# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 22nd May, 2012

1. The Senate met at 11:08 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 17th May, 2012 and approved same.

*By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.*

3. **Announcements:**
*(a) Northern Senators' Forum:*
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Ahmad I. Lawan (*Yobe North*) as follows:

### NORTHERN SENATORS FORUM

*Announcement*

*There will be a meeting of the Northern Senators Forum (NSF).*

*Date:* *Today, Tuesday, 22nd May, 2012*

*Time:* *4:30 p.m. prompt*

*Venue:* *Hearing Room 1, Old Senate Wing, National Assembly Complex.*

*(Signed)*
*Senator Ahmad Lawan*
*Secretary*

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*(b)* *Appreciation:*
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Ike Ekweremadu (*Enugu West*) as follows:

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**
**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

*May 15, 2012*

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

*My dear brother,*

***APPRECIATION***
***RE: MY 50TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY***

*It is with a profound sense of appreciation that I write to thank you and my distinguished colleagues for your great outpour of goodwill and uncommon show of solidarity to me on the occasion of my 50th birthday anniversary on May 12, 2012.*

*Even though it had become unavoidably pertinent for me to call off any elaborate celebrations of my Golden Jubilee in honour of my late father, HRH Igwe Matthias Ekweremadu, who passed on to glory on March 29, 2012, your avalanche of camaraderie in forms of visits, congratulatory messages and presents, nevertheless made the day memorable.*

*On behalf of my family, therefore, I tender our heartfelt appreciation of your kindness. You have by this affirmed, once again, that the Senate is indeed one big and happy family bound in fraternal love and team spirit and I feel highly indebted in gratitude.*

*It is, therefore, my prayer that this bond of love continues to grow and that our good Lord rewards you even more abundantly.*

*While wishing you the best in all your endeavours, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest regards.*

*(Signed)*
***SENATOR IKE EKWEREMADU, CFR***
*Deputy President of the Senate*

**4.** **Presentation of Bill:**
Securitization Bill 2012 (SB. 163) — *Read the First Time.*

5. **Committee on Interior:**
***Report on the Prisons Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2011 (SB. 42):***

*Presentation of Report deferred till the next Legislative Day.*

6 **Committee on Environment and Ecology:**
***Report on the Erosion Control and Prevention Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2012 (SB. 54):***

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day (6th June, 2012).*

7 **Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development:**
***Report on the National Grazing Reserve Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2012 (SB. 60):***

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day (6th June, 2012).*

8. **Committee on Works:**
***Report on the Rock Blasting Regulation Bill 2012 (SB. 37):***

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day (6th June, 2012).*

9. **Committee on Housing:**
***Report on the Social Housing Bill 2012 (SB. 61):***

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day (6th June, 2012).*

10. **Committee on Police Affairs:**
***Report on the Police Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2012 (SB. 41):***

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day (6th June, 2012).*

11. **Committee on Health and Primary Health Care:**
***Report on the Sickle Cell (Prevention, Control and Management) Bill 2012 (SB. 59):***

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day (24th May, 2012).*

12. **Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions:**
***Report on the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, Cap, C4 LFN, 2007 (Amendment) Bill 2012 (SB. 75):***

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day (one week).*

13. **Executive Communication:**
***Removal of Alhaji Muhammadu Ari Gwaska:***
*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for the removal of Alhaji Muhammadu Ari Gwaska, as a member representing Nasarawa State from the Federal Character Commission (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Motion made:* That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

**(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)**

Consideration of the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for the removal of Alhaji Muhammadu Ari Gwaska, as a member representing Nasarawa State from the Federal Character Commission.

**Commissioner requested for removal:**

Alhaji Muhammadu Ari Gwaska

*Debate:*

*Request referred to the Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs to report within one (1) week.*

Chairman to report progress.

**(SENATE IN PLENARY)**

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of Whole considered the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for the removal of Alhaji Muhammadu Ari Gwaska, as a member representing Nasarawa State from the Federal Character Commission and referred the request to the Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs for further legislative action, and to report within one week.

*Question:* That the Senate do approved the report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in Affirmative.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs to report within one (1) week.*

**14. Joint Committee on National Security and Intelligence; Defence; Army and Foreign Affairs:** ***Report on the Investigation of the Failed Rescue Attempt of the Abducted British and Italian Nationals:***

**Closed Session:**
*Motion made:* That the Senate do resolve into a Closed Session to consider the Report of Joint Committee on National Security and Intelligence; Defence; Army and Foreign Affairs, on the Investigation of the Failed Rescue Attempt of the Abducted British and Italian Nationals and the workings of the Senate (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

Closed Session: — 12:37 p.m.

**Extension of Time:**
*Motion made:* That the Senate do sit this day beyond the time appointed for the termination of the Sitting of the Senate (Rule 13) (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

Open Session — 2:44 p.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session considered the Report of the Joint Committee on National Security and Intelligence; Defence; Army and Foreign Affairs, on the Investigation of the Failed Rescue Attempt of the Abducted British and Italian Nationals; and other matters of national interest.

**15. Equipment Leasing Bill 2012 (SB.118):**

*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**16. Adjournment:**
And it being 2:50 *p.m.* the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 23rd May, 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

*Adjourned accordingly at* 2:50 *p.m.*

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