7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 77

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 29th April, 2014

1. The Senate met at 10:42 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 10th April, 2014.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Messages from Mr. President:**
The Senate President announced that he had received three letters from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

(a) Confirmation of appointment:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

April 9, 2014

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

Your Excellency,

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION

The Federal Character Commission is one of the Federal Executive Bodies established under Section 153(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended. By the provision of Part 1, Paragraph 7 of the Third Schedule to the Constitution, the Commission shall comprise of a Chairman and one person to represent each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). In this connection, Dr. Yunusa Musa Salihu is being nominated to represent the FCT.

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In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution which states that the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate, I hereby present Dr. Yunusa Musa Salihu as a Member of the Federal Character Commission for the kind consideration of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

While hoping that the request will receive the usual expeditious consideration and confirmation of the Distinguished Senators, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards and esteem.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

(b) Request for Removal and Replacement of a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

April 8, 2014

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

Your Excellency,

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

The Federal Civil Service Commission is one of the Federal Executive bodies established under Section 153(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. By the provision of Part 1(d) of the Third Schedule of the Constitution, the Commission shall comprise a Chairman and not more than fifteen (15) members.

In this connection, Dr. Emmanuel Chimezie Ihedioha, representing Abia/Imo States on the Commission is unable to continue carrying out his official functions due to serious ill health.

I have, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 157(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria decided to remove Dr. Emmanuel Chimezie Ihedioha as a Member of the Federal Civil Service Commission and to present Dr. Chimaobi Ozichi Odunze for consideration as his replacement.

While hoping that the request will receive the usual expeditious consideration and confirmation of the Distinguished Senators, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards and esteem.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

(c) Confirmation of Appointment:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

April 8, 2014

Distinguished Senator David Mark, GCON
Senate President,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE TARABA AND ADAMAWA STATES REPRESENTATIVES IN THE REVENUE MOBILIZATION, ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION

The Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission is one of the Federal Executive bodies established under Section 153(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. By the provision of Part 1(N) of the Third Schedule of the Constitution, the Commission shall comprise a Chairman and one member from each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

In this connection, Barrister Yakubu Muri Tuktur, is being nominated as Member representing Taraba State following the expiration of the term of the former Member from the State, while Mr. Emmanuel Teri Vahyala is being re-appointed as Member representing Adamawa State.

In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution which states that the appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate, I hereby present Barrister Yakubu Muri Tuktur, and Mr. Emmanuel Teri Vahyala as Members of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission for the kind consideration of the Senate of the Federal Republic.

While hoping that the request will receive the usual expeditious consideration of the Distinguished Senate, please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards and esteem.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

4. Remarks:

President of the Senate
Federal Republic of Nigeria

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, H.E. SENATOR (DR) DAVID A. B. MARK, GCON, AT THE RESUMPTION OF SENATE PLENARY ON TUESDAY, 29 APRIL, 2014

Protocol:

1. *My Distinguished Colleagues and Bosses, Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

2. *I welcome you all back from your working short Easter break, and I am glad to see everyone hale and hearty.*

3. *For all Nigerians, this year's Easter was foreshadowed by sorrow, gloom and anxiety. A few days before Good Friday, there was a bomb blast at Nyanya Motor Park in our nation's capital at rush hour. The blast left in its wake, death, injury and massive destruction of properties. The anarchists followed up the bombing in Abuja with other acts of infamy in the North East, the most reprehensible being the abduction of secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State.*

4. *Our thoughts and prayers go to all those who are affected by these needless acts of savagery. Our thoughts and prayers also go to their families. We stand united in grief with the families of these hapless school girls in their hour of pain, agony and anxiety. We call on their kidnappers to immediately release them unconditionally.*

5. *There is no doubt that our nation is at war. The enemy has clearly and unequivocally served the nation notice of its vile intentions. Therefore, a clear and unambiguous decisive military response from the Government, beyond the imposition of a state of emergency, is urgently required in this circumstance. This is an option we must consider now.*

6. *It is obvious that we are dealing with insurgents and well funded nihilists who are determined to violently trample upon the secularity of the Nigerian State and destroy the country. A modern, vibrant, progressive, multi-ethnic, multi-religious Nigeria is an anathema to them. Because they are fired by zealotry and extremism, they are not likely to be swayed by overtures of any kind. We must henceforth shift from fighting terrorism to fighting insurgency.*

7. *Our emphasis must therefore be on winning the hearts and minds of the communities in the immediate theaters of conflict. The full might and strength of our security services must now be deployed to confront this scourge and we expect our security services to rapidly reorient their assets and capabilities so as to overcome this difficult challenge. And this must be done within the shortest possible time frame with minimal casualties. Let me emphasise that for them to achieve this they require the cooperation of all and sundry.*

8. *The Government must do all it can to immediately identify the sponsors and the source of funds to the terrorists and the insurgents. In this connection, nobody who is implicated, no matter how highly placed, should be treated as a sacred cow.*

9. *On our part as Federal Legislators, we will continue to co-operate and work with all arms of government and the people to bring this unwarranted assault on our peace and unity to a swift end. We will activate and deploy every possible constitutional legislative instrument in aid of the war against terror. Every concerted effort must be made to bring this reign of terror to a decisive end.*

