SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 8th March, 2012

1. The Senate met at 11:03 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, 7th March, 2012 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Messages from Mr President:**
The Deputy Senate President announced that he had received two letters from the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

(a) Confirmation of Member of the Federal Character Commission:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Distinguished Senator David Mark, GCON
Senate President,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

March 5, 2012

Your Excellency,

RE: REQUEST FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF FIVE (5) MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION

Further to my letter of 27th September 2011 forwarding names of five (5) nominees for the Federal Character Commission for confirmation by the Distinguished Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the rejection of the Imo State nominee, I hereby forward the name of Barrister Diogu Uche Romanus as a replacement.

The Curriculum Vitae of the nominee is attached herewith.

While trusting that this exercise will receive the traditional prompt attention of the Senate, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely
(Signed)
GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

(b) Confirmation of Member of the Niger Delta Development Commission:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Distinguished Senator David Mark, GCON *March 5, 2012*
Senate President,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

RE: REQUEST FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Further to my letter of 17th October 2011 forwarding the nomination of Barrister Peter C. Ezeobi as a member representing Imo State on the Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission, I hereby re-present the said name for confirmation by the Distinguished Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the issues occasioning his earlier rejection, having been resolved.

While trusting that this exercise will receive the usual prompt attention of the Senate, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely
(Signed)
GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

4. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42 and 52, Senator Ita S. J. Enang *(Akwa Ibom North-East)* drew the attention of the Senate to the International Women's Day which is being celebrated today, 8th March, 2012. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the motion forthwith:

The Senate notes that today, 8th March, 2012 is being celebrated as International Women Day;

use the opportunity to recall the equality of man and woman and should be treated as such;

observes the harmful practices in Nigeria against women such as involuntary circumcision, child marriage, maltreatment after the death of spouse and discrimination in respect of recruitment into Armed Forces and Para-Military Services; and

further observe that Nigerian women against all odds have performed creditably well when giving the opportunity to serve the country.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:
congratulate Nigerian Women on this occasion of International Women's Day.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:
Question: That the Senate do congratulate Nigerian Women on this occasion of International Women's Day — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do congratulate Nigerian Women on this occasion of International Women's Day (***S/Res/041/01/12***).

5. **Confirmation of Nominations:**
Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for the confirmation of Alhaji Ayinla Olomoda, OON and Lt. Col. Daudu Suleiman (Rtd) for appointment as Members of the Federal Judicial Service Commission (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to report within two (2) weeks.

6. **Motion:**
Economic Growth and Worsening Inequality in Nigeria: A Call for New Approaches to Poverty Reduction:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

7. **National Social Security Agency Bill 2012 (SB.114):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to establish the National Social Security Agency charged with the responsibility for, among other things, providing financial assistance to elderly persons in Nigeria; and for Related Matters 2012 be read the Second Time (*Senator Oluremi Tinubu — Lagos Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Sports and Social Development; and National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation.

8. **National Social Welfare Commission (Establishment, etc,)Bill 2012 (SB.115):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Social Welfare Commission, to provide for among other things, the administration of benefit and assistance to enhance the welfare of citizens especially disadvantaged persons, particularly children, women, the handicapped, the sick, the aged and the unemployed; and for Connected Purposes 2012 be read the Second Time (*Senator Domingo A. Obende — Edo North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Sports and Social Development; and National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation.

9. Chartered Institute for Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2012 (SB.107):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 13th March, 2012 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:48 *p.m.*

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