



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Wednesday 9th April, 2008

1. Prayers
 2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
 3. Oaths
 4. Announcements (if any)
 5. Petitions
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PRESENTATION OF BILLS

National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2008 (SB .78) - *First Reading*

Senator Iyabo Qbasanjo-Bello:- (*Ogun Central*)

National Commission for the Eradication of Child Destitution (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2008 (SB. 84)
First Reading

Senator Umar A. Tafidan Argungu:- (*Kebbi North*) and 40 Others

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Appropriation Bill 2008 (Veto Over-Ride):

Senator Ahmad I. Lawal:- (*Yobe North*)

The Senate,

Recalls that the National Assembly passed the 2008 Appropriation Bill on the 12th February, 2008 and a final clean copy of the Bill was transmitted to Mr. President Commander-in-Chief for his assent on 20th February, 2008 vide letter Ref:NASS/CNA/115/VOL.21/66;

Recalls also that Mr. President C-in-C made some observations and sent the Bill to the Senate on 22nd February, 2008; vide a letter Ref: PRES/134/;

Notes that the National Assembly duly considered the observations made by Mr. President, C-in-C and sent the Bill back to Mr. President, C-in-C with the details vide letter Ref: NASS/CNA/115/VOL/21/79 of 13th March, 2008 and NASS/CNA/115/VOL.21/90 of 28th March, 2008, for his assent;

Notes further that more than 70% of the observations raised by Mr. President, C-in-C were addressed, accommodated and promptly sent back to Mr. President, C-in-C for his assent;

Observes that it is now more than 30 days from 20th February, 2008 since the 2008 Appropriation was passed and formally sent to Mr. President, C-in-C for his assent;

Considers the inability of Mr. President, C-in-C to signify his assent to the 2008 Appropriation Bill within 30 days of his receipt of the Bill on 20th February, 2008 as a Veto; and

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. Invoke the legislative powers granted to the National Assembly in Section 59(4) of the 1999 Constitution and hereby commence the process of overriding the Veto of Mr. President, C-in-C on the 2008 Appropriation.
Section 59(4) of the 1999 Constitution stipulates that:

"where the President, within thirty days after the presentation of the bill to him, fails to signify his assent or where he withholds assent, then the bill shall again be presented to the National Assembly sitting at a joint meeting, and if passed by two-thirds majority of members of both Houses at such joint meeting, the bill shall become law and the assent of the President shall not be required."

2. Enhancing Agriculture in Nigeria for Self Sufficiency in Food Production:

Senator Kabiru I. Gaya:- (Kano South)

The Senate,

Affirms that Nigeria is endowed with fertile land without any natural disaster such as earthquake, tornados, volcanic eruption, Earth tremour, Snow, Heavy rainfall, flood disasters etc;

Observes that the huge sum of money, to the tune of 360 billion Naira annually used for importation of rice can easily be used internally to boost the Agricultural sector through the provision of irrigation farming;

Notes that if Nigerian government adopts a policy of giving tractors and fertilizers to farmers at subsidized rate, this will enhance Agricultural initiatives for food production;

Observes that irrigation is a major part of Agricultural success in Nigeria, and if adopted with modern farming facilities, the farmers would have bumper harvest. Kano State is a typical example as about 30% of land areas in the state is under irrigation.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Urge* the Federal Government through the Ministry of Agriculture to procure tractors farm implements, fertilizers, vaccines, etc to farmers at a very subsidized rate (ie) Federal Government to give 40% and should encourage State Governments to give 20% and Local Governments 10%;
- ii. *Urge* the Federal Government to constitute a viable co-operative society that would monitor and supervise farmers, disseminate useful information, organize Seminars, distribute fertilizers with accurate records and liaise with government as a link between the farmers and government;
- iii. *Urge* the Federal Government to encourage private participation on fanning by provision of Agricultural loan scheme with little or no interest, to farmers through the co-operative society. Individual small farmers should be encouraged by government whereby land and forest is cleared and given to them free;
- iv. *Urge* the Federal Government to incorporate farming training into NYSC Scheme, whereby the Youth Copers are trained for 3 - 4 months in their service year;
- v. *Urge* the Federal Government to adopt, develop intervention strategies on commodity-by-commodity basis of specified crop production within each zone to help in massive food production based on the principle of comparative advantage;
- vi. *Urge* the Federal Government to earnestly initiate irrigation farming as this is the most prominent strategy to increase Agricultural yield so that the same farm land can be utilized for three farming seasons per annum.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. Report of the Committee on Finance:
Screening of Nominee:
 Senator Ahmed M. Makarfi:- (*Kaduna North*)
 "That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Finance, on the Screening of MS. OMOIGUI IFUEKO MARINA, as Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and approve the recommendation".

Recommendation:
 "That the Senate do confirm the nomination of MS. OMOIGUI IFUEKO MARINA, as Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)

2. Report of the Committee on Petroleum Upstream:
Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Bill, 2008 (SB. 81)
 Senator Lee L. Maeba:- (*River South East*)
 "That the Senate do resume the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Petroleum Upstream, on the Nigerian oil and Gas Industry Content Development Bill, 2008 (SB. 81)" (*Adjourned Debate - Thursday, 13th March, 2008*).

 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
1.	Rule and Business	Wednesday, 9th April, 2008	3. 00 p.m	Committee Room 15 Assembly Complex
2.	Drugs, Narcotics, Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption	Wednesday, 9th April, 2008	3. 00 p.m	Committee Room 3.13 Senate New Building Assembly Complex
3.	Marine Transport	Thursday, 10th April, 2008	2.000 p.m	Committee Room 204 Senate New Building Assembly Complex
4.	Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters	Thursday, 10th April, 2008	1.000 p.m	Committee Room 313 Senate New Building Assembly Complex
5.	Health	Thursday, 13th April, 2008	2.000 p.m	Committee Room 3.03 Senate New Building Assembly Complex