SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 8th December, 2015

1. The Senate met at 10:54 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 3rd December, 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:

2016, 2017 and 2018 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP):

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

8th December, 2015

Distinguished Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki,
President of the Senate,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

FORWARDING OF 2016, 2017 AND 2018 MEDIUM TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTEF) AND FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER (FSP)

In accordance with the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007, I forward herewith the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) for the 2016, 2017 and 2018 financial years for consideration and approval of the National Assembly.

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2. The document is upon approval of the National Assembly expected to be the basis for the 2016 appropriation estimate for presentation to the National Assembly.

3. I thank the Senate in advance for the usual expedited consideration of the submission.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

4. Announcement:

Re: Production of 2016 Senate Calendar, Diary, and Roll-Up Banner:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Ibrahim A. Gobir (*Sokoto East*) as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Committee on Senate Services
National Assembly Complex

The President
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly
Abuja

Your Excellency,

RE: PRODUCTION OF 2016 SENATE CALENDAR, DIARY, AND ROLL-UP BANNER

Sequel to our earlier letters requesting Distinguished Senators to submit their pictures for the production of the 2016 Senate Calendar, Diary and Roll-Up Banner, it is still observed that many Senators have not responded to our requests.

Distinguished Senators are hereby reminded that they should, as a matter of urgency, submit their pictures for this exercise or instruct their Aides to do so.

As a final reminder, Distinguished Senators are requested to submit their pictures to the Committee Clerk in Room SB. 76, White House, before we proceed on the Christmas recess.

Please, accept the assurances of my highest regards.

(Signed)
Senator Ibrahim Abdullahi Gobir, PhD
Chairman, Senate Services Committee
8/12/15

5. Petition:

Rising on Rule 41, Senator Joseph G. Dada *(Ogun West)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mrs Patience Edaira, on wrongful disengagement by the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Ogun State. 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)], to report within two(2) weeks.

6. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Eyinnaya H. Abaribe *(Abia South)* drew the attention of the Senate to two groups of protesters to the National Assembly:

(a) those protesting against the passage of the Bill for an Act to Prohibit Frivolous Petitions; and Other Matters Connected Therewith, known in the public domain as "The Anti-Social Media Bill" into law; and

(b) those protesting against the illicit financial flow from Africa to Europe in commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day.

By the leave of the Senate, protest letters laid, and referred to the Committees on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; and Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes respectively.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade (*Benue North-East*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of the paramount ruler, Chairman, Benue State Traditional Council, His Royal Highness, Orchivirigh, Dr. Alfred Akawe Torkula, Begha-Tiv, The Tor Tiv IV. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Rule 42(2)].

8. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Rose O. Oko (*Cross River North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the alleged deportation of Twenty-Nine Thousand (29,000) Nigerians from the United Kingdom (UK). She sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Rule 42(2)].

9. Presentation of Bills:

(*i*) Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Bill 2015 (SB. 78) — *Read the First Time.*

(*ii*) National Alternative Energy Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015 (SB. 83) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iii*) Ecclesiastical Court (Establishment, etc) Bill 2015 (SB. 96) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iv*) Lobbying Disclosure Act (Amendment) Bill 2015 (SB. 99) — *Read the First Time.*

(*v*) Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Bill 2015 (SB. 137) — *Read the First Time.*

10. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:

Report on the Petition from Mrs Esther M. Amuta against the National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC):

Motion made; That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions on a petition from Mrs Esther M. Amuta against the National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) for alleged gross injustice against her (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

11. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:
Report on the Petition from Corporal Abdullahi Tanko against the Nigeria Police Force:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions on a petition from Corporal Abdullahi Tanko against the Nigeria Police Force for alleged dismissal from the Force (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

12. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:
Report on the Petition from Mr. Salahudeen Balarabe Yakubu against the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA):
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions on a petition from Mr. Salahudeen Balarabe Yakubu against the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) for alleged wrongful disengagement from Service (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

13. Committee on Finance:
Report on the screening of nominee:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Finance on the screening of Dr. William Babatunde Fowler for appointment as Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) (*Senator John O. Enoh — Cross River Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

14. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:
Report on the Petition from Mr. Nnoke Chinedum against Macmillan Nigeria Publishers Limited:
Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions on a petition from Mr. Nnoke Chinedum against Macmillan Nigeria Publishers Limited on the non-payment of part of his monthly emoluments and other entitlements after the termination of his appointment (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:
Question: That it is obvious that no further recommendation is required since the matter of partial payment was fully resolved and claims settled — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
That it is obvious that no further recommendation is required since the matter of partial payment was fully resolved and claims settled ***(S/Res/064/01/15)***.

