



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 25 October, 2007

1. The Senate met at 11.05a.m. The Senate President read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 24th October, 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 the 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

October 22, 2007

Senator David Mark,
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

Excellency and dear brother,

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF 27 MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION

The Federal Character Commission is one of the Federal Executive bodies established under section 153(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. By provision of part 1(c) of the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution, the Commission shall comprise a Chairman and one person to represent each of the States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja. In this connection, the tenure of twenty seven (27) members of the Commission expired on 23rd July 2007.

I have therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, decided to appoint the following as members of the Federal Character Commission:

S/NO	STATE	NAME OF NOMINEE	REMARKS
1.	Abia	Hon. Omenihu Nwogwugwu	Re-nominated
2.	Adamawa	Alhaji Dairu Bobbo	Fresh Appointment
3.	Akwa Ibom	Barr. Matthew Ukpang	Fresh Appointment
4.	Anambra	(Lady) C.G.O. Nzelibe	Re-nominated
5.	Borno	Alh. Aji Masta Lawan	Re-nominated
6.	Delta	Ambassador I.J Sagey	Re-nominated
7.	Ebonyi	Mr. Obasi Ofia	Re-nominated
8.	Edo	Hon. Peter Ekhator	Fresh Appointment
9.	Ekiti	Dr. Dele Afolabi	Re-nominated
10.	Enugu	Dr. Martins George Oke	Fresh Appointment
11	FCT	Hon. Yunana S. Dawuda	Re-nominated
12.	Gombe	Alh. Haruna Mamuda Gadam	Fresh Appointment
13	Kaduna	Hon. Musa Nikaf	Fresh Appointment
14	Kano	Hon. Muhammad A. Tudunwada	Fresh Appointment
15	Kogi	Alhaji Sule Iyaji	Fresh Appointment
16.	Kwara	Dr. Femi Ogunsola	Fresh Appointment
17	Lagos	Mrs Kemi Nelson	Fresh Appointment
18	Nasarawa	Muhammadu Ali Gwaska	Fresh Appointment
19	Niger	Alhaji Ibrahim Ladan	Re-nominated
20	Ogun	Alhaja Sadat Onimole	Re-nominated
21	Oyo	Mr. Thomas Depo Oyelade	Fresh Appointment
22	Plateau	Mr. John Jeji Shainaan	Fresh Appointment
23	Rivers	Amb. S. M. K. Taribo JP	Re-nominated
24	Sokoto	Alhaji Abdullahi M. Kiryo	Re-nominated
25	Taraba	Alhaji Shehu Mohammed	Re-nominated
26	Yobe	Alh. Mai Aliyu Muhammed	Re-nominated
27	Zamfara	Alh. Sahabi Muhammad Kaura (Ciroma)	Re-nominated

The Curriculum Vitae of the nominees are attached.

In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which states that the appointment shall be subject confirmation by the Senate, I hereby present the twenty seven (27) nominees listed above for confirmation by the Senate.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration

Yours Most Sincerely,

Signed:

UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA

4. Announcements:

The Senate President announced the presence of the following in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings:

- (i) Staff and students of St. Michael Anglican Diocese, Kaduna.
- (ii) English students of Adeyemi College of Education, Oyo

5. Presentation of a Bill:

Freedom of Information Bill, 2007 (SB. 19) – *Read the First Time.*

6. Committee on Finance:

Report of the screening of Ms Omoigui Ifueko Marina as Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Finance on the Screening of Ms. Omoigui Ifueko Marina, as Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) (*Senator Ahmed M. Makarfi*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. Motions:

(a) *The Collapse of the Nigerian Textile Industry:*

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do observe that the textile industry was the largest single sector within the private sector of the economy in terms of total investments, output and turnover, and it was the second largest employer of labour after the Government;

Observe that in early 1980's the total direct employment in the industry was over 300,000 people, additional indirect employment generated by the industry was in excess of 700,000 people;

Worried that the total employment by this industry today declined to 26,000 people only;

Notes that in early 1980's the number of functioning textile industries in Nigeria was 175 but there are only 26 surviving today;

