7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOURTH SESSION
NO. 46

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 25th February, 2015

1. The Senate met at 10:52 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 24th February, 2015.

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:

Presentation of Bills:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

23rd February 2015

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

Your Excellency,

BILLS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ENACTMENT INTO LAW

I hereby introduce for formal consideration and enactment into law, the following harmonised transport sector and other reform Bills.

1. *The National Transport Commission Bill, 2015.*
2. *The National Inland Waterways Authority Bill, 2015.*
3. *Nigerian Ports and Harbours Authority Bill, 2015.*
4. *Nigeria Railway Authority Bill, 2015.*
5. *The Federal Road Authority Bill, 2015.*
6. *The National Road Fund Bill, 2015.*

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7. *The Nigerian Postal Commission Bill, 2015.*
8. *The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Bill, 2015.*

While I hope that the Bills will receive the usual prompt attention of the Distinguished Members of the Senate, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

4. Announcements:

(i) President Shehu Shagari at 90:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator David A. B. Mark (*Benue South*) as follows:

President of the Senate
Federal Republic of Nigeria

PRESIDENT SHAGARI @ 90

Dear colleagues,

Let me on behalf of all of us, wish our Second Republic President, His Excellency, Alhaji Dr. Aliyu Usman Shehu Shagari, GCFR, a Happy Birthday.

President Shagari unarguably remains an outstanding statesman who has continued to contribute to the peace, unity and development of our nation.

On this special occasion of his 90th birthday, the Senate wishes His Excellency, good health, abundant wisdom and long life so that the younger generation would continue to benefit from his wealth of experience and tap from his fountain of knowledge for the good of our fatherland.

Happy birthday and many happy returns!

(Signed)
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
(Wednesday, 25 February, 2015).

(ii) Acknowledgment:

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Students of Redeemer's Private School, Karu, Abuja, FCT who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

5. Petition:

Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ayogu Eze *(Enugu North)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mr. Osmond Ugwu Nnadozie, on his wrongful dismissal by his employer, Genesis Foods Nigeria Limited. He 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)].

6. **Joint Committee on the Petroleum (Upstream and Downstream); and Gas:**
Report on the Petroleum Industry Bill 2015:

Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

7. **Committee on Finance:**
Report on the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP):
Motion made: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Finance on the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) (*Senator Ahmed M. Makarfi — Kaduna North*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Presented and Laid.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That crude oil production of 2.2782mbpd, 2.3271mbpd and 2.4067mbpd for 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively be approved as proposed — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the exchange rate of ₦190/US$1 for 2015budget be approved as proposed — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the price of US$52 per barrel of crude oil as benchmark for 2015 budget be approved against the US$65 per barrel — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That total expenditure for SURE-P be reduced from ₦102.50 billion to ₦21.03 billion due to fall in the price of crude — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):
Question: That the details of SURE-P projects to be executed should be attached to the annual budget estimates for approval by the National Assembly — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vi):
Question: That Government should strengthen and consolidate its fiscal strategy to narrow the gap between projected and actual revenue for the period 2015 - 2017, curtailing oil theft and diversifying the economy to increase tax bases — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vii):
Question: That non-oil revenue projection for 2015 budget be increased from ₦3.539,07 trillion to ₦4.024,11 trillion — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (viii):
Question: That the current Government policy restricting Government-owned enterprises expenditure to a maximum of 75% of their gross rvenue and automatically converts 25% of such revenue to Government revenue is commendable and should be pursued with vigour — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ix):
Question: That more efforts be made by Government to match tax collection with the new rebased GDP — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (x):
Question: The Joint Committee further recommends that:

(*a*) Total Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure be reduced from ₦2.616,01 trillion to ₦2.584,08 trillion;

(*b*) Total Capital Expenditure be increased from ₦633.53 billion to ₦700.78 billion;

(*c*) Total Statutory Transfers be reduced from ₦411.85 billion to ₦363.27 billion; and

(*d*) Total non-oil revenue be increased from ₦3.539,07 trillion to ₦4.024,11 trillion — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (xi):
Question: Details of the Service Wide Vote of ₦360.94 billion is required. This will enable the National Assembly to see areas to apply any necessary cuts. Here we have specific recommendations as follows:

(*a*) There is no reason to include ₦63 billion for Presidential Amnesty Programme under Service Wide Votes when we have a Ministry for the Niger Delta. Accordingly this should be moved;

(*b*) Also ₦22 billion provision for internal operations of the armed forces should be made under relevant Ministry.

(*c*) All sums provided as arrears of Pension and Gratuity should be reclassified from Service Wide Votes to relevant heads.

Henceforth this general provision should be discontinued — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (xii):
Question: That a drastic reduction in cost of governance and improved revenue collection be undertaken with a view to attaining a healthy recurrent/capital expenditure ratio — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (xiii):
Question: That the relevant Committees of the National Assembly should oversight the kerosene subsidy provision to ensure its full implementation, availability and accessibility. If this is difficult to attain, then we should do away with kerosene subsidy — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

(*i*) That crude oil production of 2.2782mbpd, 2.3271mbpd and 2.4067mbpd for 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively be approved as proposed;

(*ii*) That the exchange rate of ₦190/US$1 for 2015budget be approved as proposed;

(*iii*) That the price of US$52 per barrel of crude oil as benchmark for 2015 budget be approved against the US$65 per barrel;

(*iv*) That total expenditure for SURE-P be reduced from ₦102.50 billion to ₦21.03 billion due to fall in the price of crude;

(*v*) That the details of SURE-P projects to be executed should be attached to the annual budget estimates for approval by the National Assembly;

(*vi*) That Government should strengthen and consolidate its fiscal strategy to narrow the gap between projected and actual revenue for the period 2015 - 2017, curtailing oil theft and diversifying the economy to increase tax bases;

(*vii*) That non-oil revenue projection for 2015 budget be increased from ₦3.539,07 trillion to ₦4.024,11 trillion;

(*viii*) That the current Government policy restricting Government-owned enterprises expenditure to a maximum of 75% of their gross rvenue and automatically converts 25% of such revenue to Government revenue is commendable and should be pursued with vigour;

(*ix*) That more efforts be made by Government to match tax collection with the new rebased GDP;

(*x*) The Joint Committee further recommends that:

(*a*) Total Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure be reduced from ₦2.616,01 trillion to ₦2.584,08 trillion;

(*b*) Total Capital Expenditure be increased from ₦633.53 billion to ₦700.78 billion;

(*c*) Total Statutory Transfers be reduced from ₦411.85 billion to ₦363.27 billion; and

(*d*) Total non-oil revenue be increased from ₦3.539,07 trillion to ₦4.024,11 trillion.

(*xi*) Details of the Service Wide Vote of ₦360.94 billion is required. This will enable the National Assembly to see areas to apply any necessary cuts. Here we have specific recommendations as follows:

(*a*) There is no reason to include ₦63 billion for Presidential Amnesty Programme under Service Wide Votes when we have a Ministry for the Niger Delta. Accordingly this should be moved;

(*b*) Also ₦22 billion provision for internal operations of the armed forces should be made under relevant Ministry.

(*c*) All sums provided as arrears of Pension and Gratuity should be reclassified from Service Wide Votes to relevant heads.

Henceforth this general provision should be discontinued.

(*xii*) That a drastic reduction in cost of governance and improved revenue collection be undertaken with a view to attaining a healthy recurrent/capital expenditure ratio; and

(*xiii*) That the relevant Committees of the National Assembly should oversight the kerosene subsidy provision to ensure its full implementation, availability and accessibility. If this is difficult to attain, then we should do away with kerosene subsidy ***(S/Res/016/04/15)***.

8. Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:
Report on the screening of nominee:
Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters on the screening of Hon. Kadi Ibrahim Abba for appointment as the Grand Kadi, Sharia Court of Appeal, FCT, Abuja (*Senator Umaru Dahiru — Sokoto South*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

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

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters on the screening of Hon. Kadi Ibrahim Abba for appointment as the Grand Kadi, Sharia Court of Appeal, FCT, Abuja.

Nominee recommended for confirmation:
Hon. Kadi Ibrahim Abba — *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 Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters on the screening of Hon. Kadi Ibrahim Abba for appointment as the Grand Kadi, Sharia Court of Appeal, FCT, Abuja 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 Hon. Kadi Ibrahim Abba for appointment as the Grand Kadi, Sharia Court of Appeal, FCT, Abuja?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Hon. Kadi Ibrahim Abba for appointment as the Grand Kadi, Sharia Court of Appeal, FCT, Abuja accordingly confirmed.

9. **Independent National Assembly Budget and Research Office (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015 (HB.454):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. **Independent National Assembly Budget and Research Office (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015 (SB.15):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. **Nigerian Council of Food Science and Technology (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015 (SB. 442):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. Joint Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development; and Science and Technology:
Report on the National Biosafety Management Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015 (SB.308):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:
Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice Bill 2015 (HB. 391):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 26th February, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:27 *p.m.*

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