10. *The breadth and scope of this assault on the Nigerian State makes for somber reading; places of worship have been violated; pupils have been brutally murdered en masse in their dormitories; school girls have been brutalized and kidnaped from their schools; police stations and army barracks have been attacked, sacked and incinerated; lives and properties have been destroyed and whole communities uprooted and made refugees in their own country.*

11. *The tragedy is that at a time of grave national emergency like this when every Nigerian should stand in unity and openly rebuke evil, some of our countrymen and women, unfortunately only see this as an opportunity for partisan politics. Appallingly, rather than condemn in the strongest possible terms they have resorted to destructive partisan diatribes that can only demoralize our troops, and the nation and encourage the insurgents. When a nation is faced with clear and present danger, what is required is a bipartisan approach and a show of support for the government and the security services.*

12. *In other democracies where terrorism has been confronted with substantial success, bipartisan support for government's counter insurgency policy and war efforts have proved vital to lasting success. We must recognize these attacks as an e-gre-gious assault on the Nigerian way of life, and a signal threat to her corporate existence. We must not quibble, nor speak along party lines. We must speak out as Nigerians, and collectively, we must flash a powerful signal against terror. Our instinctive patriotism should be on display and we must rally bipartisan support for government to confront terror. This was what the Americans and the British did in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the 7/7 London Bombings.*

13. *It is dispiriting that at the peak of bombings, abductions and senseless killings by insurgents, rather than stand together as Nigerians, some people are speaking along party lines, scheming and viewing anarchy from the prisms of partisanship. This is condemnable and totally unacceptable. We should not sell the truth to serve the hour.*

And the truth is that Boko Haram has declared war, not just on the present government, but on any government founded on the principles of democracy, secularity and tolerance!

14. *I do not by any means seek to discourage debate, nor do I abhor constructive criticisms. But the print and electronic media are daily inundated with criticisms so destructive that at times one is left to wonder whether the insurgents are now the heroes while those fighting them are the villains. The times do not warrant this kind of devious and divisive politicking. The impression must not be given that anybody who gives his life fighting insurgency has died in vain.*

15. *The time has come for us to stand shoulder to shoulder as we confront this evil. As Nigerians, we must all unite across party lines with the sole aim of fighting and defeating our common enemy. If the enemy of unity, peace and progress prevails, there will be no political parties, except the party of hate, of intolerance, of anarchy, and of backwardness and bigotry and this must not stand. That is not a prospect that I, or any other Nigerian, would wish our dear country.*

16. *I therefore call on every Nigerian to be patriotic, patient, prayerful and hopeful. There is no way a strange and anarchic ideology, not supported by any of the faiths to which we subscribe, will overcome the civilized and collective resolve of Nigerians.*

17. *In spite of all these, let me re-emphasise my stand that we should not foreclose the avenue for dialogue as a means of finding a lasting solution to the current acts of terrorism and insurgency.*

18. *Distinguished colleagues, 1 welcome you back to this chamber and urge you to brace yourselves for the tasks ahead.*

(Signed)
SENATOR (DR.) David A.B. Mark, GCON, fnim
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

5. Announcements:

(a) Conference Committee:

The Senate President named the following Senators as Conferees on the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Bill 2014:

(*i*)	Senator Adamu I. Gumba	—	Chairman
(*ii*)	Senator Mudashiru O. Husain	—	Member
(*iii*)	Senator Nenadi E. Usman	—	Member
(*iv*)	Senator Nkechi J. Nwaogu	—	Member
(*v*)	Senator Nurudeen Abatemi-Usman	—	Member
(*vi*)	Senator Clever Ikisikpo	—	Member

(b) Wedding Invitation:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Boluwaji Kunlere (*Ondo South*) as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Senator Boluwaji Kunlere
Ondo South Senatorial District

17th April, 2014

His Excellency
Distinguished Senator David A. B. Mark (GCON)
President of the Senate
National Assembly
Abuja.

Your Excellency, our real Boss!

WEDDING NOTIFICATION

It is with great pleasure and glory to God Almighty that I hereby formally notify and invite, Your Excellency, Principal Officers and my Distinguished Colleagues, to the wedding ceremony between my first son Prince Andrew Oluwafeyifunmi KUNLERE and his heartthrob Princess Eyitolami Aminat OMISORE, which will hold as follows:

Engagement

Date:	*Saturday 24th May, 2014*
Time:	*8.00am*
Venue:	*Brooks Park, Transformer Junction, Alaafin Avenue Opposite Friendly Top Filling Station, Oluyole Estate, Ibadan.*

Nikkah

Date:	*Saturday 24th May, 2014*
Time:	*10.00am*
Venue:	*Brooks Park, Transformer Junction, Alaafin Avenue Opposite Friendly Top Filling Station, Oluyole Estate, Ibadan.*

Reception
Date: *24th May, 2014*
Time: *12.00 noon* *Venue: At the same venue.*

We will appreciate if you will note the date on your diary and honour us with your presence at the event. We also humbly request that you uphold the intending couple, the two families, friends and well-wishers with your prayers.

