



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 28th March, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:34 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. Closed Session:

Closed Session — 10:37 a.m.

Open Session — 12:18 p.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on the various attacks on the National Assembly, especially the Senate, for performing its constitutional duties. The Senate resolved to defend its integrity against the spread of outright falsehood, towards the Institution of the Senate, and the National Assembly in general. These attacks will not intimidate the Senate from carrying out its constitutional duties at all times.

3. The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 23rd March, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. Announcements:

(a) *Submission of Reports on the 2017 Appropriation Bill:*

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Mohammed D. Goje (*Gombe Central*) as follows:



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX
P. M. B 141, GARKI, ABUJA NIGERIA

28th March, 2017

*His Excellency,
The President of the Senate,
Sen. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, CON,
Senate Chamber.*

Your Excellency,

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairmen of Sub-Committees on Appropriations are hereby informed that the submission of their reports on the 2017 Appropriation Bill is rescheduled to close on Thursday, 30th March, 2017.

Please endeavour to respond appropriately.

(Signed)

Sen. Mohammed Danjuma Goje
Chairman

(b) 60th Birthday Luncheon/Books Presentation:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator George T. Sekibo (Rivers East) as follows:



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Sen. George Thompson Sekibo
Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior

March 28, 2017

Dear Distinguished Colleagues,

ANNOUNCEMENT

60th BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON/BOOKS PRESENTATION

Sequel to my earlier letter to you, I wish to once again invite you to my 60th Birthday Luncheon/Books Presentation and Thanksgiving Service taking place on April 1, 2017 and April 2, 2017 respectively in Rivers State.

I request that all those who are interested in attending should please leave their details with the Chamber Staff at the entrance of the Chamber for protocol and logistics.

While expecting you to join me at these events, please have the assurances of my sincere regards.

(Signed)

Senator George Thompson Sekibo, JP, CON
AFP, FNIM, F.Inst, GLT, FABS, FCE, FITEA, FNIOB, FICA
Rivers East Senatorial District.

(c) Notification of Globe Nigeria Meeting:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim (Yobe East) as follows:



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Sen. Bukar Abba Ibrahim

March 28, 2017

Dear Distinguished Colleagues,

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTIFICATION OF GLOBE NIGERIA MEETING

Dear GLOBE Nigeria members.

This is to inform you that there will be a general meeting scheduled to hold today, Tuesday, 28th March, 2017 at Senate Meeting Room 107, National Assembly Complex, Abuja by 2pm prompt.

Members are encouraged to attend.

(Signed)

Senator (Dr.) Bukar Abba Ibrahim, CON
GLOBE Nigeria President

(d) Acknowledgment:

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

(i) Staff and Students of Gloryland Baptist Academy, Garki, Abuja;

(ii) Staff and Students of Abigail School, Asokoro, Abuja; and

(iii) Staff and Students of Solid Foundation, Academy, Akwanga, Nasarawa State.

5. Petition:

Rising on Rule 41, Senator Donald O. Alasoadura (*Ondo Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituents, Mr. Emmanuel O.Ojo and three (3) others, against the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for non payment of their entitlements, after unlawful termination of their appointment since 1997. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

6. Privileges:

Rising on Rules 14 and 15, Senator Barau I. Jibrin (*Kano North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Daily Trust Publication of Tuesday, 28th March, 2017 on an alleged impounding of thirteen (13) smuggled Hilux vans and a Land Cruiser Jeep in his house in Kano. He informed the Senate that the publication is malicious, untrue and damaging, aimed at destroying his image which impugned on his privilege as a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Newspaper Publication laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions to report within two (2) weeks.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Emmanuel I. Paulker (*Bayelsa Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the untold hardship of pensioners occasioned by Federal Government failure to contribute its statutory share of 5% to the Pension Redemption Fund. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes with serious concern the untold hardship of our retired senior citizens occasioned by nonpayment of their pension arrears since 2015;

notes that section 39 (1) and (2) of the Pension Reform Act No. 4 2014 provides interalia:

(1) The Central Bank of Nigeria shall establish, invest and manage Fund to be known as the Federal Government Retirement Benefit Bond Redemption Fund (in this Act referred to as the Redemption Fund) (2) The Federal Government shall pay into the Redemption Fund an amount not less than 5% of the total monthly wage bill payable to employees in the public service;

aware that Section 40 of the same Act states that Government obligation to the Federal Government Retirement Benefits Fund shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund of the Federation:

concerned that pensioners under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) who retired since 2015 have not been paid their pensions due to the failure of the Federal Government to contribute its statutory share of 5% to the Pension Redemption Fund in line with the Pension Reform Act, 2004 amounting to a total sum of ₦285,946,669,881.00 (Two hundred and Eighty Five Billion, Nine Hundred and Forty-Six million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty-One Naira) only:

aware that 50 Billion Naira was appropriated for in 2016 to upset part of the Pension arrears but only a paltry sum of 18 billion Naira was released;

concerned also that pensioners under the Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS) which include the Police Pensions, the Nigerian Customs Service, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigerian Prisons Service, Civil Service and other parastatals are yet to be paid their 33% accrued arrears amounting to about ₦174 billion;

worried that the delay in payment of pension arrears has put pensioners across the country in a very precarious situation where they wallow in penury, sickness, hopelessness and regret for serving their fatherland diligently only to be abandoned by the government upon retirement;

also worried that if urgent steps are not taken to pay the outstanding arrears within the current fiscal year, the much applauded Contributory Pension Scheme may collapse, leading to unimaginable consequences for the pensioners and the country as a whole; and

convinced that if the Federal Government could release bailout funds to pay outstanding workers salaries in the States, similar gesture should also be employed for the payment of pension arrears, which is the direct primary responsibility of the Federal Government.

Accordingly resolves to:

urge the President of the Senate to liaise with Mr. Speaker, House of Representatives to intervene in the current pension scheme financial challenges by providing a bailout fund to redeem all Federal Government pension indebtedness.

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do urge the President of the Senate to liaise with Mr. Speaker, House of Representatives to intervene in the current pension scheme financial challenges by providing a bailout fund to redeem all Federal Government pension indebtedness — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to release the 2016 Appropriation fund of pensioners and subsequent appropriation relating to payment of pensioners” (*Senator Adamu M. Aliero — Kebbi Central*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the President of the Senate to liaise with Mr. Speaker, House of Representatives to intervene in the current pension scheme financial challenges by providing a bailout fund to redeem all Federal Government pension indebtedness;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to release the 2016 Appropriation fund of pensioners and subsequent appropriation relating to payment of pensioners (*S. Res/117/02/17*).

8. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) National Orientation Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 333) — *Read the First Time*.
- (ii) Medical and Dental Practitioners Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 266) — *Read the First Time*.
- (iii) Nigerian Reinsurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 439) — *Read the First Time*.
- (iv) Mandatory Haemoglobin-Genotype Test Bill, 2017 (SB. 414) — *Read the First Time*.

9. Report of Parliamentary visit of the President of the Senate:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Parliamentary visit of the President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki to Berlin, Germany from 8th - 10th March, 2017 (*Senator Monsurat J. A. Sunmonu — Oyo Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

10. Report of Parliamentary visit of the President of the Senate:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Parliamentary visit of the President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki to Rabat and Dakhla, Morocco from 16th - 18th March, 2017 (*Senator Abdullahi Adamu — Nasarawa West*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

11. Committee on Trade and Investment:

Report on the Consumer Protection Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 257):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on the Consumer Protection Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2017 (*Senator Yusuf A. Yusuf — Taraba Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

12. Executive Communication:

Confirmation of Nomination:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, on the Confirmation of Nomination of the following persons for appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioners for the Independent National Electoral Commission:

S/N	Nominee	State of origin	Remarks
1.	Professor Godswill Obioma	Abia	New Appointment
2.	Ibrahim Abdullahi, mni	Adamawa	New Appointment
3.	Alhaji Ahmad Makama	Bauchi	Reappointment
4.	James Iorliam Apam	Benue	New Appointment
5.	Barr. Mike A. Igini	Delta	Reappointment
6.	Dr. Nkwachukwu Orji	Ebonyi	New Appointment
7.	Dr. Iloh Joseph Valentine Chuks	Enugu	New Appointment
8.	Hussaini Halilu Pai	FCT	Reappointment
9.	Sadiq Abubakar Musa	Kaduna	Reappointment
10.	Jibrin Ibrahim Zarewa	Kano	Reappointment
11.	Dr. (Mrs.) Asmau Sani Maikudi	Katsina	New Appointment
12.	Dr. Mahmuda Isah	Kebbi	New Appointment
13.	Professor Samuel G. Egwu	Kogi	New Appointment
14.	Amb. (Dr.) Rufus O. Akeju	Lagos	Reappointment
15.	Professor Mustapha Zubairu	Niger	New Appointment
16.	Agboke Muriu Olaleke	Ogun	New Appointment
17.	Sam Olugbadebo Olumekun, mni	Ondo	Reappointment
18.	Abdulganiyu Olayinka Raji	Oyo	New Appointment
19.	Professor Riskuwa A. Shehu	Sokoto	New Appointment
20.	Barr. Kasim Gana Geidam	Yobe	Reappointment
21.	Ahmad Bello Mahmud	Zamfara	New Appointment
22.	Dr. Nentawe Goshwe Yilwatda	Plateau	New Appointment
23.	Umar Ibrahim	Taraba	New Appointment
24.	Mr. Emeka Ononamadu Joseph	Imo	New Appointment
25.	Obo. O. Effanga	Cross River	New Appointment
26.	Prof. Francis Chukwuemeka Ezeonu	Anambra	New Appointment
27.	Dr. Briyai O. Frankland	Bayelsa	New Appointment

(Deputy Senate Leader).

Debate:

Further consideration of Request deferred to Tuesday, 11th April, 2017.

13. Conference Committee:

Report on the Nigerian Air Force Institute of Technology Bill, 2017 (SB. 180):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:

Reports of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- a. Petition from Oluchukwu Ulasi, Esq. and Associate on behalf of the family of Late Arerebo Dressman against the Port-Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company (PHEDC) for alleged brutal killing of Arerebo Dressman by Officials of the Company;
- b. Petition from Cpl. Maxwell Bibakedom (rtd) against the Nigerian Army over his non-inclusion in the Payroll of the Directorate of the Military Pensions Board after retirement; and
- c. Petition by Lawright Associates against the Department of Parks and Recreation, Federal Capital Territory Administration.

Consideration of Reports deferred to another Legislative Day.

15. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:***Reports of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:***

- a. Petition from Chinedu Obi Esq. on behalf of Tony Onuora against the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) over Tony Onuorah's Missing Container at Tin-Can Island;
- b. Petition from Owoeye Bosede Funmilola against the West African Examination Council (WAEC) for Alleged non-issuance of her Senior School Examination Certificate; and
- c. Petition from Usman Umar against the Nigerian Army for alleged Wrongful Dismissal from the Army.

Consideration of Reports deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:***Reports of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:***

- a. Petition from Mr. Anthony Joe Ikperme against First Bank of Nigeria Plc. for unlawful Termination of his Appointment by the Bank;
- b. Petition from Association of Federal Government Doctorate Degree Students in Russia against the Federal Ministry of Education/Federal Scholarship Board for delay and non-payment of their Stipends;
- c. Petition from Mr. Ndubuisi Nwosu against First Bank of Nigeria Plc. for alleged unlawful Termination of his Appointment by the Bank; and
- d. Petition from PC Vembe Abraham against the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) for alleged wrongful dismissal from the Service.

Consideration of Reports deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 29th March, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:54 p.m.

Abubakar Olubukola Saraki, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.