7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 82

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 15th May, 2013

1. The Senate met at 10:47 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 14th May, 2013.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcements:**
(a) Meeting:
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Ike Ekweremadu (*Enugu West*) as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution
National Assembly Complex,
P. M. B. 141, Garki, Abuja-Nigeria

14th May, 2013

His Excellency
The Senate President
Senate Chamber
National Assembly Complex
Abuja

My dear brother,

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Senate Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution will meet today Wednesday, 15th May, 2013 by 1:00 pm at Senate President's Meeting Room 301, Senate Building (New Wing).

(Signed)
Senator Ike Ekweremadu
Deputy Senate President/Chairman

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SEN. DAHIRU AWAISU KUTA

(Niger East)

Chairman Senate committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX;

Three Arms Zone, P.M.B 141, Garki, Abuja-Nigeria.

15th May, 2012

The Senate President,
The Senate.
Distinguished colleagues,

TURBANNING CEREMONY

It is with humility that I write to inform you and my fellow colleagues, about the Turbanning ceremony of my Son, Alhaji Abdullahi Dahiru Awaisu Kuta, of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund, as the TAFIDAN KUTA, by the Village head of Kuta. This is one of the biggest traditional titles reserved for members of the royal family only.

The event will take place on Saturday, the 18th of May 2013, at Kuta, Headquarters of Shiroro Local Government Area, Niger state, and the home of the Shiroro Hydro Power Station.

I am by this letter asking for your prayers for a hitch-free event and successful tenure.

On behalf of my family and the celebrant, I wish to thank you very much for this solidarity.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed)
Comrade Dahiru Awaisu Kuta

(c) ***Acknowledgment:***
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

(*i*) The Student Union Parliament, Kogi State University, Anyigba, Kogi State; and

(*ii*) Family Members of Late Prof. Chinua Achebe, Members of Ogidi Union, his Clan, and Members of Association of Nigeria Authors.

4. Presentation of Bills:

(*i*) National Agricultural Development Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB. 299) — *Read the First Time.*

(*ii*) Economic and Financial Crime Commission Cap E 1 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 300) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iii*) National Institute for Sports Act Cap N52 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 301) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iv*) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act Cap N30 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 — *Read the First Time.*

(v) Federal Highways Act Cap F 13 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 303) — *Read the First Time.*

(vi) Energy Commission Act Cap E 10 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 304) — *Read the First Time.*

(vii) Integrated Farm Settlement and Agro-Input Centres (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB.305) — *Read the First Time.*

5. **Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:**
Report on the Petition from Inspector Emmanuel Eldiare:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions from Inspector Emmanuel Eldiare, on his wrongful dismissal by the Nigeria Police Force (*Senator Ayo P. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

6. **Motion:**
Death of Professor Chinualumogu Albert Achebe (Ugo N' Abo of Ogidi) - OFR, NNMA November 16,1930 - March 21, 2013:
Motion made: That the Senate is saddened by the death of Professor Chinualumogu Albert Achebe whose glorious exit occurred on Thursday March 21, 2013 in Boston Massachusetts, USA after a brief illness at the age of 82 years;

notes that the late Professor Chinualumogu Albert Achebe, simply known as Chinua Achebe, was born on November 16, 1930 in Ogidi in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra Central Senatorial District, Anambra State to the late Mr. Isaiah Okafo and Mrs. Janet Anaenechi Iloegbunam Achebe;

notes that the late Chinua Achebe received his early education at St. Philips' Central Primary School, Ogidi,1936; Government College Umuahia, in Abia State, 1945; proceeded to University College Ibadan (Now University of Ibadan) graduating in 1953, with a degree in English. He worked with the then Eastern Regional Government at Nigerian Broadcasting Service (N.B.S) Enugu;

observes that "Things Fall Apart" Chinua Achebe's most widely read novel, was published in 1958. And after this his flagship book, Achebe had a creative fertile period in the 1960's, writing the following:

Novels: No Longer at Ease (1960), Arrow of God (1964), A Man of the People (1966), Chike and the River (1966), and Anthills of the Savannah (1987); all of which addressed the conflict between traditional ways of life and the new, and often, colonial (British) points of view. His other works include: Beware, Soul- Brother (1971), How the Leopard got his claws (1973), The Trouble With Nigeria, and a host of other Literary works, Novels, Stories and Poems;

That Chinua Achebe was a world figure and personality who brought fame and prestige to Nigeria and all humanity through his literary talents and works, having written several novels and essays, some of which became instrument for his dogged and dynamic activism ultimately seeking a better life for all Nigerians;

observes that he was also a social critique, an activist-poet, a principled personae, who denied himself several personal accolades while he marketed and exported Nigerian and African cultures to several other countries and continents;

observes further that Chinua Achebe was paralyzed from waist down in a motor vehicle accident in 1990 after which doctors gave him 10-12 years to live, yet he lived for 23 active and fulfilling years thereafter;

further observes that despite his incapacitation, he continued to be active in his work and intellectual contributions to the richness of life, the Arts and Culture of Nigeria and Africa, during that period, published several works including his latest work titled "There was a Country".

