



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Friday, 9th June, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 8th June, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Valedictory Session:**

Motion made: That the Senate do begin the Valedictory Session to mark the Second Year Anniversary of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Senate Leader*).

Privileges of the Floor:

(i) *Admission of Former Senate Presiding Officers; Senators; Ambassadors; Clerks to the National Assembly and Clerks, Senate:*

Motion made: That the Senate do invoke Rule 17(1) to admit Former Senate Presiding Officers; Senators; Ambassadors; Clerks to the National Assembly and Clerks, Senate to the floor (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Former Senate Presiding Officers; Senators; Ambassadors; Clerks to the National Assembly and Clerks, Senate accordingly admitted.

(ii) *Admission of the Wives of the Principal Officers; Chairman, All Progressives Congress; Chairman, Board of Trustees (BOT) of Peoples Democratic Party; and other invited guests:*

Motion made: That the Senate do suspend Rule 17(1) to admit the Wives of the Principal Officers; Chairman, All Progressives Congress; Chairman, Board of Trustees (BOT) of Peoples Democratic Party; and other invited guests to the Floor of the Senate (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Wives of the Principal Officers; Chairman, All Progressives Congress; Chairman, Board of Trustees (BOT) of Peoples Democratic Party; and other invited guests accordingly admitted.

4. Remarks by the Senate President:



President of the Senate
Federal Republic of Nigeria

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, HIS EXCELLENCY, SENATOR (DR.) ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAOKI, AT THE 2ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE 8TH SENATE TODAY FRIDAY, 9TH JUNE, 2017.

Protocol:

1. *Distinguished colleagues, our invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am immensely pleased to welcome you to this special session on the second anniversary of the 8th Senate.*
2. *Distinguished Colleagues, our invited guests, today is a historic day for many reasons. First of all, today marks a celebration of our deliberative democracy and the immense opportunity to be part of an enduring legacy of political tolerance, engagement, participation and commitment. We are two years on this saddle and it has been two years of productive lawmaking period.*
3. *While acknowledging the great work our predecessors had done before us, let me put on record that this current Senate has made progress on every front and therefore deserves to mark this day as a special day.*
4. *When we started, I knew that the 8th Senate was going to be significantly different and effective. I saw across the aisle, a passionate, energetic set of leaders made of sterner stuff, and a desire to make the difference. Though we inherited a legacy that created in some minds cynicism and despondency, we were undeterred irrespective of an unending barrage of virulent attacks and unprovoked aggression; the 8th Senate matched on with focus on its main responsibility which is to make laws for the peace and good governance of the federation. This we have done, together erasing records and setting new ones.*

Today, the 8th Senate has passed 96 bills in just 2 years eclipsing the highest ever in the history of the National Assembly, a record held by the 5th Senate after passing about 65 bills within the same time period.

5. *For us in the 8th Senate it is not just about the number of bills passed but more importantly the impact. This is why we have paid more attention to laws that give our people opportunity to prosper and create jobs. I sincerely congratulate every one of you for putting in the shift to ensure we pass these bills.*
6. *We have taken on the toughest bills and challenges affecting our unity, the welfare and security of our people and the necessary platform for a greater Nigerian economy.*

From the Nigerian Railway Bill, the Public Procurement Act Amendment, the Nigerian Ports & Harbour Bill, the National Roads Fund Bill, the National Transport Commission Bill, the National Inland Waterways Bill and the Federal Roads Bill, the Competition and

Consumer Protection Bill, the Investment & Securities Act Amendment, the Companies and Allied Matters Act Amendment, the Secure Transactions in Movable Assets Bill, the Independent Warehouse Regulatory Bill, the Bankruptcy & Insolvency Act (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, the Electronic Transactions Bill and the Nigerian Postal Commission Bill; all of these and many more have been the highest compendium of economic reforms ever undertaken by any administration in the history of our country. But we are taking it, and one by one we are laying the foundation for a new Nigerian economy to emerge. One, that is empowering the private sector and that is liberal.

7. *On the issue of improving the lawmaking process, we have not been afraid to push the boundaries of convention, that is why the 8th Senate can be credited as having initiated the first-ever National Assembly Joint Public Hearing on the Budget - the 8th Senate broke the 12 year jinx on the PIB by passing the Petroleum Industry Governance Bill (PIGB) that will reform the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and return accountability in the Petroleum Industry. The 8th Senate scored another first as it become the first Senate to unveil and pursue a self-developed economic reform agenda to aid the ease of doing business in Nigeria and create new frameworks for creating jobs and improving Nigeria's ranking in the global competitiveness index.*

8. *We committed ourselves to open our budget to the world, we have done that. We promise to pass the economic reform bills we have fulfilled the promise we made.*

We promised to lead from the frontline on the war against corruption. We have passed several corruption-exposing resolutions that have saved our government billions of Naira cumulatively.

