



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Thursday 2nd October, 2008

Tuesday, 7th October, 2008

1. Existing Vacancies (Publication) Bill, 2008 (SB. 106) – *First Reading*
Senator Gbemi Saraki (*Kwara Central*)
2. Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on the National Space Research and Development Agency Bill, 2008 (SB. 83) (*To be laid*)
Senator Gregory I. Ngaji (*Cross River North*)
3. Motion on the De-Congestion of Federal Government Ministries, Agencies, Commissions and Parastatals from the Metropolis of Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) to the Other Area Councils within the Federal Capital Territory;
Senator Yisa Braimoh:- (*Edo North*)
Senator Abubakar Sodangi (*Nasarawa West*) Senator Felix K. Bajomo (*Ogun West*)
Senator Dahiru A. Kuta (*Niger East*) Senator Patricia N. Akwashiki (*Nasarawa North*)

The Senate,

Notes that the Federal Capital Territory is made up of Six (6) Area Councils, to with; Abaji, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje, Kwali and Abuja Municipal;

Observes that all Federal Government Ministries, Commissions, Parastatals and several other private businesses are concentrated mostly within certain areas such as Garki 1, 3 and 10 and Wuse Zones 3 and 4, which are all within the Abuja Metropolis;

Observes that the concentration of these Federal Government Ministries, Agencies, Commissions and Parastatals within the Central Business District (CBD) of Abuja have led to serious congestion characterized by heavy traffic build-ups around the Abuja Metropolis;

Notes that traveling into and out of the Abuja Metropolis is always extremely cumbersome, for instance the traffic begins from the Gwarinpa-Kubwa fly-over and continues right down past Kubwa, eases off for about 10 Kilometers only to continue again at Dei-Dei area;

Notes further that areas such as Nyanya-Mararaba are completely chaotic at all times of the day due to the heavy traffic experienced on that particular route caused by over 3,000 motor either leaving or coming into Abuja Metropolis;

Convinced that the locations of some of these Federal Ministries, Agencies Commission and Parastatals were not originally included in the Abuja Master Plan leading to the recent demolition of some Federal Government Agencies such as National Biotechnological Agency and the Federal Ministry of Works , Mabushi, whilst several others that are not within the Abuja Master Plan, still exist;

Notes that residents of the Federal Capital Territory continue to suffer untold hardship whilst trying to get to work everyday from other satellite areas to the Abuja Metropolis;

Observes that the traffic situation and congestion within the Abuja Metropolis today can be adequately compared to that in Lagos State where residents living in areas such as Akowonjo, Alagbado, Ikorodu, Ketu, epe, Lekki, Badagry and FESTAC Town have to leave home as early as 5 a.m everyday in order to get to work in the Lagos and Victoria Islands, which constitute the commercial nerve centre of the State;

Observes that in due course the traffic situation and congestion within the Abuja Metropolis are likely to lead to a situation frightfully worse than the chaotic problem already existing in Lagos State;

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) **Urge** the Federal Government in a medium term not exceeding the next 5 years to de-congest not less than half of the Federal Government Ministries, Agencies, Commission and Parastatals within the Abuja Metropolis to the other Area Councils;
- (ii) **Urge** the Federal Capital Development Authority to continue to maintain and vigorously sustain the Master Plan;
- (iii) **Urge** all Agencies dealing with traffic and safety on our roads to remain active and vigilant in the performance and conduct of their duties, so as to reduce traffic hazards within and around the Abuja Metropolis and the Federal Capital Territory;
- (iv) **Mandate** its two Committees on Establishment and Public Service, and the Federal Capital Territory to liaise with the relevant Federal Government Agencies for the actualization of the de-congestion of Federal Government Ministries, Agencies, Commission and Parastatals from the Abuja Metropolis to the other Area Councils

4. **Motion on the Menace of Indiscriminate packing of Trucks in Some Towns on the Federal Highways:**
Senator Zaynab A. Kure (Niger South)

The Senate,

Notes with concern the daily reports in the mass media on the spate of road accidents caused by indiscriminate parking of Trucks in some towns on the Federal Highways which led to the disruption, dislocation and devastation of many families;

Observers that despite the National Traffic Law 2004 prohibits indiscriminate packing of vehicles on Federal Highways unless on special cases, heavy trucks are indiscriminately parked in some towns along Federal Highways across the country such as Lagos-Sagamu-Benin highway, Nsukka-Enugu-Portharcourt highway, Abuja-Kaduna-Kano highway, etc;

Disturbed by the annual statistics from the Federal Road Safety Commission that between 2000 to 2007 there were a total number of 13,006 reported cases of road accidents caused by indiscriminate parked trucks on our Federal Highways across the country;

Concerned that the accidents had claimed the lives of some prominent and many innocent Nigerians with an unquantifiable loss of properties; and

Notes further that inspite of the huge sum of money the Federal Government spends on road maintenance, the oil spillage from these packed trucks destroys, devastates and reduces the lifespan of these Federal Highways.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) **Direct** its Committees on Works, Federal Character and Governmental Affairs to determine the monitoring and oversight carried out by the Federal agencies (Ministry of Transportation (works), Federal Road Safety Commission, FERMA, etc) that are charged with the maintenance, safety and traffic implementation on Federal Roads / Highways and make appropriate recommendation to Senate within four (4) weeks.

- (ii) **Urge** States and Local Government Councils across the country where such vehicles are parked to provide garages for them which can also improve their internally generated revenue drive; and
 - (iii) **Urge** the Federal Road Safety Commission in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Information and Private Media Establishments to improve their enlightenment campaign on safety on the roads.
5. Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Skills Acquisition and Development Trust Fund Bill, 2008 (SB. 01)
Senator Mohammed I. Ahmed (Kwara North)
 6. Report of the Committee on Sports and Social Development on the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2008 (SB. 40) (*Consideration*)
Senator Heineken Lokpobiri (Bayelsa West)
 7. A Bill for an Act to Establish a National Order of Precedence of Public Officers and Other Persons in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2008 (SB. 137) - *Second Reading*
Senator Teslim K. Folarin (Senate Leader)
 8. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Nigerian Trade and Competition Commission and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 (SB. 80) - *Second Reading*
Senator Joel D. Ikenya (Taraba South)

Wednesday, 24th September, 2008

1. **Motion on the Alarming Increase in Sale of Babies by Foster and Maternity Homes in the Country:**
Senator Osita Izunaso (Imo West)

The Senate,

Notes that Laws of the Federation allow for establishment of foster and maternity homes after due application and approval have been granted.

Notes in particular that foster homes are homes entrusted with the temporary care of children until adoption whereas maternity homes take care of pregnant women.

Note that adoption of children takes place in our foster homes without financial cost.

Concerned that some foster homes across the country are now engaged in the sale of babies under their care and that some maternity homes across the country have turned to "markets" where purchase of babies takes place.

Worried that if this inhuman and ignoble act is not nipped in the bud it could spell a doom to our moral and cultural sensibilities.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) **Urge** Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) to periodically monitor its members and call its members to order who operate maternity homes across the country to desist from this practice of using their maternity homes as selling point of babies.
- (ii) **Urge** all foster and maternity homes across the country to adhere strictly to the code of conduct establishing them.
- (iii) **Condemn** the unwholesome practice of selling babies in the country.
- (iv) **Direct** its committee on health to investigate incessant sale of babies in the country.
- (v) **Commend** NAPTIP in her fight against the trafficking of human persons and urge her to intensify efforts in the fight.

2. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Ecological Fund for the Purposes of Funding Certain Federal Agencies Dealing with Environmental and Ecological Problems and for Related Matters, 2008 (SB 91) *Second Reading*
Senator Grace F. Bent (Adamawa South)
3. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Remuneration of Former Presidents, Heads of States, Heads of Federal Legislative Houses and Chief Justices of the Federation and Other Ancillary Matters, 2008 (SB. 153) – *Second Reading*
Senator Teslim K. Folarin (Senate Leader)
4. Report of the Joint Senate Committee on FCT and Housing on the FCT and Housing on the Investigative Public Hearing into the Administration of FCT between 1999 – 2007'.
Sen. Abubakar D. Sodangi (Nasarawa West)
5. Report of the Committee on Power and Steel Development and Metallurgy, on the Hydro-Electric Power Producing Areas Bill, 2008 (SB. 03) (*Consideration*)
Senator Nicholas Y. Ugbane (Kogi East)

Thursday, 25th September, 2008

1. Motion on the Astronomical Increase in the Importation of Prohibited and Contraband Goods into Nigeria:
Senator (Engr.) Yisa Braimoh (Edo North)
Co-Sponsors:

Senator Anyimchukwu Ude (Ebonyi South) Senator Bode Olajumoke (Ondo East) Senator Kolawole Bajomo (Ogun West) Senator Ahmed M. Maccido (Sokoto North) Senator Moh'd I Ahmed (Kwara North) Senator Erhiawarie Efekeraya (Delta Central) Senator Bako Gassol (Taraba Central)	Senator Awaisu Kuta (Niger East) Senator Garba A. Talba (Yobe South) Senator Zainab A. Kure (Niger South) Senator Odion Ugbesia (Edo Central) Senator Bala A. Mohammed (Bauchi South) Senator Eme Ufot Ekaette (Akwa-Ibom South) Senator Patricia N. Akwashiki (Nasarawa North)
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The Senate,

Recalls the ban imposed on the importation of certain goods and commodities, to wit, fabrics; including laces, cotton materials, foreign shoes and furniture, consumables; including cornflakes, toothpaste, milk, beverages, biscuits etcetera by the Federal Government of Nigeria in the year 2005;

Notes that prior to the year 2005, Nigeria had virtually turned into a dumping ground for all kinds of fake and sub-standard goods and commodities from other parts of the world;

Notes also that the rationale behind the ban on these goods and commodities apart from the goods and being predominantly fake and sub-standard was most importantly to encourage the growth of Small and Medium Industries (SMIs) and all other related industries within Nigeria and not to witch-hunt any individual or group of individuals;

Notes further that the importation of these fake and sub-standard goods and commodities which are often sold at prices far lower than those locally manufactured within the country have resulted in the intense dislike and low patronage of locally manufactured goods and commodities;

Notes yet further that the importation of these prohibited goods and commodities have led to the closure of practically all the industries within Nigeria, the most recent being the closure of the United Nigeria Textile Limited (UNTL) Kaduna State, which cost over 100,000 Nigerians their jobs and means of livelihood;

Observe that the massive unemployment, poverty and capital flight from the Nigeria economy are all consequences of the closure of practically all the industries within Nigeria caused by high level of importation of prohibited goods and commodities from other parts of the world;

Observes also that due to the astronomical increase in the importation of prohibited goods and commodities, the manufacturing sector in Nigeria is virtually non-existent, accounting for only 5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is inconsequential in comparison with 35% from Agriculture and 40% from the Oil and Gas Sector, thereby marking Nigeria out as one of the least Industrialized Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and is also a severe structural weakness of the economy;

Observes further that despite the ban impose on these fake and sub-standard goods and commodities, these items are still seen available and flagrantly displayed on the shelves of most boutiques, markets, supermarkets and shopping malls;

Observes that section 147 (1) of the Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA CAP 45, Laws of the Federation, LFN) 2004, which empowers the Nigeria Customs Service to search any place or location where banned or prohibited goods are kept or displayed for sale and outright seizure has not been fully adhered to by the Nigeria Customs Service;

Observes yet further that these banned goods and commodities are often brought into Nigeria invariably by foreigners in wanton disregard of Nigerian laws prohibiting such importation through foreign airlines or vessels, late at night or in the early hours of the day when security checks and other activities at the airports and seaports are at very low ebbs;

Notes with dismay the series of media campaigns in the print and Electronic media including advertisement of the display and sales of contraband goods, especially foreign shoes, furniture and textile products which are advertised with glee and contacts of the advertisers;

Notes that lackadaisical and sometimes collaborating attitude of some Federal Government agencies entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring compliance and enforcement of the ban imposed on these goods and commodities;

Notes also the effective and efficient effort made by certain Federal Government bodies, to wit, National Agency for Food and Drug, Administration of fake and sub-standard drugs into Nigeria, and also to keep them off the shelves of sales outlets.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) **Urge** the Comptroller – General of the Nigeria Custom Services (NCS) and all other related agencies within the country to be more conscientious in their responsibilities by improving their capacity at intelligence gathering in order to be in a position to arrest and confiscate prohibited goods and commodities illegally imported into Nigeria;
 - (ii) **Urge** the Federal Government to provide necessary incentives including duty waivers on imported raw materials (where necessary) to revitalize the Small and Medium Industries and all local industries in Nigeria with a view to making Nigeria one of the most industrialised countries in the world countries in the world by the year 2020;
 - (iii) **Urge** the federal government through the national orientation agency (NOA), to, as a matter of urgency take steps to intensify awareness and public enlightenment campaigns on the relevance and importance of patronizing locally –manufactured goods and commodities;
 - (iv) **Mandate** its committees on finance, and security and intelligence to investigate the illegal importation of prohibited goods and commodities into the country and report back to the senate within one month.
2. Report of the Committee on Communications on the 2008 Budget Proposal For the Universal Service Provision Fund (*Consideration*)
Senator Sylvester N. Anyanwu (*Imo North*)
 3. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Council Act No. 66 of 1992 to Modify its Composition, Widen Its Functions and Powers in Order to Provide for a Broader and more Effective Council, and for Related Matters, 2008 (SB. 101) – *Second Reading*
Senator Joel D. Ikenya (*Taraba South*)