Concerned about the influx of smuggled textile materials into the country, particularly from the borders with Niger, Benin, Cameroon, etc and smuggled textiles account for over 80% market share in Nigeria;

Notes that waivers from prohibition and tariff concessions to a few companies have led to unacceptable distortion in the sector;

Concerned further that as per UNIDO Study 2002/2003, because of the age of the machinery in the Nigerian textile industry output was 28% in spinning and 8% in weaving, compared to 40% and 93% respectively for Spinning and Weaving in South Africa;

Concerned that the quality and quantity of cotton, the primary raw material for the textile mills are abysmally low due to lack of meaningful investments in the production and non-remunerative prices to farmers, a consequence of the country's neglect of the agricultural sector.

Accordingly Resolves that the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to provide financial support through an institutional framework to enable Nigerian cotton and textile companies that wish to re-tool, to acquire spare parts and new technology, to expand production capacity, to salvage the situation;

- (ii) urge the Nigerian Customs Service to embark on a deliberate and elaborate anti-smuggling campaign and invoke the Import Prohibition List of 2004 which banned the importation of textiles-yarns, fabrics and garments;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to review existing waivers with respect to import of cotton-yarn, polyester and polyester filament yarn fabrics which are adequately produced locally; and
- (iv) urge the Federal Government to make imports of all cotton and textile inputs and equipment duty-free for a ten-year period (*Senator Ahmed I. Lawan*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to provide financial support through an institutional framework to enable Nigerian cotton and textile companies that wish to re-tool, to acquire spare parts and new technology, to expand production capacity, to salvage the situation – *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Customs Service to embark on a deliberate and elaborate anti-smuggling campaign and invoke the Import Prohibition List of 2004 which banned the importation of textiles-yarns, fabrics and garments – *Negated*.

Prayer (iii):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to review existing waivers with respect to import of cotton-yarn, polyester and polyester filament yarn fabrics which are adequately produced locally – *Agreed to*.

Prayer (iv):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to make imports of all cotton and textile inputs and equipment duty-free for a ten-year period – *Negated*.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new prayer (v) as follows “urge the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry to organise a summit of major stakeholders to discuss in a wholistic manner the problems of the textile industry in Nigeria and for the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Industry to organise a public hearing that will address the challenges of the textile industry in Nigeria (Senator Ike Ekweremadu).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Question on main prayer as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to provide financial support through an institutional framework to enable Nigerian cotton and textile companies that wish to re-tool, to acquire spare parts and new technology, to expand production capacity, to salvage the situation;
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to review existing waivers with respect to import of cotton-yarn, polyester and polyester filament yarn fabrics which are adequately produced locally; and
- (iii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry to organise a summit of major stakeholders to discuss in a wholistic manner the problems of the textile industry in Nigeria and for the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Industry to organise a public hearing that will address the challenges of the textile industry in Nigeria (*S. Res/027/07*).
- (b) *The De-Congestion of Federal Government Ministries, Agencies, Commissions and Parastatals from the Metropolis of Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) to the Other Area Councils within the Federal Capital Territory:*

Consideration of the motion deferred till the next legislative day.

(c) ***Drought in the Northern Parts of Nigeria:***

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do note the increasing effect of drought on many farmlands in the Northern parts of the country which has caused most of the affected farms to dry up;

Note that as a result of this, most crops produced in this areas like guinea corn, maize, millet etc. have continued to steadily declined in their yield;

Observes that experts have confirmed the prevalence of drought in the area situated around latitude 11° North of the equator, which area covers most of their affected states consisting of Kebbi, Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Jigawa, Yobe and Borno;

Notes that more than 30% of the Nigeria population representing about 50 million people reside in this area and rely almost entirely on farming for their subsistence;

Notes that the areas account for over 50% of all cereals produced in Nigeria consisting of maize, millet, guinea corn and cash crops such as cotton and groundnut which are major raw materials for most industries and serve for both local consumption and export;

Observes that the pattern of rainfall notice in these areas this cropping season and its abrupt stoppage in August portends serious consequences and may likely result in poor harvest and consequent hunger;

