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**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

5th February, 2016

Tuesday, 16th February, 2016

The Senate met at 11.03 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, we have before us for approval the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th January, 2016. We will start consideration from page 473 to 482.

Senator Ibrahim Abdullahi Gobir (Sokoto East): Mr. President, I move that the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th January, 2016 be approved.

Senator Gilbert Emeka Nnaji (Enugu East): Mr. President, I rise to second that the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th January, 2016 be approved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: The Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th January, 2016 be approved.

CLOSED SESSION

2016 Appropriation Bill

Sitting suspended: 11.07 a.m.

Sitting resumed: 11.55 a.m.

The President: Distinguished Senators, the Senate in the Closed Door Session discussed the meeting to the 2016 Appropriation Bill and other matters concerning the smooth function of Senate.

MESSAGE FROM MR. PRESIDENT

There are two letters from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces of the Federation and they read as follows:

Distinguished Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki,
Senate President,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

VACATION

In compliance with Section 145(1) I wish to inform the Distinguished Senate that I will be away on a short vacation from the 5th – 10th of February, 2016 and while I am away the Vice President would perform the functions of my office.

(2) Please accept, as always, assurances of my highest esteemed consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

11th February, 2016

Distinguished Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki
Senate President,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

RESUMPTION OF OFFICE

In compliance with Section 145 of the 1999 Constitution (as Amended), I write to intimate the Senate that I have resumed my functions as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with effect from Thursday, 11th February, 2016 after my short vacation.

Please accept, as always assurances of my esteemed consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors in the Gallery

I wish to acknowledge the presence of Members of the National Association of Delta State Students, University of Abuja, Gwagwalada, Abuja; Staff and Students of St. Louis Secondary School, Bompai, Kano, Kano State; Staff and Students of Topical International Academy, Bida, Niger State and Staff and Students of Supreme Kings and Queens Academy Keffi, Nasarawa State, who are all in our Gallery to observe Senate Proceedings?

I wish them fruitful observation of the Senate Proceedings.

PRIVILEGES

Newspaper Interview granted by Senator Kabiru Marafa

Senator Isa Hamma Misau (Bauchi Central): Mr. President, I am standing on Order 14 and 15. Sir, with your permission, can I read it.

The President: Go ahead and read it.

Senator Isa Hamma Misau: Order 14 reads:

- (a) *Privileges are the rights enjoyed by the Senate collectively and by the members of the Senate individually conferred by the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act Cap 208 Laws of the Federation 1990 and other statutes, or by practice, precedent usage and custom.*
- (b) *Whenever a matter of privilege arises, it shall be taken up immediately.*
- (c) *In cases where adequate provision is not made in this Standing Order, the Senate shall by resolution regulate its procedure.*

Order 15 says:

Any Senator may rise at any time to speak upon a matter of Privilege suddenly arising and he shall be prepared to move, without Notice, a motion declaring that a contempt or breach of privilege has been committed.

I am holding a Punch Newspapers dated 7th February, 2016 in respect of one of our Colleagues Senator Kabiru Marafa who granted an interview. All Nigerians are aware the problems we are facing with the Budget and the difficulties in reconciling some of the challenges we found in the Budget. But it is unfortunate that one of our Colleagues, Senator Kabiru Marafa granted an interview, misleading the public by telling lies against this Senate.

I have been called more than five hundred times from my Constituency in respect of this publication and I am a kind of person who struggled very hard to be here in this Senate. I started this journey from 2010 which I contested for the Senate under ACN in 2011 and I know how much I suffered. God in his infinite mercy granted me this privilege in 2015. I would not allow somebody who has enjoyed the 7th Senate to disrupt our work from being done properly here.

The Senate should do something about this. We cannot allow one person to continue to tell lies against the Senate thereby misleading the public; it is not fair. It is better we take a decision to correct this anomaly. Not only Senator Marafa, we would not allow any Senator here to mislead the public because it is not right.

Can I lay the Newspaper on the Table?

(Punch Newspaper publication laid on the Table.)