15. National Open University Act No 6 1983 (Amendment) Bill 2015 (SB. 066):
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to amend the National Open University Act No 6 1983 to provide for the inclusion of ICT as another means of providing tuition towards the advancement of learning throughout Nigeria by the National Open University and for other connected purposes, 2015 be read the Second Time (*Senator Barau I. Jibrin — Kano North*).

Debate:

By leave of the Senate Bill withdrawn (Rule 89).

16 Motions:

(a) Incidents of incessant bomb attacks in Public Places:
Motion made: That the Senate is concerned that Economic and Peace Institute in its Global Terrorism Index 2015 has identified Nigeria as a country that has witnessed the largest increase in terrorist deaths as Boko Haram is responsible for half of all global deaths attributed to terrorism;

notes that many of our security service personnel have paid the supreme sacrifice in their quest of ensuring our country become safe once again and therefore commend their gallantry and the recorded successes currently achieved by the Federal Government towards combating terrorism;

notes that while government and security operatives are relentless towards securing the lives of Nigerians; the general public also needs to be security conscious especially in crowded areas;

further notes that the ability to prevent a terrorist attack does not depend on the government alone. The people need to be vigilant, look out for suspicious behavior, vehicles and packages in and around public places; and

convinced that sensitizing the people on simple but important tips could save lives during emergencies. Also greater reliance on human intelligence gathering will allow authorities to apprehend the criminals before they have the chance to launch their attacks.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) commend the Federal Government and Nigeria Armed Forces for the re-enforced determination in the fight against terrorism and the successes recorded in the last six (6) months;

(*ii*) commiserate with the victims and families of the 51 people that lost their lives as well as those that sustained various degrees of injuries by sending a delegation to condole the Governments and people of Kano and Adamawa States;

(*iii*) observe a minute silence in memory of victims of the terrorist attacks;

(*iv*) urge NEMA and other relevant government agencies to embark on mass media sensitization campaigns on the need for the general public to be more vigilant as well as the kind of measures to be taken in times of bomb attacks in public places;

(*v*) urge States, Local Governments and other government agencies to ensure that emergency exits are provided in all markets and public buildings; and

(*ii*) commiserate with the victims and families of the 51 people that lost their lives as well as those that sustained various degrees of injuries by sending a delegation to condole the Governments and people of Kano and Adamawa States;

(*iii*) observe a minute silence in memory of victims of the terrorist attacks;

(*iv*) urge NEMA and other relevant government agencies to embark on mass media sensitization campaigns on the need for the general public to be more vigilant as well as the kind of measures to be taken in times of bomb attacks in public places;

(*v*) urge States, Local Governments and other government agencies to ensure that emergency exits are provided in all markets and public buildings;

(*vi*) urge the Federal Government to revive the public Security Communications System programme piloted in Lagos and Abuja through the installation of CCTV's and metal detector scanners in public places, this will assist the security agencies to combat terrorism; and

(*vii*) urge the Federal and State Governments to embark on sensitisation programmes to de-radicalise the mind set of the society ***(S/Res/065/01/15)***.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

Senate Delegation to Kano State:
The Senate President named the following Senators to commiserate with the families, people and the government of Kano State:

(*i*)	Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah	—	Leader
(*ii*)	Senator Olarenwaju A. Tejuoso	—	Member
(*iii*)	Senator Mustapha Bukar	—	Member
(*iv*)	Senator Jeremiah T. Useni	—	Member
(*v*)	Senator Abubakar Kyari	—	Member
(*vi*)	Senator Rabiu M. Musa	—	Member
(*vii*)	Senator Jibrin I. Barau	—	Member
(*viii*)	Senator Kabiru I. Gaya	—	Member

(b) The Urgent Need to Re-Assess Nigeria's Foreign Policy Objectives in Line with Emerging Economic Realities:
Motion made: That the Senate notes that prior to Nigeria's Independence in 1960, our fundamental foreign policy principles have remained unchanged. Rather, every succeeding administration in the country has come up with new circumstantial mechanisms aimed at achieving our foreign policy goals;

notes further that the fundamental principles and objectives of Nigeria's foreign policy invented by the first Prime Minister of Nigeria - Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, have remained unaltered irrespective of the different changes in government till date. These leaders demonstrated serious commitment to these guiding principles of our foreign policy which is clearly spelt out in Section 19(a- e) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) which includes:

— The promotion and protection of our national interest, promotion of African integration and support for Africa unit;

