



National Institute For legislative Studies

Weekly Digest

Weekly Digest, Edition 41
June 15th, 2015

No 14-18 Danube
Maitama Abuja
Nigeria

8TH ASSEMBLY INAUGURATED



8TH SENATE INAUGURATED, SARAKI EMERGES SENATE PRESIDENT

The maiden session of the 8th Senate of the 8th National Assembly was convened by the Clerk to the National Assembly (CNA), Alhaji Salisu Abubakar Maikasuwa on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 following the proclamation of the 8th National Assembly by President Muhammadu Buhari. The Session Presided over by the CNA at commencement began with the reading of the Proclamation Letter of Mr. President on the floor of the Chamber.

Thereafter, the CNA called for nominations for the post of the Senate President. Sen Ahmed Rufa'i Sani nominated Sen. Abubakar Bukola Saraki and was seconded by Sen. Dino Melaye. No further nomination was made and Sen. Saraki emerged as the sole candidate for the Senate Presidency. The Hallowed Chamber unanimously adopted the nomination of Sen. Saraki and returned him elected unopposed as the Senate President of the 8th Senate.

On conclusion of election into the office Senate President, the CNA also called for nominations for the position of the Deputy Senate President (DSP). In this case, two distinguished Senators were nominated, they were Sen. Ike Ekweremadu and Sen Muhammed Ali Ndume. Election into the office of the DSP was conducted using the open secret ballot. At the end of voting, the votes were sorted out and counted as well as result announced accordingly by the CNA. A total of 74 votes were cast and one abstained. Senator Ike Ekweremadu scored 54 votes while Senator Muhammed Ali Ndume got 20 votes. The CNA declared Sen. Ekweremadu as the winner of the election into the office of the Deputy Senate President. The Head of National Assembly bureaucracy sought the permission of the Senate to proceed to the House of Representatives to undertake a similar exercise that would lead to the emergence of the next Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and the CNA took his exit.

Edition #0041

1

15th June 2015



HOUSE OF REPS GETS NEW SPEAKER,

In the House, Hon. Jubrin (Kano) eloquently nominated Hon. Yakubu Dogara and the nominee stood up to affirm his acceptance to be the next Speaker of the House. In the same vein, another member by name, Hon. Mohammed Sani (Bauchi) rose to nominate Hon. Femi Gbajabamila to become the next Speaker. Gbajabamila accepted

to assume the duties of the speaker amid cheers from his party members and caucus. The Clerk had earlier announced that 358 members were present at the session after the roll call was election was held. Hon. Dogara who represents Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa-Balewa Federal constituency of Bauchi State defeated his contender, Gbajabamila after scoring 182 above Gbajabamila's 174.

Same process was adopted for the position of the Deputy Speaker of the House. Members of elected Yusuf Suleiman Lasun, the Deputy Speaker, in spite





of the All Progressives Congress endorsement of his opponent Monguno Tahir. Hon. Lasun polled 203 votes to defeat his opponent, Mr. Tahir, who had 153 votes.

The New Speaker with his Deputy were immediately sworn-in by the Clerk and both the oath of allegiance and of membership were duly administered on them as they celebrated with their colleagues, friends, family and fans.

HOUSE COMMUNICATED THE SENATE, BUHARI AND SGF ON ELECTION OF NEW SPEAKERS

The following day, the Clerk of the 8th House of Representatives was directed to convey messages to the Senate informing it that the quorum of the House was assembled and Hon. Yakubu Dogara, representing Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa Balewa Federal Constituency has been elected the Speaker, while Hon. Yussuff Sulaimon Lasun, representing Irepodum/Orlu/Osobo Federal Constituency was elected the Deputy Speaker of the House. The Clerk was also directed in the announcement made by Hon. Dogara to convey the same messages to President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Adding that the Clerk to the National Assembly should advise the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) to inform the President that the House has assembled, properly constituted and ready to receive any message he may wish to transmit.

NYSC WELFARE

On Wednesday the 10th, the House charged the Federal

Government to review the terms, conditions and welfare of Corps members that are posted by the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to various places to serve their father land. The police has also been task to investigate the gruesome killing of Corpers in recent time. This charge came on the heels of a motion introduced under a matter of urgent public importance by Hon. Kingsley Chinda during plenary on Wednesday 10, June 2015. He complained that just two days ago, one of his constituents who was doing his National service, was gruesomely killed in his place of primary assignment. Hon. Chinda called on the House to condemn such violence on innocent youth corpers. Some members who lent their voice to the motion suggested for the FG to take necessary measures to ensure the security and welfare of Youth Corpers. They added that such measures should be extended to other unity institutions that periodically post their members to often time unfamiliar terrain for service. The House adjourned thereafter to resume sitting on the 23rd of June, 2015

SENATE ADMINISTERS OATH TO SENATORS,

In the Senate the same day (Wednesday, June 10, 2015) plenary session was presided over by the Senate President, Abubakar Bukola Saraki. The session started with administration of Oath of Office and Oath of Allegiance to some Senators who were not part of those sworn in by the Senate President on Tuesday 9th of June.



The first business of the day was a point of order moved by Sen. Bernabas Gemade citing irregularities in the conduct of election into the office of the Senate President that produced the current Senate leadership. He asserted that the election that led to the emergence of the Senate President fall short of the required two-third participation of members because only 57 distinguished Senators took part instead of 72.

Sen. Gemade noted that there is a difference between Senate sitting quorum of one-third of the 109 Senators and the quorum for election into the office of the Senate President which

he said requires two-third of the entire Chamber. He added that the election that produced the current Senate President fall short of required participation of law-makers.

SENATORS WALKED OUT

Ruling on the point of order raised by Sen. Gemade, the Senate President, Saraki ruled him out of order, a decision that did not go down well with some distinguished Senators who are in support of Sen. Ahmed Lawan candidacy. Consequently, this group of Senators decided to stage a walk out of the Hallowed Chamber in protest.

Thereafter, the Senate President called for the adjournment of the session and Chamber adjourned sitting to Tuesday, June 23, 2015.

Meanwhile, the aggrieved Senators that staged a walk out of the Senate Chamber held a Press Conference at the Committee Room 1 of the White House, National Assembly Complex in which Sen. Ahmed Lawan spoke on the stance of the group of lawmakers. He disclosed that the group rejects the election that produced the current leadership of the Senate, stressing that they would use both political and legal means to challenge the outcome of the election because it fall short of quorum and due process was not strictly adhered to in the conduct of the election.

