



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 9th October, 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, 8th October, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Presentation of Bills:**
 - (i) National Food Reserve Agency (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB. 179) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (ii) Collective Labour Relation Bill 2008 (SB. 189)— *Read the First Time.*
 - (iii) Labour Institutions Bill 2008 (SB. 190) - *Read the First Time.*
 - (iv) National Poverty Eradication Commission (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2008 (SB. 186) — *Read the First Time.*
4. **Committee on Works:**
Report on the Immediate Construction of the Second Niger Bridge in Onitsha:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Works, on the Report on the Motion on the Immediate Construction of the Second Niger Bridge in Onitsha (*Senator Julius A. Ucha*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.
5. **Motions:**
Plight of Nigerians in Indonesian Prison:
Motion made: Concerned that over fifty Nigerians are held in various Prisons in Indonesia;

Notes that the Nigerian prisoners were arrested for alleged drug related offences;

Informed that the prisoners were tried, convicted and sentenced to various jail terms and eighteen of them presently to death penalty;

Aggrieved by eye-witness reports that the prisoners were tried, convicted and sentenced without legal representation and in a language they do not understand;

Concerned that most of the prisoners sentenced to death are awaiting execution and could be executed any moment;

Notes that many indignities e.g. deaths of inmates as a result of inadequate medical care and harsh prison conditions, the latest of which is the death of Augustine Ogbonna on September 9, 2008 were inflicted on Nigerians without any feasible interference by the Nigerian authorities;

Bemoan the indifference of the officials of Nigerian Embassy in Indonesia to the plight of the Nigerian prisoners;

Regret the ineptitude of the Nigerian Government and its representatives abroad towards the inhuman treatment of her citizens abroad; and

Concerned that this brutality will continue if Nigerian authorities do not rise up to the demands of State responsibility to her citizens and to the expectations of the international community.

Accordingly resolve to:

- (i) ***Reiterate*** its stand on the duty of Nigerians residing abroad to obey the laws of their host countries;
- (ii) ***Affirm*** that most Nigerians living abroad, are law-abiding residents, positively contributing to the development of their host countries;
- (ii i) ***Regret*** the unfortunate possibility of a misjudgment by any host country being beguiled by the criminal activities of microscopically few deviants (who exist in every community) to develop a mind-cast that condemns the innocent majority of her alien Nigerian residents to a negative unrepresentative stereotype;
- (iv) ***Deplore*** the attitude of Indonesian authorities towards Nigerians, especially criminal suspects;
- (v) ***Request*** the Federal Government to urge Indonesian Government to temper justice with mercy in executing the sentences of its courts;
- (vi) ***Call*** on the Nigerian Federal Government to be proactive in protecting the rights of her citizens and our national dignity, in accordance with international law; and
- (vii) ***Mandate*** the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs to liaise with Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice to investigate this case and report back, as a matter of urgency, to the Senate (*Senator Uche Chukwumerije*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do reiterate its stand on the duty of Nigerians residing abroad to obey the laws of their host countries — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate do affirm that most Nigerians living abroad, are law-abiding residents, positively contributing to the development of their host countries — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate do regret the unfortunate possibility of a misjudgment by any host country being beguiled by the criminal activities of microscopically few deviants (who exist in every community) to develop a mind-cast that condemns the innocent majority of her alien Nigerian residents to a negative unrepresentative stereotype — *Negated.*

Prayer (iv):

Question: That the Senate do deplore the attitude of Indonesian authorities towards Nigerians, especially criminal suspects — *Negated.*

Prayer (v):

Question: That the Senate do request the Federal Government to urge Indonesian government to temper justice with mercy in executing the sentences of its courts — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (vi):

Question: That the Senate do call on the Nigerian Federal Government to be proactive in protecting the rights of her citizens and our national dignity, in accordance with international law — *Negated.*

Prayer (vii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs to liaise with Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice to investigate this case and report back, as a matter of urgency — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do reiterate its stand on the duty of Nigerians residing abroad to obey the laws of their host countries;
- (ii) That the Senate do affirm that most Nigerians living abroad, are law-abiding residents, positively contributing to the development of their host countries; .
- (Hi) That the Senate do request the Federal Government to urge Indonesian Government to temper justice with mercy in executing the sentences of its courts; and
- (iv) That the Senate do mandate the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs to liaise with Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice to investigate this case and report back, as a **matter** of urgency (**S. Res/010/2/08**).

6. The Death of the Obong of Calabar, His Eminence Edidem Professor Nta Elijah Henshaw VI:

Motion made: That the Senate do note that the Obong of Calabar, His Eminence Edidem Professor Nta Elijah Henshaw VI, passed on to join his ancestors at the ripe age of 83 years;

Notes also that the Late Edidem Professor Nta Elijah Henshaw VI apart from sitting on one of the most prominent thrones in our country, was also himself a remarkably accomplished and prominent Nigerian. He trained as a Dental Surgeon in the Kings College Medical School, University of Durham and the Institute of Dental Surgery, University of London. He was admitted into the Royal College of Surgeons of England and undertook special training in the Plastic Burns at Maxillo Facial Centre Mount Vernon Hospital;

Notes further that Late Edidem Professor Nta Elijah Henshaw VI, became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow; Fellow, National Post Graduate Medical College of Nigeria; and Fellow of the West African College of Surgeons. He was appointed Registrar of the Nigerian Medical Council in 1974 and was the pioneer Professor of Dentistry in the College of Medicine, Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH). He was an External Examiner and visiting Professor to several institutions both within and outside Nigeria and had over 20 Professional publications to his credit;

Notes also that Late Edidem Professor Nta Elijah Henshaw VI, was the Edidem of the Royal Ewa Ekeng House of Henshaw town in 1986 and was crowned Obong of Calabar in December, 2001. He was made the Royal Peace Ambassador for the South-South in 2004 and the Ambassador for Peace by the Inter-Religious and International Federation for World Peace in 2005; and

Observes that Late Edidem Professor Nta Elijah Henshaw VI, was a Christian King who excelled in his chosen career and served his people well earning recognition in the Cambridge "Who is Who in Medicine" in 1986 and before then the "Who is Who in the World" in 1982.

Accordingly resolve as follows:

- (i) To observe one minute silence in honour of the Late Edidem Professor Nta Elijah Henshaw VI, Obong of Calabar;
- (ii) Address a letter of Condolence to the Governor and people of Cross River State; and
- (iii) Send an official delegation to participate at the memorial service to be held in honour of the departed Obong on Saturday 11th October, 2008 (*Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of the Late Edidem Professor Nta Elijah Henshaw VI, Obong of Calabar — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate do address a letter of Condolence to the Governor and people of Cross River State — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate do send an official delegation to participate at the memorial service to be held in honour of the departed Obong on Saturday 11th October, 2008 — *Withdrawn*.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of the Late Edidem Professor Nta Elijah Henshaw VI, Obong of Calabar; and
- (ii) That the Senate do address a letter of Condolence to the Governor and people of Cross River State (5. Res/011/2/08).

One minute silence accordingly observed. 8. Public

Procurement Act (Amendment) Bill 2008 (SB. 125):

Consideration of Bill deferred to the next legislative day.

9. Consumer Protection Council Act (Amendment) Bill 2008 (SB. 101):

Consideration of Bill deferred to the next legislative day.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 14th October, 2008 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12.15 p.m.

David A. B. Mark, GCON

*President, Senate of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria.*