



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Wednesday, 25th July, 2007

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

- 1 **Fire Disaster at the Palace of Owa Obokun of Ijesa-Land, Oba Dr. Adekunle Aromolaran, Phd, FRS (Econs.), CFR Sen. Iyiola Omisore (Osun East)**

The Senate,

Notes that His Royal Majesty Oba **Dr** Adekunle Aromolaran is a prominent First Class Oba in Osun state and Nigeria.

Observes that Oba Adekunle Aromolaran has contributed immensely to the educational advancement of state and Nigeria at large as an author of several books on Economics. He has also contributed greatly towards **the** peaceful co-existence of the people of Osun state in particular and Nigeria at large.

Notes that on Friday, 20th July, 2007 the 940 years old palace of Oba Aromolaran was gulled by an inferno which destroyed the palace and caused loss of property worth almost a Billion Naira inclusive of historic artefacts and ancient relics and rendered several people in the palace homeless.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i) *Condemn* the Federal Fire Service for its **inability** to put off the inferno for the umpteenth time as was also the case for other fire disasters of note such as **the** Sokoto, Kaduna and Kano Fire Disasters recently.
- ii) *Advise* the Federal Fire Service to investigate the remote and immediate causes of **the** inferno at the palace.
- iii) *Direct the National* Emergency Management Agency (NFMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the victims of the fire disaster.
- iv) *Urge* the Senate to send a delegation to commiserate with HRM Oba Adekunle Aromolaran and the Government and people of Osun State on the incident.

The plan amongst other things would create the expected synergy amongst all stake holders that would reduce waste and duplication of efforts. In it are viable ideas and plans for the result oriented people driven leap ;it not only solving the intractable problems of the Niger Delta, but also taking the nation to the next level of is quest for economic and technological development.

Notes that with the "compass of development | that the master plan has come to be, the critical stage of the efforts is the provision of funds for its implementation. Considering the terrain, the cost of implementation would be colossal. All available resources would therefore have to be harnessed by all stakeholders for this all important assignment.

Notes also that section 14(a) of the Act provided for the payment of the equivalent of fifteen percent of the monthly statutory allocation due to member states of the Commission from the Federation Account; this being the contribution of the Federal Government to the Commission. Section 14(b) also provided for the payment of three percent of the total annual budget of all oil producing and gas processing companies, in the region. Section 14(a) also provided for the payment of fifty percent of monies due to member states of the commission from the Ecological Fund a strict adherence to these provisions would put the NDDC on a strong financial footing to comfort headlong the challenges foisted.

Observes that the partial compliance with the provisions of the Act inhibits the developmental programmes of the Commission which could erode the gains so far recorded. It is above all at variance with the stance of President Umaru Yar'Adua to place the development of the Niger Delta at the front burner of his administration's pursuit of peace and progress and in any case a breach of the law.

Observes also that laws made by the National Assembly are to be obeyed and that the financial provisions in section 14 of the NDDC Act have been flagrantly flouted leading to the under-funding at the commission with the attendant risk of rendering it incapable of adequately developing the region. The 4th and 5th National Assemblies also flouted the Act passed by it by appropriating funds far less than the percentage stipulated by their own NDDC Act.

Convinced also that if the funds owed the NDDC are released by the Federal Government and the oil companies the Niger Delta Regional Development Master Plan can be immediately and vigorously implemented in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders so as to provide the needed infrastructure in the region and ultimately bring the crisis or restive-ness under control.

Notes that the Niger Delta now requires extra ordinary measures to restore law and order, redress the injustices of the past and facilitate rapid development of the region.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Commend* Mr. President. C-in-C Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua for the steps taken so far by his administration to address cases in the Niger Delta area.
- ii. *Urge* Mr. President and Commander-in-Chief to direct the relevant officers and agencies of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and oil and gas companies to comply with the provisions of the NDDC Act especially as it relates to its funding.
- iii. *Condemn* the activities of armed gangs who have taken advantage of the genuine grievance of the Niger Delta people.
- iv. *Urge* the Youths in the Niger Delta to lay down their arms, give peace a chance, stop hostage taking and allow the relevant government agencies to develop the Region for the benefit of all.
- v. *Urge* all stakeholders, especially the NDDC, the state and local governments of the Niger Delta, major oil companies in the area and the relevant Federal agencies to work more closely in order to achieve accelerated and sustainable development in the region,
- vi. *Mandates* its Committee on the Niger Delta to undertake a comprehensive investigation Into the problems of the Niger Delta with a view to making exhaustive findings and recommendations to solve the issues to the Senate.