



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 13th December, 2005

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 Thursday, 8th December, 2005 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. **Announcements:**
 - (i) **Membership of Senate Standing Committees:**
The Senate President announced Committee membership of Senator Eze D. Ajoku as follows:

(a)	Committee on Public Accounts	—	Vice Chairman
(b)	Committee on National Security and Intelligence	—	Member
(c)	Committee on Environment and Ecology	—	Member
(d)	Committee on Niger-Delta	—	Member
(e)	Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream)	—	Member
 - (it) The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Members of Etsako-West **Local Government** Legislative Council, Auchi, Edo State to observe Senate proceedings from the Gallery.
 - (Hi) The Senate President read a letter from Senator Iyabode A. Anisulowo as follows:

Chairman: Senate Committee- on States & Local Government Administration
Member: Establishment & Public Service, Judiciary & Human Rights Women
Affairs & Youth Development

SPECIAL INVITATION (3 IN 1 EVENT)

Please join me in a solemn thanksgiving remembrance Service in honour of my Late father Pa David Olatunji Adekunjo Ajibogun who joined the saints triumphant on the 17th day of December 1985 (aged 76 years) at the Cathedral Church of Christ, Ilaro on the 17th day of December 2005 at 9:00 a. m.

2. *At the grand finale of ORONNA DAY Celebrations in ilaro Ogun State and the launching of a N100M Development Fund at 12:00 noon under my chairmanship and our Special Guest of Honour, the Senate President Chief Ken Nnamani.*

3. *Commissioning of a Two Storey building (Toilets/Internet and Office) facility and water points in the central market Igbo Aje, Ilaro by the Senate President at 4:00 p. m.*

4. *A grand reception and Fund Raising at Oronna Hall, Ilaro at 4.30p. m.*

All the invitation Cards are hereby enclosed.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed:

*Senator Iyabode Anike Anisulowo
(Nee AJIBOGUN)*

5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance**

Crash of Sosoliso Airline Flight 1145 at the Port Harcourt Airport on Saturday, 10th December, 2005: Invoking Rules 42 and 52, Senator Mohammed Ibrahim invited the attention of the Senate to the recent crash of Sosoliso Airline Flight 1145 at the Port Harcourt Airport on Saturday, 10th December, 2005. He sought and obtained leave of the Senate to introduce a Motion on the subject as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance to be debated forthwith.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That whereas, the nation woke up to another sad event in the life of the country, being the crash of Sosoliso Flight 1145 at the Port Harcourt airport on Saturday 10th December 2005;

WHEREAS, in September and October 2005, the nation was taken through a dark chapter of two air crashes claiming many lives and also the loss of our dear First Lady, Chief Stella Obasanjo, and several other Nigerians;

WHEREAS, these accidents have claimed many precious lives and caused grief among the families, well wishers and Nigerians in general. The spate of accidents in our aviation sector has sent very negative signals to both national and international communities with regards to the safety of our airspace;

WHEREAS, Nigerians have become disillusioned with the regulatory agencies as well as aviation practitioners as a result of various accidents and mere accidents in the industry; and

WHEREAS, air travel is very essential to the private and business lives of Nigerians, as well as visitors and businessmen and women, engaged in businesses in Nigeria.

Be it resolved: That

- (i) the Senate sends a message of condolence to all the families of bereaved persons aboard the Sosoliso Flight through the media.
- (ii) the Senate sends a message of condolence to Mr. President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the ill-fated flight.
- (iii) the Senate co-operates fully with the stakeholders' meeting convened by Mr. President to discuss the general affairs of the aviation sector.
- (iv) the Senate directs its Committee on Aviation to commence a comprehensive review of the aviation sector and to conduct investigation and public hearings in order to update and strengthen the various practices and regulatory rules and procedures in the industry.
- fvj the Senate observes a minute silence in honour of the departed (*Senator Muhammad Ibrahim*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new prayer as follows:*
"That the Senate do send a condolence message to the Government and People of Rivers State (*Senator Udoma Udo Udoma*)."

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert a new prayer as follows:*
"That the Senate do send a condolence message to Layola Jesuit College, Abuja (*Senator Udoma Udo Udoma*)."

Question that the amendment be made put and negatived.

Another Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new prayer as follows:

"That the Senate do urge that a day of national prayers should be held and our men of God of all faiths should tarry before the presence of God as long as it is necessary to seek divine solution to the series of national disasters and ask the question "what has Nigeria done wrong, and what is the divine solution?" (*Senator Uche Chukwumerije*).

Question that the amendment be made put and negatived.

Further Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new prayer as follows:

"That the Senate do urge the Honourable Minister of Aviation to resign" (*Senator Sule Gandi Yarl*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Another Amendment Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new prayer as follows:*
"That the Senate do constitute a 5 or 7 man Committee who will also co-opt three (3) Aviation experts to investigate the immediate and remote causes of the plane crash and report to the Senate (*Senator Ahmed M. Aruwa*)."

Question that the amendment be made put and negatived.

- (ii) *Insert a new prayer as follows:*
"That the Senate do adjourn for the day in honour of the Sosoliso plane crash victims (*Senator AhmedM. Aruwa*)."

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

Debate concluded:

Prayer (i)

Question: That the Senate do send a message of condolence to all the families of bereaved persons aboard the Sosoliso Airline Flight 1145 through the media— *Agreed to.*

Prayer (ii)

Question: That the Senate do send a message of condolence to Mr. President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the ill-fated flight — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (iii)

Question: That the Senate do co-operate fully with the stakeholders' meeting convened by Mr. President to discuss the general affairs of the aviation sector — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (iv)

Question: That the Senate do direct its Committee on Aviation to commence a comprehensive review of the aviation sector and to conduct investigation and public hearings in order to update and strengthen the various practices and regulatory rules and procedures in the industry — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (v)

Question: That the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of the departed— *Agreed to.*

Resolved: That the Senate do

- (i) send a message of condolence to all the families of bereaved persons aboard the Sosoliso Flight through the media
- (ii) send a message of condolence to Mr. President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the ill-fated flight.
- (iii) co-operate fully with the stakeholders' meeting convened by Mr. President to discuss the general affairs of the aviation sector.
- (iv) direct its Committee on Aviation to commence a comprehensive review of the aviation sector and to conduct investigation and public hearings in order to update and strengthen the various practices and regulatory rules and procedures in the industry.
- (v) send a condolence message to the Government and People of Rivers State;
- (vi) urge the Honourable Minister of Aviation to resign;
- (vii) observe a minute silence in honour of the departed;
- (viii) adjourn for the day in honour of the Sosoliso plane crash victims (*S. Res/036/05*).

One minute silence accordingly observed.

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Adjournment:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 14th December, 2005 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12. 15 p. m.

Ken Nnamani
President of the Senate
