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**Thursday
26th February, 2009**

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES

FOURTH REPUBLIC

THIRD ASSEMBLY (SIXTH SENATE)

SECOND SESSION

THE SENATE OFFICIAL REPORT

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**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Thursday, 26th February, 2009

The Senate met at 10.35 a.m.

PRAYER

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, we have the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 25th February, 2009 for approval. Pages 501, 502.

Senator Isiaka A. Adeleke (Osun West): Mr. President, on page 502, the last paragraph should read: *That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of departed 7 members ...* and not *a minute in silence ...*

The President: The usual thing is *a minute silence* but *a minute in-silence* is also correct English. It is just that this is a bit unusual. This is not the usual style but grammatically there is nothing wrong with it. Change it to the normal one; *observe a minute silence*. Page: 503.

Senator Eme Ufot Ekaette (Akwa Ibom South): Mr. President, I wish to move that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 25th February, 2009 be approved as amended.

Senator Patricia N. Akwashiki (Nasarawa North): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 25th February, 2009 be approved as amended.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 25th February, 2009 be approved as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENT

**Visit of Members of Public Administration
Students' Association of Nigeria Federal
Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri
And Staff and Students of Living Spring
International College, Gwarinpa, Abuja**

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The President: I wish to acknowledge the presence of Members of Public Administration Students' Association of Nigeria, Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri, Imo State and Staff and Students of Living Spring International College, Gwarinpa, Abuja.

They are in the Gallery to observe Senate proceedings. We wish them fruitful observation of our proceedings. *(The visitors stood for recognition)* Good morning and thank you.

Senator Kabiru I. Gaya (Kano South): Mr. President, I have a Point of Order.

The President: Point of Order, distinguished Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya.

Senator Kabiru I. Gaya: Mr. President, Order 42 is on the Matter of Urgent Public Importance and with your permission I read:

The matter for discussion shall, if possible be referred to the President of the Senate before commencement of the days sitting and the President of the Senate shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite and urgent.

I explained this morning to Mr. President of an intended Motion to be discussed concerning the issue of the death of Shehu of Borno. Our Leader Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan; Senator Kake Mallam Yale and Senator Omar Hambagda come from that area. They had gone to Borno and back. But they are not in the Chamber now, and so I will like to move the Motion that this issue be discussed.

The President: That is not the end of the Order. What of Order 42(2)? Could you read it?

Senator Kabiru Ibrahim: Order 42(2) says: *If the claim is allowed by the President of the Senate and the leave of the Senate is given by at least one-fifth of all the Senators, the matter shall stand over till the next legislative day.*

Order 52 also says: *Notice shall not be dispensed with in the case of a Motion or in respect of any proceeding for which notice is required except with the consent of the President of the Senate and the general assent of the Senate present.*

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The President: Minority Deputy Whip discussed the matter with me and we are all aware that we lost a very revered and senior tradition ruler a while ago and the matter has not been raised. I have no objection at all. I am favourably disposed but as required by Order 42(2), I will just put the Question if it is the wish of the Senate that the matter be discussed?

Question put and agreed to.

The problem is whether we can discuss it now because the people to raise the Motion are not here. It will be all right for us to take it on Tuesday by which date we would do justice to it. If we do it now it might be haphazardly done, so we need a proper Motion so that it would be properly discussed and we pay him the appropriate request.

Is that all right by you, Senator Kabiru Ibrahim?

Senator Kabiru Ibrahim: Mr. President, I will go with the wish of the Chair and the Senate.

The President: We stand it over to the next legislative date.

Senator Dahiru A. Kuta (Niger East): By Tuesday, another Emir would have been sworn in.

The President: If we do it on Tuesday, it would give us the opportunity to also congratulate the new Emir who would come in. The important point is that I do not want us to rush it because first of all, the written Motion is not here now and we do not have all the details like when he ascended to the throne and all that. So, we stand it over till Tuesday.

By leave of Senate, matter stood down till Tuesday, 3rd March, 2009.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Re-committal of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 (Amendment) Bill 2009

Senator Teslim K. Folarin (Oyo Central): Mr. President, the first Order of the Day is a Motion standing in my name on the Re-committal

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of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

You will recall that the Public Procurement Act, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2009 was passed by this Senate on Thursday, 15th January 2009. A lot of experts have pointed out various inadequacies of the passed Bill and long term consequences inherent in its implementation resulting in the need for its re-committal to enable the Senate review the Bill and remove the observed inadequacies.

With your very kind permission I wish to move the Motion.

The President: You can move your Motion because it has already been circulated.

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: The Senate recalls that by a Resolution of the Senate, the Public Procurement Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2009 was read the Third Time on Thursday, 15th January, 2009;

Observes that there is the need for the Senate to further examine the Bill;

Notes that by Order 87(c) of the Standing Orders of the Senate, it would be out of order for a Conference Committee to insert in its Report any matter not committed to it by either the Senate or the House of Representatives;

Desirous of incorporating further Amendments in the Bill; and

Relying on Orders 53(6) and 86(2) of the Standing Orders of the Senate.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) **Rescind** the Resolution of 15th January, 2009 that the Bill be read the Third Time; and
- (ii) **Re-commit** the Bill to the Committee of the Whole for further legislative action.

I so move.

Senator Kabiru I. Gaya: Mr. President, I second the Motion ably moved by the Senate Leader for the re-committal of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

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The President: I am not really sure that what the two of you have done now is the correct thing. What we need to do is just to take the Prayers here because we have not seen the Amendment that is required and we cannot debate anything.

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, the debate is not meant for today; we would schedule that for another day.

The President: That is what I mean. He did not need to second the Motion. Once you have raised it, we then go to the Prayers of the Motion. He does not need to second it. Once we accept the Prayers, particularly the second Prayer, then next week when the Amendments are brought we then debate the Amendments.

Senator Ayogu Eze (Enugu North): Mr. President, I have an observation.

The President: You may proceed with your observation.

Senator Ayogu Eze: The point your Excellency is making is that it does not need to be seconded by the Minority Leader as required in ordinary Motion but the Motion has to be seconded all the same for us to go into the Prayers. I believe that it still requires to be seconded.

