SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 27th April, 2016

1. The Senate met at 10:52 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**

Closed Session — 10:53 a.m.

Open Session — 11:15 a.m.

The Deputy Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on issues relating to the 2016 Appropriation Bill and the signing of the Bill by Mr. President very soon.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 26th April, 2016.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Announcement:**

The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Ike Ikweremadu (*Enugu West*) as follows:

DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

April 27,2016

His Excellency,
Sen. Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki,
President of the Senate,
National Assembly,
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF MY BOOK
"WHO WILL LOVE MY COUNTRY"

PRINTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESS, ABUJA

I write to invite all Distinguished Senators of the Senate to the public presentation of my book titled, "Who Will Love my Country".

The book is my modest attempt to dissect the problems facing us as a nation and to challenge leaders and fellow Nigerians to find creative solutions to these challenges. The ideas expressed in the book generally implore Nigerians to engage in good faith discourse about how to make Nigeria to work for us all.

The book presentation is scheduled to hold today at the Africa Hall, International Conference Centre Abuja by 1:00pm prompt. It is certainly an event I would cherish the company of all Distinguished Senators and I will therefore feel highly honoured if you could find time to join me.

While looking forward to your esteemed presence and support, please accept the assurance of my highest regards.

Sincerely,

(Signed)
SENATOR IKE EKWEREMADU, PhD, CFR
Deputy President of the Senate

5. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Adamu M. Aliero *(Kebbi Central)* drew the attention of the Senate to the Resolution which urged the Federal Government to direct the Nigeria Customs Service to suspend the lifting of the ban of importation of rice through the land borders *(S/Res/060/01/15)*. He informed the Senate that the Resolution has been complied with.

6. Petitions:

(*i*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Kabiru I. Gaya *(Kano South)* drew the attention of the Senate to three (3) petitions from:

(*a*) Aremiyau Y. Abubakar, Esq. on behalf of Late Hajiya Fatima Ladi Mohammed, over non-payment of retirement benefits by the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE);

(*b*) Dr. Isa Mohammed Ahmed, over victimisation and intimidation by Power Holding Company of Nigeria on refusal to pay his retirement benefits; and

(*c*) Farouk Umar Ibrahim, on his wrongful dismissal from the Nigerian Navy.

He urged the Senate to look into the matters.

Petitions laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within four (4) weeks.

(*ii*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Babajide C. Omoworare (*Osun East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Owoeye Bosede Fumilola, on non-issuance of her Senior School Certificate Examination No. 28141282 by West African Examination Council (WAEC). 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 four (4) weeks.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:
Rising on Rule 42, Senator Abubakar Kyari (*Borno North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the fire incident in Gagamari, Diffa State Refugee Camp in Niger Republic where several houses were engulfed with fire and over 4,000 persons rendered homeless. 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. National Assembly Budget and Research Office (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB.222):
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to establish an Independent National Assembly Budget and Research Office, which shall provide the National Assembly with objective, timely and non-partisan analysis needed for Economic and Budget decisions and other related matters, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator Babajide C. Omoworare — Osun East*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

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

9. National Inland Waterways Authority Act CAP, N47, LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (SB.240):
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Inland Waterways Authority Act CAP, N47, LFN 2004 and to Enact the National Inland Waterways Authority Act to provide for the Management, Regulation and Development of the National Inland Waterways and to promote Private Sector participation in the development of the National Inland Waterways in Nigeria and for other related matters, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator Andy E. Uba — Anambra South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Marine Transport to report within Four (4) weeks.

10. Food Security Bill, 2016 (SB.71):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Bill, 2016 (SB. 108):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:
Report on the Frivolous Petition Bill, 2016 (SB. 143):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:
Report on the Motion on the Differences in the Content of Section 18 of the Armed Forces Act Cap. A20 LFN 2004 and 2010 respectively:

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. Motion:
Need for the establishment of Inland Ports at Onitsha, Enugu and other Landlock States:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

15. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 28th April, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:45 *p.m.*

Ike Ekweremadu, CFR
Deputy Senate President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.