



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 20th September, 2005

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 Thursday, 25th August, 2005 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.
3. **Messages from the President:**
The Senate President announced that he had received four letters from the President, Commander-in-Chief which he read as follows:

(i)



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134

30 August 2005

*The Senate President, Senate
Chambers, National Assembly
Complex, Three-Arms Zone,
Asokoro - Abuja.*

Dear President of Senate,

**NIGERIA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY TRANSPARENCY
INITIATIVE (NEITI) BILL 2005**

I hereby present, for formal consideration and passage into law by the Senate, the attached Bill for an Act which makes provisions for the establishment of National Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI); its governing body, National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG); and for other matters connected therewith.

/ hope the Bill will receive prompt attention of Distinguished Members of the Senate.

Yours Sincerely

*(Signed) OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO*



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/134

9 September 2005

*Senator Ken Nnamani
President of the Senate, Senate
Chambers, National Assembly
Complex, Abuja.*

Dear President of Senate,

TRANSMISSION OF VIREMENT PROPOSAL

Following my letter PRES/134 dated August 19, 2005 on the above subject matter, I wish to forward, for consideration and approval of the Senate, virement proposal in respect of the Appropriation Act 2005 for the following Ministries and Agency omitted in the last submission made to the National Assembly:

	<i>HEAD</i>	<i>MDA</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>430000</i>	<i>Power and Steel</i>
<i>(2)</i>	<i>540000</i>	<i>Independent National Electoral Commission</i>
<i>(3)</i>	<i>590000</i>	<i>Aviation</i>

Please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely

*(Signed) OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO*

(iii)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/134

9 September 2005

*The President of the Senate,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.*

*The Honourable Speaker Federal
House of Representatives National
Assembly Complex, Abuja.*

POWER SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

I am writing to formally intimate you with the Special Programme on Energy. This special programme is designed to address some of the pressing problems of the sector that you are quite familiar with. As you know, this Administration inherited a power sector that was in every respect unbefitting for Nigeria in terms of her economic needs, population, and energy requirements. In ten good years, not a single power plant had been built, and no overhaul of the system was undertaken to safeguard the capacity of existing power plants. At the levels of transmission and distribution, the situation was not different. No new transmission line was constructed in the 12-year period between 1987 to 1999. The need for expansion and reinforcement of the distribution network was simply ignored. With a generation capacity today of 4000 MW for a population of about 150 million, Nigeria lags behind countries of relatively comparative status such as Egypt and South Africa and embarrassingly behind countries like Senegal, Zambia, Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe in electricity generation. Even though in the 1970s power generation in Iran and Nigeria were about the same levels, today Iran generates ten times more power than we do. Today, we barely manage to generate 30 watts per Nigerian which is less than one light bulb per Nigerian.

If our economic reform agenda is to be consolidated and if we are serious about attracting and retaining investors in Nigeria, we must do all that is necessary to improve the energy sector. At the minimum, we need about 104,000MW of electricity to meet our demands assuming a per capita consumption of 800 watts as is the case in South Africa. I do not need to go into the catalogue of frustrations and pains experienced in all sectors, damage done to public and private appliances by erratic power supply, and the implications for security nationwide.

Since the inception of this Administration, we have taken several steps to address the energy issue. These include the completion and commissioning of the AES Barge IPP for 300MW; Afam V for 276MW; and Delta II for 150 MW, all in 2001. Since then, Phase I of the AGIP IPP has also been completed and commissioned for 300MW with it being enhanced to 480MW before the end of the year. On-going power station projects funded from the normal Federal capital budget include Papalanto for 335MW, Geregu for 414MW, Omotosho for 335MW, Alaoji for 346MW and Delta III for 150MW. In addition to these, we have also succeeded in getting the JV partners SPDC, Chevron, Total, Exxon-Mobil and Agip to embark on IPP initiatives that are at various stages of development and which when completed within the next two years, will increase with our generation stock by 3000MW. Finally, there are other private initiatives such as Geometric Aba IPP for 105MW, Sapele ROT for 400MW, and Obajana for 250MW.

In addition to the above, the transmission grid which was completely dilapidated is also being reinforced, rehabilitated and extended through the construction of new high tension lines to evacuate the expected new generation capacity. Notable among them are Abuja-Shiroro 330KV double circuit line completed in 2003; Gombe-Yola-Jalingo line; Owerri-Ahaoda-Yenogoa line, Alaoji-Umuahia line; Kano-Dutse-Azare line; Akure-Ado Ekiti line, and second Benin-Onitsha line. New projects that have been embarked upon this year, 2005, include Gombe-Damaturu-Maiduguri line; Onitsha-Nnewi line; Afam-Pori Harcourt line; Abakaliki-Ikom-Obudu line; Ajaokuta-Lokoja-Abuja line; New Haven-Nsukka line; and the construction of a new national control center.

You will notice that while the sector is full of initiatives and interest continues to grow, they are hardly sufficient to get us close to where we need to be.

The Special Energy Project is, therefore, designed to address the energy problem on all sides: generation, transmission and distribution as well as gas supply. The proposed projects are to be implemented on a fast-track especially as gas-based power projects are often quicker to implement. Current projections are for completion in 2007.

The total cost of initiating this project is currently put at \$2,475 billion broken down as follows:

Power Generation Project 2620 mega watts	\$1.503b
Transmission	\$752m
Gas Transportation	\$170m
Distribution	\$50m

These projects - power plants - are to be located as follows: Omoku (230MW), Gbaran/Ubie (250MW) Sapele (500MW), Ikot-Abasi (420MW), Eyaen (500MW), Calabar (500MW). The transmission aspect of this Special Project is designed to finally complete and extend the national transmission grid and involves the construction of over 1000km of 330KV transmission lines and associated substations from Afam through Ikot-Ekpene to New Haven, Markurdi and Jos. This would be in addition to reinforcing the existing sub-stations and other transmission infrastructure.

The first stage of the project entails placing orders for the long lead items - turbines and generators. To move ahead, bids were sought and received from three most reputable companies in the world namely: General Electric (GE;), Siemens, and Alstom. The best bid turned out to be that of GE and the contract is to be awarded accordingly.

To be able to start getting delivery of the turbines and generators from June 2006 and to ensure completion of the supply by November 2006, we need to make the first payment of \$220 million by September 15, 2005. GE has committed to deliver the first major components by June 15, 2006 and the last components by November 30th 2006 once we keep to agreed contract terms and payment schedules. Permit me to inform you at this point that given the importance of this project, its direct relevance to our economic progress, and the need to deliver on this dividend of democracy to Nigerians, I have since set up a Committee Chaired by the Vice-President with 15 Governors as members to see to its implementation. The Committee has met regularly and the project has been endorsed by the National Economic Council.

This investment in the energy sector will be recovered on the privatization of the sector. Meanwhile, we need to get over the inadequate supply of energy by implementing the Special Programme with the initial payment from "excess crude" which is accumulated for the three tiers of government as a loan to be refunded to the Federation Account after the privatization programme.

I am forwarding this project and scheme to you for the endorsement of the National Assembly and the ALGON, having met with the endorsement of Council of States.

Thanks for your support.

*(Signed) OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO*

Copy to:

*Vice President Minister of
Finance Minister of Power
and Steel President, ALGON*

(iv)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/134

9 September 2005

*The President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers, National
Assembly Complex,*

Three-Arms Zone,
Asokoro - Abuja.

Dear President of Senate,

PRESENTATION OF COMPETITION BILL 2005

I hereby present, for formal consideration and passage into law by the Senate, the attached Bill which seeks to provide, among other things, for the establishment of Federal Competition Commission, promote competition in trade and commerce among the several States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and with foreign nations by controlling existing monopolies, discouraging the abuse of dominant market position and other restrictive trade and business practices.

I hope the Bill will receive prompt attention of Distinguished Members of the Senate.

Yours Sincerely

(Signed) **OLUSEGUN
OBASANJO**

4. Remarks by the Senate President:



**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**TEXT OF REMARKS BY PRESIDENT, SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA WELCOMING SENATORS BACK FROM
ADJOURNMENT OF PLENARY SESSION DELIVERED ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005 AT
THE SENATE CHAMBERS**

BACK TO PLENARY, READY TO DO MORE

Distinguished colleagues, welcome back to legislative business.

It is a great delight to be back to this hallowed chamber, into the warm and ennobling presence of great friends. I relish the times we share together as colleagues. I dare say that every Senator wished earnestly that the three weeks adjournment of plenary session ended quickly so that we could resume the enterprise of legislating for the good of our beloved nation. In the course of making laws and forging legislative policies for the efficient and effective working of government, we have bonded as compatriots; we have developed deep respect for one another's wit and wisdom. We relish our conviviality; and deliberation in this Senate represents a collective search for the best solutions for pressing national problems. So, we missed one another very much. But, thank God, the adjournment is over, and it is back to the plenary, and back to friendly deliberations.

It is however imperative to point out that we were not idle those three weeks. We remained at work, focused and attentive to our responsibilities as the representatives of the people. Some of us attended important global parliamentary meetings on behalf of the National Assembly, and made valuable contributions to the development of multilateral understandings for a more peaceful and prosperous world. Most of us stayed back to continue their Committees' oversight of executive programmes and projects.

On my part, I did not only lead the Senate delegation to the Second World Conference of the Speakers of Parliaments at the United Nations in New York, the United States, I also made valuable contacts with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), and the United States Senate. It is my belief that those contacts will help strengthen and expand our legislative

institution and democracy in general. These have been summarised in the brief report of my US visit, which will be made available to you.

So, contrary to the notion created by the wrong report that this Senate had gone on recess, the Senate was indeed actively engaged in legislative business- outside this hallowed Chamber. This Senate never went on a recess. We simply adjourned legislative sessions to allow Senators take time to review their works and carry our important committee assignment. It is like "getting to the balcony", to step back from the busy schedules and take a long look at the work environment. The break was a tactical disengagement from plenary sessions so that Senators could go to the field and re-equip for the journey ahead. It was an opportunity to generate ideas and materials for quality legislative business.

We are back, to work harder and do more for the public good. The remaining legislative calendar is very loaded. We worked hard in the first half of this legislative year. We will work harder in the months to come to actualize the vision and mission of this Senate. We will continue to uphold the constitution and offer Nigerian people ample opportunities to contribute to law making through result-oriented public hearings and other interactive activities. We have set a record on passage of bills. I am confident that we will continue to surpass the good records of past Senate terms.

Distinguished colleagues, welcome back to plenary business, let's begin to work harder and better for the public good.

SENATOR KEN NNAMANI

PRESIDENT

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

5. Announcements:

(i) *The Senate President Read a letter from the outgoing Clerk of the Senate as follows:*



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

*National Assembly Complex, Three-Arms Zone,
P.M.B. 141, Gorki — Abuja*

9th September, 2005

*Distinguished Senate President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly
Abuja*

FAREWELL TO READINGS.

Permit me to inform Your Excellency and through your exalted office, Distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, of recent changes in the top echelon of National Assembly Bureaucracy and its bearing on my Clerkship of the Senate.

While I was abroad on official engagements, the National Assembly Service Commission (NASC) communicated my elevation to the post of Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly (DCNA). With this appointment and consequent movement, I ceased to be the Clerk of Senate.

Although my successor has been named and since assumed duties, I consider it proper to formally inform Distinguished Senators of this development.

I seek the indulgence of Distinguished Senators, to avail myself of this opportunity to place on record my appreciation of your tremendous support and encouragement while Clerking the highest legislative Chamber in our Country.

Time and space will not permit me to itemize, analyse and exhaustively enumerate my indebtedness to individual Senators, during my two years stewardship in the Senate, but I will befalling if I do not highlight the contributions of the Leadership of the Senate (Past and Present) to my success. It is equally noteworthy to recognize, acknowledge and commend the very cordial and complementary relationship I enjoyed with Senate Committees' Chairmen. In this regard I must mention my very constructive and excellent interaction with the Committees on Rules and Business, Appropriations and Senate Services. The confidence reposed in me by the Leadership of these Committees inflamed my passion for commitment, performance and productivity.

While commending the conducive working environment engendered and nurtured by the rapport which characterized my interaction with Committees Chairmen, I must admit that without the understanding and cooperation of Senators, (individually and collectively) my responsibilities as Clerk would have been difficult to discharge.

