



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Tuesday 27th May, 2008

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

1. **Tragic Death of one Officer and forty-five (45) men of the 243 Battalion of the Nigerian Army in a Ghastly Motor Accident:**

Senator Ibrahim M. Ida (*Katsina Central*)

Senator Chris N.D. Anyanwu (*Imo East*)

The Senate,

Notes that the Federal Republic of Nigeria has always been at the fore front of providing leadership in the promotion of sub-regional, regional and global peace. In fulfilment of this role, Nigeria currently deploys troops to other parts of the world as part of the United Nations (UN) or African Union (AU) Peace Keeping Operations. One of such deployment to Darfur in the Sudan;

Notes that until May, 2008, one of the Units deployed in Darfur, Sudan was 243 RECCE BATTALION which is based at Mungonu in Borno State. After 6 (six) months tour of duty, the Unit in question returned to Nigeria on Tuesday 20th May, 2008, through the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja. At about 0600hrs on Wednesday 21st May, 2008, the Unit set out from Abuja on its journey to its base at Mongunu on Borno State in a 7 troop carrying vehicles convoy;

Notes that the return of these gallant soldiers, after a successful tour of duty naturally elicited joy amongst the larger Nigerian Army, the Armed Forces family and indeed the nation. Sadly and most tragically, however, the convoy was involved in a fatal road accident along Kari-Potiskum road on Wednesday 21st May, 2008. In the event, 1 (one) Officer and 45 (forty-five) soldiers lost their lives in that tragic accident;

Notes that 6 (six) others have sustained serious injuries and are presently under medical care;

Notes that the burial of the departed Military Personnel was conducted with full Military honours on Friday 23rd May, 2008 at the National Military Cemetery, Abuja. The sad event was presided over by the President, Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who cut short a foreign tour to return to Nigeria for the occasion;

Affirms that despite the tragic incident, Nigeria will continue to support International and regional efforts to maintain global peace and foster human security. The unfortunate incident would only embolden and renew the commitment of the Country to the international community in line with the well known African tradition of being our brother's keepers.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) **Express** its concern over the incident by sending a letter of condolence to the President. Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces;
- (ii) **Send** a message of condolence through a Senate delegation to the Hon. Minister of Defence; and
- (iii) **Observe** a minute silence in honour of the 46 departed heroes of the 243 Recce Battalion of the Nigerian Army.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. A Bill for an Act to amend comprehensively the Legal aid Act 1976 (as amended by Decree No. 22 of 1994) in line with International Standards and to provide for the Establishment of Legal aid and Access to Justice Fund into which Financial Assistance would be made available to the Council on behalf of the indigent citizens to prosecute their claims in accordance with the Constitution and further to empower the existing Legal Aid Council to be responsible for the operation of a scheme for the grant of Legal Aid and Access to Justice in certain matters or proceedings to persons with inadequate resources in accordance with the provision of this Act, 2008 (SB. 74) - *Second Reading*
Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (Cross River Central)
2. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Capital Market Registrars to Regulate and Control the Practice of Share Registration and for Related Matters, 2008 (109) - *Second Reading*
Senator Ganiyu O. Solomon (Lagos West) and 9 Others

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
1. Rules and Business	Tuesday, 27th May, 2008	3.00pm	Committee Room 15 pm Assembly Complex
2. Local and Foreign Debts	Tuesday, 27th May, 2008	2.00pm	Committee Room 313 New Senate Building Assembly Complex
3. Environment and Ecology	Tuesday, 27th May, 2008	2.00pm	Committee Room 117 New Senate Building Assembly Complex
4. Defence and Army	Tuesday, 27th May, 2008	2.00pm	Committee Room 324 New Senate Building Assembly Complex
5. Interior	Tuesday, 27th May, 2008	2.00pm	Committee Room 3.01 New Senate Building Assembly Complex
6. Police Affairs	Tuesday, 27th May, 2008	12.00 noon	Committee Room 305 New Senate Building Assembly Complex
7. Petroleum Resources (Upstream)	Tuesday, 27th May, 2008	2.00pm	Committee Room 3.24 New Senate Building Assembly Complex

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8.	Public Accounts	Tuesday, 27th May, 2008	2.00pm	Hearing Room 4 Assembly Complex
9.	Marine Transport	Tuesday, 27th May, 2008	11.00am	Committee Room 204 New Senate Building Assembly Complex
10.	Drugs, Narcotics Financial Crimes and Anti-Corruption	Tuesday, 27th May, 2008	12.00 noon	Committee Room 313 New Senate Building Assembly Complex
11.	Public Accounts	Wednesday, 28th May, 2008	2.00pm	Hearing Room 4 Assembly Complex
12.	Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters			Committee Room 3.13 Old Senate Building Assembly Complex