



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 6th November, 2008

1. The Senate met at 10.20 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 5th November, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcement:**
The Senate President read a letter from Senator (Elder) Anyim Ude, MON as follows:



(Elder) Anyim

Chairman, Senate Committee on Aviation

November 6, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Senate Committee on Aviation has made arrangements for an Arik Aircraft to convey Distinguished Senators from Abuja to Kano for the Retreat.

- (a) **Departure Time:** from Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja is 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 10th November, 2008.
- (b) **Departure Time:** from Kano to Abuja is 2 p.m. on Friday, 14th November, 2008.

To assist the Committee solidify the arrangement and the Airline determine the size of the aircraft to provide, Distinguished Senators, who have not yet submitted their names, are requested to do so before the Senate adjourns sitting today.

Signed: Senator (Elder)
Anyim Ude, MON
Chairman, Senate Committee on Aviation

4. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Kabiru I. Gaya invited the attention of the Senate to the fire disasters in Kurmi, Singer and Abubakar Rimi markets in Kano. He sought the leave of Senate to introduce a Motion on the Matter.

Question that the Matter be debated forthwith, put and agreed to.

Motion made: That the Senate do note that on the 24th, 26th October and 2nd November 2008, three separate and very devastating fire incidents occurred in three different markets in Kano Metropolis; Singer, Sabon Gari, and Mohammadu Abubakar Rimi respectively;

Notes further that these markets, especially the Mohammadu Abubakar Rimi market is reputed to be one of the largest markets in Africa, South of the Sahara.

Observes that all three fire incidents were caused by an electrical spark which occurred at different times. The fire at Singer and Sabon Gari markets started at about 12:00 midnight of 2nd November, 2008 and burnt unabated till 2:00 pm of Monday, 3rd November, 2008;

Observes further that at these markets, goods, properties and valuables worth billions of naira were destroyed. In Sabon Gari market alone, a trader lost four trailer-loads of textile materials.

Concerned that economic activities in the Kano Metropolis have virtually grounded to a halt, while thousands of traders affected in the inferno are roaming around in distress.

Accordingly Resolves:

- (i)* To send a delegation to sympathize with the victims of the fire incidents;
- (ii)* To urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send as a matter of urgency relief materials to the victims of the fire incidents;
- (iii)* To urge Governments at various levels to improve facilities in our markets across the country to forestall future fire incidents (*Senator Kabiru I. Gaya and 2 others*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do send a delegation to sympathize with the victims of the fire incidents;

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in Prayer (i) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do visit the sites of the fire incidents while in Kano for her 2008 Annual Retreat and commiserate with the people and Government of Kano State" (*Senator Ikechukwu Obiorah*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Prayer (i) as amended put and agreed to.

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send as a matter of urgency relief materials to the victims of the fire incidents;

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in Prayer (ii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do direct the Senate Committee responsible for National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to get NEMA to respond immediately" (*Senate Leader*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Prayer (ii) as amended put and agreed to.

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Governments at various levels to improve facilities in our markets across the country to forestall future fire incidents — *Question put and negatived.*

Resolved:

(i) That the Senate do visit the sites of the fire incidents while in Kano for her 2008 Annual Retreat and commiserate with the people and Government of Kano State.

(ii) That the Senate do direct the Senate Committee responsible for National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to get NEMA to respond immediately (5. Res/017/2/08).

5, Presentation of Bills

(i) Nigeria Coast Guard (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB. 107) — *Read the First Time.*

(ii) Federal Medical Centres Bill 2008 (SB. 184) — *Read the First Time.*

(iii) Chartered Institute of Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB. 152) — *Read the First Time.*

(iv) Deep Offshore and Inland Basin Production Sharing Contracts Act (Amendment) Bill 2008 (SB. 213) — *Read the First Time.*

6. Nigerian Trade and Competition Commission (Establishment) Bill 2008 (SB.80):

Motion made: That the Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Nigerian Trade and Competition Commission and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2008 be read the Second Time (*Senator Joel D. Ikenya*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Establishment and Public Service; Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters and Commerce to report within four (4) weeks.

System, Structure, Composition, Functions and Financing of Area Council Bill 2008 (SB.131):

Motion made: That the Bill for an Act to Provide for the System, Structure, Composition, Functions and Financing of Area Council, and for Other Related Matters, 2008 (SB. 131) be read the Second Time (*Senator Adamu M. Sidi-Ali*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on States and Local Governments; Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; Establishment and Public Service, Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to report within four (4) weeks.

8. Nigerian Railway Corporation Act (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill 2008 (SB. 103):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 18th November, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.
(Senate Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.05p.m.

David A. B. Mark, GCON

President, Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.