SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 18th March, 2014

1. The Senate met at 10:39 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 11th March, 2014.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

(i) ***Notice of Meeting:***
The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Ahmad M. Maccido (*Sokoto North*) as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Committee on Appropriations
National Assembly Complex,
Three-Arms Zone, Abuja

Distinguished Colleagues

This is to inform all Sub-Committees on Appropriations that:

a. *Any Sub-Committee that has finished its work should endeavour to submit its work to the Committee on Appropriations, starting today;*

b. *The earlier time-table sent to your respective offices should be disregarded; and*

c. *The venue will be Room 305, New Senate Building, every day after Plenary Session.*

(Signed)
Ahmad M. Maccido
Chairman Committee on Appropriation

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(ii) ***Acknowledgment:***

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

(*i*) Members of Students' Representative Assembly, Students' Union, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Sokoto State;

(*ii*) Staff and Students of Great Abundant Life Academy, Nyanya, Abuja; and

(*iii*) Members of the National Union of Rivers State Students, University of Abuja, FCT.

4. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Atiku A. Bagudu (*Kebbi Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the tragedy that struck the nation last week during the Nigerian Immigration Service Nationwide Aptitude Test and Physical Examination of March 15th, 2014 during which some applicants lost theirs lives. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate;

notes with grief the Saturday, 15th March, 2014 tragic nationwide recruitment exercise of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) during which 15 applicants died as a result of stampede that occurred at some of the test centres across the country;

observes that the Head of Service of the Federation had in 2011 granted approval for the recruitment of 4,556 Personnel of various cadre for the Nigeria Immigration Service. 1,343 Assistant Superintendent 1 and 2(Graduates), 1,680 Assistant Inspector 1 for National Certificate in Education (NCE) and Ordinary National Diploma, 1,531 Immigration Assistant III (SSCE);

notes that following the Federal Government approval, an attempt was made to conduct the recruitment exercise by the former Comptroller-General, Mrs Rosemary Uzoma but was cancelled in 2013 because the conduct of the exercise became controversial. The Senate had in January 2013 debated a Motion on employment irregularities in Agencies including the Nigerian Immigration Service;

observes that with the cancellation of the exercise in 2013, the Ministry of Interior engaged Consultants (Drexel Technical Global) to provide an online platform for interested persons to apply while charging ₦1,000.00 per applicant;

notes that prior to this exercise, employment into the Nigerian Immigration Service was done in two usual ways. The Service has responsibility of employment of Junior Officers while the recruitment of Senior Officers was handled by the Customs, Immigration and Prisons Board (CIPB). The introduction of Consultants and charging of ₦1,000.00 is a new innovation;

notes that pursuant to the process, 700,772 applicants are said to have applied and accordingly, the Comptroller-General of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) announced Saturday, 15th March, 2014 as the date for the aptitude test;

notes also that applicants across the country responded as they thronged venues of the exercise in most stadia. At least, about 70,000 applicants were registered for the Abuja test centre. The exercise was held under the coordination of the Comptrollers of Immigration in the States and the FCT with one representative of the Board in each Centre;

regrets that the exercise resulted in the sad loss of lives and several injuries. The Committee visited the National Hospital and confirmed seven dead and saw nine (9) of the 11 wounded. The Director of Clinical Services, Dr. Jaf Momoh confirmed that the bills for those receiving treatment are to be paid by the Ministry of Interior. The Committee also visited the National Hospital where the Clinical Director confirmed seven dead;

notes that other casualties were recorded in Niger State (2 dead), Rivers State (5 dead), Edo State (1 dead), in addition to several others injured in many locations;

notes further that in spite of the accidents, the test and physical exams were conducted except for Lagos State where it was cancelled; and

grieved by this unfortunate and disheartening incident.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) condole with the families of those that lost their lives and sympathize with those injured in the unfortunate incident;

(*ii*) observe a minute silence in honour of those that lost their lives;

(*iii*) condemn the poor handling and logistic provisions at centres across the country which resulted in the various accidents; and

(*iv*) direct the Committee on Interior to conduct a Public Hearing on the matter and report within one week.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do condole with the families of those that lost their lives and sympathize with those injured in the unfortunate incident — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of those that lost their lives — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do condemn the poor handling and logistic provisions at centres across the country which resulted in the various accidents — *Negatived*.

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do direct the Committee on Interior to conduct a Public Hearing on the matter and report within one week — *Agreed to*.

Additional Prayer Proposed:
Insert additional prayer as follows:
"Urge the Executive to come up with a "Marshal Plan" on youth employment in Nigeria" (*Senator Chris N. D. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(*i*) condole with the families of those that lost their lives and sympathize with those injured in the unfortunate incident;

(*ii*) observe a minute silence in honour of those that lost their lives;

(*iii*) direct the Committee on Interior to conduct a Public Hearing on the matter and report within one week; and

(*iv*) urge the Executive to come up with a "Marshal Plan" on youth employment in Nigeria ***(S/Res/031/03/14)***.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

5. Presentation of Bills:

(*i*) Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Act Cap C4 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2014 (SB. 460) — *Read the First Time*.

(*ii*) Immigration Bill 2014 (HB. 61) — *Read the First Time*.

(*iii*) Chartered Institute of Financial and Investment Analysts of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2014 (HB. 295) — *Read the First Time*.

(*iv*) Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2014 (HB. 459) — *Read the First Time*.

(*v*) Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Bill 2014 (HB 191) — *Read the First Time*.

6. Confirmation of Nomination:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for the confirmation of Mr. Emmanuel Olusanya Omirin (*Osun State*) for appointment as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on National Planning Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to report within two (2) weeks.

7. Confirmation of Nominations:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for the confirmation of the following nominees for appointment as Members of the National Population Commission:

S/No	Name	Position	State
(*i*)	Alhaji Hassan Bashir	Member	Bauchi
(*ii*)	Hon. Lanre Fayemi	Member	Ekiti

(*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on National Identity and National Population to report within two (2) weeks.

8. Committee on Establishment and Public Services:

Report on the National Assembly Service Commission Act Cap N7 2004 (Repeal and enactment) Bill 2014 (SB. 245):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Joint Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; and Women Affairs and Youth Development:
Report on the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act 2003 (Amendment) Bill 2014 (SB. 264):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:
Report on the Unlawful dismissal of Mr. Blessing Onoride Unata from Service by Total E and P Nigeria Limited

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Chemical Weapons Authority Bill 2014 (SB. 287):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. National Centre for Management Act. No 2 of 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2014 (SB. 105):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. Nigerian Railway Corporation Act Cap R129 LFN 2011 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2014 (SB. 329):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 19th March, 2014 at 10.00 a.m. *(Deputy Senate Leader).*

Adjourned accordingly at 1:33 *p.m.*

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