SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 12th April, 2016

1. The Senate met at 11:12 a.m. The Senate President read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings (2) of Wednesday, 23rd March, 2016.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Closed Session:**
Closed Session — 11:20 a.m.

Open Session — 12:05 p.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session discussed the 2016 Appropriation Bill and issues affecting the smooth running of the Senate in particular, and the National Assembly in general.

4. **Announcement:**
Acknowledgement:
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of Delta State students of the Nigerian Law School, Bwari, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

5. **Petitions:**

(*i*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Eyinnaya H. Abaribe *(Abia South)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Lawright Associates over conversion and re-allocation of Green Area/Park Plot allotted to Ritefam Investment Limited by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA). 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.

(*ii*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Yele O. Omogunwa *(Ondo South)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Barrister Owette Emmanuel Chukwudi over the non-restoration to office and non-payment of entitlements by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as ordered by the Court. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

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Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42 Senator Rabiu M. Musa (*Kano Central*) drew the attention of the Senate on Incessant Markets Infernos in some States of the Federation. 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)}.

7. Presentation of Bills:

(*i*) In-Vitro Fertilisation Bill, 2016 (SB. 127) — *Read the First Time.*

(*ii*) Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill, 2016 (SB. 142) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iii*) National Sports Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 150) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iv*) Nigeria Football Federation (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 154) — *Read the First Time.*

(*v*) National Sports Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 155) — *Read the First Time.*

(*vi*) Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.) Act, 2002 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB.29) — *Read the First Time.*

(*vii*) Code of Conduct Act, CAP C15 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 248) — *Read the First Time.*

(*viii*) Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 249) — *Read the First Time.*

8. National Commission for Conciliation and Arbitration (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB.161):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Commission for Conciliation and Arbitration, National Labour Council, the Office of the Registrar of Trade Unions, etc. to administer the provisions of Labour Laws in Nigeria and for matters connected therewith be read the Second Time (*Senator Suleiman M. Nazif — Bauchi North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity to report within Four (4) weeks.

9. Defence Space Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB.166):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of Defence Space Agency, and for other matters connected therewith, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator Robert A. Boroffice — Ondo North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Science and Technology; and Defence to report within Four (4) weeks.

10. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:
Report on the petition from Mr. Stephen G. Balabacho and others against the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC):

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions on a petition from Mr. Stephen G. Balabacho and others against the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for unlawful disengagement from the Service of the Corporation (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That Mr. Stephen G. Balabacho and others have no formal relationship with NNPC and as such cannot be helped by the Senate to be re-instated — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That casual staff have no such entitlements they are claiming — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That Senators should endavour to read through petitions brought to them by their constituents and ask questions to avoid wasting the time and efforts of the Committee including the obvious cost upon the Committee — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

(*i*) That Mr. Stephen G. Balabacho and others have no formal relationship with NNPC and as such cannot be helped by the Senate to be re-instated;

(*ii*) That casual staff have no such entitlements they are claiming; and

(*iii*) That Senators should endavour to read through petitions brought to them by their constituents and ask questions to avoid wasting the time and efforts of the Committee including the obvious cost upon the Committee ***(S/Res/124/01/16)***.

11. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:
Report on the petition from Mr. Adamu Abdullahi and other disengaged staff of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS):

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions on a petition from Mr. Adamu Abdullahi and other disengaged staff of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) for wrongful disengagement from the Service of the Scheme *(Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East)*

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the disengagement of the 135 former staff of NHIS followed due process, and the result should be upheld by the Senate — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That their disengagement was not as a result of query or any disciplinary action, but because of government policy which set out to improve the Public Service. The affected staff should accept the verdict and seek employment elsewhere — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

(*i*) That the disengagement of the 135 former staff of NHIS followed due process, and the result should be upheld by the Senate; and

(*ii*) That their disengagement was not as a result of query or any disciplinary action, but because of government policy which set out to improve the Public Service. The affected staff should accept the verdict and seek employment elsewhere ***(S/Res/125/01/16)***.

12. Motions:

(a) Demise of Senator Lawrence Adekunle Agunbiade:

Motion made: That the Senate notes with sadness the death of Distinguished Senator Lawrence Adekunle Agunbiade on the 9th of February, 2016 at a ripe age of 78;

aware that as a young man, he worked with Public Works Department (PWD), Headquarters Lagos, and then at National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) as a Clerical Officer. He traveled for studies in the UK and became the first black man to be employed by Lloyds Groups Incorporated;

further aware that on his return to Nigeria he set up his Insurance brokerage firm in Ibadan and became quite successful. He was the first Nigerian to obtain a Chellerams Franchise which led to the establishment of LACO Group and then LACO Departmental Store, the biggest supermarket chain in the South West at that time;

recalls that Senator Agunbiade was a member of the 2nd Republic Senate and represented Ekiti South Senatorial District in the then Ondo State. He was the only opposition Senator from the South West of Nigeria, and served as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Police Affairs;

recalls further that he was a Councilor in Ekiti South LGA of then Ondo State, and was a national leader of the defunct National Republican Convention (NRC) where he contested for the position of National Chairman. He was a former National Financial Secretary of the defunct United Nigerian Congress Party (UNCP) and the former Director-General of President Olusegun Obasanjo Campaign Organization in 1999. Senator Agunbiade was the pioneer Ekiti State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman and in his later years a leader in the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) and All Progressive Congress (APC);

aware that he was a member of the Institute of Directors (IoD) and was later appointed the Chairman of Wema Bank PLC, by the then Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) Government. Senator Agunbiade was consulted on national and State matters and remained a symbol of unity until his demise; and

convinced that Senator Agunbiade was a towering community figure, a distinguished member of the Nigerian business community, an astute politician but most importantly a selfless, compassionate philanthropist and a humanitarian par excellence who will be greatly missed for his contribution to humanity.

