



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 4th July, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10: 45 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 3rd July, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. The Agonies of Depositors of Failed Banks and Financial Institutions:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate recalls that on 8th February, 2007 a motion on the agonies of depositors of failed banks was debated by the last Senate:

Recalls that the motion was subsequently referred to the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions for further legislative action to report within I (one) week;

Notes that the Committee's report could not be debated before the last Senate wound up;

Observes that the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), which is the body statutorily empowered to protect depositors money in banks, has failed to live up to its responsibilities;

Notes also that the public statement credited to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), sometimes in 2006 assuring depositors of total repayment of their money within six (6) months is still unfulfilled;

Concerned that the attitude of the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) and the indifference of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) have created so much uncertainty and apprehension among the depositors to the extent that many have lost their businesses, others their lives, some, their marriages and some have withdrawn their wards from school, others were sick and unable to get medical treatment..

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to live up to their responsibilities;
- (ii) direct the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions when constituted to investigate the issues raised and report back to the Senate within 1 (one) week (*Senator Teslim K. Folarin*).

Point of Order:

Rising on point of Order Senator Joel D. Ikenya drew the attention of the Senate to Rule 111 noting that the Motion had earlier been referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial

Institutions and that though the Committee had completed the assignment and the report was ready, it was not laid for consideration. He therefore suggested that the report be handed over to the Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions when constituted for further legislative action.

Ruling from the Chair:

The Senate President sustained the Point of Order that the report be referred to the Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions when constituted.

4. Poor State of Safety in our Airports:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate recalls that Nigeria has experienced several air disasters in the past few years some arising from poor facilities;

Notes that only one out of 6 (six) number of Radio facility at the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos is working;

Notes also that the Radar facility at the Murtala Mohammed Airport Lagos is also in a sorry state of disrepair;

Observes that the Akanu Ibiam Airport Enugu has been congested with grounded air planes for over a year now;

Notes further that the above sorry state of affairs in our airports has constituted serious danger to air travelers;

Observes further that on Sunday, 1st July, 2007, Arik Air CRJ Aircraft lost one of its wings when a luggage van knocked off one of its wings in a bid to avoid a packed aircraft;

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *urge* the Nigerian Air Space Management Agency (NAMA) to take immediate necessary steps to repair radio and radar facilities in all the Airports where such problems exist;
- (ii) *urge* the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria to take immediate steps to remove grounded aircrafts from the tarmac in all the airports in Nigeria;
- (iii) constitute an Ad-hoc Committee to visit Lagos and Enugu Airports in the next I (one) week to assess compliance and report back to the Senate (*Ike Ekweremadu*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Air Space Management Agency (NAMA) to take immediate necessary steps to repair radio and radar facilities in all the Airports where such problems exist;

Amendment Proposed:

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

"That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency, Nigerian Meteorological Agency and Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority to take immediate steps to provide functional navigational and air traffic communication facilities in all the airports in Nigeria" (*Senator Bala A. Mohammed*).

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

Prayer (ii):

That the Senate do urge the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria to take immediate steps to remove grounded aircrafts from the tarmac in all the airports in Nigeria;

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words after the word "steps" in line 1, and *insert* the following instead thereof: "within ninety days to remove grounded aircrafts from the tarmac in all the airports in Nigeria" (*Senator Ayodele S. Arise*).

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

Another Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new prayer (iii) as follows and renumber other prayers sequentially:

" That the Senate do mandate its Committee on Aviation (when constituted) to liaise with relevant agencies of Government with a view to assessing the safety status of all our airports and recommend appropriate measures to enhance same" (*Senator Adeleke O. Mamora*).

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

Prayer (iii):

That the Senate do constitute an Ad-hoc Committee to visit Lagos and Enugu Airports in the next I (one) week to assess compliance and report back to the Senate

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in new prayer (iv) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

" That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Aviation (when constituted) to visit all the airports in the country to assess compliance and report back to the Senate" (*Senator Nkechi Nwaogu*).

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

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency, Nigerian Meteorological Agency and Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority to take immediate steps to provide functional navigational and air traffic communication facilities in all the airports in Nigeria;
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria to take immediate steps within ninety days to remove grounded aircrafts from the tarmac in all the airports in Nigeria;
- (iii) That the Senate do mandate its Committee on Aviation (when constituted) to liaise with relevant agencies of Government with a view to assessing the safety status of all our airports and recommend appropriate measures to enhance same; and
- (iv) That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Aviation (when constituted) to visit all the airports in the country to assess compliance and report back to the Senate (*S. Res/006/07*).

5. Collapse of the Road Infrastructure in Nigeria:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Motion be stood down to the next legislative day (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion accordingly stood down.

6. Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Thursday, 5th July, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.00p.m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate