



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 26th March, 2009

1. The Senate met at 10.15 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, 25th March, 2009 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Presentation of Bills:**
 - (i) National Institute for Sports (Amendment) Bill 2009 (SB. 243) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (ii) National Sports Development Fund (Establishment, etc) Bill 2009 (SB. 244) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (iii) Credit Bureau Report Bill 2009 (SB. 245) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (iv) Conveyance of Persons in Containers and Articulated Vehicles (Prohibition) Bill 2009 (SB. 246) — *Read the First Time.*
4. **Committee on Sports and Social Development:**
Report on the screening of nominee:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Sports and Social Development on the screening of Mr. Peter Igbo as the Director-General of the National Lottery Commission (*Senator Heineken Lokpobiri*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.
6. **Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:**
Report on the Sexual Offences (Prohibition) Bill 2009 (SB. 12):
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters on the Sexual Offences (Prohibition) Bill 2009 (*Senator Victor Ndoma - Egba*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. Motion:

Measures to Protect Nigerian Consumers and to Safeguard the Environment by Controlling the Importation, Distribution, Dismantling and Disposal of Obsolete Electronic Devices and Harmful Electronic Waste:

Motion made: That the Senate notes that currently there are no manufacturing year limits on the imported second-hand electronic devices into Nigeria and that this regulatory discrepancy is further aggravated by the lack of adequate legislation to protect and inform the Nigerian consumer, ensure value for money and safeguard the health of ignorant citizens who dismantle these dangerous articles;

Concerned that with no safety measures in place, available evidence based on scientific studies shows that these metals such as mercury, lead and cadmium can accumulate in human beings exposed to them and in the environment thus endangering even the life of future generations. Mercury damages the brain; Lead can lead to a breakdown of the nervous system and damage the reproductive systems while Cadmium causes kidney damage. (See Marubini E and Valsecchi MG (1995); Effects of five metals on susceptibility of striped bass to *Flexibacter columnaris*. Trans Amer Fish Soc 115:227-231);

Notes that most second-hand electronic goods such as television sets, computer mainframes and screens, refrigerators, air-conditioning units and scientific devices which are obsolete both in design, operating software and utilize analog systems to process and archive data, have been described as "dangerous toxic waste" and that these classes of goods have been phased out in most developed countries including the United States of America and the European Union, as they constitute serious hazards to both human and the environment;

Further notes that in Nigeria, electronic repairers and artisans dismantle some of these electronic second-hand goods into pieces in a bid to obtain spare parts, oblivious of their toxic chemical and hazardous contents; consequently, unserviceable or unusable parts of these wastes are sometimes set on fire as a way of discarding them. This could lead to the escape of dioxins into the atmosphere. Dioxins are carcinogenic and are capable of causing endocrine disruptions in the body. While other chemical contents could percolate into the soil and contaminate water supply, edible plants and the environment generally; and

Aware that electronic manufacturing companies in Europe are mandated to recycle these items for reproduction or re-use in other forms, in accordance with the provisions of European Union Laws, however some ship them to developing countries where more than half of them find their way into Nigeria, where they become hazardous to the health of the people and endangering the environment.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) Urge*** the National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) to liaise with the aim of taking urgent steps such as placing manufacturing date limits, certificate of origin and admission of digital mode complaint products only, in order to protect the unsuspecting consumers, conserve scarce foreign exchange thereby ensuring value for money;
- (ii) Urge*** the Nigerian Customs Service to quickly put in place guidelines and adequate control measures to checkmate the flow of fairly used or second-hand electronic goods into Nigeria; and

- (iii) *Urge* the National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) to checkmate and provide guiding principles on electronic waste (e-waste) in the country for the purposes of protecting lives and the environment;

Debate:

Prayer(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) to liaise with the aim of taking urgent steps such as placing manufacturing date limits, certificate of origin and admission of digital mode complaint products only, in order to protect the unsuspecting consumers, conserve scarce foreign exchange thereby ensuring value for money: and

Prayer(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Customs Service to quickly put in place guidelines and adequate control measures to checkmate the flow of fairly used or second-hand electronic goods into Nigeria.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provisions in prayers (i) and (ii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

“That the Senate do urge the relevant organisations to ensure that only safe second hand products are imported into the country in order to safeguard the health of Nigerian end users”
(Senator Bassey Ewa - Henshaw).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Prayer(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) to checkmate and provide guiding principles on electronic waste (e-waste) in the country for the purposes of protecting lives and the environment.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provisions in prayers(iii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

“That the Senate do urge the National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) to provide safe methods of disposal of toxic waste emanating from cannibalisation of second-hand electronic devices”
(Senator Adegbo E. Eferakeya).

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

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urge the relevant organisations to ensure that only safe second hand products are imported into the country in order to safeguard the health of Nigerian and users; and
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the National Environmental Standards & Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) to provide safe methods of disposal of toxic waste emanating from cannibalisation of second-hand electronic devices (S. Res/039/09).

8. **Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill 2009 (SB.06):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

9. **Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (Establishment) Act 2000 (Amendment) Bill 2009 (SB.206):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

10. **Adjournment:**

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 31st March, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.
(*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12.10 p.m.

Dr. David A. B. Mark, GCON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.