



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Friday 13th February, 2009

Tuesday, 17th February, 2009

1. **Alarming Increase in the Use of Sub-Standard Refilling Gas Cylinders in the Country:**
Sen. Osita Izunaso (Imo West)

The Senate,

Notes that consumption of gas in our homes for domestic purpose is carried out by means of gas cylinders;

Notes that gas cylinder specifically means for domestic use must conform with Nigerian Industrial Standard(NIS);

Notes that refillable gas cylinders have expiry dates;

Observes that Nigerian market has been flooded with sub-standard refillable gas cylinders and accessories;

Notes that exposure of gas cylinders to the whether condition cause wear and tear to them thereby making them susceptible to danger in our homes through latent leakages;

Concerned that sub-standard gas cylinder and accessories lead to explosion thereby causing fire incidents;

Concerned that the use of sub-standard refillable gas cylinder by Nigerians has been a major source of fire incidents in our homes with grave human and material consequences;

Concerned that dealers in domestic gas engage in fraudulent practices against Nigerian consumers through false scaling and refilling.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Urge* Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) refilling plants to test gas cylinders brought before it before refilling them.
- ii. *Urge* standard organization of Nigeria(SON) to intensify efforts in its fight against sub-standard products in Nigeria by carrying out enlightenment campaign to dealers and the general public on the inherent dangers of using sub-standard cylinders and accessories and invoke its by laws by punishing erring members of the public.
- iii. *Condemn* fraudulent practices by domestic gas dealers against Nigerian consumers.
- iv. *Condemn* the importation and use of sub-standard refilling gas cylinder in the country.

2. **Motion on the Congestion of the Lagos Seaports:****Senator Annie Okonkwo (Anambra Central)****Co-sponsors:****Sen. Bode Olajumoke****Sen. Ganiyu Solomon****Sen. Sylvester Anyanwu****Sen. Osita Izunaso****Sen. Garba Yakubu Lado****Sen. Mohammed Jibril****Sen. Chris Anyanwu****Sen. Gbemi Saraki****Sen. T.U. Wada****Sen. Enyinnya Abaribe****Sen. Aloysius Etok****The Senate,****Notes** the congestion at Lagos seaports which has become acute since August 2008;**Worried** that within this period, more than 100 vessels are always waiting in the high sea to discharge its cargoes thereby incurring costs which are paid for in foreign currency and passed over to Nigerians;**Further notes** that the Lagos seaports have the largest entry points for vessels and maritime activities in the country according to Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA);**Concerned** that the congestion at the seaports has created a chain of problems whose multiplier effects have dire consequences on National output, productivity and revenue generation;**Alarmed** that other than the cost paid to the foreign shipping companies, the nation is incurring losses running into billions of naira on daily basis as a result of this problem most of which are borne by ordinary Nigerians;**Saddened** that despite the recommendation of the presidential committee on 48 hours clearance of cargoes, it still takes upward of 30-60 days or more to clear cargoes in the ports;**Informed** that the crises at the seaport arose as a result of many factors amongst which are;

- i inability of the concessionaires to provide adequate and necessary equipments to meet up with the huge volume of cargoes in the ports;
- ii the cumbersome process of clearing cargoes in the country especially the multiplicity of custom units and unwieldy security/regulatory agencies;
- iii. the high charges in the ports such as shipping and handling charges, terminal operation, demurrage, container deposit, internal haulage and even CET (common External Tariff), etc, which are all considered abnormally high and far above what obtains in other West African countries;
- iv corruption and other related activities which hinder free flow and exit of cargoes;

Observes that while the Lagos Seaports are over used and congested, the Eastern Seaports namely, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Warri, Sapele, etc, are underutilized;**Notes** with pain that the Onitsha Seaport constructed by the regime of Alhaji Shehu Shagari in the early eighties has been left to rot and waste away over the years;**Worried** that our country relies heavily on imported goods for consumption, industries and maintenance of spare parts which the congestion is affecting negatively.**Accordingly resolved to:**

- i. **Urge** Ministry of Transport and authorities charged with the administration of Lagos ports to tackle the congestion as a matter of urgency.
- ii. **Urge** that as an interim measure, NPA and NIMASA direct all Vessels coming to Lagos ports to Eastern ports namely- Port-Harcourt, Calabar, Warri, Sapele, etc.
- iii. **That** the Federal Government embark on massive rehabilitation and development of all ports across the country including the abandoned Onitsha Seaport as well as the implementation of the action plan on dry ports across the country.