The President: This is a Motion which we already have. All I need to do is to invite him to read the Motion which he has done and then we make comments on the Motion. If there are no comments, we go to the Prayers.

Senator Mahmud K. Bello (Katsina North): Mr. President, I want to draw the attention of the Senate to Order 86(6)(c) I do not think that what we are doing now is necessary. With your permission, I will read the Order which says:

When a bill passed by the Senate and sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence is sent back to the Senate with House of Representatives' Amendments, the Senate shall resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole Senate, which shall proceed to determine if the House of Representatives Amendments are acceptable.

What is happening now is that there are some Amendments on the Bill, so all we need do to do is

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for the Leader to put it on the Order Paper and we discuss it in the Committee of the Whole. That is my understanding of this Order.

The President: Do you say Order 86(6) (c)?

Senator Kanti Bello: Yes, Sir.

The President: The difference is that this Bill has been committed to a Conference Committee.

Senator Ike Ekeremadu (Enugu West): Your Excellency, what happened was that this distinguished Senate passed the Bill and the House of Representatives passed it as well. In furtherance of our Rules, in the Plenary and not in the Committee of the Whole, the Senate President sent up a Conference Committee to meet with our counterparts in the House of Representatives to resolve areas of difference. In that Conference, they discovered that the Amendments made to the Bill in both Senate and House of Representatives are not far reaching enough, they are now seeking for an opportunity to have a look at the whole Bill and come up with comprehensive Amendment.

My suggestion is that the proper thing to do is to rescind the decision reached in the Plenary and then re-commit the Bill to the Committee for further legislative action. That decision was taken in the Plenary and not in the Committee of the Whole. What we did was to set up a Conference Committee in the Plenary and not in the Committee of the Whole. We were sitting like we are doing now when you announced the membership of that Committee.

Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke (Osun West): Point of Order, Mr. President!

The President: This is not exactly a Point of Order but an observation which we need to clarify. Senator Adeleke, I will come to your Point of Order in a moment.

The first Prayer here is correct that we rescind that decision taken in the Plenary. The Amendment is now going to be discussed and then communicated to the Committee again. We are going to make our own Amendment and the House of Representatives will also make their own Amendment. Once we have made the amendment, we will then read the Bill the Third Time and pass it and the House of Representatives would equally

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read it the Third Time and pass it. After that we go to Conference. If it does not require any conference then it goes for concurrence. That is the correct procedure.

Senator Adeleke your Point of Order?

Senator Isiaka A. Adeleke: Mr. President, I am coming under Order 49.

The President: You can read.

Senator Isiaka A. Adeleke: My Point of Order is under Order 49 on Seconding Motions and Amendments. It says: *The question on any motion or amendment shall not be proposed from the chair in the Senate unless it shall have been seconded, but in Committee, a seconder shall not be required.*

We are talking about whether the Motion should be seconded or not and this Order takes care of that.

The President: I did not propose the Question. (*Interruptions*) The Order you have referred is not relevant in this instance because I did not propose the Question. I rule you out of Order. Let us go to the Prayers, please.

Prayer 1 says: *Rescind the Resolution of 15th January, 2009 that the Bill be read the Third Time.*

Question put and agreed to.

The President: Prayer (ii) at this point is not necessary because we do not have to recommit the Bill to Committee of the Whole for further legislative action. Having rescinded our decision we will now come back and do the necessary Amendment.

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, I concur to the Deputy Senate President's suggestion that we send it to the Committee because we do not know what the grey areas are. If it goes to the Committee, the Committee will then do its work and bring it back to us for our consideration.

The President: If that is the correct thing, then Prayer (ii) has to be amended. So what is the new Prayer (ii) now?

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Senator Teslim K. Folarin: The new Prayer (ii) should be to recommit the Bill to the Committee for further legislative action.

The President: I will now put the Question on Prayer (ii) as amended.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate accordingly resolved to:

- (i) Rescind the Resolution of 15th January, 2009 that the Bill be read the Third Time.
- (ii) Re-commit the Bill to the Committee for further legislative action.

Confirmation of Nomination

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, the second Order of the Day is a Motion requesting this Senate to consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the nomination of Mr. Nimiteinbofa Dambo (Bayelsa State) as a member of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) in accordance with Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The purpose of this Motion on the Order Paper is for the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief to be referred to the relevant Committee for further legislative action.

I, therefore, move that this Senate do now consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the nomination of Mr. Nimiteinbofa Dambo (Bayelsa State) as a member of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) in accordance with Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Senator Kabiru I. Gaya: Mr. President, I second the Motion moved by the Leader that the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the nomination of Mr. Nimiteinbofa Dambo (Bayelsa State) as a member of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) in accordance with Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the nomination of Mr. Nimiteinbofa Dambo (Bayelsa State) as a member of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) in accordance with Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Request referred to the Committee on National Planning to report to the Senate in seven days.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Institute of Registered Safety Professionals Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Registered Safety Professionals of Nigeria (IRSPON)

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, the third Order of the Day is the Second Reading of the Institute of Registered Safety Professionals Bill, 2009. You will recall that debate on the general principles of this Bill and other similar Bills commenced yesterday 25th February, 2009 and the Senate resolved in accordance with Order 90 of our Standing Orders that without further debate this Bill may be read the Second Time and referred to the relevant Committee.

I, therefore, move that this Bill be now read the Second Time and be referred to the relevant Committee.

Senator Kabiru I. Gaya: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion moved by the Leader that the Institute of Registered Safety Professionals Bill, 2009 be read the Second Time.

Order for Second Reading.

The President: Senator T. U. Wada, you went through this yesterday. What we need to do today is to take the comments unless you want to go through it again but if there are areas you want to emphasise you can do so, thereafter, we can take the comments.

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Senator Tawar Umbi Wada (Gombe South): Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to request that this Bill be read the Second Time.

I most humbly want to adapt the lead debate I presented yesterday in its entirety. In addition, I have before this distinguished Senate a compendium of financial implication for a Bill for an Act to establish the Institute of Registered Safety Professionals in Nigeria. With your kind permission, I will read the financial implications.

The financial implications of this Bill as it relates to the commitment from the Federal Government are as follows:

- i. Section 2(1)(c) of the Act provides for the appointment of representatives on the Board of the institution. Representatives from ministries should be paid such traveling and other related allowances to enable them attend meetings of the Board. The sum of ₦50 million is estimated to cover that aspect.
- ii. Section 3(1)(2)(a) and (d) provides for the annual and research grants to the Institution. The sum of ₦100 million is estimated to be for the annual grants and the sum of ₦100 million for the research grant to the Institution.
- iii. The amounts mentioned above and other fees to be realised by the Institution shall be utilised in accordance with the Act for the functions of the Institution.

With this addition, I wish to call upon this most hallowed Chamber to read this Bill the Second Time; in the alternative to refer it to the relevant Committee alongside the others that are considered on the same line.

Senator Nuhu Aliyu (Niger North): Mr. President, yesterday when the debate was going on, I had wanted to share some experiences I had while in the service of the Nigeria Police when attending seminars in Canada and some other parts of the world.

Yesterday all my Colleagues spoke in favour of the Bill and I am also speaking in the same vein, the reason simply being the importance of the three Bills. They are all talking about safety and the protection of the environment.

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I was in Canada at one time attending a seminar on crime and a gentleman from Germany rose and asked the Japanese representative at the Seminar that in spite of the fact that Japan is one of the most developed countries of the world economically, yet Japan was one of the least crime countries with little or no trade dispute whatsoever. The man from Japan in his contribution said the reason for the reduced crime rate in his country was that the environment, at that time, was very conducive for working. There was a kind of family relationship among every employee of Japanese companies. The environment was such that people could easily be noticed. Somebody, for instance, may watch Mr. 'S' and notice that he has some problems from home. On that note, the person may approach him to find out what the problem is. Indeed, he would find out that the employee has a family problem which is disturbing him.

If such a friendly working environment could be created as stated in the Bills, and we have continued power generation in Nigeria, certainly, there would be development and progress. When the Bills are combined, we will achieve the purpose.

The President: Those who contributed yesterday would have no need to contribute today because we are considering the same Bill. If you contributed yesterday, you will just be saying the same thing today.

Senator Isiaka A. Adeleke: Mr. President, I will only comment on the compendium. If one looks at the Office of the Registrar, it seems to me that he is going to be the Chief Executive of this Institute and no provision is made in the compendium for the remuneration of the Registrar.

Senator James Ebiowou Manager (Delta South): Mr. President, just like Senator Nuhu Aliyu, I had no opportunity of contributing to this all-important Bill yesterday and thank God, the opportunity has come.

Having listened to all the people that spoke yesterday, I want to say that I adopt all their submissions because I will be speaking along the same line in support of these three Bills in one. This is what is called telepathy when what I am thinking is what you are thinking also. There is a coincidence on the positive side when three

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distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria thinking along the same line and they reduced their thoughts to what we now call the Bill. That shows that this Senate is people-friendly. In the Senate, we are unofficially comrades because we are talking about safety standards in companies, factories, and working places generally. That is to say that we care for the less privileged. We care for those who are not Senators and those who are workers generally. Maintaining safety standards is very important.

As was said by almost all the speakers yesterday that in the society we live, all fingers are not equal. There are some people who do certain jobs and some people who do others, therefore, what is important is for us to come up with a Bill of this nature to safe guard the working places of workers generally. Therefore, I support the Bill. As I said so many spoke on this Bill yesterday and I adopt all their submissions.

Senator Osita Izunaso (Imo West): Mr. President, I am very happy to be the last speak on this very important Bill. My interest in this Bill is not because Senators are proposing it but because it has attracted the attention of both Executive and Legislative arms of government. Senator Wada Bill has a very long history of legislative antecedent beginning from 1999 when it first came as an Executive Bill. In 2003 it came as a Private Member's Bill and in 2009 it is coming up again as a Member's Bill.

If you look at the Bill from the Senate Leader, it is an Executive Bill and the Bill from Senator Chris Anyawu is a Member's Bill; all these Bills are taking about the same thing. Therefore, you can see that my interest is that this is a Bill that is so important in the sense that the Executive and the National Assembly want the Bill. If we talk about safety, it is not negotiable in any form, be it at the workplaces, at home or other places. If you enter an aircraft, the very first thing they would greet you with would be the safety procedures in the aircraft. If you enter any serious factory or industry, before the business of the day as a visitor coming into that place, they would guide you with all their safety practices. Safety is paramount; it is not negotiable and we must take it very seriously.

However, talking specifically about Senator Wada's Bill I observed that it intends to prevent not only industrial accident, but also to promote

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occupational health and welfare of the professionals. That is one clear aspect of the Bill that distinguishes it from the others. Apart from preventing industrial accident, it also talks about the welfare of the professionals who work in such places. The Bill will also enable us have a proper blue print or a road map on all safety issues regarding the workplace in our country.

I believe that this Bill will also enthrone professionalism and remove quackery in the sense that the Bill intends to have an avenue for safety professionals to come together under one umbrella. The idea would be to prevent non-safety professional talking about safety if this Bill is eventually passed into law.

The legal and operational framework of this Bill is also feasible. The Bill is not complicated. It has itemised how the legal and the operational framework can be brought together to work *in tandem* with what should be the professional standards of such places in terms of safety and other matters.

Finally, on the issue of building code, we have been confronted in this country with issue of collapsed houses. People build houses without embellishing them with the building code. Only recently, the Federal Government of Nigeria came up with a building code which everybody must conform with be you a contractor, an architect, a builder or a civil engineer. Therefore, by the time we fish with this Bill on Safety Professionals, it would be clear that everybody involved with safety at the workplace must conform to what the Law stipulates and this will reduce accidents in workplaces; promote professionalism and enrich safety standards.

With these few remarks, I want to give my support that we pass this Bill for a Second Reading by joining it with other Bills that were passed yesterday.

Senator Omar A. Hambagda (Borno South):
Mr. President, I have an observation.

The President: Observation, Senator Hambagda?

Senator Omar A. Hambagda: Mr. President; yesterday we opined that the three Bills are

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addressing similar subject matter and that there was need for consolidation.

My observation is that there are really three different subjects. The Safety Professional which is being considered today is talking about the people to be trained as professionals in a professional institute. The people who will conduct themselves as professionals inside factories and supervising jobs are the people to be trained by the Institute.

The Factories Act specifies the safety standards that every factory should have and it is completely different from the people who will be doing the safety supervision. The Council is talking about a larger body. Perhaps, the Committee would take a decision on how to combine the two. But I think that the Factories Act subject matter is slightly different. This is my observation.

The President: Senator T. U. Wada, Senator Isiaka raised a point and I think you should let the Committee have your input on that one.

Basically, as we all observed yesterday the three Bills are very similar and they are close. When they go to the Committee, the Committee should be able to marry the three Bills and come out with one comprehensive Bill that would look after the issues raised by Senator Hambagda and other issues. I do not think that one can stand on its own. Training should be part of this combined Bill.

I will now put the Question that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Health, Labour and Productivity and Industries and to report within four weeks.

National Fisheries Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2009

A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Fisheries Commission to Among Other Things Provide Sustainable Management of Nigeria's Fisheries Resources and Coordinate Series of Programmes

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for the Development of Fisheries Potentials of Nigerians, 2009.

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, the fourth Order of the Day is the Second Reading of the National Fisheries Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2009. The Bill was read the First Time in this hallowed Chamber on Thursday, 7th February, 2008.

You may now wish to invite Senator Umar Argungu to move a Motion for the Bill to be read a Second Time.

Senator Umar Abubakar Argungu (Kebbi North): Mr. President; I wish to seek the leave of the Senate to lead the debate on the Bill for an Act to Establish National Fisheries Commission, 2008.

The President: Do so and start with the lead debate.

Order for Second Reading

Senator Umar Argungu: Available statistics have estimated the total surface area of freshwater bodies in Nigeria at almost 15 (fifteen) million hectares. This includes rivers, flood plains, wetlands and lakes (natural and artificial). Even with the availability of these, there is a huge supply/demand gap for fish and fishery products in Nigeria which stands at 450,000 (four hundred and fifty thousand) tons of supply against 1.3 million tons of demand. This is in spite of its significance in the local diet and its favourable price compared to its substitutes. The total supply of fishery from all sources – artisanal, coastal, salty water, inland waters, aquaculture, industrial coastal and imports is therefore consumed locally, with the exception of very little high quality shrimps graded for export.

With this country's natural endowment of more than 923 kilometres of coastline, several rivers and tributaries, Nigeria had no business importing fish in the quantum that it is presently doing. This is because, for the entire artisanal, coastal and inland sectors, fishing is the major source of livelihood. A total of 500,000 (five hundred thousand) coastal at 1.2 million inland fishers are recorded as primary producers. For such a well-integrated industry, total employment could well be in millions. The fisheries industrial sector provides employment for millions of

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Nigerians in various fields, such as management, engineering, vessel operation, distribution and marketing.

However, recent statistics show that with Nigeria's population of about 140 (one hundred and forty) million, we are the largest consumers of fish in Africa with a total consumption rate of 1.3 million tons, while the total net fish production has unfortunately stagnated at 450,000 (four hundred and fifty thousand) tons due to years of wild fish stock depletion through over-fishing and poor fisheries management.

This is to say that while the catch per unit efforts by our local fishermen has dwindled, recent fisheries importation bills have heightened to over N50 billion (Fifty billion naira) per year, thereby leading to local loss of jobs in industrial and artisanal fisheries.

From these we can now see why this Bill to transform the Fisheries Department into the National Fisheries Commission becomes imperative. It is the general perception that ecological aspects of river fisheries have received comparatively little attention in Nigeria, even with the recent efforts of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources in nurturing aquaculture in the country, which has raised aquaculture fish yield from 35,000 (Thirty five thousand) metric tons to 85,000 (Eighty five thousand metric tons in the last one year.

In order to boost this effort, a review of the status of Fisheries Department is absolutely necessary to transform it into a National Commission that will not only regulate fisheries activities in Nigeria, but also develop and promote aquaculture fish production nationwide and encourage research into modern ways of fish production in the country.

The Commission will also partner with relevant government ministries, agencies and other international donor bodies to ensure that the country's potentials in fisheries were fully utilized. To achieve the realisation of the nation's potentials in fisheries, the Commission shall undertake revaluation studies more widely in all regions in order to determine where the role of river fisheries is overlooked or underestimated within the policy process.

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The National Fisheries Commission will explore and exploit more avenues for increased capacity building through in-country training courses in aquaculture and fisheries development, especially now that it is widely recognised that aquaculture is shifting emphasis towards more effective ecosystem management of marine fisheries and aquaculture, which are essential to achieving long-term fisheries development.

Historically, public strategies for fisheries management relied on centralised public-funded fisheries administrations for implementation. The National Fisheries Commission would, therefore, assume a range of different functions including private sector participation, formulation and enforcement of regulations, undertaking scientific research which will boost the levels of fish harvest, as well as evolve innovative strategies which will encourage greater participation by stakeholders.

There are overwhelming benefits in setting-up a National Fisheries Commission some of which include the introduction of sustainable aquaculture for poverty alleviation; a strategy for improving rural livelihood through aquaculture and aquatic resources management in Nigeria. Such a strategy has earned great success in turning round the fortunes of the rural fishermen in many countries, particularly in Asia-Pacific nations such as Australia, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, India, Iran, Cambodia, Philippines, Sri-Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam to mention a few.

The National Fisheries Commission will identify strategies for more effective application of aquaculture and aquatic resources management in poverty alleviation for improving rural livelihood. It shall prepare an action plan to follow-on with the following objectives:

1. Enhancing capacities of poor people in rural areas to improve livelihood through awareness raising and improved aquatic resources management and aquaculture.
2. Strengthening the capabilities of institutions, particularly local institutions to understand and support the objectives of poor people in inland and coastal communities who depend on or could benefit from aquaculture and related aquatic resources management.

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3. Sharing environmentally sound, low-risk, low-cost aquaculture technologies and aquatic resources management practices.
4. Developing national policy based on lessons and experience from local pilots and through effective information exchange and improving inter-sectoral collaboration on strategies for addressing poverty through improved aquatic resources management and aquaculture development.
5. Pursue links with national and regional institutions and donor agencies with responsibilities for poverty alleviation and sustainable rural development.

The sustainable aquaculture for poverty alleviation strategy will form a part of the on-going National Poverty Eradication Programme. The strategy recognises the need for awareness raising and better communication of the role of aquaculture and aquatic resources management in sustaining poor people's livelihood in Nigeria with the following benefits –

- Improved understanding of participatory approach;
- Improved institutional capacity and poverty focus;
- To recognise and address the gap between farmers/fishers needs and the services offered by extension institutions;
- To appreciate the wide range of stakeholders involved in aquatic resources management and address issues of access to markets and financial services by the rural poor.

Another benefit of this scheme is the establishment of small-scale rural aquaculture community fishery centers. This programme, too, has had a significant impact on a number of countries in reducing the level of poverty and creating awareness in the artisanal fishing communities, as well as ensuring the inclusion of the artisanal fisheries sector into the poverty alleviation strategy processes.

In the medium and long term, its achievement will be highly significant in focusing attention and channeling additional development funds to

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artisanal fishing communities in Nigeria. It will offer new perspectives on social, technical, institutional and policy interventions in the relatively complex areas of natural resources linked poverty alleviation.

From the foregoing, we can see that the proposed Bill for the setting-up of a National Fisheries Commission holds a lot of common good in the arduous task of improving the socio-economic livelihood of our people. I, therefore, urge your full support for this Bill to enable it get prompt passage by the Senate.

I thank you for your attention.

Senator Mujitaba Mohammed (Jigawa South-West): Mr. President, I want to begin by expressing my total support to the Bill just presented by Senator Tafidan Argungu. I also commend him for the well researched lead debate.

When we consider the fact that about N50 billion is spent annually on the importation of fisheries into the country, we can see the dire need and the importance of this Bill. Moreover, fisheries provide important source of food and also foreign exchange earnings to countries across the globe.

The Bill seeks to extend the powers and the scope of the National Fisheries Department to make it more effective and efficient. The success story of fisheries being made a source of foreign exchange earning across the globe is evident and very clear for all to see. I, therefore, feel that Nigeria as a nation should join the league of those nations that are in the fore-front of exploring and exploiting their fisheries resources.

When we consider the current situation that Nigeria solely depends on one single commodity as our main source of foreign exchange, there is actually the need to diversify our economy so that we can equally diversify our source of foreign exchange earning. It is in view of these benefits that I wholeheartedly support this Bill and urge my distinguished Colleagues to also give it the necessary consideration.

Senator Nicholas Y. Ugbane (Kogi East): Mr. President, there was this story of robbers that invaded a rich man's house who had a very large aquarium and after robbing him of his possession

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he went to the aquarium and got off the fish there, fried everything and had a good meal. This underscores the protein deficiency in our diet as far as fish is concerned.

In this country, we do not have any fish restaurant but when we travel out of this country we ask for fish restaurant. We have numerous rivers and basins that can be developed to create abundant fish for our people. Apart from the cost implication, it is cheaper and easier for our people to have access to fish which is very important and not just being important, it is proteinous, and would help them meet their protein deficiency. Fish is less harmful than other forms of food like cow meat and so on.

As we age in life and this is very important for retirees and those of us that are aging, to look at fish again. Doctors and dieticians have proved that fish diet is more beneficial and it is recommended for those who are in their old age. That is why we need a Commission like this to help and boost fish production in this country. In my state and Benue State, for instance, you have River Niger which contains a lot of fish. But it needs to be harnessed so as to meet the daily needs of our people.

I support this Bill in its entirety and I urge the distinguished Senators especially those that are lucky to have rivers in their places and those who do not even have rivers to create fish ponds so that we can make fish available. If we have a lot of fish when your Constituents come to you, if you cannot give them money, you can give them fish and they would be able to eat fish. I think this is very good and the Bill is timely. We should all support it because it is a way of reducing poverty as has been highlighted.

The President: Your recommendations are far-reaching.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu: Your Excellency, let me start by commending my friend, Senator Tafidan Argungu for the very far-reaching research he did and the able presentation of the Bill. However, with due respect, I would want to make some observations.

We are in the middle of a major economic recession. Not only Nigeria but the rest of the world is trying to reduce the cost of governance. I believe we are having too many Commissions in

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this country especially where we have units and divisions in our various ministries dealing with certain matters. I believe it will be mere surplusage to have Commission set up for individual items more so that our ministries deal with these issues.

I am aware that we have a Fishery Division in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and it will be increasing the cost of governance to set up a Commission to specifically deal with an item such as fishery. If we do this now and tomorrow some other person or persons come up with a Bill to deal with, for instance, meat, goat or something like grass cutter and all that, certainly it will never end. What we need to do is to impress upon our Minister of Agriculture to take fishery and fishing seriously.

Secondly, if you look at Section 4(2) and (4) of our Constitution, it limits our legislative powers to those items contained in the Exclusive Legislative List and the ones contained in the Concurrent Legislative List to the extent set out in some parts of that list. Fishing and fishery is Item 29 of the Exclusive Legislative List but it has its own limitations; it has to do with fishing and fisheries concerning the sea. If you remove all that is remaining there will be nothing left in this Bill. After what was set out in the Executive Legislative List with respect to fishery, nothing again was mentioned in the Concurrent List regarding fishery. The implication, therefore, is that those are within the realm of the Residual List for which we do not have powers to legislate.

So, I strongly recommend to my distinguished Colleagues that all we need to do is to strengthen our ministries and impress upon them to take fishing and fisheries seriously. This will capture the essence of this Bill instead of increasing the cost of governance at a time even when our salaries are being reduced. So, I want my distinguished Colleague who is the sponsor of this Bill to have a rethink and let us find a way of reducing the cost of governance.

Senator Nuhu Aliyu: Mr. President, I commend the mover of this Bill for bringing this issue to the Floor of the Senate. At the same time, one has to take into consideration the comments as put forward by the Deputy Senate President.

There is no doubt that this country is endowed in so many ways; we have a lot of people that are

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out of work; they have nothing doing yet we have abundant rivers and ponds that are lying waste.

I am aware that Mr. Senate President is grass cutter farmer. I own a fish pond and I know how easy and simple it is to raise fish especially if one has a poultry because the remains of poultry can be used to feed the fish and you have nothing more to add other than the droppings of the chickens; it is good. In no time, only a period of six months, you have a large quantity of fish, which is in high demand throughout Nigeria yet we have Nigerians that are not employed.

I think there is something wrong somewhere. The Fishery Department has to be up and doing to bring to the knowledge of Nigerians this important wealth that is so abundant in Nigeria which nobody is tapping. I know there are quite a number of Nigerians who have ponds at their backyards within their compounds and they use it to supplement whatever they have.

Taking into consideration what the Deputy Senate President said about proliferation of Commissions and its financial implication to the country, we can, nevertheless, still make Nigerians rich by informing them about what is available and what they can do.

The President: This is a very good contribution because you left yourself midway. You neither support nor against the establishment of a Commission. That is good enough.

Senator Anthony George Manzo (Taraba North): Mr. President, I want to support this Bill ably moved by Senator Umar Abubakar Tafidan Argungu (OON) and to say that the Bill could not have come at a better time. There is no doubt that we need to diversify the economic base of this country and one of the ways we are going to do it is through setting up institutions like this that will encourage fishing.

Many countries in this world make money from fishery especially those countries in the Scandinavian area; all they do is export fish. If this Commission is administered properly it will encourage our people to set up fish ponds, improve their technology and knowledge and in the process we would be able to stem rural to urban migration. This is because if people can do fish farming in the

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rural areas, they can settle down and make some money in the process.

We have an example because in my state Taraba, the Government has already started this process of setting up fish centres in all the local government areas and we are beginning to see some benefits. As Senator Nuhu Aliyu said, it is very easy to raise fish and we all know that fish is a better source of protein than meat. I will advise those of us that are getting older to eat less of meat but more of fish because fish is very good.

The President: What age do you consider old?

Senator Anthony G. Manzo: Mr. President, this Senate is made up of old men and women because the Hausa name of Senate is *majalisa datapei* and *datapei* in Hausa means an elderly gentleman. So, everybody including Senator Nazif is an old man in this Senate.

For instance, in Israel and other countries of the world, a lot of money is made from fishing and it is a big business. We can see many foreigners settling in this country and setting up fish farms mainly for domestic consumption.

This Bill, if passed into law, is going to serve two purposes. One, it will improve the level of nutrition of our people in this country especially protein malnutrition. Two, we would be able to make money from fish farming. Some poor people, farmers and our brothers and sisters in the village can make dollars and as the price of crude oil is falling we would be able to make something out of fish farming.

Finally, about setting up of a Commission, without doubt, we need to reduce the cost of governance especially as our economy is getting worse, yet I think this Bill should be passed. I have already seen the cost implication which can be reduced dramatically. Where it makes provision for seven directors, perhaps, it can be reduced to two.

Once this Commission is set up, it would attract aids and grants from agencies like the European Union and even the United Nations. This is the way forward and I want us to support this Bill. The only caveat I will give Senator Argungu is that he should ensure that it does not bring dead

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fish as they apparently did in the last Argungu Fishing Festival.

Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe (Abia South): Mr. President, I was taken aback when a man from the North talks about fish until I realised that Argungu symbolises fish because of the festival there. He is right to talk about fish and Fisheries Commission.

No doubt, most of the statistics we have in this lead debate is correct. The gap between demand and supply for fish in Nigeria is very well known. We know that Nigeria spends a lot of money importing fish and so necessarily, there is need to improve on our local production in order to reduce the amount of scarce foreign exchange earnings that we spend on importation.

However, the heart of the matter here is not the consumption of fish nor its usage within Nigeria nor how good it is for us nutritionally but the setting up of a Commission in order to improve the production of fish and fisheries products in Nigeria. That is why I find it very difficult to support this Bill.

There is already a Fisheries Department in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. The real thing we should look at is why we still have this gap despite the fact that there is a unit that is supposed to deal with this matter. Is it because the Fisheries Department has not been transformed into a full-blown Commission or that of the general malaise and inefficiencies of Nigeria's Public Service is the matter? If we set up a Commission, will it guarantee efficiency much more than the Fisheries Department we already have.

I have looked at the compendium and it is talking of half a billion naira per annum. Will spending half a billion naira per annum most of which will go into infrastructures, cars, buses, salaries, improve the production of fish in Nigeria? That is the question we need to ask ourselves.

While I agree with my Friend and Colleague Senator Argungu that there is need to reduce this gap, this Senate should take a good look at what exactly is the real problem. Does the problem come from setting up further administrative bureaucracy or from our spending pattern? Alternatively, what exactly, is going wrong within the Ministry of Agriculture?

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Senator Emmanuel Paulker (Bayelsa Central): Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill especially when you view it from the perspective that I am coming from a zone that is traversed by rivers, creeks, lakes and every other thing that has to do with fishing industry in this country. Indeed, the people I represent depend on fishing for their sustenance prior to the advent of oil.

You will agree with me that after the destruction of the environment through oil exploitation and exploration, fishing remains the mainstay of the economy of the Niger Delta States, specifically Bayelsa State. I believe that with the introduction of scientific approach to reviving this good industry, a greater part of the people would be employed. Those good old days' ethics that permit us as small children to go to the ponds and harvest fish will again come to the main stream.

I equally share the view expressed by some Colleagues of the existence of the Institute of Oceanography that deals with this particular subject. My advice is that there should be some coordination in the event of this Bill being passed. When you look at the open waters in the ocean, for example, the Atlantic in Brass, you will see some foreign nationals coming to fish in our waterways. That goes beyond the act of fishing. I am talking about security in our waterways. There should be security in our waterways in order to access our own areas of waterways to make gains from fishing. As much as I am supporting the Bill, I want some coordination to effect a good arrival in terms of benefits of what this Bill actually intends. It is with these few remarks that I support the Bill.

The President: Most of you are just leaving yourselves midway. He is requesting that we should set up a Commission. The issue is not whether we need fish or not. The main issue is whether or not we should set up a commission. That is the main issue. In your contribution you should make bold to address that issue. There should be no political talk.

Senator John Nanzip Shagaya (Plateau South): Mr. President, in making my comments, let me first identify with those Colleagues who have made the observation as to the potential of the *Department of Fisheries* that is existing in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources. I thought that should have formed the preamble to this Bill and it could have been

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expanded upon because already an infrastructure exists and that Department is now being recommended to be beefed up to a Commission.

I know that the Fisheries Commission would do much more than a department would do as it exists today in the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources for many reasons. From my experiences of the past and if I may borrow from the example of the comments on the billions of Naira that are being used annually to supplement the importation of protein; one would come to note that there is a contradiction between the supervisory responsibility of the Customs in one hand and, of course, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries.

I say so because no one really controls that industry which the Commission would now control. For the last 35 years of our experience, you would find 1, 2, 3 years of a particular administration subsidy on fish is removed; another 4, 5 years subsidy on fish is returned; no one is actually monitoring. Simply put, the Department is not equipped enough to carry out certain very effective roles that I strongly believe that this Commission will carry out.

Secondly, by way of reasons that make me support the establishment of a Commission is that one of our Colleagues here mentioned the fishing activities within our EPZs (Export Processing Zones) in this country. No one is controlling that industry. Those who have licenses to fish shrimp within our territorial waters return the same fish to Nigeria under the name of import and the Federal Government pays dearly for it. Again, the Commission, if properly set up, will check against these ills and there will be a lot of savings to the Federal Government.

If we look at Mr. President's Seven Point Agenda, there is one key one there which is agriculture. If there is any nation in this world that cannot feed itself, it would be unfortunate, Nigeria happens to almost now belong to one of those nations as rich as we are. We have more insatiable love for importing external goods than to be able to feed ourselves. If there is anything that is scaring about China from the American sector is that they have the ability to feed themselves. Fishery happens to be a potential in terms of provision of protein which would make us pride ourselves that we can feed ourselves.

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I listened to comments on establishment of fish ponds and fisheries. Let me also say strongly here that from our policies of dams development in the last 35 years, we have enough dams that can also perform additional roles of not just providing water for drinking, not providing water for irrigation only; but that fishery could be added. The initial investment may be seen to be very high but there is no substitute for a government or a country to feed its own people. It is just like security; the same when we were discussing food security we discussed the ability to feed ourselves.

I happen to be on one of the Ad-hoc Committees of the Senate that was set up by you on Food Crisis and this particular sector of the industry is one area that stands as a very strong point of worry to that Ad-hoc Committee which I believe our Report will come to you in no distant future. So, the setting up of a Commission stands very strongly at saving government investments, wasteful investments and importation of food or establishing the industry for some foreigners to milk or make money out of Nigeria.

I do believe that if this Commission is set up, the contradictions and confusion that exist today between the Department of Fisheries and other agencies that monitor our territorial waters can be brought to check under this very strong Commission that I would see it to be.

I wholly support this Commission to be set up with lots of fine tuning based on the very positive comments that are coming up on the Floor of this Senate. Once again, I support the setting up of this Commission.

Senator Otaru Salihu Ohize (Kogi Central):
Mr. President, I want to start by supporting the Bill as proposed by my distinguished Colleague Senator Argungu. He is bringing this Bill based on experience. He was a former marine man; a director in the Nigerian Ports Authority. He had managed the so-called Fisheries Departments of the Marine and he knew how they failed as a Department. There were so many jetties of NPA that were designated as Fisheries Jetties. But today you have dead fishing trolleys packed there. The so-called Institute of Oceanography is non-existent. It is just there by name because they do not do anything. They do not carry out any research on how best to fish. A commission has far reaching mandate than a department because

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people would be given specific assignments. A commission will have freer hand to operate than a department.

There is the European Commission on Fisheries that links all the European nations and they carry out research on where to fish at a particular time of the year and how not to fish on baby-fish. Such a Commission could be set up in Nigeria. A Commission becomes more important when you know that of all sorts of animal protein, fish is the safest. Red meat and chicken meat have been condemned. The only source of protein that is recommended is fish.

The argument that there are so many Commissions in existence does not mean that when a good commission is proposed it must have to be killed. There could be commissions that are not functional but this particular commission has a lot of advantage for Nigeria and Nigerians because it will earn us both foreign exchange and local money. It will provide employment for the youths. The Commission will help to look into the activities of pirates.

We visited Tin Can Island Port last year and we noticed that all the fishing companies at the Port were stranded because they could not fish on Nigerian waters any more because of the invasion of pirates. With a Commission of this nature, they would be able to monitor the activities of pirates and counter them. So, with this few comments, I lend my support to the Bill as proposed by Senator Tafidan Argungu.

Senator Omar Hambagda (Borno South):
Mr. President, I have a lot of sympathy for the sponsor of this Bill giving that the Argungu Fishing Festival is a major activity that is very close to his door. However, I have few questions. We import fish worth \$650 million per annum. The question he has not provided an answer to is; how much fish do we produce locally and what is the consumption rate of Nigeria so that we will know the shortfall?

Secondly, this half a billion we are going to spend on the commission annually, is the savings from what we intend to achieve going to worth more than this half a billion? Will the savings match or exceed the N500 million that we would spend in running the commission?

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Thirdly, Nigeria is a very big country and the consumption of fish differs from one state to the other. Along the coast of Nigeria, fish is a staple food. It is like millet in Borno State or maize in Niger State. If you go to Borno, we have fish. Fish from Lake Chad is the sweetest fish in Nigeria but the difference is that if you are investing in fish ponds it is for commercial purposes. So, you will find that the commission will neither train people in fish production nor invest in fish production itself. A commission is a regulatory agency, therefore, how would it regulate the production of a food item that is farmed for different purposes across the country?

