SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 22nd June, 2016

1. The Senate met at 10:41 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**
Closed Session — 10:45 a.m.

Open Session — 12:10 p.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on the Report of the Senate Peace and Reconciliation Committee; and other issues affecting the smooth running of the Senate.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 21st June, 2016.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Announcements:**

(a) ***Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Caucus Meeting:***
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Emmanuel Bwacha (*Taraba South*) as follows:

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha
(Taraba South - Senatorial District)
Federal Republic of Nigeria

22nd June, 2016

NOTICE OF MEETING

This is to inform all Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senators that there will be a meeting of its Caucus after Plenary in Hearing Room 1.

Attendance is mandatory, please.

(Signed)
Senator Emmanuel Bwacha
Deputy Minority Leader.

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(b) ***Acknowledgement:***

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

(*i*) Members of National Association of Public Administration Students, Kaduna Polytechnic Chapter, Kaduna, Kaduna State;

(*ii*) Students of Department of Political Science and Administration, Adamawa State University, Mubi, Adamawa State;

(*iii*) Staff and Students of Redeemer Teap International School, Wuse, Abuja; and

(*iv*) Staff and Students of Privilege and Peace International School, Luvu, Nasarawa State.

5. Petitions:

(*i*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Donald O. Alasoadura *(Ondo Central)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mr. A. B. Ajayi, on behalf of Primary School Teachers of Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), over their disengagement by the Vice Chancellor of the University. 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 Ovie A. Omo-Agege *(Delta Central)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mr. Charles Uwaechie, over his disengagement by Conoil Nigeria Plc. 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.

(*iii*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa *(Abia North)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Uche Ugoagwu, Esq. on behalf of Barr. Uche Paschal Obilor and Mrs Omu Obilor, over alleged double allocations on Plot 2022 in Cadastral Zone A04 of Asokoro District, Abuja by the Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS). 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.

(*iv*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator David Umaru *(Niger East)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mr. Ogbe S. Nwabueze, on allegation of injustice by Mr. Samuel O. Adams, Department of Statistics of University of Abuja. 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.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Joshua C. Dariye (*Plateau Central*) drew the attention of the Senate on the irregularities and lopsidedness of the list of career ambassadorial nominees forwarded to the Senate by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

observed that the list of career ambassadorial nominees forwarded to the Senate by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, did not reflect the principles of Federal Character as enshrined in section 14 (3) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) because there was no representation from Plateau State and several other States, despite the fact that these States have qualified candidates working in the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Accordingly resolve to:
invite the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to appear before the Committee on Foreign Affairs to explain the irregularities and lopsidedness in the nomination of career ambassadors before the commencement of the screening exercise, and to report within one (1) week.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:
Question: That the Senate do invite the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to appear before the Committee on Foreign Affairs to explain the irregularities and lopsidedness in the nomination of career ambassadors before the commencement of the screening exercise, and to report within one (1) week — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do invite the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to appear before the Committee on Foreign Affairs to explain the irregularities and lopsidedness in the nomination of career ambassadors before the commencement of the screening exercise, and to report within one (1) week ***(S/Res/005/02/16)***.

7. Presentation of Bills:

(*i*) Anti-Torture Bill, 2016 (HB. 120) — *Read the First Time.*

(*ii*) Telecommunications and Postal Offences Act, CAP T5, LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 216) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iii*) National Crop Varieties and Livestock Breeds (Registration, etc.) Act, CAP N27, LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 218) — *Read the First Time.*

(*iv*) National Grazing Reserves Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 292) — *Read the First Time.*

(*v*) National Ranches Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 293) — *Read the First Time.*

(*vi*) Police Act, CAP P359 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 294) — *Read the First Time.*

(*vii*) South East Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 303) — *Read the First Time.*

(*viii*) Historic Sites, Preservation and Protection Bill, 2016 (SB. 304) — *Read the First Time.*

8. Committee on Land Transport:
Report on the Nigerian Railway Corporation Act, 1955 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (SB.01):
Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Land Transport on the Nigerian Railway Authority Act, 1955 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (*Senator Olugbenga B. Ashafa — Lagos East*).

Report presented.

Debate:

Further Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. **Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:**
Report on the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 226):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. **National Research and Innovation Council (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 239):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. **National Open University Act, No. 6 1983 (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (SB. 066):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. **Employee's Compensation Act, 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 170):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. **Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Chapter F34, LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (SB.181):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. **Adjournment:**
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 23rd June, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:41 *p.m.*

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