



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 3rd July, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10: 20 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th June, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Message from Mr President:**
The Senate President informed the Senate that he had received a letter from Mr President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which he read as follows:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

June 27, 2007

*Distinguished President of Senate,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

My Dear Senate President,

- RE:**
1. **NIGERIAN AGENCY FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE (NAFFA) ACT. 2007**
 2. **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET AND RESEARCH OFFICE ACT. 2007**

I write with reference to above subject, forwarded to me as Bills requiring my assent. Having studied the two important Bills, I wish to raise the following observation for consideration by the Distinguished Senate.

(A). NIGERIAN AGENCY FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE (NAFFA) ACT. 2007:

- (i) **Sections 2: Composition of the Governing Board and Mode of Operation.**
Clearly some of the institutions charged with the responsibility of making recommendation for appointments and forming part of the Board no longer exist, so there may be a lacuna.
- (ii) **Sections 15(1) and : Expenditure of the Agency:**
As provided, this would appear to put an additional mechanism that may likely slow down the operations of the Agency. Rendering of accounts through auditing and remittance of audited accounts as captured by Sections 16 & 17 will, in my humble view, suffice in terms of checks and balances.
- (iii) **Section 21(3): Restriction on execution against property of the Agency:**
This would seem to contravene the provisions of Sections 6(6)(b) and Sections 26(i) of the CFRN 1999 on judicial powers over the citizens.

(B). NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET AND RESEARCH OFFICE ACT. 2007:

The import of Sections 2,4,5,6,8,9,10,17,18 and 21 appear to have either usurped the functions of the various House Committees or would appear to duplicate same. Similarly, Sections 1 (1), 8(2) 2(1) (i) 12 (2) and 13(2) also require reconstruction so as to align them with the perceived intent of the enactment.

I, therefore, urge the Distinguished Senate to take a second look at these Sections with a view to amending same for further action.

As you reconsider these provisions and the Bills, accept Distinguished President of the Senate, the assurances of my highest esteem and best wishes for the entire Distinguished membership of the Senate of the Federal Republic.

Best regards,

Signed:
UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

4. **Announcement:**

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of staff and students of Archdeacon Brown Education Centre, Woji town, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings.

5. **Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Senate Rule 43, Senator Sylvester N. Anyanwu thanked the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) for calling off the strike and embracing dialogue in settling issues. He also appreciated the role of the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Umaru Musa Yar'adua; and the leadership of the National Assembly particularly that of the Senate for their timely intervention.

6. **Motions:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the underlisted Motions on the Order Paper do serve as Notices of Motion for consideration the next legislative day:

- (i) The Agonies of Depositors of Failed Banks and Financial Institutions;
- (ii) Poor State of Safety in Our Airports; and
- (iii) Collapse of the Road Infrastructure in Nigeria (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.