



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Wednesday, 27th June, 2007

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. **Appointment of Special Advisers:**
Senator Teslim Folarin: - (Senate Majority Leader)
"That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President C-in-C for the approval of the appointment of 15 (fifteen) persons as Special Advisers"
-

MOTIONS

2. **Release of Mr. Ralph Uwazuruike and other Leaders of the Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB):**

Sen. Uche Chukwunierije:- (Abia North) Sen. Annie Okonkwo:- (Anainbra Central Sen. Joy Emodi:- (Anainbra North) Sen. Sylvester N. Anyanwu (Imo North) Sen. Anyimchukwu Ude:- (Ebonyi South) Sen. Ayogu Eze:- (Enugu North) Sen. Chris Anyanwu:- (Imo East) Sen. Gregory I. Ngaji:- (Cross River Central) Sen. Bassey Ewa-Henshaw:- (Cross River South) Sen. James E. Manager:- (Delta South) Sen. Jibril M. Aininu:- (Adamawa Central) Sen. Abubakar Hambagda:- (Borno South) Sen. Anthony O. Agbo:- (Ebonyi North)

Sen. Nkechi J. Nwaogu:- (Abia Central) Sen. John I. Obiora:- (Anainbra Central) Sen. Ucha Julius:- (Ebonyi Central) Sen. Ike Ekweremadu:- (Enugu West) Sen. Osita B. Izunaso:- (Imo West) Sen. Effiong D. Bob:- (Akwa Ibom N/East) Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba:- (Cross R/North) Sen. Patrick Osakwe:- (Delta North) Sen. Lee L. Maeba:- (Rivers South East) Sen. Nuhu Aliyu:- (Niger North) Sen. Adeleke O. Mamora:- (Lagos East) Sen. Eyinnaya H. -(Abia South)

The Senate

Notes that reconciliation is universally cherished as an important weapon of resolving social conflicts in a democratic society;

Observes that this tool has yielded positive results in numerous conflicts in our nation's political development;

Concerned that youth restiveness has increasingly become a major part of such conflicts in our political terrain and such restiveness tends to converge with alienation of the larger host environments;

Observes further that in recent times the most serious manifestations of youth restiveness include Odua Peoples Congress (OPC), Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF) and Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB);

Notes that Government's even-handed response to the problem is yielding positive results as is evident in the post-detention public profile of Gani Adams. Leader of OPC. and Mujaheed Asari Dokubo, Leader of NDPVF;

Concerned further that the evident virtue of this even-handedness will suffer a set-back if it is not extended to other cases such as the leaders of MASSOB who are still in detention;

Notes that such serious set-back arises from the unfortunate perception of Government's response as selective and partisan, by a section of the Nigerian people;

Concerned that the consequences of such misgivings could be counter-productive to the Government's immediate need of peace and ultimate goals of social harmony and political stability;

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Commend* the Federal Government's policy of reconciliation with all aggrieved groups as a healthy way of lowering tension in the polity;
- (ii) *Applaud* Yar'dua Administration's placatory handling of volatile youth groups, as is evident in the release on bail of Asari Dobubo;
- (iii) *Request* the release Mr. Ralph Uwazuruike and other leaders of MASSOB as a logical extension of the Government's even-handed response to disaffected youths;
- (iv) *Urge* our youth movements to appreciate the supreme importance of peaceful mediation, reconciliation and conciliation in nursing our nascent democratic culture to maturity.

3. Strike Action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU):

Senator Sylvester N. Anyanwu:- (*imo North*)

The Senate

Concerned about the current strike action embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) for about Twelve (12) weeks now;

Observes that industrial disputes in our Universities have become too frequent and often resulted in prolonged strikes with devastating consequences to our Educational System;

- *Notes* that prolonged periods of closure of Universities during strikes expose students to social vices and moral challenges;

Notes that schooling time lost during these strikes can hardly be regained as crash programmes to cover lost grounds only negatively impacts on the quality of knowledge imparted and consequently on the quality of graduates from our University system.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* the leadership of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to call off the strike action pending the resolution the crisis;
- (ii) *Direct* its Committee on Education to initiate dialogue with the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and all the Stakeholders in the educational system with a view to resolving all the contending issues.
- (iii) *Urge* the President to set in motion the apparatus for the periodic review of the salaries and allowances of ASUU.