SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 8th March, 2016

1. The Senate met at 10.57 a.m. The Senate President read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 3rd March, 2016.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Closed Session:**

Closed Session	—	11.06 a.m.
Open Session	—	11.27 a.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on the visit of South African President, Mr Jacob Zuma and his address to a Joint Session of the National Assembly and other matters concerning the smooth running of the Senate.

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:

State Visit of His Excellency, Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

7th March 2016

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

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Tuesday, 8th March 2016 at 2.00pm.

It would be recalled that the last time a Nigerian President paid a State Visit to South Africa in 2013, he was honoured with the privilege of addressing a special session of the South African Parliament. It is customary to reciprocate such an honour. This gesture from the National Assembly is highly valued and would further cement the subsisting cordial and fraternal relations between our two countries.

I would, therefore, appreciate it if you would kindly accept to accord him the honour of addressing a joint session of the National Assembly.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

5. Announcements:

(a) ***Appointment of Mr. Nelson Ibhaguezege Ayewoh as the substantive Deputy Clerk and Acting Clerk of the Senate:***
The Senate President announced the appointment of Mr. Nelson Ibhaguezege Ayewoh as the substantive Deputy Clerk and Acting Clerk of the Senate.

(b) ***Appointment of Mr. Ado Zakari as the Acting Deputy Clerk, Senate:***
The Senate President announced the appointment of Mr. Ado Zakari as the Acting Deputy Clerk, Senate.

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

(*i*) Members of Student Representative Council, Lagos State Polytechnic, Ikorodu, Lagos State;

(*ii*) Staff and Students of Famous International School, Gwarinpa, Abuja; and

(*iii*) Staff and Students of Shehu Shagari Model Islamic Centre, Garki, Abuja.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:
Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu (*Lagos Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the International Women's Day 2016 Celebration. She sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes with excitement that today, March 8, is the International Women's Day;

further notes that the theme for this Year's Celebration is Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up For Gender Equality;

observes that the United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights aims at creating equality in laws and social situations for human beings;

recalls that in 1995, over 189 Countries (including Nigeria) converged in Beijing for the 4th world conference on women and signed an action plan called Beijing Declaration;

aware that 21 years after the Declaration, though some sizeable progress have been made, we are still a long way from reaching equality between Boys and Girls, Men and Women;

observes that although several laws have been passed to uphold women's rights, lopsided implementation has resulted in insignificant changes;

concerned that the attitudes that perpetuate the traditions of male dominance over land ownership and inheritance are still being practised;

worried that stereotype attitude of encouraging boys to attend school over girls across the country is still on the rise;

worried about the rising negative trend of abduction since the abduction of over two hundred Chibok girls in 2014 in the North East where the Federal troops are waging war against the insurgents to, among other assignments rescue the girls;

glad that the 14 year old girl, Ese Oruru abducted since last year from Bayelsa by one Yinusa Yellow and the three girls abducted in Ikorodu, Lagos State last week have been rescued and have now been re-united with their parents;

concerned that number of rape cases against minors is rising by the day with few prosecution and insignificant number of suspects convicted;

agrees with the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon on priority areas for review of Beijing Declaration as ending discriminatory practices, re-orienting microeconomic policy to better serve women, ensuring full and equal participation of women in decision making at all levels, significantly increasing investments in gender equality and strengthening accountability for gender equality and realisation of the human rights of women and girls; and

further agrees with the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women to allocate resources to support gender equality, practice gender-responsive budgeting, strengthen existing laws and pass new ones, eradicate violence against girl-child and women and generate public education campaigns to promote gender equality.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) felicitate with Nigerian Women on this year's International Women's Day Celebration;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to use all in its power to bring back the Chibok and other abducted girls, re-unite them with their parents and stop the heinous crime of girls abduction in Nigeria;

(*iii*) urge Governments at all levels to put adequate security in our schools to ensure safety of our students especially the girl child in all our boarding schools; and

(*iv*) urge Government at all levels to re-invigorate micro-economic policies to better serve women, ensure full and equal participation of women in decision making at all levels and generally engage policies that promote gender equality.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to use all in its power to bring back the Chibok and other abducted girls, re-unite them with their parents and stop the heinous crime of girls abduction in Nigeria — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do urge Governments at all levels to put adequate security in our schools to ensure safety of our students especially the girl child in all our boarding schools — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do urge Government at all levels to re-invigorate micro-economic policies to better serve women, ensure full and equal participation of women in decision making at all levels and generally engage policies that promote gender equality — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
That the Senate:
(*i*) felicitate with Nigerian Women on this year's International Women's Day Celebration;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to use all in its power to bring back the Chibok and other abducted girls, re-unite them with their parents and stop the heinous crime of girls abduction in Nigeria;

(*iii*) urge Governments at all levels to put adequate security in our schools to ensure safety of our students especially the girl child in all our boarding schools; and

(*iv*) urge Government at all levels to re-invigorate micro-economic policies to better serve women, ensure full and equal participation of women in decision making at all levels and generally engage policies that promote gender equality***(S/Res/109/01/16)***.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:
Rising on Rule 42, Senator Biodun C. Olujimi (*Ekiti South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the invasion of Ekiti State House of Assembly by armed operatives of the Department of State Services. 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).

8. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:
Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Barr. James Ocholi, Minister of State for Labour, Employment and Productivity. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate;

notes with grief the death of Nigeria's Minister of State for Labour, Employment and Productivity, Barrister James Ocholi (SAN), his son and wife in a ghastly motor accident on Sunday, 6th March, 2016 along Abuja-Kaduna Expressway;

notes that James Enojo Ocholi, (SAN) was born on 26th November 1960, hails from Dekina Local Government area of Kogi State. He attended Ochaja Secondary School and proceeded to study law from the University of Jos. He finished from the Nigerian Law School in 1986 and was called to Bar in the same year;

observes that Barrister James Ocholi was a Public Counsel from 1987 - 1988 in the firm of D.D Peter Achimusi in Idah, Kogi State and thereafter left for private practice;

observes further that he was conferred with the title of Senior Advocate of Nigeria in December 2007. James Enojo Ocholi specialized in Incorporation of Companies, Constitutional and Commercial Law, Conveyance as well as Private and Public International Law. He worked as Consultant to Government, Parastatals, Banks, Financial Institutions and Corporate Bodies;

aware that Barrister James Enojo Ocholi was the Deputy National Legal Adviser of the All Progressives Congress (APC). He was the Kogi State Coordinator of the Muhammadu Buhari Presidential campaign and contested the Kogi State Governorship race in 2011 on the platform of the defunct Congress for Progressive Change. He also sought the APC governorship ticket in 2015 but lost to former Governor of the State, late Prince Abubakar Audu;

notes that undeterred by his loss at the primaries, he worked relentlessly for the success of the party which resulted in the victory of APC in Kogi State Gubernatorial election;

recall that late Barrister James Enojo Ocholi was rated high by many Nigerians during the screening of Ministers by the Senate where he displayed his mastery of Nigerian political scene as well as the economy and law; and

convinced that the late Barrister James Enojo Ocholi was a selfless and a detribalized Nigerian whose entire life was dedicated to the service of humanity and whose life represented the interest and yearning of the poor; he was fair and just, simple and great, incredible but true, gentle but powerful, Ocholi's life was that of unfaulted honesty, enviable courage and sincerity.

Accordingly resolves to;
(*i*) observe one minute silence in his honour;
(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to immortalize him.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do observe one minute silence in his honour — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to immortalize him — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:
Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:
(iii) "send a delegation to condole with his family, Government and people of Kogi State" (*Senator Adamu M. Aleiro — Kebbi Central*).

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

(iv) "urge the Federal Government to take responsibility of training and welfare of the children" (*Senator Theodore A. Orji — Abia Central*).

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

Resolved:
That the Senate do:
(*i*) observe one minute silence in his honour;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to immortalize him;

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

9. Presentation of Bills:

(*i*) Nigeria Institute of Soil Science (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 126) — *Read the First Time.*

(*ii*) Defence Space Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 166) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iii*) National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency Act, No. 92, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 220) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iv*) Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB.226) — *Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*

10. Joint Sitting:

Motion made: That the Senate do accept to receive the President of South Africa, Mr. Jacob Zuma in company of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, Muhammadu Buhari, at 3:00 p.m. in a Joint Session of the National Assembly in the House of Representatives Chamber (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

11. Diplomatic Immunities (Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa) Order, 2016:

Report on the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges (Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa) Order No. 11, 2016:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges (Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa) Order No. 11, 2016 in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, Cap. D9 LFN 2004 (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

12. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:

Report on the petition from Mr. Anaele Mark against Nigeria Customs Service:

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:

Report on the petition from Mr. Meseko Olugbenga Felix against the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. Joint Committee on Health; and Agriculture and Rural Development:

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

15. Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill, 2016 (SB. 224):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. **Constituencies Development Catalyst Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 103):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. **Suspension of Plenary:**
Motion made: That the Senate do suspend Plenary till 4:10 p.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Plenary — 12:37 p.m.

Resumption of Plenary — 4:10 p.m.

18. **Adjournment:**
And it being 4:13 p.m, the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 9th March, 2016 at 10.00a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 4:13 *p.m.*

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