



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Wednesday 29th April, 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 BILLS

1. Animal Health Practitioners (Registration, etc) Bill, 2009 (HB. 19) – *First Reading*
Senator Teslim K. Folarin (*Senate Leader*)
 2. Petroleum Refineries (Licencing, Regulations and Incentives) Bill, 2009 (HB. 27) – *First Reading*
Senator Teslim K. Folarin (*Senate Leader*)
 3. Fine (Penalty Units) Bill, 2009 (HB. 45) – *First Reading*
Senator Teslim K. Folarin (*Senate Leader*)
 4. Veterinary Surgeons (Amendment) Bill, 2009 (HB. 64) – *First Reading*
Senator Teslim K. Folarin (*Senate Leader*)
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Confirmation of Nomination:
Senator Teslim K. Folarin: - (*Senate Leader*)
“That the Senate do consider the request of MR. PRESIDENT C-IN-C, for the confirmation of the Nomination of PROF. TUNDE ADENIRAN for AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT, in accordance with Section 171 (c) (4) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria”.
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MOTION

1. Abandonment of Nigerian Ship and Crew in Captivity in Somalia:
Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba SAN (*Cross River Central*)

Co-sponsors

Sen. Effiong D. Bob
Sen. Mohammed Mana

The Senate,

Notes that on or about Tuesday, August 05 2008, a ten-man all Nigerian crew, sailing back home to Nigeria via the Indian Ocean route, with their vessel freshly purchased and delivered in Dubai, United Arab Emirate, were intercepted and captured by Somali militants/pirates demanding \$1Million ransom fee or face summary execution;

Observes that in the eight month of their captivity, nothing substantial has been done to secure their release by either the ship crew owners, **ESL Integrated Services of 2A Railway Close, D-Line, Port Harcourt, Rivers State**, or the Executive arm of Nigerian Government, duly informed of the incident on the 8th of August, 2008. Although the Presidency is said to have set up a Security Committee headed by National Security Adviser, Major General Sarki Mukhtar (Rtd) to co-ordinate the release of the ship, nothing tangible has come out of it so far;

Notes that the hostages concerned, whose names are: Capt. Graham E. Egbegi, Engr. David Akpoguma, Namo Musa, Usman Ochoche Agida, Lucky Edoja, John Nkanu, Effiong Joseph Bassey, Emma Okon Timothy, Okuns Kalikio and Bassey Etim hail from no fewer than seven states of the Federation, viz Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Benue and Nassarawa states;

Further notes that family members of the ten Nigerians held captive in Somalia were able to establish contact with ship owners, ESL Integrated Services on Friday, the 8th of August 2008 to confirm the incident. On the second day of contact with ship owners, these families got in touch with the company Chairman, Mr George Onokpite, in his overseas base (Malaysia). On that day, Mr Onokpite promised to do all in his power to ensure their release in a fortnight but that was untrue. Eight months after the incident, nothing has been done; all the company now says is that it does not possess the financial capacity to meet militants' ransom demand;

Concerned that although the beleaguered crew members are all still alive, they have had to contend with bouts of brutality, starvation, contaminated drinking water and poor health conditions climaxed by the case of one crew member who once relapsed into a partial stroke in the absence of medication. **THISDAY's** report of April 19th, 2009 on this subject reveals that the pirates have now moved the Nigerian ship to a place called Punctland in Somalia; the base from where they now operate;

Aware that the world appreciates every step taken by countries to discourage piracy/militancy/terrorism, the governments of France, Spain, Ukraine, US and China, at one point or the other intervened when their citizens were affected by the on-going operations along the Somali coastline. In this case, the Federal Government of Nigeria like other countries of the world should not rest on its oars until this issue is finally resolved.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. **Invite** the Chairman/Chief Executive of ESL Integrated Services Ltd, Mr George Onokpite, to appear before the Senate to explain the circumstances resulting in the abandonment of the crew in Somalia;
- ii. **Urge** the Federal Government of Nigeria to intensify its efforts at resolving the impasse.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. A **BILL** for an Act to **AMEND** the **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE COMMISSION ACT, 2000** and for Other Purposes Connected Therewith, 2009 (SB. 82) – *Second Reading*
Senator Teslim K. Folarin (*Senate Leader*)
2. A **BILL** for an Act to **ESTABLISH** the **CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF FRAUD EXAMINERS** and for **MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH**, 2008 (SB. 108) – *Second Reading*
Senator Joseph I. Akaagerger (*Benue North East*)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
1.	National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation	Wednesday, 29th April, 2009	2.00 p.m	Committee Room 416 Senate New Building
2.	Public Accounts	Wednesday, 29th April, 2009	2.00 p.m	Hearing Room 4
3.	Education	Wednesday, 29th April, 2009	3.00 p.m	Committee Room 304 Senate New Building

4.	Health	Wednesday, 29th April, 2009	1.00 p.m	Committee Room 305 Senate New Building
5.	Commerce	Wednesday, 29th April, 2009	12.00 noon	Chairman's Of fice Room 1.19 Senate New Building
6.	Petroleum Resources (Downstream)	Wednesday, 29th April, 2009	2.00 p.m	Committee Room 107 Senate New Building
7.	Nigerian Air Force	Wednesday, 29th April, 2009	2.30 p.m	Committee Room 2.04 Senate New Building
8.	Niger-Delta	Wednesday, 29th April, 2009	1.00 p.m	Committee Room 3.12 Senate New Building
9.	Nigerian Navy	Wednesday, 29th April, 2009	2.00 p.m	Committee Room 416 Senate New Building
10.	Works	Wednesday, 29th April, 2009	2.00 p.m	Committee Room 313 Senate New Building