SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 15th December, 2015

1. The Senate met at 11:17 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**
Closed Session — 11:18 a.m.

Open Session — 11:44 a.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session discussed issues relating to the 2016 Appropriation Bill.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 10th December, 2015.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Announcements:**
(a) ***Invitation for Church Dedication:***
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe (*Abia South*) as follows:

Senator H. Enyinnaya Abaribe
ABIA SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
National Assembly Complex, Three Arm Zone

14th December, 2015

The Senate President/Distingueshed Senators

Thro:

Dr. Bukola Saraki
The Senate President
Abuja

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ANNOUNCEMENT

May I invite you to the dedication of a small church (Seventh-Day Adventist Church) built by my family in my community.

My Family and I will be privileged by your esteemed presence in this presentation to God through the church.

Venue	-	*SDA Church, Ohuru, Obingwa LGA, Abia State*
Time	-	*10:00am.*
Date	-	*Sunday, 3rd January, 2016*
Reception	-	*Otuonu villa, Ohuru, Obingwa LGA, Abia State*

God bless you as you accept the assurances of my highest regard.

Very Truly Yours,

(Signed)
Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe
Chairman, Sen. Comm. on Information &
National Orientation

(b) Acknowledgement:
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

(*i*) Members of National Association of Suleja Students, Suleja, Niger State;

(*ii*) Members of Students' Representative Council, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State; and

(*iii*) Members of the Scout Association of Nigeria, Yaba, Lagos.

5. Petition:
Rising on Rule 41, Senator Joseph O. Ogba *(Ebonyi Central)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Dr. George Uboh of Panic Alert Security System, over $4,926,100.00 fraud by Chevron Nigeria Limited and others. 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. Joint Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions; and Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Cybercrime:
Report on the Electronic Transactions Bill 2015 (SB. 15):
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Joint Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions; and Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Cybercrime on the Electronic Transaction Bill 2015 *(Senator Rafiu A. Ibrahim — Kwara South).*

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. **Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:**
Report on the petition from Maritime Professionals against the Ministry of Transport for an alleged plan to downgrade them and other employees of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA):
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions on a petition from Maritime Professionals against the Ministry of Transport for an alleged plan to downgrade them and other employees of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

8. **Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:**
Report on the petition from Corporal Abdullahi Tanko against the Nigeria Police Force for alleged dismissal from the Force:
Motion made: That the Senate do consider 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 presented.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That since a competent court of jurisdiction (the Katsina State High Court) has examined the matter and has not found Corporal Abdullahi Tanko guilty of any offence, and has consequently discharged and acquitted him, he should be re-instated — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That since the police have also recommended that Corporal Abdullahi Tanko be re-instated, he should be re-instated — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:
Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:
"That the Senate do direct its Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance of the recommendations of the Senate on this matter" (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East).*

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

Resolved:
(*i*) That since a competent court of jurisdiction (the Katsina State High Court) has examined the matter and has not found Corporal Abdullahi Tanko guilty of any offence, and has consequently discharged and acquitted him, he should be re-instated;

(*ii*) That since the police have also recommended that Corporal Abdullahi Tanko be re-instated, he should be re-instated; and

(iii) That the Senate do direct its Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance of the recommendations of the Senate on this matter ***(S/Res/068/01/15)***.

9. **Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:**
Report on the petition from Sergeant Amos Olaniyan against the Nigeria Police Force, for alleged suspension for twenty-one (21) years:
Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions on a petition from Sergeant Amos Olaniyan against the Nigeria Police Force, for alleged suspension for twenty-one (21) years (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the officer, Sergeant Amos Olaniyan be fully re-integrated into the Police Force with a letter of re-instatement and apology — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That all his dues including promotions and entitlements be fully granted and paid — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
(*i*) That the officer, Sergeant Amos Olaniyan be fully re-integrated into the Police Force with a letter of re-instatement and apology; and

(*ii*) That all his dues including promotions and entitlements be fully granted and paid ***(S/Res/069/01/15)***.

