SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 2nd November, 2011

1. The Senate met at 10:58 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 1st November, 2011 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Motions:**

(i) ***Plight of Pensioners of the Federal Government of Nigeria:***
Motion made; That the Senate notes that pension in Nigeria is the sum of money paid regularly to a person after a prescribed period of working life;

observes that retirees are old men and women who have put in all their productive years of life in the service of our dear Nation;

notes that pension is a safety valve Nigerian workers hope to have in their twilight years after giving their best in their respective employments;

advocates that pensions and gratuities are serious issues that border on the dignity of the human person, peace, security and survival of our dear country;

observes that dexterity in the administration of pensions and gratuities would add impetus to the fight against corruption;

observes that pensioners take as much as 3 years after initial retirement to process their papers and are in some cases owed arrears of payment for several years;

notes that the plight of these senior citizens of Nigeria after serving our fatherland meritoriously is not only worrisome but unacceptable; and

observes that pensioners are often made to loiter and sleep in public places for days for purported verification exercises that have become endless and persistent.

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The Senate accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) condemn the subjection of our senior citizens to perpetual verification exercises, avoidable hardship and pain;

(*ii*) urge the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, to direct the relevant Agencies to stop forthwith the subjection of pensioners to endless verification exercises under degrading conditions, promptly process pension papers, pay all arrears of pensions owed and make further monthly payments as at when due;

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Establishment and Public Services to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the payment of pensioners of the Federal Government of Nigeria (*Senate Heineken Lokpobiri — Bayelsa West*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do condemn the subjection of our senior citizens to perpetual verification exercises, avoidable hardship and pain — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do urge the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, to direct the relevant Agencies to stop forthwith the subjection of pensioners to endless verification exercises under degrading conditions, promptly process pension papers, pay all arrears of pensions owed and make further monthly payments as at when due — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Establishment and Public Services to undertake a comprehensive investigation into the payment of pensioners of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word "Services" in line 2 *insert* the words "States and Local Governments" (*Senator Chris Ngige — Anambra Central)*.

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Further amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word "investigation" in line 2 *insert* the words "including Public Hearing" (*Senator Abdullahi Adamu — Nasarawa West)*.

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Another amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word "pensioners" *insert* the words "management and administration of pension funds" (*Senator Ahmad I. Lawan — Yobe North)*.

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

(*i*) That the Senate do condemn the subjection of our senior citizens to perpetual verification exercises, avoidable hardship and pain;

(*ii*) That the Senate do urge the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, to direct the relevant Agencies to stop forthwith the subjection of pensioners to endless verification exercises under degrading conditions, promptly process pension papers, pay all arrears of pensions owed and make further monthly payments as at when due; and

(*iii*) That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Establishment and Public Services, States and Local Governments to undertake a comprehensive investigation, including Public Hearing, into the payment of pensioners, management and administration of pension funds of the Federal Government of Nigeria; and to report within four (4) weeks (***S/Res/024/01/11***).

(ii) Using Our School System to Groom Replacements for Our Aged Farmers:

Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

4. Police Act 1943 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2011 (SB.41):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

5. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 15th November, 2011 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:07 *p.m.*

Dr. David A. B. Mark, GCON, fnim
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.