observes further that Professor Chinua Achebe's life has been exemplary and worthy of emulation and he therefore needs immortalization having made Nigeria proud by bringing honour and prestige to her;

observes that his demise is a monumental loss to his family, the people of Anambra Central Senatorial District, Anambra State, Nigeria, Africa and the World;

notes that, until his death last Thursday night, Achebe was a David and Mariana Fisher University Professor and also Professor of African Studies at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and Bard College in New York, USA, despite his physical challenge;

His early works made him a Pioneer and trailblazer in quality literature output that encouraged many Nigerians to follow his footsteps in writing. His book, Things Fall Apart has a circulation of about 12 million and has been translated into more than 50 languages, thereby putting Nigeria into GLOBAL reckoning in the world of Literature and Liberal Arts. For this, Achebe also remains the NUMERO UNO in the Nigerian Literary Scene;

further notes that, Achebe though did not bag the Nobel Prize in Literature, which is European, strove to put in more works that earned him and the Country more recognition. Because of Things Fall Apart, his flagship and other works, he won the highly prized 1997 Man Booker International Prize for Fiction and in 1979 Nigerian's highest award for intellectual achievement, the Nigerian National Merit Award. (NNMA) and the National Honours, of Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR);

Achebe was a Patriot, who loved his country and was always in constant touch with home even while on his wheelchair in the USA. He criticized Government at home when necessary, especially when they had not done well. He was an activist of prodigious intensity, very courageous and spoke truth to power. He refused National Honours in 2005 and recently on another occasion because according to him, he did not believe things were good enough as to dine with the Governments that offered such honours. Through his works, like A Man of The People, and The Trouble With Nigeria, Achebe had earlier deployed his literary gifts to mirror the ills of the Nigerian society with a view to building a better and prosperous country. Rejecting the National Honours Award in 2004, Achebe had explained that it was his own way to protest the mal-administration foisted on the country particularly the burning down of his home Anambra State by renegades and the silence, if not connivance of the then Federal Government; and

That, as a non-effervescence radical and activist of the Progressive bent, Achebe had a short stint in partisan politics as a founding member in 1978, of Mallam Aminu Kano's Peoples' Redemption Party (PRP) a people oriented, Progressive party that had its interest in the upliftment of the downtrodden (Talakawas) in the society. He quit partisan politics just before his auto mobile accident on the Enugu - Onitsha highway in 1990 and was paralysed from waist down, as a result of irreversible spinal injuries he sustained. He was also an Igbo full titled Chief, with the traditional title of Ugo N'abo (Two Eagles).

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) observe a one minute silence in honour of late Professor Chinualumogu Achebe, OFR, NNMA;

(*ii*) send a high powered delegation to commiserate with his family, the people and Government of Anambra State;

(*iii*) urge the Federal Government to grant a State Funeral in honour of the late sage in order to promote and showcase excellence and his positive contributions to Nigeria and the world;

(*iv*) urge further that a major Federal Highway or Street in Abuja be named after Chinua Achebe; and

(*v*) urge that a National Monument be named after him(Senator Chris N. Ngige — *Anambra Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do observe a one minute silence in honour of late Professor Chinualumogu Achebe, OFR, NNMA — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do send a high powered delegation to commiserate with his family, the people and Government of Anambra State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to grant a State Funeral in honour of the late sage in order to promote and showcase excellence and his positive contributions to Nigeria and the world — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do urge further that a major Federal Highway or Street in Abuja be named after Chinua Achebe — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):
Question: That the Senate do urge that a National Monument be named after him — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(*i*) observe a one minute silence in honour of late Professor Chinualumogu Achebe, OFR, NNMA;

(*ii*) send a high powered delegation to commiserate with his family, the people and Government of Anambra State;

(*iii*) urge the Federal Government to grant a State Funeral in honour of the late sage in order to promote and showcase excellence and his positive contributions to Nigeria and the world;

(*iv*) urge further that a major Federal Highway or Street in Abuja be named after Chinua Achebe; and

(*v*) urge that a National Monument be named after him ***(S/Res/043/02/13)***.

One minute silence accordingly observe in honour of the deceased.

7. Senate Delegation to Anambra State:

The Senate President named the following Senators to condole the families, people and Government of Anambra State over the death of Professor Chinualumogu Albert Achebe (Ugo N' Abo of Ogidi) - OFR, NNMA:

(*i*)	Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba	—	Leader of the Delegation
(*ii*)	Senator Uche Chukwumerije	—	Member
(*iii*)	Senator Olusola Adeyeye	—	Member
(*iv*)	Senator James E. Manager	—	Member
(*v*)	Senator Abdul A. Ningi	—	Member
(*vi*)	Senator Mohammed Magoro	—	Member
(*vii*)	Senator Philip T. Aduda	—	Member
(*viii*)	Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu	—	Member
(*ix*)	Senator Zaynab A. Kure	—	Member

8. Pension Reform Act (No.2) 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2013 (SB.288):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act 2003 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2013 (SB.264):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Lagos State Special Economic Assistance Programmed (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB.272):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund Act CAP N88, LFN, 2004 Bill 2013 (SB.221):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. Committee on Finance:

Report on the Customs and Excise Management Act CAP C45, LFN 2004, (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2013 (HB.238 and SB.148):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. Committee on Environment and Ecology:

Report on the National Oil Spill Detection Agency (NOSDRA) Act 2006 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 155):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 16th May, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:11 *p.m.*

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