While not suggesting that it was 'sky always blue for me as Clerk, it is nevertheless gratifying to realize that my sojourn has prepared me for greater responsibilities and challenges. I must indeed emphasize that my tenure as Clerk of Senate was testing and tasking but the experience has been instructive and richly rewarding.

Finally, let me further thank Distinguished Senators for the opportunity to serve and the goodwill enjoyed, and to solicit through this medium that, the same cooperation be extended to my successor.

Distinguished Senate President, Distinguished Senators, before I take my final bow in this august Chamber, let me solemnly pledge that so long as I serve in the Legislature, I will remain a servant of this Senate.

May God continue to grant you the grace and wisdom to take only those decisions that will benefit our Countrymen and women.

I remain your obedient servant,

(Signed) OLUYEMI

OGUNYOMI

DEPUTY CLERK TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(ii) Conference Committee on Federal High Court Bill 2005:

The Senate President named the following as Senate Conferees:

1.	Senator Oserheimen A. Osunbor	—	South-South
2.	Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi	—	North Central
3.	Senator Saidu M. Dansadau	—	North West
4.	Senator Titus O. Olupitan	—	South West
5.	Senator Zik S. Ambuno	—	North East
6.	Senator Ike Ekweremadu	—	South East

6. Changes in some Senate Standing Committees:

The Senate President announced minor changes in the composition of some Senate Standing Committees as follows:

(i) Banking, Insurance and Financial Institutions:

Senator Yusha'u M. Anka — Vice Chairman

(ii) Capital Market:

Senator Farouk B. Bunza — Vice Chairman

- | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--------------------|
| (Hi) | Petroleum Resources (Down Stream):
Senator Daniel I. Saror | — | Member |
| (iv) | Environment and Ecology:
Senator Victor K. Oyofo
Senator Lawal J. Zarami | —
— | Chairman
Member |
| (v) | Federal Character and Governmental Affairs:
Senator Usman Albishir | — | Vice Chairman |
| (vi) | Foreign Affairs:
Senator Usman S. Kamba | — | Member |
| (vii) | Health:
Senator I. S. Martyns-Yellowe | — | Chairman |
| (viii) | Inter-Parliamentary Affairs:
Senator Tokunbo Afikuyomi | — | Member |
| (ix) | Independent National Electoral Commission(INEC):
Senator Nicholas Y. Ugbane | — | Chairman |
| (x) | Commerce:
Senator U. K. Umar | — | Vice Chairman |
| (xi) | Women Affairs:
Senator Muktar A. Aruwa | — | Vice Chairman |

Question: That the Senate do approve the changes — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

7. **Privileges:**
Rising on Rule 14(a) Senator Muktar Ahmed Aruwa declined to serve as the Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Women Affairs.

Noted by the Senate.

8. **Presentation of Bills:**
- (i) Fiscal Responsibility Bill 2005 (SB. 226) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (ii) Surgeon-General of Nigeria (SGN) Bill 2005 (SB. 227) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (Hi) River Basins Development Authority Act (Amendment) Bill 2005 (SB. 224) — *Read the First Time.*

9. **Motion:**
Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf Coast of the United States of America:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That whereas on Monday August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana with 225 kph winds while slamming neighbouring Mississippi, Alabama and Western Florida. A 10 metre storm surge in Mississippi wiped away over ninety percent of the buildings along the coast at Biloxi and Gulfport, leaving a scene of destruction that Mississippi Governor said was - "like there had been a nuclear weapon set off".

In New Orleans raging waters of Lake Pontchartrain tore holes in the levee system that protects the low lying city and then slowly filled it up. An earlier breach had occurred along the Industrial Canal in the city's lower 9th ward.

WHEREAS the rising flood water overwhelmed pumping stations that would normally keep the city dry. About 80 per cent of the city was flooded with water up to 20 feet deep after the two levees collapsed in the bowl-shaped city. Streets and homes were flooded as far as six miles inland from the beach. Major roads in the city were cut-off. Two seven mile bridge spans that carry Interstate - 10 across lake Pontchartrain suffered catastrophic damage, with concrete sections torn apart both the east bound and westbound spans. All airports in the area were closed to commercial service.

WHEREAS patients were evacuated from hospitals and prisoners from prisons. The populace, or a great number of it, was evacuated to the Super-dome and elsewhere, where conditions rapidly deteriorated to squalor.

In Biloxi, a 25 foot swell of water crashed in from the Gulf of Mexico and damaged its structures.

In Louisiana the storm ripped ashore with winds topping 140 mph before scourging Mississippi and Alabama.

Fatalities are estimated in the hundreds and damage at over US\$25 (twenty-five billion). The losses (in human lives and property) will certainly continue to rise. Meanwhile a state of emergency was declared in the affected areas. It could be the Insurance industries' most expensive in natural disaster.

WHEREAS this terrible tragedy brought out the best of most people and the worst of some others. Looters took to the prowl and were becoming increasingly hostile. Tempers flared. In one case Police reported that a man in Hattiesburg, Mississippi fatally shot his sister in the head over a bag of ice.

The Pentagon, meanwhile mounted one of the largest search and rescue operations in U.S. history. Four Navy Ships were sent to the Gulf Coast with drinking water and other emergency supplies along with the hospital ship USNS Comfort, search helicopters and elite SEAL water rescue teams. In New Orleans and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast, authorities used boats and helicopters to reach stranded residents and search for survivors. Wildlife and fisheries workers rescued thousands of people. Workers of American Red Cross from across America converged on the devastated region in the agency's biggest relief operation. The Red Cross mobilized thousands of volunteers for its biggest ever natural disaster effort.

WHEREAS over 90 countries and organisations, from Afghanistan to Bangladesh have offered aid. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has donated US\$1M (one million US dollars) to the relief efforts.

WHEREAS about 11 refineries were affected by the hurricane, leading to their closure. The price of crude oil on the international market hit a record of US\$70.85 and started dropping only when the U.S. and the E.U. released quantities from their strategic reserves.

WHEREAS there are several lessons to be learnt from the disaster which scientists and politicians had foretold and had expected. In spite of having had foreknowledge, and inspite of its capacity, the U.S. Government's response to the tragedy has been criticized as being rather late and slow. Prior to its strike, over one million people had fled but quite a number of people stayed back for several reasons.

WHEREAS Hurricane Katrina is a reminder of the dire consequences facing humanity in the event of a dramatic climatic swing. Scientists have predicted that the phenomenal spill of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the earth's atmosphere could trigger off increase in the mean surface temperatures from 3 to 10 degrees at the end of this century. This swing will irreversibly result in a rise of sea levels from the melting of polar icecaps, changed planetary wind system, more violent hurricanes, typhoons and tornadoes. The resulting winds and ocean surge will put virtually all the worlds' sea-ports and low lying coastal areas under water.

WHEREAS it should be noted that this disaster occurred on the Atlantic seaboard which is prone to powerful windstorms. Incidentally, Nigeria shares over 800 kilometer coastline with the Atlantic Ocean, This stretch of coastline lies below sea level. Lagos, Calabar, Port Harcourt, Warri, and indeed the entire Niger Delta Region fall within this zone. Nigeria's crude oil facilities are located in this area.

CONSIDERING the magnitude of the disaster and whereas there is a possibility of disaster of this nature especially with the spectre of the recent floods in Jalingo, Taraba State; and the floods in Gombe in 2004.

Be it resolved that the Senate do:

- (a) send a letter of condolence to the United States Senate.
- (b) send a delegation to the Ambassador of the United States in Nigeria to formally express her condolences.
- (c) commend the Federal Government of Nigeria on its contribution of US\$1 Million towards the relief of the people affected and that, this Senate do support every relief initiative of the Federal Government in this regard.

- (d) note the global response to this great calamity.
- (e) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to urgently re-assess governments' capacity to respond to disasters and to take proactive measures to protect and safeguard the coastal areas and other disaster prone areas of Nigeria.
- (f) urge the Federal Government to reassess its policy on gas flaring which is a major source of green house gases and to take more pragmatic steps to curb gas flares and to fix an earlier deadline to cut gas flares and to reassess its domestic environmental policies.
- (g) urge the Federal Government to take urgent steps to check the frequent ocean surges on Victoria Island, Lagos.
- (h) urge the Federal Government to reassess the vulnerability of our oil facilities and installations to natural disasters.
- (i) urge the Federal Government to initiate the necessary diplomatic process to review the Kyoto Protocol on green house gas reduction.
- (j) note the role of the United States Military in the relief and rescue efforts and requests the Federal Government to train and equip the Nigerian Military to prepare for prompt intervention during disasters (*Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

