



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 27 February, 2008

1. The Senate met at 10.10 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, 26th February, 2008 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. Announcement:
The Senate President announced that the Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) would be paying a courtesy call on the Senate President at 12.00 Noon. The Chairmen of Committees on Finance, Appropriation, Federal Character and Governmental Affairs, National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and Public Accounts were expected to be present.
4. Presentation of Bills:
 - (i) Solid Minerals Producing Area Development Commission (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB. 67) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (ii) Nigeria College of Medical Physics (Establishment, etc) Bill 2008 (SB. 71) — *Read the First Time.*

5. Confirmation of **Nomination**:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That **the** Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nomination of Veronica Ukamaka Ebenebe (Anambra State), as a Member of the Federal Character Commission (*Senate Majority Leader*),

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Federal Character and Governmental Affairs to report within 1 (one) week.

6. **Mandatory** Installation of the Emergency Locator Transmitter Beacon **406Mliz** in all **Aircrafts**:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do recall that over Three hundred lives were lost in four major aircraft disasters involving a Bellview and a Sosoliso aircrafts in 2005; and in 2006 an ADC aircraft and the Dorner 228 Air force plane.

Further recalls other minor incidences involving either loss of route direction or minor mishaps in recent times in different parts of the Country.

Concerned that safety in the air is paramount to **all** aircraft users especially as one can **not** predict when and **how** the next incident would occur.

Further concerned that **the** installation of safety equipment as well as distress calls indicators should not be compromised.

Worried that many aircrafts flying in the Nigerian skyline are not equipped with sensitive emergency equipment such as emergency locator transmitter beacon 406Mhz which sends signals **to** COSP **AS-SARSAT** monitoring mission at National **Emergency** Management Agency's (**NEMA**) office which in turn uses such signals to alert owners of such aircrafts and relevant disaster **management** agencies or rescue operators time and locations of such incidences in the event **they** occur.

at from 2005, the **installation of the emergency locator transmitter beacon 406Mhz has been made** mandatory for all aircrafts using Nigerian airspace as this distress call transmitter replaces beacon **121.5Mhz** (which comes with the aircraft) on February 01, 2009;

Worried that many airline operators have not complied with this sensitive directive **till** now, this trend if continued posses danger to ail aircraft users.

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Transport (Aviation) to compel all airline operators using the Nigerian airspace to install the emergency locator transmitter beacon 406Mhz in their aircrafts before the global deadline of February 01, 2009;
- (ii) Urge all airline operators in the country to immediately comply with the directives of the installation of emergency locator transmitter beacon **406Mnz** for the safety of aircraft users;
- (iii) Direct its committee **on** aviation to carry out regular compliance check and brief the Senate regularly before the global deadline (*Senator George Thompson Sekibo*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Transport (Aviation) to compel all airline operators using the Nigerian airspace to install the emergency locator transmitter beacon 406Mhz in their aircrafts before the global deadline of February 01, 2009 — *Agreed to*.

- (if) Urge all airline operators in the country to immediately comply with the directives of the installation of emergency locator transmitter beacon 406Mhz for the safety of aircraft users;
- (Hi) Direct its committee **on** aviation to carry out regular compliance check and brief the Senate regularly before the global deadline (*Senator George Thompson Sekibo*).

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provisions in prayers (ii) and (in) and *insert* a new prayer instead thereof as follows:

"That the Senate do direct the Committee on Aviation to bring up **a** Bill designed to substantially enhance air safety in Nigeria (**Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw**).

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

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Transport (Aviation) to compel all airline operators using **the** Nigerian airspace to install the emergency locator transmitter beacon 406Mhz in their aircrafts before the global deadline of February 01, 2009; and
- (ii) That the Senate do direct the Committee on Aviation to bring up a Bill designed to substantially enhance air safety in Nigeria (S. Res/048/08).

7. Threat of a Nation-Wide Strike by the **Nigeria** Medical Association (NMA):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That (he Senate do note with serious concern, the impending threat of strike action by the Nigeria Medical Association.

Observes that industrial disharmony has been looming in the health sector and if not contained, could result in another period of agony, grief and loss of lives difficult to quantify in monetary terms.

Notes that the bone of contention is the rejection of the CONTISS salary scale approved for Medical Personnel and the demand for Medical Salary Structure scale (MSS) by the Nigerian Medical Association;

Further notes that the Jos University Teaching Hospital is yet to pay the subsisting CONTISS salary scale, thereby further aggravating the situation;

Worried that **the** threat of a nationwide strike by the Nigeria Medical Association if allowed into a full blown strike will be most hazardous to our healthcare delivery system.

Accordingly resolve that the Senate do:

- (i) Urged the Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity and the Federal Ministry of Health to manage the crisis to prevent a nation-wide Doctors' strike (*Senator lyabo Obasanjo-Bello*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do urged the Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity and the Federal Ministry of Health to manage the crisis to prevent a nation-wide Doctors' strike — *Agreed to*.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:

"That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) to reconsider their stand on strike and pursue further the option of **dialogue**" (*Senator Ike Ekweremadu*).

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

Another Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

"That the Senate do direct the Committee on **Employment**, Labour and Productivity to join the Committee on Health to intervene in the impending crisis with a view to preventing a nation-wide Doctors' strike" (*Senator George T. Sekibo*).

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

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urged the Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity and the Federal Ministry of Health to manage the crisis to prevent ;i nation-wide doctors' strike;
- (ii) That the Senate do urged the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) to reconsider their stand on strike and pursue further the option of dialogue; and
- (iii) That the Senate do direct the **Committee** on Employment, Labour and Productivity to join the Committee on Health to intervene in the impending crisis with a view to preventing a nation-wide doctors' strike (*S. Res/049/08*).

8. Committee on Finance:

Report on the Customs, Excise Tariff, Etc (Consolidation) (Amendment) Bill 2008 (HB. 01):

Consideration of Report deferred to the next legislative day.

9. Committee on **Petroleum** Upstream:

Report on the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Bill 200S (SB. SI):

Consideration of Report deferred to the next legislative day.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 5th **March**, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12. 50 p.m.

David A. B. Mark, GCON
President of the Senate