SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 17th November, 2011

1. The Senate met at 10:36 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 16th November, 2011 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Presentation of Bills:**
(*i*) National Youth Service Corps Act Cap. 84 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2011 (SB. 70) — *Read the First Time*.

(*ii*) Public Infrastructure maintenance Bill 2011 (SB. 71) — *Read the First Time*.

(*iii*) Elderly Persons Care Bill 2011 (SB. 72) — *Read the First Time*.

(*iv*) Veterinary Surgeon (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2011 (SB. 73) — *Read the First Time*.

(*v*) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Further Alteration) Bill 2011 (SB.77) — *Read the First Time*.

4. **Motion:**
Rejection of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Members by Federal Establishments:
Motion made: That the Senate is aware that the National Youth Service Corps was established in 1972 to among other things encourage the development of common ties among Nigeria youths and promote national unity;

notes that this objective of the NYSC would be achieved by the equitable distribution of members and as far as is possible, having the youths assigned to jobs in states other than their states of origin for the effective utilization of their skills in areas of national needs;

aware that the regulations of the Service require that corps members should accept their postings and assignment willingly without a corresponding duty on organizations and bodies to accept those posted to them willingly;

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aware that the authorities of the Service pay a monthly stipend to the Corps Member while organizations that these youths are assigned to for primary assignment are encouraged to supplement this by the payment of varying degrees of allowances to help them maintain themselves during the service year;

concerned that this noble national programme has recently been buffeted by sundry challenges including attacks on some of them by certain anti-social elements leading to calls by certain segments of the Nigerian society for the scrapping of the programme;

unhappy that these heinous attacks on these youths are compounded by organizations that serially and unjustifiably reject them from undertaking their primary assignment under them;

particularly worried that federal establishments have not only begun refusing to pay the Corps Members any form of emoluments during their service year but have, at an alarming rate continue to routinely reject them; and

worried that this attitude is a sabotage of the sublime objectives and ideals of the programme and works to demoralize these youths in their pristine patriotism and eagerness to serve the country, and if not checked, the routine rejection of Corps Members by Federal establishments would blunt their zeal to serve and provide a psychological template for misguided national human capital development.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) urge Mr. President to direct Federal Government establishments to stop forthwith the rejection of youth corps members posted to them during any service year;

(*ii*) urge the Secretary to the government of the Federation to harmonise with the Director-General of the NYSC the number and discipline of Corps members each Federal Establishment would require to enthrone a need-for-purpose system in the service;

(*iii*) encourage MDAs to include in their Annual Budgetary estimates a margin for the payment of the allowances of the Corps Members;

(*iv*) urge States and local governments and private organizations to advance the objectives of the service by accepting and maintaining corps members sent to them for primary national assignment (*Senator Sahabi Alhaji Ya'u — Zamfam North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do urge Mr. President to direct Federal Government establishments to stop forthwith the rejection of youth corps members posted to them during any service year;

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Secretary to the government of the Federation to harmonise with the Director-General of the NYSC the number and discipline of Corps members each Federal Establishment would require to enthrone a need-for-purpose system in the service;

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do encourage MDAs to include in their Annual Budgetary estimates a margin for the payment of the allowances of the Corps Members;

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do urge States and local governments and private organizations to advance the objectives of the service by accepting and maintaining corps members sent to them for primary national assignment.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out Proposed Resolutions (*i*),(*ii*),(*iii*) and (*iv*) and *insert* the following instead thereof;
" That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to ensure that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Scheme is re-evaluated, reorganised to enthrone the original objectives of the scheme (*Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba — Cross River Central*).

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

Resolved:
That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to ensure that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Scheme is re-evaluated, reorganised to enthrone the original objectives of the scheme ***(S/Res/024/01/11)***.

5. Police Act Cap P19 19 Laws of the Federation 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2011 (SB.41):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

6. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 22nd November, 2011 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:28 *p.m.*

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