- iv. **Direct** the Senate Committee on marine transport to investigate the causes of the congestion in Lagos ports, the non-utilization and/or underutilization of other seaports across the country, the incidence of high charges and delay in clearing of cargoes, concession of the ports and the terms, other related matters and report to the Senate within thirty days.
3. Report of the Committee on Federal Character and Governmental Affairs on the State of the Nation Address Bill 2009 (SB. 57) (*Consideration*)
Senator Smart Adeyemi (*Kogi West*)
4. Report of the Committee on National Security and Intelligence, on Private Detectives and Investigators Bill, 2009 (SB. 63) (*Consideration*)
Senator Nuhu Aliyu (*Niger North*)
5. FCT Appropriation Bill, 2009 (SB. 238) – *Second reading*
Senator Teslim K. Folarin (*Senate Leader*)
6. A BILL for an Act to AMEND the ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION ACT, BILL, 2009 (SB. 205) – *Second Reading*
Senator Sola Akinyede (*Ekiti South*)

Wednesday, 18th February, 2009

1. **Dismal Performance of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP):**

Senator Zaynab A. Kure

Co- Sponsors:

Sen. Odion Ugbesia

Senator Ayogu Eze

Sen. Yisa Braimoh

Sen. Turaki Ibrahim Saminu

Sen. Abubakar Tanko Ayuba

Sen. Bode Olajumoke

Sen. Ahmad Lawan Ibrahim

Sen. Suleiman A. Adokwe

Sen. Iyabo Obasanjo- Bello

Sen. Munirudeen. Musa

The Senate:

Acknowledge that, about 70% Nigerians live below the poverty line;

Further Acknowledge that the zeal to fight poverty in this country has been in the agenda of past and present administrations;

Observes that the real commitment to eradicate the scourge of poverty by the present administration was manifested by its seven point agenda;

Notes that the National Poverty Eradication Programme was established by the administrations of president Olusegun Obasanjo vide federal executive's c onclusions dated 17th January, 2001;

Further observes that, Eight Years after the establishment of the Agency, it could not effectively impact on the lives of the less privileged Nigerians despite the huge recourses committed through appropriate and MDG funds;

Regrets that, all that was heard of the Agency and the activities was just on the pages of our National dailies and that each of its numerous mouth watering schemes ends with the grandeur of its numerous mouth watering schemes ends with the grandeur of its official launching Ceremony; and

Aware of the serious debacle surrounding the non-completion of the KEKE NAPEP Contracts for the supply of 5000 units of KEKE awarded since 2007 for the sum of #2.4 billion.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. **Mandate** its Committee on National Planning Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to conduct public Hearing into the activities of NAPEP.

2. Institute of Certified Public Accountants Bill, 2009 (SB. 155) – *Second Reading*
Senator Idris A. Umar (*Gombe Central*)
3. A BILL for an ACT to Provide for the Regulation of the PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION, ADVERTISING, PROMOTION, SPONSORSHIP, DISTRIBUTION, SALE and SMOKING of CIGARETTES and Other Tobacco Products and to REPEAL the Existing Act and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 (HB. 20) – *Second Reading*
Senator Teslim Folarin (*Senate Leader*)
4. A BILL for an Act to Provide for the ESTABLISHMENT of the NATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION to Among Other Things Provide Sustainable Management of Nigeria's Fisheries Resources and Coordinate Series of Programmes for the Development of Fishing Potentials of Nigerians. 2009 (SB. 70) – *Second Reading*
Senator Umar A. T. Argungu (*Kebbi South*)

Thursday, 19th February, 2009

1. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act CAP. No.30 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2009 (SB. 204) – *Second Reading*
Senator Sola Akinyede (*Ekiti South*)
2. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Commerce of Nigeria to Provide and Foster the Professional Capabilities of persons Involved in Commercial Administration in the Federation, and for Other Purposes connected therewith, 2009 (SB. 124) – *Second Reading*
Senator Mohammed Bello (*Kano Central*)

Tuesday, 24th February, 2009

1. A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Co-operative Societies Development Agency and to vest with it the Responsibility for the Registration, Control, Co-ordination and Regulation of Co-operatives societies in Nigeria and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2009 (SB. 49) – *Second Reading*
Senator Anthony O. Agbo (*Ebonyi North*)
2. A Bill for an Act to the Establish the National Transport Commission Bill, 2009 (SB. 111) – *Second Reading*
Senator Gbemi Saraki (*Kwara Central*)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- | | <i>Committee</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Time</i> | <i>Venue</i> |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1. | Local and Foreign Debts | Thursday, 19th February, 2009 | 2.00 p.m | Committee Room 313
Senate New Building |