Accordingly resolves that the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government in conjunction with the affected state to develop an urgent and realistic strategy to avert hunger and the effects of drought on Nigerians.
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to brief the Senate through its Committee on Agriculture, on the position of grains in Nigeria's Strategic Grain Reserves.
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to make adequate provisions in the 2008 budget to tackle the likely effect of the drought currently being experienced in the affected Nigerian states lying around latitude 11° North of the equator;
- (iv) direct its committee on Agriculture to visit and assess the extent of impact in the affected areas and come up with a proposal on ways of tackling the disaster (*Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government in conjunction with the affected state to develop an urgent and realistic strategy to avert hunger and the effects of drought on Nigerians – *Agreed to.*

Prayer (ii):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to brief the Senate through its Committee on Agriculture, on the position of grains in Nigeria's Strategic Grain Reserves – *Agreed to.*

Prayer (iii):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to make adequate provisions in the 2008 budget to tackle the likely effect of the drought currently being experienced in the affected Nigerian states lying around latitude 11° North of the equator – *Agreed to.*

Prayer (iv):

Question:

That the Senate do direct its committee on Agriculture to visit and assess the extent of impact in the affected areas and come up with a proposal on ways of tackling the disaster – *Agreed to.*

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new prayer (v) as follows “urge NEMA to employ the application of early warning systems in predicting drought in the country (*Senator Ahmad I. Lawan*)

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Question on main prayer as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government in conjunction with the affected state to develop an urgent and realistic strategy to avert hunger and the effects of drought on Nigerians;
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to brief the Senate through its Committee on Agriculture, on the position of grains in Nigeria’s Strategic Grain Reserves;
- (iii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to make adequate provisions in the 2008 budget to tackle the likely effect of the drought currently being experienced in the affected Nigerian states lying around latitude 11° North of the equator;
- (iv) That the Senate do direct its committee on Agriculture to visit and assess the extent of impact in the affected areas and come up with a proposal on ways of tackling the disaster; and
- (v) That the Senate do urge NEMA to employ the application of early warning systems in predicting drought in the country (*S. Res/028/07*).

8. Committee on Establishment and Public Service:

Report on the Screening of the Chairman and Members of Federal Civil Service Commission(FCSC):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Screening of the following persons as Chairman and Members of Federal Civil Service Commission(FCSC):

S/N	Name	Designation	State of Origin	Cluster of State Represented
1	Amb. Ahmed Al-Gazali, OON, mni	Chairman	Borno	
2	Mrs. Sarah P. Chundung Dokotri	Member	Plateau	Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau
3	Obong Uwah	Member	Akwa Ibom	Akwa Ibom and Cross River
4	Mr. Agbo G. Chukwuemeka	Member	Enugu	Anambra, Ebonyi and Enugu
5	Mr. Joseph Oluremi Akande	Member	Osun	Osun and Oyo
6	Amb. Z. M. Kazaure	Member	Jigawa	Kano and Jigawa
7	Dr. A. M. Yabani	Member	Yobe	Bauchi, Yobe and Borno
8	Alhaji Aliyu Wali	Member	Niger	Niger and FCT
9	Amb. I. Bindawa	Member	Katsina	Kaduna and Katsina
10	Chief (Mrs.) Ijeoma A. Umez-Eronimi	Member	Imo	Imo and Abia

11	Alhaji Y. A. Yabo	Member	Sokoto	Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara
12	Hajiya Lami Buba	Member	Gombe	Adamawa, Taraba and Gombe
13	Alhaji Yusuf Olowu	Member	Kwara	Kwara and Kogi
14	Dr. J. O. Egberike	Member	Bayelsa	Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa

(Senator Mohammed I. Ahmed).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. Committee on Education:

Report on Civic and Citizenship Education Bill 2007 (SB. 234):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do stand down the Report of the Committee on Education on the Civic and Citizenship Education Bill, 2007 (234) —(Senate Majority Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Consideration of the Report accordingly deferred to the next legislative day.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 6th November, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. (Senate Majority Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:05 p.m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate