



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 22nd February, 2005

1. The Senate met at 10.30 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, 17th February, 2005 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
Leadership and Good Governance Award:
The Senate President announced that at the Fifth World Summit of the International Inter-religious World Peace Federation, an affiliate of the United Nations Organisation, which took place in Seoul, South-Korea Deputy Senate President was among the three participants that were given awards for leadership and good governance. The other awardees are the former President of Seychelles Republic and the Speaker of the Republic of Philippines.

The Senate President congratulated Senator Ibrahim Mantu for the well deserved honour.

4. **Personal Explanation: Resignation from the Senate:**
Invoking Rule 43, Senator Emmanuel O. Anosike invited the attention of the Senate to recent Court of Appeal decision on the Anambra North Senatorial District Elections. He sought the leave of the Senate to tender his letter of resignation from the Senate which read as follows:



Senator (Sir) Emma Obi Anosike

Senate Chamber, National Assembly Complex, 3 Arms Zone, Abuja. 09-5231464

22 February, 2005

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

Your Excellency,

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

I humbly write to tender my letter of resignation from the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

My resignation is borne from the most recent events surrounding the electoral process in my State (Anambra).

I thank your Excellency and my colleagues for the unalloyed support for the representation of my down trodden people of Anambra North, whom I have represented in the National Assembly for upwards of six years.

Please accept my assurances and best regards.

Sign.

SENATOR EMMA OBIAJULU ANOSIKE

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Cessation of All Military Action and the Restoration of Peace to Odioma Community and its Environs in the Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa East Senatorial District of Bayelsa State:

Senator Rufus I. Spiff invited the attention of the Senate to the recent killings, arson and destruction of lives and properties in the Odioma Community in Brass Local Government Area, Bayelsa State by a Joint Military Task Force and sought the leave of the Senate to introduce a motion on the subject matter as Matter of Urgent Public Importance. He urged the Senate to suspend Rule 52 to enable the matter to be debated forthwith.

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

Motion made and Question Proposed: That whereas on 3rd February 2005 twelve harmless, innocent and law abiding people of Nembe Local Government Area to wit, four Councillors, one pregnant woman and seven others whilst on their way to a peace meeting in Obioku Community in Nembe Local Government Area were murdered in cold blood in a boat by unidentified persons suspected to be members of a cult group from the Nembe/Odioma axis with headquarters in Odioma Community in Brass Local Government Area;

WHEREAS the people of the area were in the grips of fear and trepidation and the entire area engulfed in pandemonium because of this senseless killings;

WHEREAS the Government and people of Bayelsa State strongly condemned this atrocious killings;

WHEREAS it was expected that the Police would have been drafted to go and fish out the criminals and contain the situation, a Joint Military Task Force was sent to Odioma Community in Brass Local Government Area on Saturday the 19th of February 2005;

WHEREAS the mandate of the Joint Military Task Force should have been to patrol the waterways, ensure safety of the creeks, forestall breakdown of Law and Order, investigate the heinous crime, identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice, they ended up doing more damage;

WHEREAS the action of the Joint Military Task Force has resulted in razing down the entire Community with the death of many people and the missing of several others including women, children and the elderly;

WHEREAS the people remaining in the Odioma Community have ran into the bush in fear, the Military have continued to pursue them farther inside, even as the Community is in ruins and total devastation;

WHEREAS the events have pitched some Communities against others thereby threatening more Communal

clashes in the area, it has become urgent that immediate action be taken in order to stop the tide of violence and restore normalcy to the area.

- (i) That the killings, arson and destructions be condemned in their entirety;

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- (ii) That the Senate do hereby request Mr President Commander-in-Chief to immediately restrain the Joint Military Task Force from further action and order their immediate withdrawal from the area;
- (iii) That the Senate do hereby request Mr. President C-in-C to send conventional security personnel to replace the Joint Military Task Force to maintain law and order in the area;
- (iv) That the Senate do request the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the displaced persons and refugees in Odioma Community and its environs; and
- (v) That the Senate do hereby direct its Committees on Niger-Delta and Security and Intelligence to visit Odioma Community and its environs in the Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa East Senatorial District of Bayelsa State to assess the situation and investigate the remote and immediate causes of the crisis and report to the Senate within seven (7) days. (*Senator Rufus I. Spiff*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:

Prayer (v):

Leave out the words “Committees on Niger-Delta and Security and Intelligence” in line 1, and *insert* the words “constitute an Ad-Hoc Committee comprising the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Committees on Defence, National Security and Intelligence and Police Affairs” (*Senator Nuhu Aliyu*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Another Amendment Proposed:

Prayer (v):

Leave out the word and figure “seven (7)” in line 4, and *insert* the word and figure “fourteen (14)” (*Senator Mohammed Ibrahim*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Question that Prayer (v) as amended, put and agreed to.

Recommendations:

Prayer (i):

Question: That the killings, arson and destructions be condemned in their entirety — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (ii):

Question: That the Senate do hereby request Mr President Commander-in-Chief to immediately restrain the Joint Military Task Force from further action and order their immediate withdrawal from the area — *Negated.*

Prayer (iii):

Question: That the Senate do hereby request Mr. President C-in-C to send conventional security personnel to replace the Joint Military Task Force to maintain law and order in the area; — *Negated.*

Prayer (iv):

Question: That the Senate do request the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the displaced persons and refugees in Odioma Community and its environs — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

- (i) That the killings, arson and destructions be condemned in their entirety.
- (ii) That the Senate do request the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the displaced persons and refugees in Odioma Community and its environs.
- (iii) That the Senate do constitute an Ad-Hoc Committee comprising the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Committees on Defence, National Security and Intelligence and Police Affairs to visit Odioma Community and its environs in the Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa East

Senatorial District of Bayelsa State to assess the situation and investigate the remote and immediate causes of the crisis and report to the Senate within fourteen (14) days (*S.Res.06/05*).

6. Freedom of Information Bill 2005 (HB.6) — Second Reading (Adjourned Debate) (Thursday, 17th February, 2005):

Resume Debate:

Question that the Bill be read the Second Time put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Information to report within three weeks.

7. Nigeria Anti-Trust (Enforcement, Miscellaneous Provision) Bill 2005 — Second Reading.

Consideration deferred till next legislative day.

8. Closed Session:

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

Question put and agreed to.

Closed Session — **12. 50 p.m.**

Open Session — **2. 35 p.m.**

9. Adjournment:

And it being 2.35 p.m. the President adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 23rd February, 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 2.35 p.m.

Adolf Wabara
President of the Senate