SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 19th September, 2013

1. The Senate met at 10:32 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 18th September, 2013.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**
(a) ***Payment for Hajj Seats:***
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Mohammed S. Saleh (*Kaduna Central*) as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

18th September, 2013

Distinguished Senators,

RE: PAYMENT FOR HAJJ SEATS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs hereby reminds Distinguished Senators, that the closing date of 18th September, 2013, earlier communicated to the Senators, for the allocation and payment of Hajj Seats provided to the Senate by the National Hajj Commission, has been extended to Monday, 23rd September, 2013.

Interested Senators should please forward their requests for allocation, and those who have received their allocations should hasten to make their payment, in order to meet up with the final date for the issuance of Visas by the Saudi Embassy.

For further inquiry, please contact S. D. Umar (08033116990) or Adamu Saidu (08033119969), Room 4.1, 4th Floor, Senate Wing, NASS Main Building (White House).

Thank you.

(Signed)
Senator Mohammed Sani Saleh, OON
Vice Chairman

(b) ***Notice of Meeting:***
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Hope Uzodimma (*Imo West*) as follows:

SOUTHERN SENATORS FORUM
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ABUJA

19th September, 2013

The Senate President,
His Excellency,
Senator David Mark (GCON),
National Assembly,
Abuja.

My Leader,

ANNOUNCEMENT
NOTICE OF MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Southern Senators Forum today 19th of September, 2013 immediately after the plenary session.

Venue: Hearing Room 1

Time: 1pm.

Please endeavor to attend.

(Signed)
SENATOR HOPE UZODIMMA
(Secretary)

(c) ***Appreciation:***
The Senate President expressed heartfelt appreciation to Distinguished Senators for the warm reception accorded the visiting Chairman of the Chinese Parliament and his delegation.

He thanked Senators for honouring the event and dinner held in honour of the delegation.

(d) ***Demise of Senator Yohanna Uti Joshua {1992 - 1993 (3rd Senate)}:***

One minute silence observed in honour of the deceased Senator.

4. Presentation of Bills:

(*i*) The Flag and Coat of Arms Act Cap F. 30 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 362) — *Read the First Time.*

(*ii*) The Flag of Nigeria Ships Act Cap F 31 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 363) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iii*) Fertilizer (Control) Act Cap F. 25 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 364)— *Read the First Time.*

(*iv*) Public Officers Protection Act Cap P. 41 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 365) — *Read the First Time.*

(*v*) Federal Capital Territory Public Service Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB. 366) — *Read the First Time.*

(*vi*) National Agency for Foreign Assistance (NAFFA) (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB. 367)— *Read the First Time.*

(*vii*) Nigerian Political Debate Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB. 368) — *Read the First Time.*

5. Motions:

(i) Proposed Imposition of Three Thousand British Pounds (£3000) "Visa Bond" on Nigerians Travelling to the United Kingdom:

Motion made: That the Senate is aware that Nigeria and Britain have long and historic trading, economic, political and cultural relations;

aware that both Nigeria and Britain are members of the Commonwealth of Nations, the United Nations, among others and signatories to several International Conventions and Agreements;

notes that Section 42 of the Nigerian Constitution 1999 (as amended) expressly forbids discrimination against any Nigerian for whatever reason;

notes that Article 5 Paragraph (m) of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 to which both Nigeria and Britain are signatories specifically forbids "a sending state party to the Convention from performing functions objected to or prohibited by the laws and regulations of the receiving state party;

aware that both Nigeria and the United Kingdom are signatories to the 1979 Lusaka Declaration of the Commonwealth on Racism and Racial prejudice;

aware also that both Nigeria & Britain are signatories to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination 1963, as well as the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination of 1966;

dismayed that inspite of the above Laws and Conventions to which the United Kingdom is a signatory, the same UK Government has announced the imposition of a £3000 (Three Thousand British Pounds) "Visa Bond" on Nigerian citizens travelling to the United Kingdom for the first time;

convinced that the said Three thousand British Pounds (£3000) "Visa Bond" imposed on Nigerians is selective, discriminatory, obnoxious, vexatious and unprecedented;

concerned that the imposition of a Three Thousand Pounds (£3000) "Visa Bond" will place additional barriers, burden, and undue hardship on the paths of Nigerians intending to travel to the United Kingdom for legitimate reasons;

concerned that the imposition of the £3000 (Three Thousand British Pounds) "Visa Bond" is capable of negatively affecting the existing excellent relations between Nigeria and Britain;

affirm that Nigerians have rejected the imposition of the £3000 (Three Thousand British Pounds) "visa bond" as they consider it discriminatory.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) condemn in no uncertain terms the selective and discriminatory imposition of a Three Thousand British Pounds "Visa Bond" on Nigerian travelers by the British Government;

