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**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Thursday, 5th May, 2016

The Senate met at 11:02 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, we have before us the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 4th May, 2016. We will begin consideration from pages 703 to 707.

Senator Ibrahim Danbaba Abdullahi (Sokoto South): Mr. President, I move for the adoption of the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday 4th May, 2016.

Senator Ovie Omo-Agege (Delta Central): Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday 4th May, 2016 be approved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday 4th May, 2016 be approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President: Distinguished Senators, I have the following announcements:

His Excellency,
Dr. Olubukola Saraki, CON,
President of the Senate,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
Abuja.

Notice of Public Hearing

This is to invite your Excellency and all Distinguished Senators to the Public Hearing on a Bill for an Act to Establish the North East Development Commission as follows:

Date: Monday 9th - Tuesday 10th May, 2016.

Time: 10:00 a.m. prompt.

Venue: Senate Conference Hall, Room 231, New Building, National Assembly complex, Abuja.

Please accept the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Senator Abdul Aziz M. Nyako
Chairman

May 4th, 2016

Senator Dr. Bukola Saraki, CON
The Senate President,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

PDP Local Government/State Congresses

The Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) Local Government/State Congresses will commence on Tuesday, May 10th 2016. All PDP Senators are expected to attend in their various Local Governments/States.

Accordingly, I plead with His Excellency, the Senate President and our Colleagues to consider an adjournment for a few days to enable us (PDP Senators) attend to our Party obligations.

Your kind consideration will be highly appreciated.

Do accept the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Senator Godswill O. Akpabio, CON
Senate Minority Leader

Visitors at the Gallery

I wish to acknowledge the presence of the members of the National Association of Ebonyi Students, University of Abuja Chapter, Gwagwalada, Abuja.

I also acknowledge the staff and students of Word of Faith Group of Schools, Area 1, Garki, Abuja, who are in the Gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

(Students stood for recognition.)

I wish you a fruitful observation of the Senate Proceedings.

Please sit down.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITION

Wrongful Termination of Mr. Leonard Ezenoa's Appointment by NNPC

Senator Ovie Omo-Agege: Mr. President, I have a petition from one of my constituents, his name is Leonard Ezenoa, dated April 27, 2016. He is complaining of wrongful termination of appointment by NNPC.

I seek your indulgence to allow me to lay this Petition before the Senate.

(Petition laid on the Table and referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions to be brought back in two (2) weeks)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Senator Dino Melaye (Kogi West): Point of order!

The President: What is your Point of Order, Senator Dino Melaye?

Senator Dino Melaye: Mr. President, I am the spokesperson and Director of Media, Northern Senators Forum. This morning, I draw inspiration from Order 43, if I have the permission of Mr. President, I would want to read.

By the indulgence of the Senate and the leave of Mr. President of the Senate, a Senator may make a Personal Explanation although there may 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 details to the President of the Senate when his leave is sought to make it is sought.

The President: Senator Dino Melaye, as a ranking Member of the House of Representatives and Distinguished Senator, Order 43 makes reference that the leave of the President of the Senate would be sought. So I think if you see me after the session, then you can bring it at the next Legislative Day.

PRIVILEGE

Senator Dino Melaye: I have another Order - Matter of Privilege.

The President: No, you came in under Order 43, so let me rule on Order 43 that you are coming under. Order 43 says that the leave of the President of the Senate will have to be sought, so I have to rule you out of order please.

Suspension of Items on the Order Paper

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume (Borno South): Mr. President in view of the fact that the PDP members have to attend the PDP Local Government/State Congresses - as you can see they are not here - I move that we stand down the items on the Order Paper till another legislative date. I so move.

Senator Emanuel Bwacha (Taraba South): Mr. President as much as I second the Motion to stand down other items on the Order Paper, I think Senator Kaura who is the spokesperson of the Northern Senators Forum wanted to raise a Matter of National Importance, National Security.

The Northern Senators Forum met yesterday and took a position but there was a misrepresentation in one of the papers. We did not say that herdsmen who kill people should be allowed to move freely, that is not what we said. We said people should stop making controversial statements. Herdsmen that are known to be killing people should be of course, persecuted and the security people should go after them.

That was not our position, but there was misrepresentation that was why we thought the Publicity Secretary should make it clearer. That was not what we said; there is no how we will tolerate murderers to move around freely. No! That was not what we said.

So, I rise to second the Motion that other items be stood down, I so second.

Question put and agreed to.

(With the leave of the Senate, all the other items on the Order Paper stood down.)

PRIVILEGE

Senator Dino Melaye: Point of Order!

The President: What is your Point of Order, Senator Dino?

Senator Dino Melaye: Mr. President, I am raising order of Privilege, order 14:

Privileges are rights enjoyed by the Senate collectively and by any member of the Senate individually conferred by Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, CAP.208 laws of the Federation 1990 and other status or by practice, precedent usage and custom.

(b) Whenever matter of privileges arises it shall be taken up immediately.

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Mr. President, the Northern Senators Forum met yesterday and we had four-point resolutions. In all of our resolutions yesterday in the Press Conference, there was no where we warned governors or any other person in Nigeria for that matter. What the Northern Senators Forum did was to ask that people should stop making inflammatory statements that are capable of dividing us as a people.

To our dismay and surprise this morning, the front page of Vanguard Newspaper reads that Northern Senators warned governors and other leaders. Even in the context, Northern Senators were being misrepresented as aiding and abating criminality and terrorism. This is not the position of the Northern Senators; this is a complete misrepresentation of the facts. We are here to present this to the Senate and correct this and to ask that media people should please report exactly what we have said because we are not only quoted out of context, we have been completely misquoted.

The President: Thank you very much, it is well noted Senator Dino. I think we keep on emphasising the need for all the newspapers and all our media agencies to be very responsible in their manner of reporting. This is because some of these things are inflammatory and can create problems. So it is important because they have a role to play in our democracy to ensure that accurate information is reported.

We will continue to partner with the media but it is very important, especially at this time in a growing democracy like ours, it is very important that there must be level of responsibility.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, having concluded today's proceedings on the Order Paper, I hereby move that the Senate do adjourn till Thursday, 12th May, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. prompt.

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do stand adjourned till Thursday, 12th May, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. prompt.

Senate adjourned accordingly at 11:23 a.m.