



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 3rd November, 2009

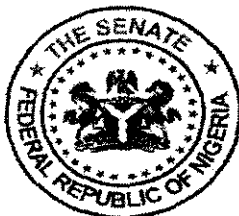
1. The Senate met at 10.25 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 29th October, 2009 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

- (A) **Appreciation:**

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Ibrahim S. Turaki (*Jigawa North West*) as follows:



Senator Ibrahim S. Turaki
JIGAWA NORTH-WEST SENATORIAL DISTRICT

*The President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Senate Chamber,
Abuja.*

Our Oga,

APPRECIATION

I write with utmost gratitude and humility to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the President of Senate, the Deputy Senate President, Principal Officers and all the distinguished Senators for your esteemed support during my stay in the hospital.

Your words of advice and prayers greatly lifted my spirit during the period.

Your prayer and assistance contributed in no small measure to my speedy recovery. The memory of this rare demonstration of love and support will remain with me for a very long time.

I pray that the almighty Allah will continue to guide and protect you and your families in the service of our nation - Amen.

I am once more expressing my profound gratitude and appreciation to you and the entire Senate.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Signed:

Senator Saminu I. Turaki

(B) Acknowledgement:

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of Staff and Pupils of Anointed Children Nursery and Primary School, Mpape, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings.

4. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Ahmad I. Lawan (*Yobe North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the nomination of Mr. Samuel T. Ukura as the Auditor-General of the Federation which was referred to the Committee on Public Accounts to report within one week. He further explained that the Committee could not complete the assignment because the necessary documents that would enable the Committee comprehensively carry out the screening were not transmitted by the Presidency. He sought and obtained additional two weeks to enable the Committee conclude the assignment and report as mandated.

Committee accordingly granted two weeks extension.

5. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Employees' Compensation Bill 2009 (SB. 330) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Maritime Security Agency (Establishment. etc) Bill 2009 (SB. 329) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Private Hospitals (Regulation of Standards) Bill 2009 (SB. 325) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Nigerian Labour Investment Agency Bill 2009 (SB. 324) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment (Establishment, etc) Bill 2009 (SB.317) — *Read the First Time.*
- (vi) Lobby Bill 2009 (SB. 342) — *Read the First Time.*

6. Sessional Reports:

The Senate received the Sessional Reports of the under-listed Committees in accordance with Rule 102(d) of the Senate Standing Order 2007 for the period June 2008 - June 2009:

- (i) Committee on Culture and Tourism; and
- (ii) Committee on Water Resources

7. **Committee on Finance:**

Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Financial Reporting Council Bill 2009 (SB. 100):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Financial Reporting Council Bill 2009 (*Senator Ahmed M. Makarfi — Kaduna North*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

8. **Committee on Finance:**

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Finance on the screening of Dr. Adewumi Abitoye (South-West) as a Member of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (*Senator Ahmed M. Makarfi — Kaduna North*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. **Motion:**

Re-Optimization of Tiga and Challawa Gorge Dams to Restore Human Livelihoods and Ecosystems in the Hadejia-Jama'are-KYB Basin:

Motion made: That the Senate do note that the Tiga and Challawa Gorge Dams were constructed in the upper catchments of the Hadejia River in 1976 and 1992 respectively by the Federal Government of Nigeria;

Also notes that Tiga and Challawa Gorge Dams were constructed to primarily store water for the Kano River Irrigation Project (KRTP) Scheme Irrigation Project (HVIP) in upstream part of Hadejia River;

Further notes that the Hadejia River is a major tributary of Yobe River, System and eventually into Lake Chad;

Concerned that as a result of the constructions of the Dams, the Hadejia River channel is now blocked, and this greatly altered the rivers naturally flow pattern. Consequently, the expected contributions of the Hadejia River in to the Yobe River since lost;

Worried that the distortion in the river system and inefficient operations of the two Dams have exacerbated desertification in the affected States; with about 75% of land in Jigawa, Yobe and Borno State decertified, loss of about 250, 000 km² of fertile and viable agricultural land due to Typha grass invasion; increase in dangerous floods, with loss of 225 lives in August 2001, and displacement of hundreds of thousands of people in the basin; loss of productive fishing grounds, whittling down the contribution of the region to National Inland Water Fish Catch of over 7% to insignificant 0.6%, since 2003; destroyed erstwhile vibrant human livelihoods and escalated insecurity; and heightened poverty by about 1000% as reported by Joint Wetland Livelihoods (JWL), making the region the poorest in Nigeria for over decade, as declared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Executive arm of the Federal Government to implement the operation of the reservoirs of the two dams efficiently as determined by the "optimization model" developed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources;
- (ii) Urges the Executive arm of the Federal Government to embark on "River Training" works through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and water Resources, with a view to securing the original channel of the Hadejia River to enable normal flow of water to the downstream areas in Jigawa, Yobe and Borno States; and

- (iii) Urges the National Assembly to appropriate the necessary funds in the 2010 Annual Appropriation to enable the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources und Feasibility Studies and Engineering (*Senator Ahmad I. Lawan — Yobe North*).

Debate:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Executive arm of the Federal Government to implement the operation of the reservoirs of the two dams efficiently as determined by the "optimization model" developed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provisions in prayers 1, 2, and 3 and *insert* the followings instead thereof:

"That the matter be referred to Senate Committee on Water Resources to report back within three weeks (*Senator Wilson A. Ake — Rivers West*).

Question that amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the matter be referred to Senate Committee on Water Resources to report back within three weeks (*S. Res/057/03/09*).

10. Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency Bill 2009 (SB. 177):

Consideration of the Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Nigerian Academy of Science Bill 2009 (SB.283):

Consideration of the Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 4th November, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1.15 p.m.

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