SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 19th November, 2013

1. The Senate met at 11:02 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

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

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

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:

2014 Budget:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

November 18th 2013

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

Your Excellency,

RE: 2014 BUDGET

Please recall that I had written requesting the Distinguished Senate to grant me the slot of 12 noon on Tuesday, 19th November 2013 to enable me address a Joint Session of the National Assembly on the 2014 Budget.

However, considering the fact that, whereas the Distinguished Senate has approved the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) based on a benchmark of $76.5 per barrel, the Honurable House of Representatives has used a benchmark of $79 per barrel, it is infeasible for me to present the budget in the absence of a harmonized position on the MTEF.

In the circumstance, it has become necessary to defer the presentation of the 2014 Budget to a Joint Session of the National Assembly until such a time when both respected chambers would have harmonized their positions on the MTEF. It is my hope that this will be in the shortest possible time.

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

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

4. Petition:

Rising on Rule 41, Senator Nenadi E. Usman *(Kaduna South)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from her constituents, Mr Joseph Dude du Danladi, Cecilia J. Galadima and Agan John Odi for re-instatement into the Services of the National Board of Technical Education. She 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)].

5. Presentation of Bills:

(*i*) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999(Alteration) Bill 2013 (SB.393) — *Read the First Time.*

(*ii*) Standards Organisation Act CAP S.9 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB.394) — *Read the First Time.*

6. Joint Committee on Sports and Social Development; and National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation:

Report on the National Social Welfare Commission Bill 2013 (SB.115):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Joint Committee on Sports and Social Development; and National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, on the National Social Welfare Commission Bill 2013 (*Senator Adamu I. Gumba — Bauchi South*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. Joint Committee on Sports and Social Development; and Women Affairs and Youth Development:

Report on the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Bill 2013 (SB.102):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Joint Committee on Sports and Social Development; and Women Affairs and Youth Development, on the discrimination against persons with disabilities (Prohibition) Bill 2013 (*Senator Adamu I. Gumba — Bauchi South*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

8. **Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa and NEPAD:**
Report on the New Partnership for Africa's Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB.121):
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa and NEPAD, on the New Partnership for Africa's Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (*Senator Simeon S. Ajibola — Kwara South*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. **Sessional Reports (June 2012 - June 2013):**
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the June 2012 - June 2013 Sessional Reports of the following Committees:

(*i*) Committee on Public Accounts;

(*ii*) Committee on Senate Services;

(*iii*) Committee on Appropriations;

(*iv*) Committee on Capital Market;

(*v*) Committee on Education;

(*vi*) Committee on Federal Capital Territory;

(*vii*) Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs;

(*viii*) Committee on Health, Primary Healthcare;

(*ix*) Committee on Housing;

(*x*) Committee on Police Affairs;

(*xi*) Committee on Trade; and

(*xii*) Committee on Foreign Affairs (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Reports Laid.

10. **Joint Session of the National Assembly:**

Joint Session deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. **Committee on Communications:**
Report of the screening of nominee:
Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Communications, on the screening of Engr. Ubale Ahmed Shehu Maska, as Executive Commissioner in the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)(*Senator Gilbert Nnaji — Enugu East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Communications, on the screening of Engr. Ubale Ahmed Shehu Maska, as Executive Commissioner in the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

Nominee recommended for confirmation:
Engr. Ubale Ahmed Shehu Maska — *Agreed to.*

Chairman to report progress.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Communications, on the screening of Engr. Ubale Ahmed Shehu Maska, as Executive Commissioner in the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and approved the nomination.

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Confirmation of nomination:

Question:
"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Engr. Ubale Ahmed Shehu Maska, as Executive Commissioner in the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Engr. Ubale Ahmed Shehu Maska, as Executive Commissioner in the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) accordingly confirmed.

(DEPUTY SENATE PRESIDENT IN CHAIR)

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

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. **Committee on Establishment and Public Services:**
Report on the National Assembly Service Commission Act Cap N7 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2013 (SB. 245):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. **National Frontier Basin Exploration Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB.280):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the National Frontier Basin Exploration Agency to execute, promote and over-see exploration activities in the inland sedimentary basins and for Other Related matters 2013 be read the Second Time (*Senator Smart Adeyemi — Kogi West*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

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

15. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 20th November, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:16 *p.m.*

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