9. *Distinguished colleagues, our invited guests, today, it can be said that the 8th Senate has led the way in terms of open government and transparency. Aside opening our books to the public, we have also opened the work we do to the world by being the first to adopt live streaming of plenaries and deliberations globally. We have engaged the Civil Society and the wide Nigerian public in almost every lawmaking activity of the 8th Senate. Indeed, we have been the most open arm of government in the history of Nigeria to date.*
10. *Let me at this juncture, thank all of you my wonderful colleagues for the exemplary and unflinching support you have given to me and the entire leadership of the Senate thus far. Every one of you deserves to be singled out and acknowledged individually for your remarkable commitment and oneness of spirit. I thank you most especially for the sacrifices and your perseverance that has seen the Senate succeed thus far.*
11. *I want also to thank you again, for the peaceful lawmaking environment that is empowering and genuinely fraternal. We have played less of divisive politics but have dedicated our time to what is most useful to all Nigerians. This has enabled us to focus more on the work thereby ensuring that our people are the ultimate beneficiaries of our time and energy.*

Today, we can be rest assured that though it may take a while to gestate, the initiatives we have started here will endure and bloom; from the made-in-Nigeria initiative, to infrastructure renewal framework to the access to finance initiative, all of these will come together to lay the new foundation on which the Nigerian economy for the better part of the 21st century will be built. I cannot fail to mention in particular the support and partnership I have enjoyed with our ever-amiable and dependable Deputy Senate President (DSP) H.E Ike Ekweremadu (the Ikeoha Ndigbo), our Senate Leader, Senator Ahmad Lawan for his immeasurable industry and broadmindedness, our Minority Leader, H.E Senator, Godswill Akpabio and the entire leadership of the Senate. Thank you all for the bipartisanship, vision, patriotism, fraternity and solidarity.

12. *I want to especially thank the committees that have worked day and night to get us where we are with our bills today. I want to especially thank the Senate Committee on Ethics and Petitions for the exemplary show of dedication to work and productivity. Over the last two years this committee has rolled up its sleeves and processed 72 petitions forwarded to it. The highest by a million miles over any past National Assembly Committee in our history.*

13. *Though, it has been a rough journey you have remained undaunted. Together, we have walked through the turbulence and in the last two years shown that with determination and courage of conviction we can get the job done. I am here to tell you that your sacrifices have not been in vain.*

Your steadfastness has paid dividend and if we keep at it, we will be delivering very soon to the Nigerian people a holistic legislative reform package that would see us enter a new era of prosperity built upon a solid legal foundation that would transform our economy, deepen our democracy, close our infrastructure deficit, grow and add millions of new jobs and help activate enterprise and reward innovation.

14. *Distinguished colleagues, even though we have done a lot to congratulate ourselves about in the last 2 years, there is still a whole lot more to be achieved. We will in the coming weeks and months continue to focus our attention on completing the work we started on the economy.*

We will complete the passage of the remaining bills on the PIB, all other pending anti-corruption bills; we will complete the constitutional amendment; work with the Executive on the power issue, work with the monetary regulations and stakeholders in the financial industry to bring down the interest rates and expand the work of the ethics and privileges to deal with corruption petitions. We must eschew bigotry, tribalism and see each other as one and together build a new Nigeria of our dreams.

15. *I would like to end this address by appealing to every Nigerian citizen to be patient with the current administration of President Buhari. This government is sincerely disposed to turning things around but in a much more enduring manner. Let us pray to God to grant our President full recovery and give him the fortitude to continue to pilot the affairs of state in the vision he has started with.*

As for us in the Senate we are firmly and fully committed to his leadership and will continue to do all in our power to support and give him all the encouragement to lead us into a strong united and more virile nation.

16. *I must also use this opportunity to thank our Acting President Prof. Oluyemi Osinbajo for providing leadership and character and leading with conviction. Together with the Executive this Senate is committed to continue to support our government and the Nigerian people all the way. We will not relent in our commitment to the enthronement of a strong and resilient Nigerian economy capable of ensuring the welfare and protection of every Nigerian irrespective of his ethnic group, political affiliation, sex or religious creed.*

17. *May God bless Nigeria. Thank you.*

(Signed)

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

The Following Senators made contributions:

- (i) Senator Ike Ekweremadu
- (ii) Senator Ahmad I. Lawan
- (iii) Senator Godswill Akpabio
- (iv) Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade
- (v) Senator George T. Sekibo
- (vi) Senator George Akume
- (vii) Senator Dino Melaye
- (viii) Senator Binta Masi Garba
- (ix) Senator Shehu Sani

5. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 13th June, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:08 p.m.

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

