaneous Offences Bill 2007 (SB. 321):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do consider and adopt the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Miscellaneous Offences Bill 2007 (*Senator Jibril M. Aminu*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented and Laid.

11. **Committee on Finance:**
Report on the Screening of a Nominee:
Ms. Ifueko Omoigui as the Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS):

By leave of the Senate, Report stood down.
12. **Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry Bill 2007 (SB. 349):**

By leave of the Senate, Report stood down.
13. **National Economic Reconstruction Fund Bill 2007 (SB. 348):**

By leave of the Senate, Report stood down.
14. **Adjournment:**
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 30th May, 2007 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1: 15 p. m.

Ken Nnamani, GCON
President of the Senate