



THE SENATE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018

1. The Senate met at 10:59 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**

Closed Session — 11:02 a.m.

Open Session — 12:29 p.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on issues bordering on the workings of the Senate in particular and the National Assembly in general.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 26th April, 2018.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Announcements:**

(a) **Inauguration:**

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Fatimat O. Raji-Rasaki (*Ekiti Central*) as follows:



Senator Fatimat O. Raji-Rasaki

EKITI CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN SENATE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND TOURISM

2nd May, 2018

*His Excellency,
The Senate President,
Dr. Bukola Abubakar Saraki, CON*

Your Excellency,

**NOTICE OF INAUGURATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES**

This is to bring to the notice of the Distinguished Senators of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and to invite Honorable Members to the historic inauguration of the Joint Committee for the establishment of the National Assembly Museum and Archives, by the Senate President, His Excellency, Senator (Dr.) Abubakar Bukola Saraki, holding today, Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018 at the Conference Room of the Senate President at 2:00 pm.

This is the realization of a dream and a great historic event of the creation of a Museum and Archive to house the memory and memorials of the proceedings of all parliaments that ever sat and will sit in Nigeria. It will be a place and memorial against forgetfulness of the deeds of our heroes past and to the testimony of freedom of speech and expression of freely elected people of Nigeria from inception of parliamentary system in Nigeria. An institution that will turn our memories to memorials and bring our memorials back to memories. It is the First in Africa.

The efforts of the 6th and 7th Assemblies had been brought to fruition by the determination of the Leadership of the 8th Assembly. We appreciate the immense contributions of our colleagues of these Assemblies for the contributions made towards the establishment of this great historic institution. Their efforts and ours shall never be forgotten. This is the means of supporting our memories against forgetfulness.

Consequent upon this historic nature, the Senate and Distinguished Senators are hereby notified and invited to be part of this unfolding history of the Nigerian National Assembly, which is the inauguration of the Joint Committee for the establishment of the National Assembly Museum and Archives.

(Signed)

Senator Fatimat O. Raji-Rasaki

Chairman, Senate Committee on Culture and Tourism.

(b) Wedding Invitation:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Joshua M. Lidani (Gombe South) as follows:



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Senator Joshua M. Lidani

(Baraden Kaltungo)

GOMBE SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN SENATE COMMITTEE ON DRUGS & NARCOTICS

2nd May, 2018

*Distinguished Senators
National Assembly Abuja.*

My Distinguished Colleagues,

WEDDING INVITATION

This is to notify you of the forthcoming wedding of my son Kwagam Lidani and his heartthrob Cynthia Anokwuru scheduled to take place on Saturday 12th May, 2018.

The Church wedding will take place at the ECWA Church Central Area Opposite Churchgate and adjacent World Trade Centre Towers Abuja at 11:00am. Reception will take place thereafter at Bahamas Events Centre Plot 1080 Joseph Gomwalk Street behind Ajuji Hotel Gudu, Abuja.

Accordingly, we will be most grateful if you will find time within your crowded schedule to grace the occasion with your presence. In the event that you may not be able to do so, kindly include the couple in your prayers that God may grant them a happy and blessed married life.

While looking forward to your attendance, kindly accept the assurance of our highest esteem .

(Signed)

Sen. Joshua M. Lidani

(c) **Appreciation:**

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Peter O. Nwaoboshi (Delta North) as follows:



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
SENATOR PETER NW AOBOSHI
Delta North Senatorial District
Chairman, Senate Committee on Niger Delta

2nd May, 2018

The Senate President
National Assembly
Abuja.

APPRECIATION

I rise to thank the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for standing solidly behind me during my ordeal in the hands of EFCC. Let me thank in a special way the leadership of the Senate for their concern for my well- being and for the support and solidarity.

As a lawyer, I am conscious of the fact that my matter is now in court and therefore, subjudice. I am no longer at liberty to say anything that will be prejudicial to the trial of the case. However, I want to assure my colleagues that I have not done anything that would have justified or necessitated the humiliation I was subjected to as a serving Senator of this Country. This throwback to the dark days of military rule must not be allowed to hold sway under a democratic dispensation. This Senate must rise up and challenge the forces and agents of oppression, tyranny and subjugation.

I want to assure this 8th Senate of which I am a proud Member, that I refuse to be cowed or intimidated by anyone. I am confident that I will have my day in court and justice will surely prevail.

Once more, thank you for believing in me and standing by me. God bless the 8th Senate Assembly. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(Signed)

Senator Peter Nwaoboshi

Chairman, Senate Committee on Niger- Delta.

(c) **Acknowledgment:**

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

- (i) Members of the National Association of Sokoto State Law Students, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Sokoto State; and
- (ii) Staff and Students of the Cuddle School, Wuse, Abuja.

5. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Ahmad I. Lawan (Yobe North) drew the attention of the Senate to the official banning of production and importation of codeine syrup related drugs in Nigeria by the Federal Government. He stated that in September, 2017, there was a Motion on drug abuse in Jigawa State and Northern Nigeria, where three (3) Million citizens engaged in drugs usage.

He further observed that the Executive and Legislative Arms have noted the urgency at prohibiting dangerous drugs within Nigeria. He encouraged Nigerians to join United Nations in celebrating the World Drugs Abuse Day on 26th June, 2018. He urged the Committees on Health; and Drugs and Narcotics to synergise with the Federal Ministry of Health to combat drugs abuse; and the Security Agencies to eradicate the remnants circulating in our markets.

The Senate Commended the Federal Government on the ban and urged the relevant Committees to oversight its implementation.

6. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Matthew A. Urhoghide (*Edo South*) drew the attention of the Senate to his assault and molestation on arrival at Benin Airport on Friday, 28th April, 2018. He stated that as Chairman, Public Accounts Committee charged with the oversight of National expenditure, he did express his view on the anticipatory approval of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on the purchase of Super Tucano Aircrafts from United States Government without National Assembly appropriation on Thursday, 20th April, 2018. He emphasised that in defending the Constitution, he urged for the invocation of Section 143, which have eleven (11) Subsections procedurally. Based on his contribution on the floor of the Senate, of which he has immunity, he was attacked in the presence of Edo State Governor, and Commissioner of Police by some hoodlums at the Benin Airport. He concluded by urging for their arrest and prosecution of the thugs as deterrent to others.

The Senate condemned the act, and reiterated the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act CAP L12, which granted immunities from proceedings to Legislators. The Chairman, Police Affairs was further mandated to engage Edo State Commissioner of Police over the matter and report to the Senate.

7. Presentation of a Bill:

Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB. 673).

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. Committee on Establishment and Public Service:

Report on the Chartered Institute of Forensic and Investigative Auditors in Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB. 584):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Chartered Institute of Forensic and Investigative Auditors in Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (*Senator Emmanuel I. Paulker — Bayelsa Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. Conference Committee:

Report on the Public Procurement Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB. 232):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Conference Committee Report on Public Procurement on the Public Procurement Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (*Senator Joshua C. Dariye — Plateau Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

10. Committee on Trade and Investment:

Report on the Companies and Allied Matters Act CAP C20 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2018 (SB. 355):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on the Companies and Allied Matters Act CAP C20 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2018 (*Senator Sabo Mohammed — Jigawa South-West*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

11. Motion:

The recent cross-border invasion of Isu Community of Abia State by Utuma Community of Cross River State:

Motion made: That the Senate is conscious that the preservation of lives and property of citizens, remains the primary concern of the Senate;

aware that any threat to the lives and property of Nigerian citizens wherever these occur, are serious threats to our national unity and co-existence, and must be promptly addressed;

concerned that a serious breach of peace and public order occurred recently between communities in Cross River State and Abia State, resulting in the invasion of Isu Community in Arochukwu LGA; Abia State by Utuma Community in Biase LGA, Cross River State resulting in wanton destruction of houses, property and the loss of not less than 50 lives of residents; and

persuaded that this invasion of Isu Community by Utuma community may attract retaliatory actions, leading to further escalation of the crisis, and loss of more lives if not quickly nipped in the bud.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police to quickly take action and intervene to restore order, peace and normalcy in the affected communities;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on States and Local Governments to investigate the matter and report to the Senate; and
- (iii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), to move in to assess the situation and provide required relief materials to displaced citizens (*Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa — Abia North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police to quickly take action and intervene to restore order, peace and normalcy in the affected communities — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on States and Local Governments to investigate the matter and report to the Senate — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), to move in to assess the situation and provide required relief materials to displaced citizens — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police to quickly take action and intervene to restore order, peace and normalcy in the affected communities;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on States and Local Governments to investigate the matter and report to the Senate; and
- (iii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), to move in to assess the situation and provide required relief materials to displaced citizens (S/Res/230/03/18).

12. Briefing by Inspector General of Police (IGP):

The inhuman treatment of Distinguished Senator Dino Melaye and killings across the country:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Inspector General of Police to brief this Distinguished Senate on the inhuman treatment of Distinguished Senator Dino Melaye over a matter that is pending before a competent law court and killings across the country (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

The Senate was briefed on the absence of the Inspector-General of Police.

Debate:

The Senate resolved to mandate the Senate Leader; and Chairman, Committee on Police Affairs to engage the Executive Arm on this matter and report within one (1) week.

13. Sheriffs and Civil Process Act CAP S56 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB.599):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act CAP R7 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB.415):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

15. Immigration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB.230):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. Joint Admission and Matriculation Board Act CAP J1 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB.625):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) Act CAP E3 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB.559):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

18. Federal High Court Act CAP F12 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB.648):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

19. Nigeria Police Academy (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.270):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

20. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 3rd May, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:51 p.m.

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