Senator Matthew A. Urhoghide (Edo South): Mr. President, I want to lend my voice to the submission that was made by Senator Misau with respect to the publication in the Punch Newspaper of the interview that was granted by Senator Kabiru Marafa. With every vehement and element of responsibility, that publication as contained in the Punch Newspapers smeared the integrity of this Senate and has totally put my reputation and of course, the reputations of other distinguished Senators here to disrepute.

When I got calls from a very large number of my Constituency with respect to that publication, I felt diminished by that interview and of course, the Leadership of this Senate that I have so much reverence for to have been brought to total disrepute. Senator Misau just mentioned that it took him eleven years to get to the Senate; I want to say that it took me 23 years to come to this Senate *(Laughter)*.

It is common knowledge to the people in my Constituency that the first time I contested Senatorial election was in 1992 under the Platform of the SDP and today, I am in the Senate of the Platform of PDP after 23 years. For one other Senator to think and act in a manner that will reduce my person and this Institution is totally unacceptable.

Therefore, we need to take a drastic decision that will serve as a deterrent to other Senators that would want to position or pose like Senator Kabiru Marafa to bring this Distinguished and revered Senate to disrepute. If anybody has bothered to read that interview, you will know that it is an issue that we may not treat with kid gloves. It is an issue that we must look at very dispassionately. This is not the time to raise unnecessary passions. We are all distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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All the issues raised by Senator Kabiru Marafa were not only all tissues of lies, they were things that were unfounded, things that have no basis, things that have not happened in this hallowed Chambers. Therefore, if anyone is at liberty to inform the public, if anyone is there to misguide the public, if anyone is there playing to the gallery, it should not be at the expense of distinguished Senators and this distinguished hallowed Chambers.

I want to crave the indulgence of this Senate that we must look at it and I hereby rise to second the Motion that have been moved and of course the publication that have been laid by distinguished Senator Misau that we must do the needful at this time because a stitch in time saves life.

The President: Distinguished Colleagues, this is a straight forward matter, in accordance to the Standing Order 15, this matter should be referred to the Senate Committee on Ethics and Privileges to report within a week, Tuesday, 23rd February, 2016.

Distinguished Colleagues, you remembered we took a decision last time that we have a backlog of petitions and the decision we took was that we must clear this backlog before we continue to consider new ones.

MOTION

Matter of Urgent Public Importance

Senator Suleiman Mohammed Nazif (Bauchi North): Mr. President, my point of Order is on the matter of urgent public importance, Order 42 (1) (2) and (3) and Order 52.

- (1) *The matter for discussion shall, if possible, be referred to the President of the Senate before commencement of the day's sitting and the President of the Senate shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite and urgent.*
- (2) *If the claim is allowed by the President of the Senate, and the Leave of the senate is given, by at least one-fifth of all the Senators, the matter shall stand over till the next legislative day.*
- (3) *Not more than one such motion may be made at the same sitting.*

Order 52 reads:

- (1) *Notice shall not be dispensed with in the case of a motion or in respect of any other proceeding for which notice is required except with the consent of the President of the Senate and the general assent of the Senators present.*

My Motion this morning is on the urgent need to stop the increase in electricity tariff by Power Ministry and Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and Distribution Companies (DISCOs).

The President: Distinguished Colleagues, the Chairman Senate Committee on labour, Senator Suleiman Mohammed Nazif, according to our Rules met with me that he wanted to bring this matter under Order 42 and 52 which is within my concern, but according to our Rules, we must also get the general consent of our Senators. I will put the question whether to allow him to read the Motion or not.

Question put and agreed to.

Senator Suleiman Mohammed Nazif: Mr. President, a Motion this afternoon is the urgent need to stop the increase in electricity tariff by Power Ministry, Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and the Distribution Companies (DISCOs), and the Senate:

Notes, that the due process in the extant laws for such increment was followed in consonance with Section 76 of the Power Sector Reform Act, 2005;

Observes, that increase will have a multiplier effect on the Nigerian economy, with manufacturing companies having to pay more for power;

Notes, that most consumers are not metered in accordance with the signed privatisation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of 1st November, 2013 which stipulates that within 18 months gestation period, all consumers are to be metered;

