



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 2nd October, 2007

1. The Senate met at 12: 15 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, 27th September, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Announcements:**
 - (i) The Senate President announced that the Prime Minister of India, Mahoman Singh will visit Nigeria from 14th — 16th October, 2007 and will address the Joint Session of the National Assembly on Monday, 15th October, 2007.
 - (ii) The Senate President also announced that the Senate will suspend its Plenary Sittings from Tuesday 2nd October to Tuesday, 16th October, 2007. This would enable all Committees to acquaint themselves with the operations of their supervising ministries and the Committee on Foreign Affairs to screen the Ambassadorial Nominees and report to Senate as mandated. The period will also enable the Muslim Ummah celebrate the Eid-el Fitr coming up between 11th and 12th October, 2007.
4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**
Rising on Senate Rule 42 and 52, Senator Ayogu Eze invited the attention of the Senate to the Ambush and Killing of the Nigerian/African Union Peace Keepers in Darfur, Sudan. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate for the matter to be debated as Matter of Urgent Public Importance forthwith.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate observes with dismay and horror the killing of twelve and the abduction of some members of the African Union Peace Keeping Mission in Darfur, Sudan, seven of those killed being Nigerians;

Notes the ingratitude of the Sudanese Government and some African countries over Nigeria's laudable peace missions all over Africa;

Recalls with sadness that Nigerian soldiers on a similar mission in Somalia and some other troubled regions of Africa have been killed in similar circumstances in the past;

Notes that whereas, Nigeria's peace keeping role all over the world has attracted international commendation, such efforts are hardly appreciated within the continent;

Observes that the International community has turned a blind eye to the pogrom in Darfur, after so much rhetoric about raising an international peace keeping force of over five thousand men to be contributed by the US and her allies;

Notes that the Darfur crisis has not received all the attention it craves from world leaders; and

Urges that the Senate do:

- (i) ***condemn*** in very strong terms the early morning raid on the AU Peace Mission camp and the resultant killing of twelve AU soldiers and abduction of others, seven of those killed being Nigerians;
- (ii) ***condemn*** the rascality of the rebels and all forces engaged in the Darfur crisis;
- (iii) ***appeal*** to the United Nations and world leaders to take the situation in Darfur as a disgrace to civilisation;
- (iv) ***demand*** an explanation from the Sudanese's Ambassador in Nigeria on what happened;
- (v) ***summon*** the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff to brief the Senate on the development;
- (vi) ***demand*** the immediate release of all those abducted during the raid;
- (vii) ***condole*** the Nigerian Government and families of these gallant service men; and
- (viii) ***observe*** one minute silence in honour of the fallen heroes (*Senator Eze Ayogu*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question:

That the Senate do condemn in very strong terms the early morning raid on the AU Peace Mission camp and the resultant killing of twelve AU soldiers and abduction of others, seven of those killed being Nigerians — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Question:

That the Senate do condemn the rascality of the rebels and all forces engaged in the Darfur crisis — *Negated*.

Prayer (iii):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the United Nations and world leaders to take the situation in Darfur as a disgrace to civilisation — *Negated*.

Prayer (iv):

Question:

That the Senate do demand an explanation from the Sudanese's Ambassador in Nigeria on what happened — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (v):

Question:

That the Senate do summon the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff to brief the Senate on the development;

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "staff" in line (1) *insert* the words "and the Force Commander" (*Senator Jibril Aminu*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Question on Main Prayer as amended, put and agreed to.

Prayer (vi):

Question:

That the Senate do demand the immediate release of all those abducted during the raid — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (vii):

Question:

That the Senate do condole the Nigerian Government and families of these gallant service men — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (vii):

Question:

That the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of the fallen heroes — *Agreed to.*

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (viii) as follows:

“That the Sudanese Government be requested to apprehend and bring to book those responsible for this cowardly act” (*Senator Ahmad M. Makarfi*) — *Negatived.*

One minute silence accordingly observed.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do condemn in very strong terms the early morning raid on the AU Peace Mission camp and the resultant killing of twelve AU soldiers and abduction of others, seven of those killed being Nigerians;
- (ii) That the Senate do demand an explanation from the Sudanese’s Ambassador in Nigeria on what happened;
- (iii) That the Senate do summon the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff and the Force Commander to brief the Senate on the development;
- (iv) That the Senate do demand the immediate release of all those abducted during the raid;
- (v) That the Senate do condole the Nigerian Government and families of these gallant service men; and
- (vi) That the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of the fallen heroes (*Res/021/01/07*).

5. Extension of Time of Sitting:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do sit this day beyond the time appointed of its sittings (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

6. The Rising Incidence of Rape and Other Vices in Suleja:

Consideration of Motion deferred to a later date.

7. The Use of Young Girls as Direct Sales Agents by Banks and Other Financial Institutions:

Consideration of Motion deferred to a later date.

8. Closed Session:

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

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Closed Session — 1. 55 p. m.

Senate in Open Session — 3. 30 p. m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in Closed Session deliberated on the forthcoming Senate Retreat to be held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State between 28th October and 1st November, 2007. He named the following as members of the organizing Committee;

(i)	Senator Teslim K. Folarin (Senate Majority Leader)	—	Chairman
(ii)	Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (Deputy Senate Majority Leader)	—	Member
(iii)	Senator Sylvester N. Anyanwu	—	Member
(iv)	Senator Sulaiman M. Nazif	—	Member
(v)	Senator Gbemisola R. Saraki	—	Member
(vi)	Senator Ahmad M. Maccido	—	Member
(vii)	Clerk, Senate	—	Secretary

9. **Adjournment:**

And it being 3.45 p.m. the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Tuesday, 16th October, 2007 at 10:00 a. m.

Adjourned accordingly at 3:45 p.m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate