

**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Wednesday, 20th April, 2016

The Senate met at 10: 55 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy President: Distinguished Colleagues, we have before us the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 19th April, 2016 for approval. We will start consideration from page 661 to 668.

Senator Sunny Ogbuoji (Ebonyi South): Mr. President, I move that the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 19th April, 2016 be approved

Senator Kabir Garba Marafa (Zamfara Central): Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 19th April, 2016 be approved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 19th April, 2016 be approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy President: Distinguished Colleagues, I have the following announcements:

National Assembly North-East Caucus Meeting

All the distinguished Senators from the North East are invited for a meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Date: Wednesday, 20th, 2016

Time: t 3.00p.m.

Venue: Speakers' Conference Room.

Thank you.

Signed
Senator Peter Nwaboshi

*The Senate President,
National Assembly,
Abuja.*

Your Excellency,

Funeral Announcement and Special Invitation

To the glory of Almighty God, we announce the glorious exit of our Patriarch, Obi Francis Agotuenye Nwaboshi of Isieke, Umuekea Quarters, Ibusa, Oshimili North Local Government Area of Delta State on Saturday, 16th April, 2016 at the age of 87 years.

Our late father was a respected Community Leader and Mobilizer who worked assiduously for the development of his community and the nation in general. He also dedicated his life to the services of God and humanity.

This letter is also to serve as a formal invitation to Your Excellency and distinguished Colleagues to the funeral ceremony, which is slated for Saturday, 30th April, 2016 at the family compound, Isieke High Street, Ibusa, Oshimili North Local Government Area of Delta State.

While wishing you all safe journey to the event as scheduled, please, accept the assurances of our esteem regards.

Yours sincerely,

Signed
Senator Peter Nwaboshi
Chairman, Senate Committee on Niger Delta

Birthday Wishes

The Deputy President: This is to announce the birthday of one of our Colleagues, Senator Abdullahi Gummel, who was born on 20th April. We wish you many more years and congratulations to you. He is still a young man.

Visitors in the Gallery

I wish to acknowledge the presence of visitors in the Gallery who are here to observe the Senate proceedings:

- (1) Staff and students of Sky Peak International School, Dutse, Abuja.

- (2) Members of the Faculty of Business Administration Students Association, Imo State University, Owerri.

- (3) Members of the Political Science Department, Federal University of Kashere, Gombe State.

Visitors stood for recognition.

On behalf of the Senate, I will like to welcome all of you. You can sit down and watch our proceedings.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Request to go into Closed Session

Senator Hope Uzodinma (Imo West): Point of Order!

The Deputy President: What Order, Senator Uzodinma?

Senator Hope Uzodinma: Thank you Mr. President. I want to come on Order 43- Personal Explanation and if you permit me, I will read.

The Deputy President: Go ahead.

Senator Hope Uzodinma: Thank you Mr. President:

By the indulgence of the Senate and the leave of the President of the Senate, a Senator may make a Personal Explanation although there be no question before the Senate; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the Explanation. The terms of the proposed statement shall be submitted in detail to the President of the Senate when his leave to make it is sought.

Mr. President, I have gotten a lot of phone calls from my constituents on some of the issues that have been perceived wrongly by the public in this Senate. I believe strongly that as statesmen and leaders in this country today, we represent the political class and we cannot shy away from things that must be discussed by leaders.

I will therefore want to ask and crave your indulgence, having seen the Order Paper today on the Report of the Committee on Ethics, to go into Closed Session to discuss some of the issues that have been happening in this Senate so that we can proffer solutions to all these problems once and for all.

The Deputy President: All right, distinguished Colleagues, if you do not have any objection to this, we will go quickly into the Closed Session. This is democracy in action so that we can return quickly into the Plenary.

Sitting Suspended: 11:07 a.m.

Sitting Resumed: 1:39 p.m.

The Deputy President: Distinguished Colleagues, the Senate in a Closed Session discussed a number of issues affecting the smooth working of the Senate, and I am happy to announce to our Colleagues and to the entire nation that after exhaustive deliberations and being sincere to ourselves, we decided to put behind us all things that have divided us since the inception of the 8th Senate and work as a united Senate in the best interest of our country.

- We also agreed in the Closed Session to suspend the discussion of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges' Report on Senator Kabir Garba Marafa.
- We agreed to suspend further deliberations on the amendment of the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunals Act and Criminal Administration of Justice Act, and the amendment thereto.
- We agreed that this Senate should stand by the Senate President in his trial until proven guilty by the court in accordance with our Constitution and democratic practices all over the world including South Africa, Brazil and Russia.
- We also agreed to set up and we have set up a Committee, two from each geo-political zone, to address all the remaining issues; and as part of the reconciliation, those in court should consider withdrawing the cases.

Further to the agreement to set up the Committees, the geo-political zones have sent names of their representatives as follows:

1. Sen. Godswill Obot Akpabio, South-South
2. Sen. James Ebiowou Manager, South-South
3. Senator Sani Yerima, North-West
4. Sen. Sulaiman O. Hunkuyi, North-West
5. Sen. Bukar Abba Ibrahim, North-East
6. Sen. Joshua Lidani, North-East
7. Sen. Samuel Ominyi Egwu, South-East
8. Sen. Goodhope O. Uzodinma, South-East

9. Sen. Barnabas A. I. Gemade, North-Central
10. Sen. Abdullahi Adamu, North-Central
11. Sen. Monsurat J. A. Sunmonu, South-West
12. Sen. Bareehu O. Ashafa, South-West

Is this a true reflection of what transpired in the Closed Session?

Several Distinguished Senators: Yes!

Admission of Service Chiefs into the Senate Chamber

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah (Kebbi South): Mr. President, there is the need for us to move a Motion to suspend our Rules to enable us sit beyond 2:00 p.m. and for the purpose of inviting the Service Chiefs into the Chamber as agreed.

Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio (Akwa-Ibom North West): Mr. President, I second the Motion moved by the leader.

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: In view of the fact that the sitting after 2.00 p.m. will be to admit the Service Chiefs, I equally move that all the other items on the Order Paper today be stood down till the next legislative day.

Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio: Mr. President, I second the Motion moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

With the leave of the Senate, all other items on the Order Paper stood down to another Legislative Day and the Rules of the Senate is suspended to allow the Service Chiefs into the Senate Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

And it being 3:51 p.m. the Deputy President adjourned the Senate without question put pursuant to Rule 13(8) of the Senate Standing Rules till Thursday, 21st April, 2016.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 3.51 p.m.