



THE SENATE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 28th February, 2018

1. The Senate met at 10:50 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 27th February, 2018.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Message from Mr. President:**

The Senate President announced that he had received a letter from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

Presidential Decision to Decline Assent to Nigeria Peace Corps (Establishment) Bill, 2017 Recently Passed by the National Assembly:



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

25th January, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

***PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO NIGERIA PEACE CORPS
(ESTABLISHMENT) Bill, 2017 RECENTLY PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY***

Pursuant to Section 58(4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision, on 25th January, 2018 to decline Presidential Assent to the Nigerian Peace Corps (Establishment) Bill, 2017 recently passed by the National Assembly.

2. *Specifically, reasons for the decision to decline assent to this Bill include among others:*
- a. *Security concerns regarding the proposed Nigerian Peace Corps being authorized to undertake activities currently being performed by extant security and law enforcement agencies; and*

- b. *Financial implications of funding the establishment and operations of the proposed Nigerian Peace Corps, given the scarce financial resources may pose serious challenge to the Government.*
3. *Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muharnmadu Buhari*

4. **Announcements:**

(a) ***Invitation to visit Ghana's Parliament:***

The Senate President read a letter from RT. Hon. Aaron Michael Oquaye (*Speaker of Parliament, Federal Republic of Ghana*) as follows:



Office of the Speaker

Parliament House - Victoriaborg Accra

Tel.: 233-21-668514 Fax: 233-21-678288 E-mail: speaker@parliament.gh.

10th January, 2018

H. E. DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARA
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ABUJA

Your Excellency,

RE: INVITATION TO VISIT GHANA'S PARLIAMENT

I am writing to convey my very best wishes and sincere appreciation to you as we begin a new year. It is my prayer that we will continue to work together to deepen the already good relations between ourselves and our Legislatures.

Your Excellency, this year marks a very significant milestone in the history of Ghana's Parliament. It may interest Your Excellency to know that the Parliament of Ghana will commemorate 25 years of uninterrupted, parliamentary democracy since Ghana returned to democratic rule in January 1993.

We are planning a Symposium on Parliament in March (anytime in March 2018) to commemorate the occasion. It will be highly appreciated if Your Excellency will suggest a period of your availability to enable us fix a programme on that occasion. Your kind address on "The Future of Good Governance in Africa" will be highly appreciated.

While conveying my best wishes to you and your family this New Year, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)
RT. HON. PROF. AARON MICHAEL OQUAYE
SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT
THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

(b) **Meeting:**

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Suleiman A. Adokwe (*Nasarawa South*) as follows:



SULEIMAN A. ADOKWE
Nasarawa South, Senatorial District

The Senate President,

Your Excellency,

NOTICE OF MEETING

This is to notify Members of the Ad hoc Committee on delegation to condole the family, people and Government of Plateau State on the demise of Late Senator John Shagaya will meet this afternoon immediately after Plenary in Room 3.17.

Accept my regards and highest esteem Mr. President.

(Signed)

Senator Suleiman Adokwe
Leader of the Delegation
28/2/18

(c) **Acknowledgment:**

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

- (i) Staff and Students of Premier International School, Wuse II, Abuja;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Standard Basic School, New Nyanya, Nasarawa State; and
- (iii) Staff and Students of the Bells Comprehensive Secondary School, Ota, Ogun State.

5. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Mohammed Hassan (*Yobe South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the alleged double Voters Card registration by the Governor of Kogi State by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in which three (3) staff of the Commission were sacked. He further stated that recently, the media reported that the Governor re-register in another ward in Kogi State. He urged the Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to investigate the matter.

The Senate mandated the Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to investigate, and report to Senate accordingly.

6. Privileges:

Rising on Rule 14, Senator Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) drew the attention of the Senate to the alleged resumption of the Executive Secretary of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to office, a nominee of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation without the confirmation of the Senate. He emphasised that this action was further confirmed by Thisday Newspaper of Monday, 27th February, 2018, Captioned "AGF dares Senate, asks Ojukwu to resume office as NHRC Boss without confirmation". He further observed that the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) has breached the 1999 Constitution as amended by playing the role of the Senate, thereby impugned on his privilege as a Senator. He urged the Senate to investigate the matter.

By leave of the Senate, Chairman, Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters was mandated to investigate the matter. Also directed the Senate Leader to interface with the Secretary to Government of Federation (SGF) on the same issue.

7. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Sunny O. Ogbuoji (*Ebonyi South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the delay at preparing 2018 Budget, which was due to lack of response from Parastatals and Agencies of Government regarding their respective Budget defence in the National Assembly. He urged the Senate to approved a deadline for their submissions.

By the leave of the Senate, Friday, 9th March, 2018 was accordingly approved for all pending 2018 Budget submissions.

8. Petitions:

- (i) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Abdullahi A. Sabi (*Niger North*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituents, Mr. U. K. Abubakar on behalf of Former Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) Staff Forum, against the Nigeria Electricity Liability Management Company (NELMCO), over bulk rent allowance and emoluments. 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.

- (ii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Samuel O. Egwu (*Ebonyi North*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituents, Chidi Egede -Ex-2003NA/54/5792, against the Nigerian Army, over his wrongful dismissal. 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.

- (iii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Jeremiah T. Useni (*Plateau South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Dr. F. Nmungwun on behalf of Foisi Broadcasting Network Nigeria Limited, against the Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM), over loan facility offer. 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.

9. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Joint Admission and Matriculation Board Act CAP 11, LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB. 625) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) National Institute of Construction Technology and Management (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB. 628) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Government Performance and Accountability Bill, 2018 (SB. 629) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Independent National Commission for Hate Speeches (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.631) — *Read the First Time.*

10. Federal Co-operative Colleges (Establishment, etc. Bill, 2018 (SB.418):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the Federal Co-operative Colleges and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2018 (*Senator Ike Ekweremadu — Enugu West*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within Four (4) weeks.

11. **Federal College of Education Ila-Orangun, Osun State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.616):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the Federal College of Education Ila-Orangun, Osun State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (*Senator Olusola Adeyeye — Osun Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within Four (4) weeks.

12. **Trademarks Act CAP T13 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2018 (SB.357):**

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to repeal the Trademarks Act CAP T13 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and enact the Trademarks 2016 to provide for a comprehensive law relating to trademarks and Related Matters, 2018 (*Senator Umaru I. Kurfi — Katsina Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Trade and Investment to report within Four (4) weeks.

13. **Federal College of Education (Technical) Aghoro, Bayelsa State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB. 615):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. **Federal Polytechnic Aba, Abia State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.602):**

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to establish the Federal Polytechnic Aba, Abia State to provide full-time courses in technology, applied science management and other fields of studies and to make provisions for the general administration of the polytechnic, 2018 (*Senator Theodore A. Orji — Abia Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within Four (4) weeks.

15. **Federal Polytechnic Langtang, Plateau State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.627):**

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to establish the Federal Polytechnic Langtang, Plateau State, to provide full-time courses in technology, applied science management and other fields of studies and to make provisions for the general administration of such polytechnics, 2018 (*Senator Jeremiah T. Useni — Plateau South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within Four (4) weeks.

16. National Endowment for Arts and Literature (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.076):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Endowment for Arts and Literature to provide financial and institutional support for first rate notable and exceptional remarkable works of art and literature also serve as an established fund and permanent pecuniary provision for the purpose and for Other Related Matters, 2018 (*Senator Shehu Sani — Kaduna Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Culture and Tourism to report within Four (4) weeks.

17. Special Funds Accounts Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB. 34):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

18. Federal Capital Territory Act, Cap. F6, LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB. 093):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

19. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 1st March, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:47 p.m.

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