



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 14th October, 2009

1. The Senate met at 10.25 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, 13th October, 2009 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**
Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (*Cross River Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the gruesome murder of a Female Youth Corp Member in Maiduguri, Borno State. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present a Motion on the issue to be debated forthwith.

Question that the matter be debated forthwith, put and agreed to.

Gruesome Murder of Female Youth Corp Member in Maiduguri:

Motion made: That the Senate notes that after Nigeria's Civil War, the National Youth Service Act of 1974 was enacted to encourage and develop common ties among the youths of Nigeria and to promote national unity and Government is expected to protect Corp Members;

Notes with grief, the pathetic case of Miss. Grace Ushang Adie 24, an indigene of Kakum Town in Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River State, and a recent graduate of Education (Administration and Management) from the University of Calabar, Cross River State who was doing her National Youth Service Programme with the El-Kanemi College of Business Administration, Maiduguri, Borno State;

Aware that on the 26th of September 2009, Late Grace Ushang, dressed in NYSC khaki trouser, left the Corpers lodge to get food in the neighborhood, when she was attacked by unknown persons and gruesomely murdered;

Concerned that based on the report of one of the staff of NYSC in Maiduguri, some of the people who watched Grace being killed, rushed to the Corpers lodge to report the incident to the Corpers and thereafter vanished into thin air. On getting to the scene of the incident, the Corpers found Grace already dead, with a deep knife cut on her forehead, another knife cut across her eyes and yet another cut across her neck, leaving her with no chance of survival;

Further aware that the remains of Grace Ushang were laid to rest on Wednesday, the 7th of October, 2009, leaving her distraught family in pain. Curiously, Grace's murder has been shrouded in secrecy and cover ups. Some newspapers had reported her story as a case of rape. Granted that it was a case of rape, the abrasions on her face leave no one in doubt that perpetrators of the dastardly act intended murder and nothing else;

Expresses concern that up till now, the culprits are yet to be apprehended. No arrest has so far been made, and when two of Grace's relatives demanded for her police and autopsy reports, they were told the police report was not yet ready and bluntly refused access to her autopsy report;

Further observes that in recent times, Youth Corpers have become vulnerable to extremism and intolerance.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) Invite the Director General of NYSC and the State Coordinator of NYSC in Borno State, to brief the relevant Senate Committee on efforts NYSC has made to ensure that the victim's assailants are arrested and prosecuted.
- (ii) Urge the Federal Government to provide adequate security for all Corpers and to step into the matter and ensure that the culprits are made to face the wrath of the law;
- (iii) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to pay adequate compensation to the victim's family; and
- (iv) Commiserate with the government and people of Cross River State and the victim's family on this needless waste of a promising life (*Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba — Cross River Central*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do invite the Director General of NYSC and the State Coordinator of NYSC in Borno State, to brief the relevant Senate Committee on efforts NYSC has made to ensure that the victim's assailants are arrested and prosecuted — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to provide adequate security for all Corpers and to step into the matter and ensure that the culprits are made to face the wrath of the law

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision of prayer (ii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government and the respective States of Posting of Corp Members to provide adequate security for all Corpers (*Senator Adeleke O. Mamora — Lagos East*).

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

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to pay adequate compensation to the victim's family — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (iv):

Question: That the Senate do commiserate with the Government and People of Cross River State and the victim's family on this needless waste of a promising life — *Agreed to*.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do invite the Director General of NYSC and the State Coordinator of NYSC in Borno State, to brief the relevant Senate Committee on efforts NYSC has made to ensure that the victim's assailants are arrested and prosecuted;
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government and the respective States of Posting of Corp Members to provide adequate security for all Corpers;
- (iii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to pay adequate compensation to the victim's family; and
- (iv) That the Senate do commiserate with the government and people of Cross River State and the victim's family on this needless waste of a promising life (*S. Res/053/03/09*).

4. Year 2008 Audited Financial Report and Management Report:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Year 2008 Audited Financial Report and Management Report of Federal Medical Centre, Azare (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

5. Committee on Solid Minerals:***Report on the Nigeria Solid Minerals Summit (NISOMS 2008):***

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Solid Minerals, on the Nigeria Solid Minerals Summit (NISOMS 2008) held in Jos, 25th — 26th September, 2008 (*Senator George T. Sekibo — Rivers East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

6. Motion:***Multiple Accidents at Umunya Section of the Onitsha-Enugu Expressway:***

Motion made: That the Senate do note that sanctity of life and property of the ordinary citizens of the nation is preserved by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Notes also that these lives and properties are being daily exposed to danger through the negligence of various Government agencies, in this case, the Federal Ministry of Works, who fail to carry out their assigned responsibilities;

Notes that lately, the Ministry of Works has not shown responsive concern to the poor state of Federal roads especially the Onitsha- Enugu Expressway;

Observes that these road maintenance and rehabilitation contracts are often awarded to incompetent companies as evident in the poorly executed jobs they do thus resulting in further damaging of these already dilapidated roads and resulting in several auto accidents;

Notes with particular concern the tragic multiple auto accident on Friday, 9th October, 2009 at Umunya section of the Enugu-Onitsha Expressway that claimed over 70 lives including school children;

Notes that the primary cause of the accidents and attendant loss of lives was as a result of a fully laden petrol tanker turning over and spilling its content at a bad section of the road, and subsequently exploding and burning more than 70 people including school children in 8 vehicles;

Observes that the Onitsha - Enugu Expressway especially the Onitsha end has become a death trap where lives are lost on a daily basis.

Accordingly resolves to:

Condole the Government and People of Anambra State on the loss of over 70 lives in the multiple auto accident (*Senator Joy Emodi — Anambra North*).

Debate:

Prayer:

Question: That the Senate do condole the Government and People of Anambra State on the loss of over 70 lives in the multiple auto accident — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do condole the Government and People of Anambra State on the loss of over 70 lives in the multiple auto accident (*S. Res/054/03/09*).

7. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Education Tax Act CAP E4 LFN 2004 and the Education Tax Fund (Amendment) Act 2003:

Consideration of the Bill deferred to the next Legislative Day.

8. Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Tests (Establishment, etc) Bill 2009 (SB. 269) :

Motion made: That the Bill for an Act to Establish the Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Tests for Human Identification, a National DNA Data Bank, the National Bureau and other matters connected therewith 2009 be read the Second Time (*Senator Adego E. Eferakeya —Delta Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Health, Science and Technology and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to report within three weeks.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 15th October, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12 .55 p.m.

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