If we are to go by the argument that we want to increase the quantum of protein in Nigeria, we would have National Cattle Commission, National Grasshopper Commission, National Rabbit Commission and all these Commissions will have to be established since by setting up commissions we would achieve the production of protein and other food items. Agriculture is one of the Seven Points Agenda of this Administration, if that is the case, it includes fish and all other animal husbandry that is involved in securing food security for this country.

At the Federal level, we have Fisheries Department and school that train people who are supposed to go out and promote fishery. At state level we have Fisheries Department of the State Ministry of Agriculture and we have agricultural schools and colleges. Almost every state has a College of Agriculture with Fisheries Department. If the training of all these people will not promote production of fish, I do not know how a regulatory body, which a commission necessarily is, would be able to achieve that.

Therefore, it is my submission that we should explore other alternatives in the various levels of government to promote accelerated fish production than contemplating of a regulatory body at the national level to promote, export and re-import our own fish.

Senator Anyim C. Ude (Ebonyi South): Mr. President, the opportunity given to me and a few other Colleagues to serve on the Ad-hoc Committee on Food Crisis exposed us to a number of things including the problem with goat, cow, rabbit and fish production and so on. We got to know that in New Bussa there is an Institute for

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the training of people who participate in fish production. But what came out clean was that but for the private sector like the fish farmers in Bayelsa and around the Lake Chad we would not have had these 450 tons we are talking about today. It also came clean that the Federal Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the under-fishing we have in the country because of under-funding of these institutions.

From this background, I wonder whether another bureaucratic institution called Fisheries Commission will be the answer. To me the better option would be the strengthening of the existing institutions. If we must go for a commission, we should go for Animal and Fish Commission so that all the animals would be put together along with fisheries and the Commission can then deal with them all.

Senator Olusola Akinyede (Ekiti South): Point of Order!

The President: Point of Order, Senator Olusola Akinyede.

Senator Olusola Akinyede: Mr. President, my Point of Order is a constitutional one. In raising it, I will refer to certain provision in the Second Schedule to the Constitution. That is, Item 29 on the Exclusive Legislative List. With the permission of Mr. President, I read: *Fishing and fisheries other than fishing and fisheries in rivers, lakes, waterways, ponds and other inland waters within Nigeria.*

My submission is that we cannot legislate in respect of fishing in rivers, ponds, and inland waters. In fact, we can only legislate in respect of fishing in international waters, that is, the oceans. We cannot legislate in respect of fishing in ponds, lake, rivers any waterways within Nigeria. It is not even in the Concurrent Legislative List which means that even Local Governments can make laws on it. It is a residual matter.

The President: When Senator Abaribe was making his contribution, he raised very cogent issues which we actually need to address and luckily distinguished Senator Omar Hambagda emphasised on some of those issues.

We should be careful in wanting to legislate on matters that can be handled by local

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governments. This case is not legislating on the methods and procedures and everything, it is setting up a regulatory body which will regulate fishing in this country. If you read the main Bill itself and see the functions of the Commission as spelt out in Clause 5 you will see what the Commission is supposed to do. The functions of the Commission are itemised there.

In my candid opinion, the content of the Bill itself and the lead debate have been able to give out a lot of statistics but the statistics are not what the Bill is all about. The Bill is not about the quantum of fish that we consume in the country or what is brought into the country but it is really to establish a body to regulate fishing and fisheries production in the country.

So, the main import of this Bill is the establishment of the body. The question that distinguished Senator Anyim Ude asked is very important. He asked; can we not strengthen the Fisheries Department in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to do what we expect them to do? I am saying this so that the sponsor of the Bill will write down these points so that he can respond if he wants to do so.

The constitutional issue Senator Akinyede raised is also important. If you look at the Bill, the Commission will regulate on fishing in ponds, lakes and rivers. If we are properly organised in this country a lot of the issues have to do with the local government and empowering people at that level. If the states function properly we would not be under the stress and pressure that we are under at the federal level trying to regulate all these things.

I sustain your Point of Order, Senator Akinyede but that does not throw this Bill away yet. It is a correct Point of Order but if you look at Clause 5 of the Bill you will see the things that he has enumerated therein he has not gone into fish ponds and all that. We can get a body to regulate fishery in this country at this level. What that body is empowered to regulate would be only fishing and fisheries in international waters.

Your Point of Order is sustained but that has not removed the discussion on the Bill because the Bill is not exclusively dealing with lakes, rivers and ponds.

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Senator Umar A. T. Argungu (Kebbi North): Point of Order, Mr. President!

The President: Senator Argungu, the Bill is yours and you are raising a Point of Order.

Senator Umar A. T. Argungu: My Point of Order is under Order 89 of our Standing Orders. With your permission, I read:

The Senator in charge of a bill may make a motion without notice for its withdrawal either before the commencement of public business or on the order of the day for any stage of the Bill being read.

I would like to withdraw the Bill at this stage in order that I can improve on it and re-present it at a later date.

The President: Your Point of Order is sustained.

Bill withdrawn by leave of the Senate.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

Report of the Committee on Commerce on the Financial Reporting Council Bill, 2009

Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr. President, the last item on the Order Paper is the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Commerce on the Financial Reporting Council Bill, 2009. The sponsor of the Bill has just informed me that he would need to do one or two things on the Bill, therefore, he is requesting that this Bill be stood down till the next legislative date.

On this basis, I move that this Bill be stood down till the next legislative date.

Senator Omar A. Hambagda: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Bill be stood down till the next legislative day.

Question put and agreed to.

By leave of the Senate, Bill stood down till the next legislative day.

ADJOURNMENT

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Senator Teslim K. Folarin: Mr President, on this note, I move that this Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 3rd March, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

Senator Omar A. Hambagda: Mr. President, I second the Motion ably moved by the Senate Leader that this Senate do stand adjourned till tomorrow Tuesday, 3rd March, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

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Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 3rd March, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 12.30 p.m.