— Promotion of international co-operation for the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect among all nations and elimination of discrimination in all its manifestations;

— Respect for international law and treaty obligations as well as the seeking of settlement of international disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication; and

— Promotion of a just world economic order.

aware that Nigeria has played several pivotal roles based on her foreign policy thrust for African countries and the world at large, like ending apartheid in South Africa, bringing about peace and stability in Liberia, Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia and in many other African countries just to mention but a few;

further aware that at the international scene, Nigeria is one of the major troop-contributing nations to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations around the world and is globally recognized for her readiness and commitment, which participating in UN Peace Keeping Operations in the Congo called "Operation des Nations unies au Congo" in 1960;

worried that notwithstanding our nation's vital roles in Africa and the world at large, some of our citizens who reside in some of these countries are treated with disdain. So many of our nationals are being killed or maimed for reasons that are despicable. The xenophobic attack by South Africans against Nigerians who live and conduct legitimate businesses in their midst is still fresh in our minds;

moreso, from Kenya to the Maghreb and across Southern Africa discrimination against Nigerians and other non-nationals have been on the rise, as can be seen in various international media reports;

concerned that Section 14(b), of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. This shows that the welfare and security of lives of all Nigerians wherever they are resident in the world shall be the core responsibility of the government of the day through our foreign missions abroad; and

further concerned that many Nigerians living abroad face harsh economic conditions from their host countries and sometimes, their efforts to get relief from our foreign missions abroad don't usually get the much needed attention.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) call on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and any other relevant Committee to investigate several alleged maltreatment and killing of Nigerians abroad as well as take into consideration the Doctrine of Diplomatic Reciprocity in its activities and report back to the Senate within (4) weeks;

(*ii*) call on the Federal Government (Executive) to reassess our foreign policy objectives in a hostile, unstable and competitive global environment which operates on the principle of survival of the fittest to ensure that Nigerian investors/businessmen are accorded the right of first refusal especially in those countries where Nigerians fought tirelessly for their liberation, emancipation, freedom, peace and security; and

(*iii*) implore the Federal Government to, going forward, imbibe Nigerian's economic interest as vital component of our foreign policy objectives especially in countries where the nation invested her enormous human and material resources to restore security, peace, stability and democracy as the era of our Father Christmas Diplomacy is certainly over (*Senator Stella A. Oduah — Anambra North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do call on the Committee on Foreign Affairs .and any other relevant Committee to investigate several alleged maltreatment and killing of Nigerians abroad as well as take into consideration the Doctrine of Diplomatic Reciprocity in its activities and report back to the Senate within (4) weeks — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do call on the Federal Government (Executive) to reassess our foreign policy objectives in a hostile, unstable and competitive global environment which operates on the principle of survival of the fittest to ensure that Nigerian investors/businessmen are accorded the right of first refusal especially in those countries where Nigerians fought tirelessly for their liberation, emancipation, freedom, peace and security — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do implore the Federal Government to, going forward, imbibe Nigerian's economic interest as vital component of our foreign policy objectives especially in countries where the nation invested her enormous human and material resources to restore security, peace, stability and democracy as the era of our Father Christmas Diplomacy is certainly over — *Agreed to*.

Additional Proposed Resolution:
Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to convene a Foreign Policy Summit to among others address issues such as redefining our national interest, in order to re-focus our Foreign Policy to address current global realities" (*Senator Tijani Y. Kaura — Zamfara North*).

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

Resolved:
That the Senate do:
(*i*) call on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and any other relevant Committee to investigate several alleged maltreatment and killing of Nigerians abroad as well as take into consideration the Doctrine of Diplomatic Reciprocity in its activities and report back to the Senate within (4) weeks;

(*ii*) call on the Federal Government (Executive) to reassess our foreign policy objectives in a hostile, unstable and competitive global environment which operates on the principle of survival of the fittest to ensure that Nigerian investors/businessmen are accorded the right of first refusal especially in those countries where Nigerians fought tirelessly for their liberation, emancipation, freedom, peace and security;

(*iii*) implore the Federal Government to, going forward, imbibe Nigerian's economic interest as vital component of our foreign policy objectives especially in countries where the nation invested her enormous human and material resources to restore security, peace, stability and democracy as the era of our Father Christmas Diplomacy is certainly over; and

(*iv*) urge the Federal Government to convene a Foreign Policy Summit to among others address issues such as redefining our national interest, in order to re-focus our Foreign Policy to address current global realities ***(S/Res/066/01/15)***.

17. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 9th December, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:54 *p.m.*

Abubakar Olubukola Saraki, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.