SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 18th April, 2012

1. The Senate met at 10:52 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 Tuesday, 17th April, 2012 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

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

Re: 2012 FGN Budget as Passed by the National Assembly:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

April 12, 2012

Distinguished Senator David Mark, GCON
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

RE: 2012 FGN BUDGET AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

I wish to express my gratitude for the patriotism, cooperation and steady support of the leadership and all Distinguished Members of the Senate for the speedy passage of the 2012 Budget. This gesture underscores our collective effort to transform the economy of our dear country.

However, I wish to bring to your attention some sectors/items of expenditure that require adjustment in the form of a corrigendum.

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You may wish to recall that the original 2012 Budget was predicated on a benchmark price of $70.00pb, while the passed budget has increased it to $72.00pb. As you are aware, the allocations to NDDC and UBE under the Statutory Transfers are normally computed as a percentage of the revenue accruing to the Federal Government. The increase in the benchmark price of crude oil from $70.00pb to $72.00pb requires that the allocations to these two Agencies be adjusted to reflect the increment. It appears that the Appropriation Bill inadvertently retained the old figures thereby resulting in a shortfall of ₦1.91 billion for NDDC' and" ₦1.97biliion for UBE. I therefore, seek your cooperation to adjust these allocations to reflect the higher benchmark price.

The Subsidy Re-investment Programme (SURE-P) was designed specifically to address the infrastructural challenges and social safety net. In order to monitor the implementation of the programme, a Board was set up to monitor the implementation and report on its progress. The 2012 Appropriation Bill did not separate the SURE-P from the rest of the Budget. I therefore, seek your cooperation to reflect it separately in the Bill to make it easier for the Board to effectively perform their monitoring mandate.

Finally, the allocation for the Amnesty programme needs some re-arrangement so as to release more resources for the implementation of the core aspects of the programme as against the cost of administering it. I should point out that this does not affect the aggregate outlay for the programme. To this end, please find below the adjustment of the Amnesty programme budget to reflect the order of priority:

Item	***Old Figure*** ₦	***New Figure*** ₦
Presidential Amnesty Programme	*70,176,411,902*	*70,176,411,902*
Stipends & Feeding Allowance	*48,281,229,902*	*20,796,462,000*
Reintegration of Niger-Delta Ex-Militants	*924,900,000*	*45,281,229,902*
Operations Cost of the Programme	*16,796,462,000*	*3,173,820,000*
Reintegration of Transformed Niger-Delta Ex-Militants (2010 Arrears)	*4,173,820,000*	*0.00*
Reinsertion/Transition Safety Allowance	*0.00*	*924,900,000*

It is my hope that the National Assembly will urgently address the foregoing issues to enable us move forward with the implementation of the Budget.

Once again, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the leadership and the Distinguished Members of the Senate for their patriotism and commitment.

Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

4. Announcements:

(a) Appreciation:

The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator George T. Sekibo (*Rivers East*) as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Sen. George Thompson Sekibo
Chairman Committee on Defence and Army

April 17, 2012

The President of the Senate
The Senate
National Assembly Complex
Abuja.

Your Excellency Sir,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I wish to thank the President of the Senate and indeed my other Colleagues for showing concern when my wife was abducted by the wicked men. I am sincerely overwhelmed by your show of solidarity, the contacts you made on my behalf and your concern in those five ugly and tortuous days.

I also wish to thank you for honouring the invitation from my family, the Amanyanabo, the Ogu Divisional Council of Chiefs and the people of Ogu Kingdom for the conferment of the Honorary Chieftaincy title of IGO ALABO of Ogu Kingdom as well as my thanksgiving service on the 14th of April 2012. Your presence was a testimony of your love towards me and indeed my family, the Amanyanabo, the Ogu Division Council of Chiefs and the people of Ogu. Thank you for attending these epoch making occasions which was a first of its kind.

May the Almighty God bless and meet you at your various points of need.

(Signed)
Senator Chief George Thompson Sekibo JP
The Igo Alabo of Ogu Kingdom
Rivers East Senatorial District.

(*b*) **MDGs Special Projects:**
The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Mohammed A. Ndume (*Borno South*) as follows:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
National Assembly Complex

April 17, 2012

The President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly,
Abuja.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sequel to recent development on the MDGs Special Projects under 2012 Appropriation Act; Distinguished Senators are requested to collect new forms and carefully fill it accordingly.

Please, all completed forms should be returned to the Committee Secretariat at Room 1.1C, First Floor, White House, National Assembly Complex, Abuja on or before Thursday, April 26, 2012.

Thank you for your expedited action on this matter.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed)
SENATOR MOHAMMED A. NDUME
Chairman

(*c*) **Constitutional Review Committee Meeting:**
The Deputy Senate President read a letter as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF THE 1999 CONSTITUTION
National Assembly Complex

18th April1 2012

The Senate President
Senate Chamber
National Assembly Complex
Abuja

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Senate Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution will meet today 18th April 1012, immediately after plenary at the Senate President Meeting Room (301), Senate Building (New Wing).

Senator Ike Ekweremadu
DSP/Chairman

5. Petitions:

(*i*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ifeanyi Okowa (*Delta North*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mr Ashibuogwu Uche Peter, on the denial of posting by the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation since 2003. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition Laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41 (3)] to report within two(2) weeks.