(*ii*) on behalf of the Nigerian people whom we represent, object to and reject in its totality the payment or implementation of the Three Thousand British Pounds "Visa Bond" in Nigeria (because it is discriminatory and contravenes several laws and International Conventions);

(*iii*) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to convey resolutions (i) and (ii) above to the British Government; and

(*iv*) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to take all necessary steps to protect Nigerians from the payment of this obnoxious visa levy or similar levies in the future by Britain or any other country (*Senator Matthew I. Nwagwu — Imo North*).

Debate:

By leave of the Senate Motion deferred.

(*ii*) ***2013 Budget and Alleged Over Bloated Revenue Estimates:***
Motion made: That the Senate is aware that the National Assembly passed the 2013 Appropriation Bill on December 20, 2012, and assented to by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, on the 15th of February, 2013;

aware of the National Assembly enactment, guiding the implementation of the budget most especially clause 6 which states thus - "the Minister of Finance shall ensure that funds appropriated under this Act are released to the appropriate Agencies and or Organs of government as and at when due, provided that no funds for any quarter of the fiscal year shall be differed without prior waiver from the National Assembly";

further notes, the highlights of Revenue Estimates are as follows:

	Federal Government Proposal		**NASS Appropriation**		**Current Average Market Price**
1.	Bench Mark per Barrel	=	$75	$79	$109
2.	Exchange Rate per Naira	=	₦160	₦160	
3.	Oil Production Volume	=	2.526	2.526	
4.	Net Customs Revenue	=	₦1,001,699	₦1,006,594	
5.	FIRS Revenue	=	N2,065,493	N2,072,753	

concerned that the release indications is as follows:

Total to date (3rd quarter)	
Capital	855,141,000,000
Approved budget	1,591,657,000,000
Difference	₦736,466,000,000

dismayed by the utterances of the Minister of State, which is clearly targeted to blackmail the National Assembly, considering all the revenue variables are within the target expectations; and

concerned that such unguarded pronouncement is capable of sending serious negative signals to the Nigerian citizens and indeed the international community.

Accordingly resolves to:
direct the Committees on Finance and Appropriations of the Senate to invite the Minister of Finance to disclose cause(s) of fallen revenues if any and to report their findings within two weeks (*Senator Abdul A. Ningi — Bauchi Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:
Question: That the Senate do direct the Committees on Finance; and Appropriations of the Senate to invite the Minister of Finance to disclose cause(s) of fallen revenues if any and to report their findings within two weeks.

Amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word "and" in line 3, *insert* the words "to ascertain the level of implementation of the 2013 Appropriation Act and to report to the Senate within three(3) weeks" (*Senator Ahmed M. Makarfi — Kaduna North*).

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

Resolved:
That the Senate do direct the Committees on Finance; and Appropriations of the Senate to invite the Minister of Finance to disclose cause(s) of fallen revenues if any and to ascertain the level of implementation of the 2013 Appropriation Act and to report to the Senate within three(3) weeks ***(S/Res/007/03/13).***

6. **Satellite Town Development Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB.270):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

7. **National Poverty Eradication Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB.140):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. **Chartered Institute of Treasury Management (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (HB.88):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. **Joint Committee on Police Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:**
Report on the Motor Vehicle (Prohibition of Tinted Glass) Act Cap M21 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 289):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. **Committee on Investment:**
Report on the National Sugar Development Council Act N78 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB. 198):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. **Committee on Health, Primary Healthcare:**
Report on the National Health Bill 2013 (SB. 215):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. **Adjournment:**
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 24th September, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:15 *p.m.*

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