



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Wednesday, 5th September, 2007

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Niger Delta Crisis:

"That the Senate do resume debates on the Motion moved by Senator Lokpobiri Heineken and 49 others on the Niger Delta Crisis¹."

Sen. Lokpobiri Heineken
Sen. James Manager
Sen. Chris Anyamvu
Sen. T. K. Folarin
Sen. Kanti Bello
Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba
Sen. Bassey Ewa-Henshaw
Sen. Satti D. Godwin
Sen. Nicholas Y. Ugbane
Sen. T. U. Wada
Sen. Grace Bent
Sen. Felix Kola Bajonio
Sen. Osita Izunaso
Sen. Bode Olajumoke
Sen. Ibrahim Ida
Sen. Emmanuel Paulker
Sen. Wilson Ake
Sen. Alloysius Akpan Etok
Sen. Eferekaya
Sen. Odion Ugbesia
Sen. Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello
Sen. Olurunimbe Mamora
Sen. Hosea Ehinlanwo
Sen. Nulm Aliyu
Sen. Enyinnaya H. Abaribe

Sen. Ninn Barigha Amangc
Sen. George Thompson Sekibo
Sen. Ike Ekweremadu
Sen. M. Mana
Sen. Effiong D. Bob
Sen. Jibril Aminu
Sen. Ikechukwu Obiora
Sen. Sylvester N. Anyamvu
Sen. Anthony George Manzo
Sen. Annie Okonkwo
Sen. Uche Chukwumerije
Sen. George Akiune
Sen. Nkeclii Nwaogu
Sen. J. N. Shagaya
Sen. Hosea Ehinlanwo
Sen. Lee Maeba
Sen. Greg Ngaji
Sen. Erne Ufot Ekaete
Sen. Edobor Uzamcre
Sen. Patrick Osakwe
Sen. Iyiola Omisore
Sen. Yisa Braimoh
Sen. Zainab Kurc
Sen. Daliiru Kuta

The Senate

Observes that the greatest challenge facing the administration of President Yar'Adua is **undoubtedly** the Niger-Delta crisis.

Observes also that the Niger-Delta is the hub of oil exploitation activities **in** Nigeria, and accounts for about 90% of the nation's revenue and that the restiveness and militancy **in** the region has become a sore point. The consensus is that the problem is exacerbated by the long years **of** neglect. It is also common belief that the region deserves better attention. Previous efforts at development were frustrated by inadequate funding, lack of a master plan, official profligacy and undue politicization.

Notes that the propagation **of** the issues of neglect to attract attention has led an otherwise peace loving and law abiding people to take on the Nigerian state in different ways, the fallout has been the **abduction of** over 125 expatriate workers at different locations and several times, including Margaret Hill and Prince **Amadi** both aged 3 years, **vandalization of oil** pipelines and the domination of the creeks by armed gangs that have bluntly refuses to allow unhindered access to oil exploration facilities.

Further notes **that** as **far** back as September 2006 the erstwhile Minister of Energy revealed that the nation was losing well over 870,000 barrels per day, (BPD) of crude oil, a revenue loss of \$61 **million** or N7.6 billion a day. About N754 billion is estimated to be needed to fix damaged pipelines and oil and gas facilities in the region. Electricity generation has also been reduced to a mere 1000 megawatts. While foreign workers are fleeing, hardly would any potential investor want to invest in the region in the circumstance .

Observes that the enormity of the crises led to the enactment of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Act 2000 which provided for the Commission to facilitate the "rapid, even and sustainable development of the Niger Delta into a region that is economically regenerative and politically ; peaceful"

Observes also that the NDDC in the pursuit of **this** Herculean task had executed over 2,000 projects. It has also in accordance with section 7(d) of the Act prepared a Master Plan designed to promote the development of the region. The Master Plan is a product **of** consultations with local governments, community and the states of the region. It is indeed the "road map" for the sustainable development **of** the region. 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 approach at not only solving the intractable problems of the Niger Delta, but also taking the nation to the next level of its 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 provided¹ 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 comfortably headlong the challenges foisted.

Observes that the partial compliance with the provisions of the Act inhibits the development 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 fore 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 restiveness under control.

Notes (hat 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 tal en so far by his administration to address cases in the Niger Delta area.
- (it) *Urge* Mr. President and Commander-in-Chief to direct the relevant officers am 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.
- (Hi) *Condemn* the activities of armed gangs who have taken advantage of the genuine grievances of the Niger Delia people.
- (iv) *Urge* the Youths in the Niger Delta to lay down their arms, give peace a chance, so hostage taking and allow the relevant government agencies to develop the Region for the benefit of ill,
- (v) *Urge* all stakeholders, especially the NDDC, the slate 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.

