



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 20th September, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10: 55 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, 19th September, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**
Rising on Rule 42 Senator Adeleke O. Mamora invited the attention of the Senate to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Non-Oil Producing and Exporting Carte! (NOPEC) Bill 2007 currently before the Congress of the United States of America and its implication on OPEC Member States of which Nigeria is a prominent member. He sought the leave of the Senate to introduce a Motion on the Matter.

Matter to stand over till the next legislative day.

4. **Motion:**
Flood Disaster in Plateau, Bauchi, Niger, Adamawa, Taraba and Borno States:
Motion made and Question Proposed; That the Senate observes that there has been an unprecedented volume of rainfall in the 2007 raining season across the country;

Observes also that between 4th- 6th of August, 2007, there was so much rainfall to the extent that the North Central and South Senatorial Districts of Plateau State, the South Senatorial District of Bauchi State, the South and North Senatorial Districts of Taraba State, the South and Central Senatorial Districts of Niger State, and North Senatorial Districts of Adamawa State, Gwoza, Maiduguri, Damboa and Biu in Borno State were heavily flooded;

Observes further that about fifty nine (59) persons lost their lives and property/houses worth several millions of Naira were destroyed, over eight hundred square hectares of arable land was submerged, and about twenty five thousand, one hundred and six (25,106) people were displaced, food stuff, roads, drainages, culverts of unquantifiable value were also washed away;

Notes that inability to access the affected areas has led to a deterioration of the already pathetic health and socio-economic situation of the people in those areas;

Notes also that the enormity of the disaster is beyond the capacity of the affected States and Local Governments to handle;

Observes that the response of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to the plight of the victims of this disaster has been quite minimal and very unsatisfactory.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the victims of this disaster;
- (it) Urge, as a matter of urgency the Federal Ministry of Health, Transport, Environment, Housing and Urban Development to undertake assessment visits to the affected areas with a view to taking immediate steps to ensuring normalcy in the Areas;
- (Hi) Urge the Nigerian Army to direct the Nigerian Army Corps of Engineers (NACE) to provide two (2) Bailey Bridges between Wase, Mban, Zamko and Bapkwai in Langtang North Local Government Area, two (2) Bailey Bridges between Langai and Gindiri and another between Gindiri and Generet in Mangu Local Government Areas of Plateau State;
- (iv) Urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and the Federal Ministry of Works to urgently ensure the construction, rehabilitation and restoration of the damaged roads, bridges, culverts and drainage within the affected areas;
- (v) Urge the National Meteorological Agency to evolve effective channels of alerting Communities, ahead of time; and
- (vi) Urge the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to consider the allocation of funds from the Ecological fund to the affected areas (*Senator John N. Shagaya*).

Debate:

Prayer (i)

Question:

That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the victims of this disaster — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (it):

Question:

That the Senate do urge as a matter of urgency the Federal Ministry of Health, Transport, Environment, Housing and Urban Development to undertake assessment visits to the affected areas with a view to taking immediate steps to ensuring normalcy in the Areas.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the words "the affected areas" in line 2 and *insert* the words "all the affected areas across the nation" instead thereof (*Senator Dahiru A. Kuta*).

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

Another Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "in" in line 3, *insert the* words "all flooded" (*Senator lyabo O. Obasanjo-Bello*).

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

Prayer (iii):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Army to direct the Nigerian Army Corps of Engineers (NACE) to provide two (2) Bailey Bridges between Wase, Mban, Zamko and Bapkwai in Langtang North Local Government Area, two (2) Bailey Bridges between Langai and Gindiri and another between Gindiri and Generet in Mangu Local Government Areas of Plateau State;

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out prayer (iii) (*Senator Teslim K. Folarin*).

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

Prayer (iv);

Question:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and the Federal Ministry of Works to urgently ensure the construction, rehabilitation and restoration of the damaged roads, bridges, culverts and drainage within the affected areas;

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the words "within the affected areas" in line 3 and insert the words "across the nation" instead thereof (*Senator Dahiru A. Kuta*).

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

Prayer (v):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the National Meteorological Agency to evolve effective channels of alerting Communities, ahead of time; and

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "Agency" in line 1, insert the words "and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)" instead thereof (*Senator Ahmad I. Lawan*).

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

Prayer (vi):

Question:

That the Senate do urge the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to consider the allocation of funds from the Ecological fund to the affected areas.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out prayer (vi) (*Senator Teslim K. Folarin*).

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

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the victims of this disaster;
- (ii) That the Senate do urge as a matter of urgency the Federal Ministry of Health, Transport, Environment, Housing and Urban Development to undertake assessment visits to all the affected areas across the nation with a view to taking immediate steps to ensuring normalcy in all the flooded Areas;
- (Hi) That the Senate do urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and the Federal Ministry of Works to urgently ensure the construction, rehabilitation and restoration of the damaged roads, bridges, culverts and drainage across the nation; and
- (iv) That the Senate do urge the National Meteorological Agency and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to evolve effective channels of alerting Communities, ahead of time (*S. Res/019/01/07*).

5. Skills Acquisition and Development Trust Fund Bill (SB. 01):

Consideration of the Bill stood down.

6. Chartered Institute of Management Accountants Bill (SB. 04):

Consideration of the Bill stood down.

7. **Adjournment:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 25th September, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 11:50 a.m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate