SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 2nd July, 2013

1. The Senate met at 10:34 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 27th June, 2013.

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

3. **Message from Mr President:**
The 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:

2013 Amendment Budget:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

June 26, 2013

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

Your Excellency,

RE: 2013 AMENDMENT BUDGET

As you may recall, I had transmitted the 2013 Amendment Budget proposal to the National Assembly on 14th March 2013.

However, following further consultations, I am forwarding a new version of the categorized 2013 Amendment Budget proposal indicating changes proposed across the expenditure categories. The Capital Projects have now been designated as follows: "critical" is designated as (i); "important" is designated as (ii) and "others" designated as (iii).

Some Capital Projects, the allocations of which were reduced and which we seek your cooperation in restoring so as to promote national development, include the following:

Ministry of Works: Abuja-Lokoja Road reduced by ₦4B; Kano-Maiduguri Road reduced by ₦3.5B; Dualisation of Ibadan-Ilorin Section 2 reduced by ₦5.5B; Rehabilitation of Jebba Bridge reduced by ₦1.25B; Rehabilitation of burnt Marine Bridge and Iddo Bridge reduced by ₦1B; Special Intervention Fund for Emergency Roads and Bridges washout across the country reduced by ₦6.28B; Dualisation of Obajana Junction to Benin reduced by ₦4B, etc.

***Ministry of Health:** MDG HIV/AIDS ARV drugs allocation reduced by ₦1B; Routine Immunization Vaccines reduced by ₦1.75B; Malaria Programme procurement and distribution of insecticides reduced by ₦0.8B; Payment of pledge for Onchocerciasis Recertification cut by ₦0.12B; National Trauma Centre, Abuja reduced by ₦0.1B, etc.*

***Ministry of Power:** A total of ₦16.3B was cut from power projects including the 215MW Kaduna Dual Fired Power Plant, which was reduced by ₦2.25B; 2nd Kaduna-Kano 33KV DC Lines reduced by ₦1.5B; Gombe- Yola-Jalingo 330KV SC Line reduced by ₦0.6B; Maiduguri 330/132KV Sub-station reduced by ₦0.3B; Kaduna-Jos 330KV DC Line reduced by ₦0.5B; Omotosho-Epe-Ajah 330KV DC Line reduced by ₦0.8B, etc.*

***Ministry of Transport:** Construction of Abuja-Kaduna Rail was reduced by ₦1.4B; Jebba-Kano Rail Line Rehabilitation reduced by ₦0.5B; Procurement and Rehabilitation of Wagons/Locomotives reduced by ₦1B; Insurance of Locomotives reduced by ₦0.2B etc.*

***Ministry of Education:** Allocations to various projects were reduced to the tune of ₦5.64B, including the National Library Project which was cut by ₦2B.*

***SURE-P:** We all appreciate the fact that unemployment is one of our major concerns in this country today. Considering the gravity of the situation, I would like to bring up the issue of the budgetary allocation to the Community Services, Women and Youth Employment Programme under the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P). Against our proposal of 27 Billion Naira, the National Assembly allocated 9 Billion Naira. This cut will have the adverse effect of severely undermining our capacity to create the jobs needed for our teeming unemployed youths, women and physically challenged citizens. In this regard, I crave your cooperation to restore the SURE-P Budget (a copy of its Amendment proposal is attached herewith).*

You will further recall that the personnel cost was cut across all MDAs which will make it difficult to meet Government's obligations to its workers. I therefore seek your kind understanding for the restoration of the said cuts in order to maintain industrial harmony.

It is my hope that this submission will help the work of the Senate to consider and pass the 2013 Amendment Budget proposal expeditiously.

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

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

4. **Announcement:**

Acknowledgment:

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

(*i*) Staff and Students of White Dove Academy, Suleja, Niger State;

(*ii*) Students of the Department of Library and Information Science, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua University, Katsina, Katsina State; and

(*iii*) Staff and Students of Morfol Cuddle School, Lugbe, Abuja.

5. ***Demise of Senator Pius A. Ewherido:***

Motion made: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of Late Senator Pius A. Ewherido (*Delta Central*) who died on Sunday, 30th June, 2013; defer debate on Constitutional Amendment earlier scheduled for this week to next week; and constitute a Committee to liaise with the deceased family for burial arrangements (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

6. **Late Senator Pius A. Ewherido Burial Committee:**

The Senate President named the following Senators as Chairman and Members of Late Senator Pius A. Ewherido burial Committee:

(*i*)	Senator Suleiman Adokwe	—	Chairman
(*ii*)	Senator James E. Manager	—	Member
(*iii*)	Senator Ifeanyi A. Okowa	—	Member
(*iv*)	Senator Olusola J. Adeyeye	—	Member
(*v*)	Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe	—	Member
(*vi*)	Senator Ita S. J. Enang	—	Member
(*vii*)	Senator Nenadi E. Usman	—	Member
(*viii*)	Senator Gyang N. S Pwajok	—	Member
(*ix*)	Senator Joshua M. Lidani	—	Member

7. **Adjournment:**

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 3rd July, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 11:01 *a.m.*

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