Accordingly resolves to;

(*i*) observe a minute silence in honour of Senator Lawrence Adekunle Agunbiade; and

(*ii*) condole with the family, people and Government of Ekiti State (*Senator Biodun C. Olujimi — Ekiti South*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of Senator Lawrence Adekunle Agunbiade — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do condole with the family, people and Government of Ekiti State — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

(*i*) observe a minute silence in honour of Senator Lawrence Adekunle Agunbiade; and

(*ii*) condole with the family, people and Government of Ekiti State ***(S/Res/126/01/16)***.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

(b) Demise of Senator Onyekachi Amadi Okoroafor (1944-2016):

Motion made: That the Senate notes with regret the sudden demise of Senator Onyekachi Amadi Okoroafor who passed unto glory in the early hours of Saturday, February 27th, 2016 after a brief illness;

recalls that the late Senator attended Church of Scotland Mission School Ekoi, Edda Ejikewu; Hope Waddell Training Institute, Calabar and later bagged a B.Sc degree in Mechanical Engineering from George Washington University, Washington D.C and M.Sc Energy System and Material from the same University;

recalls further that the late Senator was a Member of several professional groups such as Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN), Nigeria Society of Engineer (NSE), Associate Member, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM);

notes that the late Senator started his working carrier between 1962-1970 with Eastern Nigeria Ministry of Agriculture 1967-1977 as Mechanical Engineering Consultant in charge of piping, flow controls, material selections and energy systems with Stanley Consultant Inc. Muscatine, Iowa (USA). Between 1984-1996 in Key Stone Valve (Nigeria) Limited, as the Managing Director/Chief Executive - Leader in Flow Control Technology in Nigeria involved in distribution, installation and maintenance of flow control equipment and accessories in Nigeria;

recalls that as an astute businessman he later established Oktec Nigeria Limited as a Chief Executive involved in maintenance, installation, specification of control equipment in Nigeria from 1996 till date;

aware that between 1992-1993 he was elected into the Senate under the platform of the National Republican Convention (NRC) representing Abia Central;

1999-2015 as a Chieftain of PDP representing PDP as a National Delegate in all Conventions;

aware that between 2001-2006, he served as a Pioneer Federal Commissioner representing South East Zone in the National Assembly Service Commission (NASC) where he distinguished himself as a true representative of the zone;

notes that he also served as a Chairman and member of various Boards of Governmental parastatals such as Member, Board of Directors International Glass Industry (IGI), Aba 1987 -1989, Member of the Board of Mechanical Agricultural Research Institute, Kwara State (2006 - 2007), Chairman, Governing Council of the Federal Polytechnic Offa, Kwara State., where he brought his tenacity to bear as an astute Administrator transforming the hitherto moribund institutions into enviable height;

observes that the late Senator was a detribalized Nigerian whose political leaning cuts across ethnic, religious and parochial interests;

as an activist, he was a selfless and courageous Statesman;

recalls that his relentless demand for the revalidation of June 12 election which was adjudged the freest and fairest election won by Chief M.K.O Abiola led to his incarceration in a prison with the likes of Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu, Ameh Ebute, Polycarp Nwite and Rev. Nwaulu to mention but a few;

aware that the late Senator was a kind hearted philanthropist who offered scholarships and job opportunities to many;

observes that his demise is a monumental loss not only to his family, the Igboland, but to the entire country Nigeria; and

Senator Okoroafor is survived by his wife (Flora) and children. Until his death, he was a devoted Christian and a good family man.

Accordingly resolves to;

(*i*) observe a minute silence in honour of late Senator Onyekachi Amadi Okoroafor; and

(*ii*) send a delegation to commiserate with his family, the people of Abiriba and Government of Abia State and attend the burial (*Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa — Abia North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of late Senator Onyekachi Amadi Okoroafor — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do send a delegation to commiserate with his family, the people of Abiriba and Government of Abia State and attend the burial — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(*i*) observe a minute silence in honour of late Senator Onyekachi Amadi Okoroafor; and

(*ii*) send a delegation to commiserate with his family, the people of Abiriba and Government of Abia State and attend the burial ***(S/Res/127/01/16)***.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

Delegation to Abia State:
The Senate President named the following Senators to commiserate with the family, the people of Abiriba and Government of Abia State:

(*i*)	Senator Biodun C. Olujimi	—	Leader
(*ii*)	Senator Danjuma Laah	—	Member
(*iii*)	Senator Suleiman M. Nazif	—	Member
(*iv*)	Senator Baba Kaka B. Garbai	—	Member
(*v*)	Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade	—	Member

(c) The use of sub-standard or used tyres on the Nigerian roads.

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 13th April, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:35 *p.m.*

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