



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 18 October, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10.40 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, 17th October, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Matter of Privilege/Complaint Against Newspaper Publication:**
Rising on Rule 15, Senator Iyiola Omisore, Chairman, Committee on Appropriation invited the attention of the Senate to a publication in the Wednesday, 17th October, 2007, edition of the "Daily Trust" Newspaper, captioned "Mark smuggled ₦2.5 Billion Naira into the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2007" recently passed by the Senate and credited to one Adoka Adaji, who presented himself as Special Assistant on Media to Senator George Akume.

He asserted that by the allegation contained in the publication, the entire Constitutional Appropriation process meticulously carried out by the Senate was being discredited. Senator Omisore, therefore reasoned that from every indication, Senator George Akume was probably in possession of some information on the issue that is not known to the Senate.

The Chairman averred that as a Senator and Chairman of the Committee on Appropriation, he has been portrayed as incompetent and untrustworthy and therefore his privilege as an individual and that of the Senators collectively had been impugned. He moved that the matter be referred to the Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions, for investigation.

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the matter be referred to the Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions, for investigation (S. Res/024/07).

Matter accordingly referred to Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions to report on Tuesday, 23rd October, 2007.

4. **Demise of Honourable Aminu Shuaibu Safana, Katsina State:**

The Senate Leader informed the Senate of the death of a Member of the House of Representatives, Honourable Aminu Shuaibu Safana, on Wednesday, 17th October, 2007 at the National Hospital. He noted that in the tradition of the Senate, a delegation be sent to condole the Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, the Government and people of Katsina State and the family of the deceased in Katsina. He moved that the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of the deceased.

Resolved:

That the Senate do send a delegation to condole the Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, the Government and people of Katsina State and the family of the deceased in Katsina and that the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of the deceased.

One minute silence accordingly observed.

Delegation on Condolence Visit to The Honourable Speaker and Katsina:

The following Senators were named Members of the Delegation:

(i)	Senator Mohammed Mana	—	Leader of the Delegation
(ii)	Senator Joseph I. Akaagerger	—	Member
(iii)	Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya	—	Member
(iv)	Senator Olorunnimbe A. Mamora	—	Member
(v)	Senator Julius A. Ucha	—	Member
(vi)	Senator Nimi Barigha-Amange	—	Member

5. **Confirmation of Nominations:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to resume consideration of the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, for confirmation of the nominations of the following persons as Ministers of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

(i)	Peter Godsdan Orubebe	—	South-South Zone
(ii)	Alhaji Alhassan Bako Zaku	—	Taraba State (Senate Majority Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Privileges of the Floor:

- (i) **Admission of Special Adviser to Mr President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, on National Assembly Matters:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do invoke Rule 17(1) to enable it admit the Special Adviser to Mr President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, on National Assembly Matters, Senator Florence Ita-Giwa to the floor of the Senate (Senate Majority Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

- (ii) **Admission of Ministerial Nominees:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do suspend Rule 17(1) to enable it admit the Ministerial nominees to the floor of the Senate (Senate Majority Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

(Screening of Ministerial Nominees)

Nominees screened:

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| (i) | Peter Godsdan Orubebe | — | South-South Zone |
| (ii) | Alhaji Alhassan Bako Zaku | — | Taraba State |

Chairman to report progress.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole, conducted public screening of the following Ministerial nominees:

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| (i) | Peter Godsdan Orubebe | — | South-South Zone |
| (ii) | Alhaji Alhassan Bako Zaku | — | Taraba State |

Question, that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be approved — *Resolved in the Affirmative*.

Confirmation of Nominees:

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Peter Godsdan Orubebe as a Minister of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative*.

Nomination of Peter Godsdan Orubebe as a Minister of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria accordingly confirmed.

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Alhaji Alhassan Bako Zaku as a Minister of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative*.

Nomination of Alhaji Alhassan Bako Zaku as a Minister of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria accordingly confirmed.

6. The new World Heavyweight Boxing Champion – Samuel Peter (Nigerian Nightmare):

Consideration of Motion deferred to a later date.

7. Menace of Erosion in the South-East Geo-Political Zone:

Consideration of Motion deferred to a later date.

8. The Proposed Strike by Aviation Workers for Non-payment of the Entitlement of the Nigerian Airways Ex-Workers:

Consideration of Motion deferred to a later date.

9. 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. 10 p. m.

Senate in Open Session — 1. 50 p. m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in Closed Session deliberated on matters relevant to the workings of the Senate.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 23rd October, 2007 at 10:00 a. m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:55 p.m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate