SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 13th October, 2011

1. The Senate met at 10:37 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Deputy Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 12th October, 2011 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**
(a) Conferment of Honorary Degree:
The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Ike Ekweremadu (*Enugu West*) as follows:

DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

October 5, 2011

His Excellency
Senator (Dr) David A.B Mark, GCON, fnim
President of the Senate
National Assembly Complex
Abuja

My dear brother,

INVITATION
RE: CONFERMENT OF AN HONORARY DEGREE

I am happy to inform you that the Governing Council of the University of Uyo has nominated me for the award of an Honorary Doctorate Degree of the University.

Therefore, I will be most appreciative if you could kindly find time to honour me with your esteemed presence at the conferment which has been scheduled for the 17th and 18th Convocation Ceremony of the institution.

I also have the pleasure to invite the Senate leadership and all members of the Senate to the Ceremony.

Details of the event are as follows:

Date: *Saturday, October 22,2011*
Time: *10am Prompt*
Venue: *University Convocation Ground, Uyo*

While counting on your attendance and usual solidarity, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my best regards.

(Signed)
Senator Ike Ekweremadu, CFR,
Deputy President of the Senate

(b) Thanksgiving Service:
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Boluwaji Kunlere (*Ondo South*) as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Senator Boluwaji Kunlere
Ondo South Senatorial District

10th October, 2011

His Excellency
Senator David A. B. Mark, GCON, Fnim
Senate President
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

NOTIFICATION AND INVITATION TO THANKSGIVING SERVICE AND RECEPTION FOR SENATOR (BARR.) BOLUWAJI KUNLERE.

It is with great pleasure, privilege and utmost respect that I, Senator Prince Boluwaji Kunlere, on behalf of myself, my family and the entire loving people of Ondo South Senatorial District hereby notifies and invites your Excellency and my Distinguished Colleagues to the Thanksgiving Service and Reception in my honour as the democratically elected Senator of the Federal Republic representing Ondo South Senatorial District.

Your Excellency and my Distinguished Colleagues, the ceremony is to appreciate God for His goodness, grace and mercies over us throughout the periods of campaigns, the election, the electoral victory, successful inauguration and the victory at the Election petition Tribunal.

To our God be the glory, honour and adoration for ever and ever (AMEN)

DATE: *Sunday, 23rd October, 2011*

VENUE: *St John's Anglican Church, Igbotako, Okitipupa Local Government Area, Ondo State.*

TIME: *10.00am prompt*

Reception follows immediately at St. Pius R.C.M Primary School playground, Igbotako, Okitipupa Local Government Area, Ondo State.

While I look forward with high hope to welcome your Excellency and my Distinguished colleagues to the event, please accept the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed)
Senator Boluwaji Kunlere,
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Solid Minerals.

(c) ***Acknowledgments:***
The Deputy Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

(*i*) Members of the Students' Representative Council, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State; and

(*ii*) Staff and Students of Baze University, Abuja.

4. Personal Explanation:
Rising on Rule 43, Senator Victor Lar*(Plateau South)* drew the attention of the Senate to the referral made to the Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes on the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for the confirmation of Chairman and Commissioners in the Independent Corrupt Practice and Other Related Offences Commission(ICPC). The Committee was mandated to report within seven days. The Committee was not able to carry out the assignment due to non-availability of relevant documents on the nominees. He therefore, sought for an extension of time to enable the Committee conclude the assignment and report as mandated.

By the leave of the Senate, additional two weeks was granted.

5. Motion:
Illegal Subjection of Candidates to Examinations by Universities after the Test by the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB):
Motion made: That the Senate observes that the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB) is amongst others empowered to:

(*a*) conduct Matriculation Examination for entry into all Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education (whatever name called) in Nigeria;

(*b*) appoint examiners, moderators, invigilators, members of the Subject Panel and Committees, and other persons with respect to matriculation examinations and any other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith;

(*c*) place suitably qualified candidates in the tertiary institutions after having taking into account:

(*i*) the vacancies available in each tertiary institution;

(*ii*) the guidelines approved for each tertiary institution by its proprietors or other competent authorities;

(*iii*) the preferences expressed or otherwise indicated by the candidates or certain tertiary institutions and courses; and

(*iv*) such other matters as the Board may be directed by the Honourable Minister to consider or the Board itself may consider appropriate in the circumstances; and

(*d*) collate and disseminate information on all matters relating to admissions into tertiary institutions or any other matter relevant to the discharge of functions of the Board.

Observes that the membership of the Board is all embracive. It is made up of the following:-

(*i*) Chairman;
(*ii*) Five representatives of all the Universities in Nigeria;
(*iii*) Three representatives of all the Colleges of Education in Nigeria;
(*iv*) Three representatives of all the Polytechnics in Nigeria;
(*v*) One representative of all the Nigeria Conference of Principals of School;
(*vi*) One representative of the Ministry of Education;
(*vii*) The Registrar of the West African Examination Council (WAEC);
(*viii*) The Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC);
(*ix*) The Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education;
(*x*) The Executive Secretary of the National Council for Colleges of Education; and
(*xi*) The Registrar of the National Business and Technical Examinations Board.

Notes that the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board is statutorily responsible for determining matriculation requirements and conducting examinations leading to undergraduate admissions and admissions to National Diploma and Nigeria Certificate in Education courses;

Observes that the Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and the various stake holders are sufficiently represented in the membership of the Board;

Observes that the laws establishing the various Universities empower them to hold examinations and grant degrees, diplomas, certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the University and have satisfied such other requirements as the University may lay down;

Observes that the various Universities charge fees and subject candidates to series of tests and interviews which most often take several days to conclude;

Observes that this is at grave costs to parents and guardians and a clear violation of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Act. Our young children are also subjected to avoidable inconveniences and risks;

Observes further that even the Registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) in the combined session of the Technical Committee meeting on admissions to Degree awarding Institutions, National Diploma (ND), Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) and National Innovation Diploma (NIDA) alluded to the fact that post UME is unnecessary, yet it is persisting; and

Advocates that since JAMB is alive to its responsibilities as provided by law, there would be no reason whatsoever to subject candidates to another round of illegal test at grave cost and its other attendant consequences.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:
mandate its Committee on Education to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the activities of those Universities indulging in such illegality and the causes for the failure of JAMB to conduct examinations sufficiently credible for acceptance by Universities (*Senator Heineken Lokpobiri — Bayelsa West*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:
Question: That the Senate do mandate its Committee on Education to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the activities of those Universities indulging in such illegality and the causes for the failure of JAMB to conduct examinations sufficiently credible for acceptance by Universities — *Agreed to*.

Resolved:
That the Senate do mandate its Committee on Education to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the activities of those Universities indulging in such illegality and the causes for the failure of JAMB to conduct examinations sufficiently credible for acceptance by Universities (***S/Res/017/01/11***).

6. Motion:
Perennial Traffic Congestion on Entry Routes into the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Motion to stand over to another Legislative Day.

7. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2011 (SB.07):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 18th October, 2011 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:41 *p.m.*

Ike Ekweremadu, CFR
Deputy President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.