SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 10th May, 2012

1. The Senate met at 11:00 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, 9th May, 2012 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**
(a) Invitation:
The Deputy Senate President read a letter from National Institute for Legislative Studies as follows:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE STUDIES
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
Plot 2824 Danube Street Off IBB Way, Maitama, Abuja

10th May, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENT

INVITATION TO EVENTS MARKING THE TAKE–OFF OF NILS
As part of the series of events lined up to mark the Take-off of NILS, there will be an Interactive Session with Chairmen of Senate Committees.

***Date:** Thursday, May 10th, 2012*

***Time:** 2.30 pm*

***Venue:** Senate Auditorium*

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(b) *Announcement:*
The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Gyang D. Dantong (*Plateau North*) as follows:

THE SENATE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Sen. Dr. Gyang D. Dantong JP MBBS, MPH
Plateau North Senatorial District
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health

10/5/12

ANNOUNCEMENT

Distinguished Senators from:
1. Jigawa
2. Borno
3. Bauchi
4. Yobe

Should please see Senator Gyang Dantong in his office Room 2.11 New Senate Wing for an important information, immediately after sitting.

(Signed)
Senator Gyang Dantong
Chairman Senate Committee on Health

4. Petition:
Rising on Rule 41, Senator Victor Lar (*Plateau South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mr Joseph Bitrus over unlawful dismissal from Industrial Training Fund (ITF). 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.

5. Presentation of Bills:
(i) Federal Mortgage Bank Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2012 (SB. 22) — *Read the First Time.*

(ii) Nigeria Customs Service Bill 2012 (SB. 148) — *Read the First Time.*

(iii) Gender Equal Opportunities Bill 2012 (SB. 150) — *Read the First Time.*

(iv) Public Enterprises (Privatization and Commercialization) Act CAP P38 LFN (Amendment) Bill 2012 (SB. 151) — *Read the First Time.*

6. **Motion:**
Deployment of Recruits of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Without Training:
Motion made: That the Senate do note that the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) was established to among others enforce and administer the coordination of all drug laws, adopt measures to identify, trace, freeze, confiscate or seize proceeds derived from drug, adopt measures to eradicate the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and to eliminate demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

notes that Section 9 of the NDLEA Act CAP. N30 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 provides that the NDLEA shall initiate, develop and improve a specific training programme for its law enforcement and other personnel charged with the responsibility for the suppression of offences created by the Act. And that such training programme shall include law enforcement techniques;

notes further that Section 4(4) of the Act provides that for the purpose of carrying out or enforcing the provisions of the Act, all officers of the Agency shall have the same powers, authorities and privileges (including power to bear arms) as are given by law to members of the Nigerian Police;

observes that the Agency under the Chairmanship of late General Musa Bamaiyi established a Training Academy in Jos, Plateau State which was until the leadership of the incumbent Chairman, a Regional Academy for the entire West African sub-region;

observes that Basic Training at the NDLEA Academy Jos, Plateau State is for a period of six months where recruits are taught intelligence gathering, interdiction, investigation, musketry amongst others;

observes that the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency recently recruited about 2000 operatives and deployed them to the various States and Area Commands across the country without training;

observes further that an Officer of the NDLEA allegedly shot dead one Joseph Chia in Taraku Town in Gwer East Local Government Area of Benue State on 16 October 2011;

whereas the exigencies of the time require that personnel of the Agency should not only be trained in basic law enforcement, but be trained and re-trained in contemporary Drug Law Enforcement and Security Management; and

notes that Nigeria and Nigerians would be at grave risk in the deployment of un-trained persons in a Drug Law Enforcement Agency;

The Senate accordingly resolves to:

(i) mandate the Senate Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes to investigate the recruitment and deployment of un-trained staff bearing arms across the country; and

(ii) urge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency to withdraw forthwith the un-trained arms bearing operatives deployed across the country (*Senator Heineken Lokpobiri — Bayelsa West*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Senate Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes to investigate the recruitment and deployment of un-trained staff bearing arms across the country — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency to withdraw forthwith the un-trained arms bearing operatives deployed across the country — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(i) mandate the Senate Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes to investigate the recruitment and deployment of un-trained staff bearing arms across the country; and

(ii) urge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency to withdraw forthwith the un-trained arms bearing operatives deployed across the country (*S/Res/052/01/12*).

7. **Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs:**
Report on the New Number Plates and Driver's Licence Scheme:

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. **Companies Income Tax Act 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2012 (SB.56):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Companies Income Tax Act CAP. C21 LFN 2004 and for Matters Connected Therewith 2011 be read the Second Time (*Senator Andy E. Uba — Anambra South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Finance to report within two (2) weeks.

9. **Chartered Institute for Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2012 (SB. 117):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute for Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria, 2012 be read the Second Time (*Senator Ita S. J. Enang — Akwa Ibom Nort-East*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Establishment and Public Services to report within two (2) weeks.

10. **Regular and Routine Maintenance of Public Infrastructure Bill 2012 (SB.71):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. **Adjournment:**
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 15th May, 2012 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:36 *p.m.*

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