(*ii*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ita S. J. Enang (*Akwa Ibom North-East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Mr Ebelelogu Ubadinma and 31 others against the Management of the Nigerian Railway Corporation on the denial of sale of the Corporation's low income houses to them being occupants as required by law. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition Laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41 (3)] to report within two(2) weeks.

(*iii*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ibrahim Musa (*Niger North*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mr Abdullahi Tanko Ibrahim, on unlawful dismissal from service and non payment of entitlements/terminal benefits by the United Bank for Africa. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition Laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41 (3)] to report within two(2) weeks.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Nurudeen Abatemi-Usman *(Kogi Central)* drew the attention of the Senate to the traffic jam during the Easter Period along Abuja/Lokoja, Benin/Ore and Lagos/Ibadan Highways occasioned by poor state of the roads. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day {Rule 42(2)}.

7. Presentation of Bills:

(*i*) Labour Act Cap L1 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2012 (SB. 145) — *Read the First Time.*

(*ii*) Investment and Security Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill 2012 (HB.07) — *Read the First Time.*

8. Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs:

Report on the screening of nominee:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs, on the screening of Barrister Diogu Uche Romanus (Imo State) for appointment as a Member of the Federal Character Commission (*Senator Dahiru A. Kuta — Niger East).*

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. Confirmation of nomination:

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 Dr. Saleh Okenwa as a Member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs to report in one week.

10. Motion:
Terrorist Attack in Kaduna on 8th April, 2012:
Motion made: The Senate notes with deep sense of grief the dastardly bomb explosion at Junction road in the city centre of Kaduna on Easter Sunday, 8th April, 2012 by some suicide bombers who were apparently turning away from attacking churches holding Easter Services as a result of the security presence in churches;

notes also that the deadly explosion was a stark reminder of the Christmas day attack that left dozens of people dead in Madalla on December, 25th 2011;

further note with sadness the victims of the incident were mostly commercial motorcycle operators popularly known as Okada riders, food vendors, commuters, passersby and motorist;

Particularly note that this bombs attack happened in the very centre of Kaduna city in spite of numerous road blocks and checkpoints in the city;
observe that terrorist attacks continue unabated nationwide despite the assurances of our security agencies of being on top of the situation;

further observe that terrorism of any form is condemnable and an outright offence against the Almighty God Himself; and

aware that the Easter bomb explosion in Kaduna claimed thirteen (13) lives, injured about thirty two (32) people, and destroyed properties worth millions of naira, bringing untold hardship on victims, relatives, and all residents of the city.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:
(i) condemn the bomb explosion in its entirety;

(ii) observe one minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the bomb explosion and other attacks across the country;

(iii) call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to pay adequate compensation to victims of Kaduna city bomb explosion and the bereaved as well as those who suffered the same fate in other places;

(iv) direct the Committees on National Security and Intelligence; Defence and Army; and Police Affairs to intensify their oversight functions over the security agencies with a view to improving their capabilities in handling the current security challenges facing this country; and

(v) call on the Federal Government to recognize that these terrorists have declared war on Nigeria which is a threat to our sovereignty, existence and economic well being and to respond with all instruments of national power at its disposal (*Senator Mohammed Sani Saleh — Kaduna Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do condemn the bomb explosion in its entirety.

Amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word "bomb" *insert* the words "explosions in all parts of the country" (*Senator Gyang D. Dantong — Plateau North*).

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

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the bomb explosion and other attacks across the country — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to pay adequate compensation to victims of Kaduna city bomb explosion and the bereaved as well as those who suffered the same fate in other places — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do direct the Committees on National Security and Intelligence; Defence and Army; and Police Affairs to intensify their oversight functions over the security agencies with a view to improving their capabilities in handling the current security challenges facing this country.

Amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word "Army" *insert* the word "Interior" (*Senator Alkali A. Jajere — Yobe South).*

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

Proposed Resolution (v):
Question: That the Senate do call on the Federal Government to recognize that these terrorists have declared war on Nigeria which is a threat to our sovereignty, existence and economic well being and to respond with all instruments of national power at its disposal — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(i) condemn the bomb explosions in all parts of the country in its entirety;

(ii) observe one minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the bomb explosion and other attacks across the country;

(iii) direct the Committees on National Security and Intelligence; Defence and Army; Interior and Police Affairs to intensify their oversight functions over the security agencies with a view to improving their capabilities in handling the current security challenges facing this country; and

(iv) call on the Federal Government to recognize that these terrorists have declared war on Nigeria which is a threat to our sovereignty, existence and economic well being and to respond with all instruments of national power at its disposal **(*S/Res/048/01/12*)**.

One minute silence accordingly observed.

11. **Committee on Establishment and Public Service:**
Report on the screening of nominees:

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. **Joint Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity; Health; and Establishment and Public Service:**
Report on the Institute of Registered Safety Professionals of Nigeria (Establishment, etc) Bill 2012 (SB. 02)

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. **Joint Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity; Health; and Establishment and Public Service:**
Report on the Occupational Safety and Health Bill 2012 (SB. 04):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

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

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

15. **Advisory Council on Religious Affairs Act Cap A8 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2012 (SB. 93):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. **Automotive Design and Development Act 1992 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2012 (SB.25):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. **Adjournment:**
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 19th April, 2012 at 10.00 a.m. (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:52 *p.m.*

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