



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 21st February, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:22 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 26th January, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Messages from Mr. President:**
The Senate President announced that he had received three letters from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

(a) *Extension of Leave:*



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

5th February, 2017

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

Further to my letter dated 18th January 2017, in which I notified the Distinguished Senate of taking part of my annual leave.

During my leave, I took the opportunity to have routine check-ups and consult my long standing Doctors in London. In the course of the routine examinations, certain test result indicated the need for a course of medications and further appointments have been scheduled for next week.

I am therefore, notifying the Distinguished Senate, that I am extending my leave until the doctors are satisfied that certain factors are ruled out. In the circumstances, the Vice President will continue to act on my behalf.

Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)*

Muhammadu Buhari

(b) Re: Submission of Nomination of Non-career Ambassador:



**VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

SH/AG. PRESIDENT/02/3/

7th February, 2017

*His Excellency
Senator (Dr). Bukola Saraki, CON
President
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja*

Dear Senate President,

RE: SUBMISSION OF NOMINATION OF NON-CAREER AMBASSADOR

Further to Mr. President's letter dated 16 January 2017, on the above stated subject matter, I hereby submit one (1) additional non-career nominee for confirmation as Ambassador- Designate by the Distinguished Senate as follows:

Name: MR. ADEYINKA ASEKUN

State of Origin: OGUN STATE

2. It is my hope that this will receive the usual kind and prompt attention of the distinguished members of the Senate of the Federal Republic.

3. Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards.

(Signed)

*Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON
Acting President*

(c) *Re: Appointment of Chief Justice of Nigeria*



**VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

SH/AG. PRESIDENT/02/2/

7th February, 2017

*His Excellency
Senator (Dr.) Bukola Saraki, CON
President
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja.*

Dear Senate President,

RE: APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA

Following the recommendation of the National Judicial Council, I hereby notify you of the appointment of the Honourable Justice Walter Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen, CFR as Chief Justice of Nigeria.

The Senate President is requested to kindly present the said appointment of the Honourable Justice Onnoghen for confirmation by the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, pursuant to section 231 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards.

(Signed)

**Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON
Acting President**

4. Announcements:

(a) *Invitation to the Commissioning and Donation of 80-Bed Hospital in Potiskum, Yobe State*
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Mohammed Hassan (Yobe South) as follows:



**SENATOR MOHAMMED HASSAN
YOBE SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
VICE CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON FCT**

16th February, 2017

*His Excellency
Senator Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, CON
President of the Senate
National Assembly
Abuja*

Your Excellency,

LETTER OF INVITATION TO THE COMMISSIONING AND DONATION OF 80-BED HOSPITAL IN POTISKUM, YOBE STATE

Prior to my election, I made a pledge to the people of Yobe South Senatorial District that I would construct a befitting hospital for the community. This promise was not predicated on my winning the election, but motivated by the automobile accident I had during the campaign towards 2015 elections in which one of my confidants died and five of my ribs broken. With that accident, I was faced with the reality of the dilapidated state of medical facilities in my Senatorial District.

Today, by the grace of Allah, I have completed the construction of an 80-bed hospital in Potiskum furnished with beds, drugs, laboratory equipment and other medical consumables that will serve as Urban Health Centre. Already, I have graciously donated the hospital to the Federal Government which has accepted the gesture and affiliated it to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital.

The President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki (CON), will Insha Allah perform the Commissioning Ceremony under the Distinguished Chairmanship of Mallam Adamu Ciroma (Madakin Fika) with the Honourable Minister of Health, Professor Isaac Adewole in attendance.

In view of the above, I respectfully invite Distinguished Colleagues as Special Guests to attend the Commissioning Ceremony and Handing over of the Hospital slated as follows:

DATE: Saturday, 25th February, 2017

TIME: 11.00 am

VENUE: Hospital Premises, Muhammadu Idrissa Way, Potiskum, Yobe State

While we look forward to receiving you, please accept the assurances of my highest regards.

(Signed)

Senator Mohammed Hassan

(b) Change of Party Affiliation:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Andy E. Uba (Anambra South) as follows:



Sen. (Dr.) Emmanuel Andy Uba, MFR
Chairman, Senate Committee on Public Accounts

2nd February, 2017

The President of the Senate,
Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly,
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

NOTICE OF DEFECTION FROM THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO THE ALL PROGRESSIVE CONGRESS

It is with a deep sense of responsibility that I write to inform the Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of my decision to move my political allegiance from the People's Democratic Party to the All Progressives Congress.

This momentous decision was not reached impulsively; it was arrived at after due consultations and engagements with my family, my constituents, Party faithful of both parties and my legal team.

As a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria whose sworn allegiance is to protect and uphold the Constitution of the Federal Republic, I also sought relief from the same Constitution and so I rely on Section 68(1)(g) which had also been tested in the Supreme Court. Mr. President, by this communication, I declare that I am now a card carrying member of the All Progressives Congress (APC) committed to working with you and our Party on the way we will unite, build on our policies and take the vision of our Party to our dear country.

Please be assured of my kind assurances always.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

*Senator (Dr.) Emmanuel Andy Uba, MFR
Anambra-South Senatorial District*

(c) Meeting with Senate Committee Chairmen:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki (Kwara Central) as follows:



ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE OF MEETING WITH SENATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

There will be a meeting of Senate Committee Chairmen with the Principal Officers of the Senate today, Tuesday, 21st February, 2017 in Senate Conference Room 0.22 immediately after plenary.

All Committee Chairmen are expected to be in attendance, please.

(Signed)

*Senator Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki
President of the Senate*

(d) Visit to Mr. President, Muhammadu Buhari in the United Kingdom:

The Senate President announced that he led a delegation of Rt. Hon. Speaker, House of Representatives and Senate Majority Leader to visit Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, at Abuja House in United Kingdom on Wednesday, 15th February, 2017. They met him in good spirit, healthy, chatty and enjoying his vacation. He sent his best wishes to Nigerians and plans to return soon. The Senate conveyed its best wishes.

(e) Demise of Hon. Bello Sani representing Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency, Katsina State:

The Senate President announced that the death of Hon. Bello Sani, Representing Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency, Katsina State. He died on Wednesday, 15th February, 2017 as a serving Member of the 8th House of Representatives. He is survived by a wife and children. He called for a minute silence in honour of the deceased.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

5. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Godswill O. Akpabio (*Akwa Ibom North-West*) drew the attention of the Senate to the defection of Senator Andy E. Uba from the People's Democratic Party to the All Progressives Congress Party, and intention of the PDP to go to Court to challenge his defection. He urged that the new Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee be announced on the next Legislative Day.

6. Adjournment:

Motion made: That in keeping with the tradition and practices, the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 22nd February, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. as a result of the death of Hon. Bello Sani (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 10:49 a.m.

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