



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 8th October, 2009

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

1. *Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Investigation of the Transportation Sector:*
Senator Heineken Lokpobiri (*Bayelsa West*)
“That the SENATE do RECEIVE the REPORT of the AD-HOC COMMITTEE on the INVESTIGATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR” (*To be laid*).
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

1. The Impending Disaster Posed By The Lake Nyos Located In The Cameroons:

Sen. Joseph Akaagerger (*Benue North-East*)
Sen. Bassey Ewa Henshaw (*Cross River South*)

Co- Sponsors:

Sen. Ike Ekweremadu
Sen. Jibril Aminu
Sen. Joel D. Ikenya
Sen. Grace F. Bent
Sen. Dahiru B. Gassol
Sen. Gyang D. Dantong

Sen. Abubakar D. Sodangi
Sen. John Y. Ugbane
Sen. Muhammed Mana
Sen. Smart Adeyemi
Sen. John N. Shagaya
Sen. Satty D. Gogwim

Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba SAN
Sen. Patricia Akwashiki
Sen. George O. Akume
Sen. George A. Manzo
Sen. Ayogu Eze
Sen. Suleiman Adokwe

The Senate,

Recalls that in 2005 the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned against the imminent collapse of the Lake Nyos natural dam with devastating consequences to Nigeria and Cameroon within 5 – 10 years;

Aware that the lake is located 50 kilometers (31 miles) on a higher gradient from the Nigerian North East border and is drained by streams running into RIVER KATSINA-ALA which in turn drains into RIVER BENUE poses grave health and ecological dangers;

Further recalls that scientific warnings of the imminent collapse of Lake Nyos dates back to 1988 when Scientists disclosed that the Northern Section of the dam is fast eroding and there is a successive build-up of carbon dioxide being emitted from the magma chamber beneath the lake water thereby converting the water into carbonic acid without any attention;

Aware that on the 21st August, 1986, the lake experienced a volcanic eruption resulting in over 1,700 deaths and several injuries from asphyxiation consequent upon the massive release of carbon dioxide. About 3,500 livestock equally suffered the same fate;

Notes also that the lake's natural dam's crater, filling a roughly circular mar, dates back to about 400 years when the lava flow interacted violently with ground water consists of poorly consolidated pyroclastic deposits; and measures 2.0kilometers in length, width of 1.2 kilometers, surface area of 1.58 square kilometers, a depth of 208m (680ft) and an elevation of 1,091 meters and contain 55 million cubic meters of water, the surface water acting as a lid preventing the carbon dioxide from coming to the surface;

Further notes that Lake Nyos is one of the only three known lakes to be saturated with carbon dioxide, the others being Lake Mounon (Cameroon) and Kivu (Rwanda);

Aware that in the event, the dam fails or collapses or is ignited by any minor earthquake in the Oku volcanic field or erosion from another source, it will result in the release of over 5 million cubic liters of water leading to flooding which will affect millions of Nigerians and animals, submerging some areas in States such as Taraba, Benue, Cross River, Kogi and Enugu States etc. In effect some parts of Makurdi town will submerge forever, with the injurious gas covering the entire area up to Adamawa State;

Acknowledges that President Obasanjo in 2006, hosted a meeting with the host governors/States in the risk zone and in 2007 tasked a technical committee to evaluate the flood disaster risk and make a vulnerability assessment in Katsina - Ala River Basin in the event of the collapse of Nyos Dam but the government failed to implement the committee's recommendations;

Further aware that the Federal Government later announced the sum of #26 billion which was budgeted to construct a buffer dam at the side of the lake to cushion the effect of a possible disaster and the need to install early warning devices, work is yet to start on the project;

Worried that;

- (a) The Federal Government's technical committee named the following states of Taraba, Adamawa, Kogi, Benue, Cross River and such other states as Nassarawa, Plateau, Enugu, etc as equally vulnerable;
- (b) Although, Benue State government in 2006 further reinforced the alarm disclosing that at least 12 out of its 23 Local Government Areas will be affected and recommended to the Federal Government the construction of some buffer dams at the foot of the hills on the Nigerian side to reduce the impact of any eruption, but nothing tangible is yet to done;
- (c) Despite the consistent casualty reports by Federal/Benue State Government, NEMA and United Nations Agencies that millions of people will die and over a period of six months, millions of human lives will be lost;
- (d) The vulnerable states are sitting on "gun powder" of an impending disaster;
- (e) NEMA claims of sensitization exercises are yet to reach Benue North - East Senatorial District in the face of imminent danger.

Accordingly Resolves to:

- i. **Urge** the Federal Government to hasten the timely release of the #26 billion meant for the Kashimbilla buffer dam project which will contain the flood waters from Lake Nyos;
- ii. **Urge** the Federal Government to initiate other immediate steps such as installation of early warning devices, commencement of drills and sensitization exercises to respond to the impending natural disaster, since "a stitch in time saves nine;

- iii. *Invite* the leadership of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to brief the Senate on this impending natural calamity including the sensitization exercises.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. A **BILL** for an Act to **ESTABLISH** the **NATIONAL FOOD RESERVE AGENCY** and for Other Matters Connected Therewith Bill, 2008 (SB. 179) – *Second Reading*
Senator Teslim K. Folarin (*Senate Leader*)
2. A **BILL** for an Act to **ESTABLISH** the **DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (DNA) TESTS** for Human Identification, a **NATIONAL DNA DATABANK**, the **NATIONAL BUREAU** and Other Matters Connected Therewith 2009 (SB. 269) – *Second Reading*
Senator Adegbo E. Eferakeya (*Delta Central*)
3. A **BILL** for an Act to **ESTABLISH** the **NIGERIA HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY BILL**, 2009 (SB. 177) – *Second Reading*
Senator Teslim Folarin (*Senate Leader*)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
1.	States and Local Government Administration	Thursday, 8th October, 2009	2.00 pm	Committee Room 416 Senate New Building
2.	<i>Ad-hoc Committee:</i> Millennium Dev. Goals	Monday, 12th October, 2009	2.00 pm	Committee Room 211 Senate New Building
3.	Works	Tuesday, 13th October, 2009	2.00 pm	Committee Room 313 Senate New Building