2. Rising Domestic Debts to Local Contractors:

Sen. Ayogu Eze
 Sen. Ike Ekwcremadu
 Sen. **Ibrahim Idah**
 Sen. **Gbemi** Saraki
 Sen. **Abubakar Gada**
 Sen.. **Odion Ugbesia**
 Sen. Anthony Agbo
 Sen. Anyim **Udell**
 Sen. Erne **Ekaete**
 Sen. Omar **Hambagda**
 Sen. **Isiaka** Adeleke
 Sen. James Manager
 Sen Paulker Emmanuel
 Sen. Tony **Muazu**

Sen. **Nimi Barigha Amange**
 Sen. T. K. **Folariu**
 Sen. Grace Bent
 Sen. Ehigic Uzamere
 Sen. Ahmed **Lawaii**
 Sen. Annie Okonkwo
 Sen. **Kabir Gaya**
 Sen. **Ikechukwu Obiora**
 Sen. **Aloysius Etok**
 Sen. **Lekan Mustapha**
 Sen. Iyiola **Omisore**
 Sen. Sylvester N. **Anyanwu**
 Sen. Bala Mohammed
 Sen **Joel Danlami**

The Senate

Notes the rise of Nigeria's domestic debts, especially debts to local contractors, from N1,3triilion to N1.8 trillion in the last one year;

Observes the negative impact of this situation on the real sectors of Nigeria's economy, especially at a time when other economies of the world are growing by leaps of between 30 and 60 percent year.

Notes that unless tackled urgently this huge local debt profile can roll back the gains of the **economic** reforms of the past years, especially the much-applauded banking sector reforms, considering that a arge chunk of this money is borrowed from the banks and other financial institutions.

Observes **that** government's inability to address this problem expeditiously has worsened the country's unemployment **situation** as many of these local **companies**, unable to cope **with** the burden of ' these unserviced loans and facilities, have thrown **their** staff into the already choked labour market, with the attendant hardship on their families and other **dependants**.

Observes **that** promises by government to liquidate **this** debt in the past **two** years is yet **to** see **the** light of day, even as the situation is compounded by squabbles by government agencies **us to** who has duty to pay **off** the contractor.

Recommend (hat something urgent be done to shield our contractors and their dependants from the scorching effects of this unforeseen financial exposure, while at the same time restoring the health of our financial institutions and returning Nigeria on the path of real growth.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* **the** federal and State ministries of finance, and **all affected** government agencies to ensure these contractors are paid their due as soon as possible.
- (it) *Recommend* **that** henceforth, government agencies should only give contracts on projects and programmes for which money has been provided in the appropriation **bill**.
- (iii) *Urge* **the** national and state assemblies to be more diligent in the exercise of their oversight functions, **to** ensure government does not operate outside the ambit of the appropriation act.
- (ii) *Urge* compliance with due process in **the** award and execution of contracts, as this **could** reduce the incident of jobs being given out without adequate cash backing and eliminate the over who pays which contractor.

		<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
1.	Committee Rules and Business	Wednesday 5th September, 2007 (Inauguration)	2. 30 p.m.	Hearing Room 02 Assembly Complex
2.	Navy	Wednesday 5th September, 2007	2. 00 p.m.	Committee Room 19 Assembly Complex
3.	National Planning	Wednesday 5th September, 2007 (Inauguration)	3. 00 p.m.	Hearing Room 04 Assembly Complex
4.	Niger-Delta	Wednesday 5th September, 2007	1. 00 p.m.	Committee Room 01 Assembly Complex
5.	Adhoc Committee: <i>Burial of Late Senator Evan Enwerem</i>	Wednesday 5th September, 2007	2.00 p.m	Committee Room 19 Assembly
6.	Cooperation, Integration In Africa and NEPAD	Wednesday 5th September, 2007	2.00 p.m	Vice Chairman's Office 4.29 (New inmate Building) Assembly Complex
7.	Finance	Wednesday 5th September, 2007	2.00 p.m	Committee Room 20 Assembly Complex
8.	Solid Minerals	Wednesday 5th September, 2007 (Inauguration)	2.00 p.m	Committee Room 107 (New , inmate Building) Assembly Complex
9.	Aviation			