Observes, that the Distribution Companies (DISCOs) have continued to exploit Nigerians by estimated billing system for the majority of consumers, while deliberately refusing to make up pre-paid meters available;

Also Notes, that privatisation in any part of the world is meant to inject fresh funds into the concerned sector, and not to impose ridiculous tariff on helpless masses of Nigeria;

Observes, that the increase is only intended to protect the investment of select few and not to serve the interest of Nigerian masses that are already battling with the prevailing economic recession;

Worried, that the increase in tariff will pave way for additional heavy burden on consumers and coupled with challenges in the economy, it will adversely affect the purchasing power of Nigerian workers and the entire Nigerian masses and by extension, aggravate restiveness in the country.

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Accordingly Resolves to:

- (i) Direct the Committee on Labour to carefully review the laws establishing NERC, with the principal aim of establishing a strong regulatory body that will ensure proper and pocket friendly billing system in such a way that the consumers and investors will be treated fairly and equitably; and
- (ii) Urge that the Senate to mandate the Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity to call on for a public hearing of stakeholders, Ministry of Power, Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), DISCOs, Labour with the aim of re-examining the matter and be able to arrive at the logical conclusion, such that Nigerian workers and the entire Nigerian masses are not short-changed.

We are all aware and I must commend the efforts of the Labour Union, the Trade Union Congress for reiterating the views and the general feelings of Nigerians. I must salute the courage, resilience and dexterity in the way labour fought this genuine complains of theirs while addressing the Senate the last time they came to the National Assembly in protecting the rights of the ordinary Nigerian.

It is true we need improved power supply but not at the detriment of Nigerians. It is important for us at this time to understand that in making our laws and policies and in taking any decision, we must realise the fact that Nigerian feelings is important. Therefore, whatever decision we make or take, we must bear in mind the feelings of Nigeria and Nigerians.

Privatisation is a plus, it is one thing that should have brought succour and relief to Nigerians, but as it is today, it is like one step forward and two steps backward. We cannot differentiate today between NEPA, PHCN and DISCOs, because at the end of the day, the whole thing is just changing of names but it means the same business, paying for what you do not have, paying for the light that you do not use. We pay moneys and we do not see the light.

This Senate must create an enabling environment for all sectors and group of people and ensure at the end of the day that this Senate muster enough political will to ensure that DISCOs owners comply with privatisation guidelines and NERC must adhere strictly to Electricity Power sector Reforms. Otherwise, we amend the Sections or we sanction all defaulters bearing in mind the need for Nigeria to become a safe haven for legitimate private sector investment.

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Senator Bassey Albert Akpan (Akwa-Ibom North East): Mr. President, I rise to second this Motion moved by Distinguished Senator Suleiman Mohammed Nazif.

I wish to state that it is rather unfortunate that we are running into crisis after the so-called privatisation. When the issue of MANITOBA was brought to the Floor of this Chambers, I said very clearly that we run into these crises and have most of these issues after dismantling PHCN because most of the so-called beneficiaries of the privatised DISCOs lack capacity.

I was at home in the cause of our break about two weeks ago, even in my house which I have not been in the last four weeks, they brought a bill of ₦100,000 for me to pay and I was alarmed. We are being confronted by lack of electricity and as we speak today, the cost of bread has even increased by almost 30 *per cent*, the cost of *Agege* Bread is now over ₦20 and this is as a result of the exchange rate of the Naira.

As we speak today, the exchange rate is ₦345 per Dollar. How can you as an Agency of Government not follow the rules and laws setting you up, to impoverish Nigerians?

I must also add my voice to commend the Labour Congress for fighting hard because the ordinary Nigerians are the ones bearing the sufferings and this Senate must take a stand because we represent the collective interest of Nigerians. This cannot be and it is not possible.

I agree with the mover of this Motion that this cannot be and as a Senate, we must take a stand to defend the interest of all Nigerians because this is exactly why we were voted, to represent their interests.

I so support and I urge my Colleagues to support this Motion.

Senator Dino Melaye (Kogi West): Mr. President, this is one other time in the history of the 8th Senate that the people must realise that we are here for the *talakawas*, the *mekunus* and the *have nots*.

