



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 8th December, 2005

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 Wednesday, 7th December, 2005 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. Announcement:
The Senate President announced the presence of the Students of Political Science Department of University of Jos who had come to observe Senate proceedings from the Gallery.

4. Committee on Education:
Report on Oversight responsibilities:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Education on its Oversight Responsibilities (*Senator Joy Emodi*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

5. Committee on National Identity Card and National Population Commission:
Report on Oversight responsibilities:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on National Identity Card and National Population Commission on its Oversight Responsibilities (*Senator Iya Abubakar*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

6. Motion:
Dislocation of Six Villages Containing over 300 Families and Truncation of Ahaba - Uturu - Okigwe Road Linking Three States - Abia, Ebonyi and Imo:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That whereas what started as a mild erosion at two points along the key Ahaba/Imenyi - Uturu - Okigwe road linking Abia, Imo and Ebonyi States has rapidly deteriorated into an extensive landslide that has so far swallowed up a stretch of two kilometers of the road and dislocated six villages;

WHEREAS the ecological damage caused by the land slide includes the cut of Isuikwuato Local Government area into two halves by a gully, devastation of farmlands, displacement of over 20,000 villager's, and rapid encroachment of the erosion menace into the vicinity of Abia State University;

WHEREAS the social and economic damages of the landslides include the disruption of the flow of commerce between Isiukwuato/Bende in Abia State, Okigwe in Imo State and Afikpo/Edda in Ebonyi State, paralysation of farm activities, and disappearance of schools, petrol stations, health centres and properties worth millions of naira into the bowels of the earth;

WHEREAS this road and its environmental problem are a federal responsibility as is evident in the provisions made for its rehabilitation in recent Federal Budgets - N200m in 2000, N250m in 2001 and N250m in 2002 budgets.

WHEREAS these budgetary plans were never implemented;

WHEREAS the gully, if not effectively and immediately checked, will escalate further and spread progressively to wider area, as is evident in the facts that (i) the road diversions made by the Isuikwuato Local Government to check the erosion and create alternative routes were soon eaten up by the advancing onslaught of the landslides, and (ii) that the current encroachment rate is estimated at 400 metres per annum;

WHEREAS the erosion menace is so extensive that its effect can be compared only to the ocean erosion of the Bar Beach in Lagos State and desert encroachment in the northern parts of our federation.

Be it resolved: That the

- (i) Senate do endorse the urgent need to rehabilitate the victims of the landslides, control the gully erosion and repair the 27 km road stretching from Ahaba - Imenyi in Isuikwuato Local Government area through Umunnekwu Agbo Ururu (Abia State University town) to Ahaba road.
- (ii) National Emergency Management Agency do provide emergency relief materials to the six villages of Ahaba Imenyi who are victims of the landslides.
- (iii) Ministry of Inter Governmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and other relevant Federal Authorities do take urgent measures to control the gully erosion and rehabilitate the truncated road.
- (iv) Senate do direct the Committee on Special Duties to visit Ahaba - Imenyi in Isiukwuato LGA of Abia North to appraise the environmental disaster and report back to the Senate (*Senator Uche Chukwumerije*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

prayer

Leave out the words " all other relevant Federal Authorities" in line 1 and *insert* the words "Federal Ministry of Works" instead thereof (*Senator Isaiah C. Balat*).

Question that the amendment be made put agreed to.

Debate concluded:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do endorse the urgent need to rehabilitate the victims of the landslides, control the gully erosion and repair the 27 km road stretching from Ahaba - Imenyi in Isuikwuato Local Government area through Umunnekwu Agbo Ururu (Abia State University town) to Ahaba road — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the National Emergency Management Agency do provide emergency relief materials to the six villages of Ahaba Imenyi who are victims of the landslides — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Ministry of Inter Governmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and the Federal Ministry of Works do take urgent measures to control the gully erosion and rehabilitate the truncated road,

Prayer (iv):

Question . That the Senate do direct the Committee on Special Duties to visit Ahaba - Imenyi in Isiukwuato LGA of Abia North to appraise the environmental disaster and report back to the Senate — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

- (i). That the Senate do endorse the urgent need to rehabilitate the victims of the landslides, control the gully erosion and repair the 27 km road stretching from Ahaba - Imenyi in Isiukwuato Local Government area through Umunnekwu Agbo Ururu (Abia State University town) to Ahaba road.
- (ii) That the National Emergency Management Agency do provide emergency relief materials to the six villages of Ahaba Imenyi who are victims of the landslides.
- (iii) That the Ministry of Inter Governmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and the Federal Ministry of Works do take urgent measures to control the gully erosion and rehabilitate the truncated road.
- (iv) That the Senate do direct the Committee on Special Duties to visit Ahaba - Imenyi in Isiukwuato LGA of Abia North to appraise the environmental disaster and report back to the Senate (S. Res/035/05).

7. Appropriation Bill 2006 (SB. 268): — *Second Reading.*

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Bill for an Act to authorise the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of N1,876,302,363,351 (One Trillion, Eight Hundred and Seventy-Six Billion, Three Hundred and Two Million, Three Hundred and Sixty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty-One Naira) only of which the sum of N86,460,000,000 (Eighty-Six Billion, Four Hundred and Sixty Million Naira) only is for Statutory Transfers and the sum of N289,500,000,000 (Two Hundred and Eighty-Nine Billion, Five Hundred Million Naira) only is for Debt Service, while the sum of N961,108,775,596 (Nine Hundred and Sixty-One Billion, One Hundred and Eight Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety-Six Naira) only is for Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure and the balance of N539,233,587,755 (Five Hundred and Thirty-Nine Billion, Two Hundred and Thirty-Three Million, Five Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand and Seven Hundred and Fifty-Five Naira) only is for Capital Expenditure for the year ending on the 31st day of December, 2006 be read the Second Time (Senate *Majority Leader*).

Debate:

The following Senators made contributions:

- (i) Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida
- (ii) Senator Ibrahim N. Mantu
- (iii) Senator Lawal Shuaibu
- (iv) Senator Patrick E. Osakwe
- (v) Senator "Sufe-SandiYari"
- (vi) Senator Chris Adighije
- (vii) Senator Ittak B. Ekarika
- (viii) Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi
- (ix) Senator Farouk B. Bunza
- (x) Senator Lee L. Maeba
- (xi) Senator Usman K. Umar
- (xii) Senator Jallo L. Zarami
- (xiii) Senator Mahmud K. Bello
- (xiv) Senator Mohammed Abba Aji
- (xv) Senator Joy Emodi
- (xvi) Senator Cosmas G. Niagwan

Debate adjourned to resume, Tuesday, 13th December, 2005.

8. Committee on FCT:

Report on FCT Board of Internal Revenue (Establishment) Bill 2005 (SB. 10)

Consideration deferred till a later date.

9. Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity:

Report on Institute of Registered Safety Professionals of Nigeria (IRSPON) Bill 2005 (SB. 39):

Consideration deferred till a later date.

10, Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 13th December, 2005 at 10.00 a.m. (Senate Majority Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 11.15 p. m.

Ken Nnamani

President of the Senate