10. **Motion:**
Abandonment of Projects: A Menace to Development in Nigeria:
Motion made: That the Senate notes that there are eleven thousand eight hundred and eighty-six (11,886) abandoned projects that will cost an estimated ₦7.78 trillion to complete;

observes, that public infrastructure account for most of the abandoned projects and that those projects are generally awarded based on considerations given to friends even when they do not possess any technical knowledge of the project;

observes, that the repeated practice in Nigeria is that once new people are in office the policies or programmes of the previous administration are abandoned - this unwillingness to ensure policy continuity is the root cause of abandonment of projects;

also observes, that life transforming projects have been abandoned to the detriment of the teeming population;

notes, that previous government embarked on weekly charade of awarding new contracts or re-awarding old ones at higher prices during its weekly Federal Executive Council meetings;

observes, that the desire for ego credit taking, rather than genuine service delivery was behind the drive for new projects and abandoning of old ones;

observes, that abandoned projects fuel corruption and reduce public confidence and trust in governance;

observes, that factors such as poor planning, inadequate budgeting, delay in releasing project funds, which leads to project executing delay, increased contract cost variation and contract splitting in order to give jobs to friends are the major reasons for project abandonment;

observes, that project abandonment has made it very difficult if not impossible for many Nigerians to access quality education, healthcare, transportation, food products and other vital services; and

acknowledges that waste of money and time is the price society pays for abandoning projects.

Accordingly Resolves to:

(*i*) urge the government to set up a project performance and monitoring task-force to severely punish contractors who collect mobilization funds and disappear, this will help check unbridled wastage and corruption in abandoned projects, and by extension serve as a deterrent to others;

(*ii*) urge the government to establish a registry of projects for all ongoing and completed projects detailing the location, cost and purpose of each project and means of identification, the project commencement data and the agreed or projected date of completion;

(*iii*) the registry should also include information on budgetary and funding sources of the project, the contract amount disbursed and expended for completion, and any other information or details pertaining to the implementation of the project;

(*iv*) set up ad hoc Committee of the Senate to critically look into the executive and legislative powers of appropriation towards ensuring that new projects are not started without completing ongoing ones, except in cases of actual emergency or urgent National importance; and

(*v*) invite the Head or Director-General of the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit to brief the Senate on the causes of the frequent negligence of the due process and certification mechanism, and by extension, mandate due process unit to put a stop to policy discontinuities and cravings of contractors to have unfettered discretion in awarding contracts (*Senator Suleiman M. Nazif — Bauchi North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the government to set up a project performance and monitoring task-force to severely punish contractors who collect mobilization funds and disappear, this will help check unbridled wastage and corruption in abandoned projects, and by extension serve as a deterrent to others — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the government to establish a registry of projects for all ongoing and completed projects detailing the location, cost and purpose of each project and means of identification, the project commencement data and the agreed or projected date of completion — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the registry should also include information on budgetary and funding sources of the project, the contract amount disbursed and expended for completion, and any other information or details pertaining to the implementation of the project — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do set up ad hoc Committee of the Senate to critically look into the executive and legislative powers of appropriation towards ensuring that new projects are not started without completing ongoing ones, except in cases of actual emergency or urgent National importance — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution (v):
Question: That the Senate do invite the Head or Director-General of the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit to brief the Senate on the causes of the frequent negligence of the due process and certification mechanism, and by extension, mandate due process unit to put a stop to policy discontinuities and cravings of contractors to have unfettered discretion in awarding contracts — *Negatived.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do urge the government to set up a project performance and monitoring task-force to severely punish contractors who collect mobilization funds and disappear, this will help check unbridled wastage and corruption in abandoned projects, and by extension serve as a deterrent to others ***(S/Res/070/01/15)***.

11. Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (Amendment) Bill 2015 (SB. 017):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 16th December, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:17 *p.m.*

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