SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 16th December, 2015

1. The Senate met at 11:14 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**
Closed Session — 11:15 a.m.

Open Session — 11:35 a.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session discussed the encounter between the Shiite religious sect and the Nigerian Military in Kaduna State and resolved as follows:

(*i*) Issue a statement on the matter immediately;

(*ii*) Direct the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees on Defence; National Security and Intelligence; Interior; Police Affairs; Foreign Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to investigate the matter; and

(*iii*) Appeal for refrain from all sides while the investigation is on.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 15th December, 2015.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **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 Budget Presentation:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

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16th December, 2015

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

2016 BUDGET PRESENTATION

I crave the kind indulgence of the National Assembly to grant me the slot of 10.00hrs on Tuesday, 22nd December, 2015 to formally address a Joint Session of the National Assembly on 2016 Budget.

2. While I thank the Distinguished Members of the Senate of the Federal Republic for your steadfast cooperation and understanding, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

5. Announcements:

(a) ***Invitation to 60th Birthday:***

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Fatimat Raji-Rasaki (*Ekiti Central*) as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Sen. (Barr) Fatimat O. Raji-Rasaki (Ekiti Central)
Chairman Committee on Trade and Investment

ANNOUNCEMENT

His Excellency
Senator Bukola Abubakar Saraki
The President of the Senate
National Assembly
Abuja

Letter of Invitation

To God be the glory! I will be turning 60 on Wednesday, 13th January, 2016.

May I seize this opportunity to invite Your Excellency and my colleagues to a dinner to mark my 60th Birthday.

Date: *Friday 15th January 2016.*

Venue: *Civic Centre, Ozumba Mbadiwe Avenue, Victoria Island, Lagos*

Time: *Cocktail 6pm; Dinner 7pm*

May we have many reasons to celebrate.

In thanking you for your understanding, please receive the reassurances of my highest esteem.

(Signed)
Senator (Mrs.) Fatimat Raji-Rasaki

(b) ***Acknowledgement:***
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of Students of Nigerian Turkish Nile University, Jabi, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

6. Joint Committee on Finance; National Planning; and Appropriations:
Report on the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP):
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Joint Committee on Finance; National Planning; and Appropriations on the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) (*Senator John O. Enoh — Cross River Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. Committee on Aviation:
Report on the need to Publish Accident Investigation Reports:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Aviation in respect of the motion on the need to Publish Accident Investigation Report (*Senator Hope O. Uzodinma — Imo West*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

8. Ad hoc Committee on Aviation:
Report on the Worrisome and unstable position of Nigerian Aviation Industry:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Ad hoc Committee on Aviation in respect of the motion on the Worrisome and Unstable Position of Nigerian Aviation Industry (*Senator Rabiu M. Musa — Kano Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. North-East Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015 (SB.031):
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the North-East Development Commission in the Federal Republic of Nigeria to address the devastation caused by insurgency and other connected matters, 2015 be read the Second Time (*Senator Kabiru I. Gaya — Kano South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Special Duties; and Establishment and Public Services to report within Four (4) weeks.

10. North-East Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015 (SB.163):
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish North-East Development Commission charged with the responsibility among other things to receive and manage fund from allocation of the Federation Account and International Donors for the settlement, rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads, houses and business premises of victims of insurgency and for other related matters, 2015 be read the Second Time (*Senator Mohammed A. Ndume — Borno South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Special Duties; and Establishment and Public Services o report within Four (4) weeks.

11. Joint Committee on Finance; National Planning; and Appropriations:
Report on the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP):
Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Joint Committee on Finance, National Planning and Appropriations on the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) (*Senator John O. Enoh — Cross River Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That daily crude oil production of 2.2000mbpd for 2016 Budget be approved as proposed — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the exchange rate of ₦197/US$1 for 2016 budget be approved as proposed — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Central Bank of Nigeria should initiate measures that will close the gap between the parallel market and the official exchange rate — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Crude oil benchmark price of US$ 38 per barrel be approved for 2016 budget — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):
Question: That the proposed ₦5,720.34 billion for non-oil revenue projection for 2016 budget be approved — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vi):
Question: That Government should sustain the current tempo towards increasing Federal Government Independent Revenue and Diversification of the economy — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vii):
Question: That the implementation of Treasury Single Account (TSA) with e-collection platform be sustained — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (viii):
Question: That the Federal Government should establish a data base and possibly a single salary account for all its employees in order to streamline and reduce its personnel cost — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ix):
Question: That an increase in tax collection to a level closer to the accepted tax/GDP ratio of our economy — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (x):
Question: The relevant Committees of the National Assembly should closely and constantly oversight the MDAs responsible for implementing special intervention programmes to ensure that the targeted populace benefits and in order to avoid abuse — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (xi):
Question: The diversification of the economy should be accompanied with economic modernization such that the economy can be more competitive and productive — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (xii):
Question: Arrears of 2015 fuel subsidy for domestic consumption as proposed in the MTEF be sustained — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (xiii):
Question: The funding of the infrastructural development stated in the MTEF should be clearly captured in the details of the 2016 Appropriation Bill — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (xiv):
Question: The National Assembly in close collaboration with the Executive should as a matter of urgency consider an accelerated passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), particularly those sections with implication on Joint Venture funding by Federal Government (JV Cash Calls) — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

(*i*) That daily crude oil production of 2.2000mbpd for 2016 Budget be approved as proposed;

(*ii*) That the exchange rate of N197/US$1 for 2016 budget be approved as proposed;

(*iii*) That the Central Bank of Nigeria should initiate measures that will close the gap between the parallel market and the official exchange rate;

(*iv*) That the Crude oil benchmark price of US$ 38 per barrel be approved for 2016 budget;

(*v*) That the proposed ₦5,720.34 billion for non-oil revenue projection for 2016 budget be approved;

(*vi*) That Government should sustain the current tempo towards increasing Federal Government Independent Revenue and Diversification of the economy;

(*vii*) That the implementation of Treasury Single Account (TSA) with e-collection platform be sustained;

(*viii*) That the Federal Government should establish a data base and possibly a single salary account for all its employees in order to streamline and reduce its personnel cost;

(*ix*) That an increase in tax collection to a level closer to the accepted tax/GDP ratio of our economy;

(*x*) The relevant Committees of the National Assembly should closely and constantly oversight the MDAs responsible for implementing special intervention programmes to ensure that the targeted populace benefits and in order to avoid abuse;

(*xi*) The diversification of the economy should be accompanied with economic modernization such that the economy can be more competitive and productive;

(*xii*) Arrears of 2015 fuel subsidy for domestic consumption as proposed in the MTEF be sustained;

(*xiii*) The funding of the infrastructural development stated in the MTEF should be clearly captured in the details of the 2016 Appropriation Bill; and

(*xiv*) The National Assembly in close collaboration with the Executive should as a matter of urgency consider an accelerated passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), particularly those sections with implication on Joint Venture funding by Federal Government (JV Cash Calls)***(S/Res/071/01/15)***.

12. Extension of Time:

Motion made: That the Senate do sit this day beyond the time appointed for the termination of the Sitting of the Senate (Rule 13) (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

13. Joint Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions; and Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Cybercrime:

Report on the Electronic Transactions Bill 2015 (SB. 015):

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Joint Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions; and Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Cybercrime on the Electronic Transactions Bill 2015 (*Senator Rafiu A. Ibrahim — Kwara 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 *(Senate Leader)*.

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

CONSIDERATION OF A BILL FOR AN ACT TO FACILITATE THE USE OF INFORMATION IN ELECTRONIC FORM FOR CONDUCTING TRANSACTIONS IN NIGERIA AND FOR CONNECTED PURPOSES, 2015

Clause 1: **Objectives of the Act.**

This Bill is to provide a legal and regulatory framework for:

(a) conducting transactions using electronic or related media;

(b) the protection of the rights of consumers and other parties in electronic transactions and services;

(c) the protection of personal data; and

(d) facilitating electronic commerce in Nigeria.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 1 be retained (*Senator Rafiu A. Ibrahim — Kwara South*) — *Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 1 *do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.*

Further consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

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 Joint Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions; and Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Cybercrime on the Electronic Transactions Bill 2015 and approved as follows:

Clause 1	—	As Recommended

Further consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

14. Motions:

(a) Ailing Ajaokuta Steel Company, a threat to Nigerian Industrial Growth:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(b) The need for Legislative support to Government's anti-corruption drive:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

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

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. Adjournment:

And it being 2:08 pm the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Thursday, 17th December, 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 2:08 *p.m.*

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