We will be sending you invitation card in due course, however, in the event that you do not receive a card before the dates, please accept this as a formal invitation to the wedding.

Please accept the assurances of my highest personal regards.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed)
Senator Boluwaji Kunlere

(c) Legislative Christian Fellowship Anniversary:
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Ita S. J. Enang (*Akwa Ibom North-East*) as follows:

SENATOR ITA S. J. ENANG
Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Chairman, Senate Rules and Business Committee

29th April, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENT

All Distinguished Senators and staff are hereby invited to the 6th Anniversary of the Christian Legislators Fellowship International.

Date: *Wednesday, the 30th of April, 2014*

Venue: *Ground Floor, Room 0.22, Senate Conference Hall*

Time: *7:00 am.*

Invitation cards are being distributed to all Senators.

Distinguished Senators are hereby invited.

Thank you.

Host:
H. E. Sen. David B. Mark, GCON
President, Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

(Signed)
Senator Ita Enang
Co - ordinator

Your Excellency,

ANNOUNCEMENT
JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING.

Members of the Senate Joint Committee that visited Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau States are to meet by 2:00 pm today

Venue: Room 2.13 New Senate Wing

Yours sincerely,
(Signed)
Sen. Maj. Gen. M. Magoro, OFR
Galadiman Zuru
Chairman, Joint Committee

6. Motion:
Abduction of School Children in Chibok, Borno State:
Motion made: That the Senate notes with grief the inhuman abduction of secondary school girls in Chibok, Borno State by alleged Boko Haram terrorists;

notes also that, just when the country was nursing its grief caused by the rush hour bombing of a bus park in the nation's capital, Abuja, which killed over 75 people and wounded dozens more, the country was struck yet with another devastating blow: the abduction of about 234 girls from their school in Chibok on 15th April, 2014;

notes that on the 15th April 2014, the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State was attacked when militants broke into the school, shooting the guards and abducting a large number of students in trucks into the Sambisa forest, a known hideout for the Boko Haram Sect;

aware that prior to the attack and abduction, the school was closed down for four weeks due to the deteriorating security situation in the state but were only recalled to take their final exams in Physics;

disappointed that two (2) weeks after their disappearance, the girls whereabout are still unknown. And about 44 escaped by jumping from the back of the truck used to ferry them away or by sneaking out of the abductor's camp deep inside the Sambisa forest;

observes also that besides the uncertainty as to the whereabouts and fate of these innocent girls, whose only crime was to go to school, is the lack of authentic information from the school authorities, the security agencies and their parents as to the exact number of girls that were abducted and the processes leading to same;

hopeful that the offer of assistance by Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom to rescue the students would come with all the required technology including the deployment of the drones which the United States had used to great positive effect in tracking/fighting terrorism elsewhere; and

afraid that time is fast running out on the rescue of these girls as their captors may break them into various hide-outs.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) urge the Federal Government and all Security Agencies to intensify efforts at immediate rescue of the abducted students of Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, Borno State;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government and the Security Agencies to seek the co-operation and aid of other countries and the International Security Institutions to deploy advanced technological measures including dialogue towards rescuing the abducted children safely;

(*iii*) mandate the Joint Committee on Defence and Army; National Security and Intelligence; and Education to investigate the circumstances leading to the abduction of the school children, effort thus made for by the different tiers of Government among others and make recommendations to the Senate within one (1) week;

(*iv*) pray for the safe release of all the abducted children; and

(*v*) urge the Government at all levels to provide adequate security for schools in their areas (*Senate Leader*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government and all Security Agencies to intensify efforts at immediate rescue of the abducted students of Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, Borno State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government and the Security Agencies to seek the co-operation and aid of other countries and the International Security Institutions to deploy advanced technological measures including dialogue towards rescuing the abducted children safely.

Amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word "co-operation" in line 2, *leave out* all the words and *insert* the words "of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), other countries and United Nations Security Council" (*Senator Atiku A. Bagudu — Kebbi Central*).

school girls of Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok in Borno State on the 15th April, 2014" (*Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan — Borno North*).

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

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(*i*) condemn in very strong terms the callous abduction of over 200 teenage school girls of Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok in Borno State on the 15th April, 2014

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government and all Security Agencies to intensify efforts at immediate rescue of the abducted students of Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, Borno State;

(*iii*) urge the Federal Government and the Security Agencies to seek the co-operation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), other countries and United Nations Security Council;

(*iv*) pray for the safe release of all the abducted children; and

(*v*) urge the Government at all levels to provide adequate security for schools and public places in their areas ***(S/Res/038/03/14)***.

7. **Joint Committee on Federal Capital Territory; and Finance:**
Report on the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Board Bill, 2014 (SB. 203):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. Committee on Capital Market:
Report on the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment Bill 2014 (SB. 06):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Criminal Procedure Act, CAP C41 LFN 2004, Criminal Procedure (Northern States) Act CAP C42 LFN, the Administration of Justice Commission Act CAP A3 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2014 (HB. 433):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 30th April, 2014 at 10.00 a.m. *(Senate Leader)*.

Adjourned accordingly at 1:28 *p.m.*

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