



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 13th September, 2007

1. The Senate met at 11: 00 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, 12th September, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. The Persistent Power Outage in Nigeria:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate notes the epileptic power supply in recent times in all parts of the country which has made life unbearable for the citizens of this nation;

Notes with sadness the hardship and sufferings of the people occasioned by the lack of electricity supply. These include but are not limited to:

- (a) loss of lives in Hospitals and Clinics without alternative sources of power;
- (b) loss of means of livelihood by workers whose businesses are solely dependent on constant electricity supply;
- (c) high cost of production by Industries relying on alternative sources of power;
- (d) threat to national security due to inability to operate installed surveillance equipments;

Observes that this has led to the total collapse of several industries which is impacting negatively on the economy of the nation;

Observes that the Federal Government has spent a total of USD 6.3 Billion from 1999 to date on power generation with nothing to show for it;

Concerned that inspite of this huge sum of money, Nigeria a country with a population of over 140 million produces 30 watts of electricity per person while South Africa with a population of about 40 million produces 800 watts of electricity per person;

Embarrassed that with an installed power generating potential of about 5,200 mw, the output today is a mere 1,930 mw of Energy, while countries like Iran with a population of 70 million generates about 42,000 mw and South Korea with a population of about 35 million generates about 60,000 mw of electricity;

Notes the need for the Nation to have alternative sources of power as there are limitations in overdependence on thermal power with incessant vandalization of Gas Pipelines;

Notes the abundant coal deposits in Enugu, Kogi and Benue States which can be explored, and sustain the revival of Oji River Power Station and Construction of new Power Stations;

Notes that wind and solar powered energy can be successfully harnessed in our environment to add to the pool of energy sources;

Notes the need to ensure that the existing Power Stations, Egbin, Afam, Kainji etc are maintained and functioning to their full installed capacities;

Determined to ensure that this steady decline into total darkness is reversed and our people made to enjoy one of the basic necessities of modern life;

Concerned that the Agency responsible for provision of electricity in Nigeria, the Power Holding Company of Nigeria, (PHCN) has proved incapable of discharging its duties.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) Strongly deplore the inability of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to provide continuous and uninterrupted power supply to all parts of the country;
- (ii) Urge the State governments to urgently partner with the Federal Government to revive the energy sector by initiating the Construction of Independent Power Plants (IPP) in their respective States;
- (iii) Urge the Federal Government to expedite action on its reforms in the Energy Industry and encourage private sector investment in the Power Sector;
- (iv) Urge the Federal Government to explore the use of Coal, Hydro, wind and Solar Energy as most viable alternative sources of Power Generation;
- (v) Urge the National Electricity Regulatory Commission to draw up a 10 year utility development plan for implementation by Government to cater for development and replacement of obsolete infrastructure, with a view to formulating the framework for needed legislative action;
- (vi) Direct its Committee on Privatization when constituted to investigate the appropriateness of the sale by BPE of Egbin Power Station to Korea Power Corporation (KEPCO) Nigeria for the sum of \$280 million;
- (vii) Direct its Committee on Power to investigate the reasons for this inability of PHCN to provide ' continuous uninterrupted power supply and report back to the Senate (*Senator Joy Emodi*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Strongly deplore the inability of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to provide continuous and uninterrupted power supply to all parts of the country — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Urge the State governments to urgently partner with the Federal Government to revive the energy sector by initiating the Construction of Independent Power Plants (IPP) in their respective States

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out prayer (ii) (Senator Saminu I. Turaki).

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

Prayer (iii):

Urge the Federal Government to expedite action on its reforms in the Energy Industry and encourage private sector investment in the Power Sector

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out prayer (iii) (Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi).

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

Prayer (iv):

Urge the Federal Government to explore the use of Coal, Hydro, wind and Solar Energy as most viable alternative sources of Power Generation.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the words "the Federal Government to explore" in line 1 and *insert* the words "Federal and State Governments to explore and encourage" instead thereof (*Senator Sola Akinyede*).

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

Prayer (v):

Urge the National Electricity Regulatory Commission to draw up a 10 year utility development plan for implementation by Government to cater for development and replacement of obsolete infrastructure, with a view to formulating the framework for needed legislative action — *Negatived*.

Prayer (vi):

Direct its Committee on Privatization when constituted to investigate the appropriateness of the sale by BPE of Egbin Power Station to Korea Power Corporation (KEPCO) Nigeria for the sum of \$280 million — *Negatived*.

Prayer (vii):

Direct its Committee on Power to investigate the reasons for this inability of PHCN to provide continuous uninterrupted power supply and report back to the Senate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out prayer (vii) and *insert* a new prayer (vii) as follows:

"Mandate its Committee on Power to update the Senate on regular basis on the progress being made in respect of Power Sector Reforms" (*Senator Adeleke O. Mamora*).

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

Resolved:

- (i) To strongly deplore the inability of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to provide continuous and uninterrupted power supply to all parts of the country.
- (it) Urge the Federal and States Governments to explore and encourage the use of Coal, Hydro, wind and Solar Energy as most viable alternative sources of Power Generation.
- (Hi) Mandate its Committee on Power to update the Senate on regular basis on the progress being made in respect of Power Sector Reforms (**S.Res/016/01/07**).

4. Skills Acquisition and Development Trust Fund Bill 2007 (SB.01):

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly stood down till the next legislative day.

5. Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 18th September, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12: 25 p.m.