I want to bring to the attention of the Senate that this increase in the tariff of electricity makes it the fourth time that electricity tariff will be increased after the privatisation of power. On these four occasions, the story has always been that they want to go into bulk metering and improve electricity. This has continuously been the reason and there has been increase in the tariff four different times but there is no stable electricity and the metering is still a problem.

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I also want to bring to the notice of this respected Chambers that at a time, the Federal Government even gave soft loan to the GENCOs and DISCOs for them to purchase meters and then distribute. As I speak to you, they are yet to pay back that loan and metering is still a major problem, yet the negative concomitant effect is that there is a resultant increase.

By the time we get to the prayers, I would want to say that this is even the most important aspect of the prayer that we need to include. We as a Senate must ask for the immediate reversal of the 40 *per cent* increase in the tariff because there is an agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding that whenever there will be increase, there must be negotiations with stakeholders. There was neither negotiation with the Nigerian Labour nor the National Assembly, this increase arbitrarily done.

Finally, I want to also ask that if we are going to carry out any public hearing or investigation, the Committees on Power and Bureau for Public Enterprise should be carried along and this decision will help the general public. But I ask for the immediate reversal of this outrageous 40 *per cent* increase in the tariff of electricity.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu West): Mr. President, I join the rest in condemning this increase in the tariff and I speak as one representing a Senatorial district, I believe that I speak the minds of the rest of my Colleagues. When I said that all those we are representing are worried about this increase in tariff, unfortunately, our brothers and sisters who had the privilege and opportunity of taking over these DISCOs failed to inject any money into it, now we are being forced to pay the price.

As a country and as a people, we are now in life support; there are lots of problems and for any person to further draw more blood from our lives means the person wants us dead. For me, this tariff increase is ultra-wicked; it is unquestionable as the heart of insensitivity. We must be able to come today as a Senate, not only to condemn it, but to be able to make this Agency to withdraw it immediately. That is what Nigerians expect of us. The issue of looking at the laws setting up NERC, for me, is secondary and that is exactly what the Committee is set up to do. They can do that anytime but what is important for us today is for us to ensure that this increase is reversed in the best interest of our people.

There are so many problems in the system; there is insecurity, there is poverty and unemployment. Any further additional pressure on the people means that we do not want them to be alive. I just want to plead with this Senate that we must rise today not only to condemn this, but to reverse it immediately and call on the Agency responsible to ensure that they go back to the old tariff until proper consultations are made and they have to put measures in place to be able to cushion the effect of an increase.

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Yes, I support everything that will make sure that we have electricity in our homes and industries but not at the expense of the lives of the ordinary people of Nigeria. We must be able to take them into cognition to be sure that their welfare is protected, their security, their lives and even their welfare is considered in whatever decision we take. That is why we are here, that is why they elected us and I believe that this Senate will rest from this sitting today proud of our heritage, proud of what we do and proud of ourselves if all of us agree with this Motion, more importantly, to suspend this tariff so that Nigerians will be able to believe that we are here for their own interest.

The President: Distinguished Colleagues, I think this Motion is straightforward unless there is anyone against it. So, do we go to prayers?

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

Prayers proposed:

- (1) *Direct the Committee on Labour to carefully review the law establishing NERC with the principal aim of establishing a strong regulatory Body that will ensure proper and pocket friendly billing system in such a way that the consumers and industrials will be tread fairly and equitably –*

Question put and negatived.

- (2) *Urge that the Senate mandate the Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity, to call on public hearing of stakeholders, Ministry of Power, Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), DISCOs, Labour with the aim of re-examining the matter and be able to arrive at logical conclusion, such that Nigeria workers and the entire Nigeria masses are not short-changed –*

Amendment proposed.

Senator Philip Aduda Tanimu (F.C.T):

The President: Yes, Senator Aduda.

Senator Philip Aduda Tanimu: Mr. President, I have an amendment. I do not know why we should *urge that the Senate mandate*; it should be the Committee on Power and Committee on Labour and Productivity, we should ask them to do their job. That is what I think.

The President: What is the amendment then?

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Senator Philip Aduda Tanimu: The amendment is, direct the Committee on Power and Steel Development and the Committee on Employment Labour and Productivity to call a Public Hearing. Let us include the Committee on Power.

The President: All right, let me read the amendment. *Direct the Committee on Employment, Labour, Productivity and Power to call on Public Hearing of Stakeholders, Ministry of Power, NERC, DISCOs, Labour with the aim of re-examine the matter and able to strive at logical conclusion such that Nigeria workers and entire Nigerians are not short-charged.*

Is there any seconder?

Senator Jibrin Barau (Kano North): Mr. President, I second the amendment made by Senator Philip Aduda.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The President: Is there any additional prayers.

Senator Olujimi Biodun (Ekiti South): Mr. President, the additional prayer is *to direct that National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to suspend forthwith the implementation of the 40 per cent increase in tariff.*

Senator Ekweremadu Ike (Enugu West): Mr. President, in seconding it, I will like us to include the Ministry of Power and DISCOs because if you look at the commencement of the Motion, we were talking about the Ministry of Power and the Regulatory Agency and DISCOs. In supporting what she said, I will like to add that we *urge the Ministry of Power, Nigeria Electricity Commission and Distribution Companies to suspend the increase and revert to the original tariff.*

Amendment put and agreed to:

Resolved: That the Senate do:

- (i) Direct the Committee on Employment, Labour, Productivity and Power to call on Public Hearing of Stakeholders, Ministry of Power, NERC, DISCOs, Labour with the aim of re-examine the matter and able to strive at logical conclusion such that Nigeria workers and entire Nigerians are not short-charged; and
- (ii) Urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing; Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC); and the Distribution Companies (DISCOs) to suspend the increase and revert to the original tariff forthwith

The President: I want to thank Senator Nazif Suleiman Mohammed for bringing this Motion and the views of the Senate reflected by everybody is that, in as much as we all do want improvement of power; it must not be on the expense of our people. We must ensure that proper due process is taking and the welfare of the people is our concern. The concern of not being enough consultation, that needs to be improved on. Largely, the fact that those that bought those Companies are not capitalised and do not have enough funds should not be at the expense of our people. When we have a Public Hearing, all this matters should be addressed.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume (Borno South): The first Business of the Day is the presentation of five Bills. You may wish to invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the short title of the Bills.

Public Officers Protection Act Cap P41 LFN 2004(Amendment)Bill, 2016

Public Officers Protection Act CAP P41 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 156) – presented by Senator Peter Nwaboshi (Delta North); *read the First Time.*

FCT Civil Service Commission (Est. etc.) Bill, 2016

FCT Civil Service Commission (Est. etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 177) – presented by Senator Phillip Aduda (Federal Capital Territory); *read the First Time.*

National Assembly Budget and Research Office (Est. etc.) Bill, 2016

National Assembly Budget and Research Office (Est. etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 222) – presented by Senator Babajide Omoworare (Osun East); *read the First Time.*

Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2011 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016

Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2011 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 223) – presented by Senator Ali Ndume (Borno South); *read the First Time.*

Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill, 2016

Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill, 2016 (SB. 224) – presented by Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume (Borno South); *read the First Time.*

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Public Accounts

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, the sixth Business of the Day is the presentation of the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the Annual Report of Auditor-General of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December, 2008.

You may wish to invite Senator Andy Uba, Chairman of the Committee to present the Report.

Senator Andy Emmanuel Uba (Anambra South): Mr. President, I move that the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the Annual Report of the Auditor-General of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ending 31st December, 2008.

Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke (Osun west): I second the Motion moved by Senator Andy Uba.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

Report on the Petition against the Nigeria Police Force

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, the seventh Business of the Day is the presentation of the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petition on the petition of Mr. P.C Bartholomew Joseph against the Nigeria Police Force for alleged wrongful dismissal from the Force.

You may wish to invite Senator Samuel Anyanwu, Chairman of the Committee to move the Motion for the Senate to receive the Report.

Senator Samuel Nnaemeka Anyanwu (Imo East): I crave the indulgence of Mr. President and the Senate to move that the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of the petition of Mr. P.C Bartholomew Joseph against the Nigeria Police Force for alleged wrongful dismissal from the Force, I so move.

Senator Abdul-Aziz Murtala Nyako (Adamawa Central): Mr. President, I second the Motion ably moved by Senator Samuel Anyanwu.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

Interim Report on the 2016 Appropriation Bill

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, the next Business of the Day is the presentation of Report on the 2016 Appropriation Bill.

You may wish to invite Senator Danjuma Goje the Chairman of the Committee to move for the Senate to receive the report.

Senator Mohammed Danjuma Goje (Gombe Central): Mr. President, in view of the decision we took at the Closed Session earlier, I would like to stand down the submission of this Report. I will give my Report as the Senate directs but for now, in view of what we discussed earlier this morning, it has to be stood down.

The President: Chairman Appropriation, I thought that you are giving us an interim report.

Senator Mohammed Danjuma Goje: If I understand Mr. President well, he wants me to give a verbal interim report and that is what I will do.

Mr. President, you will recall that this Senate suspended Siting for two weeks in order to allow the various sub-committees to interact with the MDAs. The arrangement was that the submission of Reports of the sub-committees to the Appropriation Committees would have started last week Friday but for the well-known reasons that have visited Nigerians because of the difficulties encountered by the various Committees on padded and confusions around this Budget, in fact, virtually all the Committees could not finish their work according to the earlier schedule.

In view of this, there was no way to continue with the initial programme and we proposed that everything has to be shifted by, at least, one week. Therefore, the revised programme of the submission of reports will start from next week Tuesday; the Appropriation Committee will start receiving reports from the various sub-committees.

Hopefully, within one week from next week Tuesday or thereabout, we should conclude getting the Reports and then we will harmonise with our counterpart in the House of Representatives with a view to finally submitting a clean copy of the budget to this Senate after the completion of this exercise.

The President: Distinguished Colleagues, I think from the interim report given by the Chairman Appropriation on our earlier discussion addressing the problems and abnormalities received from different Committees and complaints as regards some errors here and there and the need for more work to be done, I think that the Friday deadline is not realistic. If we all agree, I would put the question that we extend one more week to allow the Committees to engage with the MDAs to correct areas that need correction to ensure that the document we are dealing with is as accurate as possible and truly represents the wish of the people. Hopefully, by next Tuesday, the Committees will start submitting their Reports to the Chairman of Appropriation.

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I will therefore put the Question on whether or not we accept the Report as presented by the Chairman of Appropriation and extend an extra week by which the Committee will do this work and, of course, by so doing, we will also have to again suspend Plenary for a week to ensure that this is done.

Question put and agreed to.

(By the leave of the Senate an extension of one (1) week was granted to the Committees on Appropriations to conclude thier Reports)

Distinguished Colleagues, as the Chairman Appropriation has said, we have given ourselves another week. Kindly ensure that all the engagements and discussions with all the MDAs are done within this period. I know that there are cases where some MDAs have not attended at the scheduled time; please, we have to ensure strictness in order to meet the target and cover all areas of discrepancies and maintained that a thorough job is done.

However, by next week, when we will resume Plenary, all the Reports would have been ready for submission to the Appropriation Committee; by then, we will harmonise all the reports from the different sub-committees.

Suspension of other Items on the Order Paper

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, in view of the fact that the Minorities have a caucus meeting that they called to recover from the electoral shock, I move that we suspend the other items on the Order Paper to allow them attend the caucus meeting.

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Senator Godswill Akpabio (Akwa Ibom North-West): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion moved by the leader with a slight amendment in the sense that the report from the Chairman of Appropriation clearly shows the need for us to have one extra week to meet with the MDAs and tidy up the budget and thereafter commence submissions on Tuesday. So, I want to second the Motion that this Senate do adjourn till Tuesday to enable us conclude the issue of the budget, it has nothing to do with what the Minorities or the Majorities are doing, I so second.

The President: The Motion is for us to suspend all other items on the Order Paper for today. *Question put and agreed to.*

(With the leave of the Senate, all other items on the Order Paper suspended till another Legislative Day)

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, having exhausted the items on the Order Paper, I move that this Senate do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 23rd February, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. prompt.

Senator Godswill Akpabio: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 23rd February, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 12.48 p.m.