That prayers (d) and (e) to be merged to read as follows:

"(d) That the Senate do note the global response to this great calamity and urged the Federal Government of Nigeria to urgently re-assess governments' capacity to respond to disasters and to take proactive measures to protect and safeguard the coastal areas and other disaster prone areas of Nigeria" (*Senator Oloruninbe A. Mamora*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Another Amendment Proposed:

That the Senate do observed one in silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the disaster (*Senator Patrick E. Osakwe*).

Question that the Amendment be made put and agreed to.

Further Amendment Proposed:

That the Senate do direct its Committee on Special Duties (including Emergency) to initiate and amend Bill to amend the National Emergency Management Agency(NEMA) Act that will enhance the capabilities of NEMA to respond to disaster (*Senator Dalhatu S. Tafida*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Debated concluded:

Prayer (a):

Question: That the Senate do send a letter of condolence to the United States Senate — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (b):

Question: That the Senate do send a delegation to the Ambassador of the United States in Nigeria to formally express her condolences — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (c):

Question: That the Senate do commend the Federal Government of Nigeria on its contribution of US\$1 Million towards the relief of the people affected and that, this Senate do support every relief initiative of the Federal Government in this regard — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (d):

Question: That the Senate do note the global response to this grave calamity and urged the Federal Government of Nigeria to urgently re-assess governments' capacity to respond to disasters and to take proactive measures to protect and safeguard the coastal areas and other disaster prone areas of Nigeria;

Prayer (e):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to reassess its policy on gas flaring which is a major source of green house gases and to take more pragmatic steps to curb gas flares and to fix an earlier deadline to cut gas flares and to reassess its domestic environmental policies — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (f):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to take urgent steps to check the frequent ocean surges on Victoria Island, Lagos — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (g):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to reassess the vulnerability of our oil facilities and installations to natural disasters — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (h):

Question: That the Senate do observed one in silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the disaster — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (i):

Question: That the Senate do direct its Committee on Special Duties (including Emergency) to initiate and amendment Bill to amend the National Emergency Management Agency(NEMA) Act that will enhance the capabilities of NEMA to respond to disaster — *Agreed to.*

Resolved: That the Senate do

- (a) send a letter of condolence to the United States Senate;
- (b) send a delegation to the Ambassador of the United States in Nigeria to formally express her condolences;
- (c) commend the Federal Government of Nigeria on its contribution of US\$1 Million towards the relief of the people affected and that, this Senate do support every relief initiative of the Federal Government in this regard;
- (d) note the global response to this grave calamity and urged the Federal Government of Nigeria to urgently re-assess governments' capacity to respond to disasters and to take proactive measures to protect and safeguard the coastal areas and other disaster prone areas of Nigeria;
- (e) urge the Federal Government to reassess its policy on gas flaring which is a major source of green house gases and to take more pragmatic steps to curb gas flares and to fix an earlier deadline to cut gas flares and to reassess its domestic environmental policies;
- if) urge the Federal Government to take urgent steps to check the frequent ocean surges on Victoria Island, Lagos;
- (g) urge the Federal Government to reassess the vulnerability of our oil facilities and installations to natural disasters;
- (h) observed one minute in silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the disaster; and
- (i) direct its Committee on Special Duties (including Emergency) to initiate and amendment Bill to amend the National Emergency Management Agency(NEMA) Act that will enhance the capabilities of NEMA to respond to disaster *Res/02/027/05).*

One minute in silence accordingly observed.

10. **National Sugar Development Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005 (SB. 183):**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the National Sugar Development Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005 be read the Second Time (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to Committee on Finance to report within two weeks.

11. Closed Session:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into a Closed Session to deliberate on matters relevant to the workings of the Senate (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Closed Session — 1.35 p.m.

Senate in Open Session — 2.30 p.m

12. Adjournment:

And it being 2.35 p.m. the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 21st September, 2005 at **10.00** a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 2.35 p.m.

Ken Nnamani
President of the Senate