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**Wednesday
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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES

FOURTH REPUBLIC THIRD ASSEMBLY (SIXTH SENATE)

THIRD SESSION

SENATE OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

**Votes and Proceedings
Announcements
Presentation of Public Petition
Personal Explanation
Presentation of Bills
Motion
Announcement
Adjournment**

0381

**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Wednesday, 8th July, 2009

The Senate met at 10.25

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, we have the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 7th July, before us for approval beginning from page 35.

Senator Dahiru Kuta (Niger East): Mr. President, on page 38, Item B in the acknowledgement of the presence of Staff and Students of Bramsh International Academy, Suleija, Niger State. The second word of in that sentence is missing.

The President: Yes, of, is missing before the word Bramsh.

Senator Wilson Asinobi Ake (Rivers West): Mr. President, the second name on the NDDC Board is; *Chibuzor* and not *Chibulor*.

The President: Yes, it is Chibuzor and I think I read it correctly. Let us continue. Page 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 (*Interruptions*)

Senator Dahiru Kuta: Mr. President, on the front page the name of the Senator-Elect that subscribed the Oaths is *Festus* and not *Fetus*.

The President: Do you think he does not know his name?

Senator Kuta: Well, I am complaining for him.

Senator Festus Olabode Ola (Ekiti Central): Mr. President, my name is *Festus* is my correct name.

Senator Dahiru Kuta: On page 41, Recommendation (iii) where it says: *The Senate should direct the NDIC to come up with a plan for immediate payment of NDIC should establish ...* there is something missing in that sentence.

0382

The President: I have seen what you are saying. The sentence is not well rendered. It was written out and what was the problem in copying it? Clerk, take note of page 41, Recommendation (iii).

Senator Andrew A. Babalola (Oyo North): Mr. President, you will recall that yesterday we said that after Recommendation (vi) we agreed to add a new Recommendation (vii) relating the payment of post-consolidation deposits with interest. That is not reflected here.

The President: I remember it was agreed. He raised the point and we agreed on it. The problem was that you just explained through rather than making the recommendation but I remember you actually made a recommendation. But that will not come under page 41. It will come under amendments proposed. So, let us look through amendment proposed.

Senator Felix Kolawole Bajomo (Ogun West): Mr. President, I propose Recommendation (iii) should read as follows: *The Senate should direct NDIC to come up with a plan for immediate payment of deposits. NDIC should establish more payment centres for the pre-consolidation Failed Banks to reduce the inconvenience of pressing claims.* This is because it is in connection with depositors' outstanding claims of the pre-consolidation banks.

The President: That is not what we have in the Report presented. What we have is: *The NDIC should establish more payment centres for the pre-consolidation failed banks to reduce the inconvenience of processing claims.*

Secretariat, delete the current Recommendation (iii) on page 41 and replace it with what we have in the original document which says that: *NDIC should establish more payment centres for the pre-consolidation failed banks to reduce the inconvenience of processing claims.* Correct that please.

Senator Dahiru Kuta: Mr. President, please read Recommendation (vi) on page 41.

The President: What we have originally is: *That the CBN should re-examine the practice under Purchase and Assumption whereby assuming banks are allowed to cherry pick the good assets of failed banks and leave only the government to take responsibility for the bad ones.*

0383

Again, what is recorded the Votes and Proceeding is a complete disaster. Secretariat what is all these? Our Amendments will come on the next page. There is no confusion because what is on page 41 is the recommendation as submitted by the Committee but that is also wrong and that is what we are correcting now. We are on page 44.

Senator Felix Kolawole Bajomo: Page 43, Recommendation (xiv) should read: *The Senate should urge the NDIC and CBN not CRN.*

The President: That is correct.

Senator Andrew Abidemi Babalola: As you said earlier, maybe, I would give the Clerk the Amendment proposed. There was a proposed Amendment made by the House yesterday that we should ask the CBN to direct that post-consolidation payments should include interest payment.

The President: We accepted that yesterday because I remember that after you made the proposal and I put the Question as amended and everybody said yes and it was taken. Is there any more correction on page 43?

On Page 42, I thought we replaced the word; *publish* with the word; *mention*. Was that not the word we used yesterday?

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

The President: I remembered that very vividly that the Committee should mention the names of those involved.

Senator Ibrahim Mohammed Ida (Katsina Central): The problem on Recommendation (iii) on page 41 is repeated on Recommendation (iii) on page 44 as well. The first line should be removed and the sentence starts from; *NDIC should establish more payment centers for the pre-consolidation failed banks to reduce the inconveniences of processing claims.*

The President: That is correct. We are now on Page 45. The annexes are not numbered but they are attached, that is the letter from Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation. Are there any comments on the attached letter?

0384

Senator Caleb Zagi (Kaduna South): Mr. President, I rise to move for the approval of the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 7th July, 2009 as amended.

Senator Peto Dukku (Gombe North): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion moved by Senator Caleb Zagi that the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 7th July, 2009, be approved as amended.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 7th July, 2009 as amended be approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Meeting of the PDP Caucus

The President: There will be a meeting of the PDP Caucus immediately after today's sitting at Senate Hearing Room 1.

Senator Andrew A. Babalola: Mr. President, Point of Order?

The President: Point of Order, distinguished Senator Babalola.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITION

Petition against Non-release of Examination Results

Senator Andrew Babalola: My Point of Order is Order 41 on Petitions. The Order says: *A petition may only be presented to the Senate by a Senator, who shall affix his name at the beginning thereof.* I have a petition from somebody from my Constituency. He is a visually impaired individual.

The synopsis of the petition is about a student in Nigeria who recently finished his WAEC and is complaining about the non-release of his NECO/WAEC and JAMB results which he did in 2007.

0385

I have discussed this petition with the Leader of the Senate and members of the Rules Committee and we found out that the petition is in line with our rules and regulations.

The man is pleading with this Senate to look into the reasons his result and those of his fellow blind people were not released. As a result of this non-release of his result he has been prevented from moving further in his education pursuit.

I ask this Senate to allow me lay this petition for consideration.

The President: Please, lay it on the Table. The petition is referred to the Committee on Petitions and Ethics.

(Petition accordingly laid on the Table and subsequently referred to the Committee on Petitions and Ethics)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Senator James E. Manager (Delta South): Point of Order, Mr. President!

The President: Yes, Senator James Ebiowou Manager, Order what?

Senator James E. Manager: Mr. President, I am coming under Order 43 on Personal Explanation. With your kind permission, I wish to read.

The President: Read please.

Senator James Manager: Order 43 reads:

By the indulgence of the Senate and the leave of the President of the Senate, a Senator may make a Personal Explanation, although there be no question before the Senate; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the Explanation.

The budget estimates for the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was referred to the Committees on Niger Delta and Appropriations on Thursday last week. The referral itself was formalised by way of writing letters to us yesterday. We have started working but it has become obvious that it is

0386

difficult to accomplish the assignment yesterday or this morning to be submitted today. We were mandated to submit the report today.

We are also very conscious of the happenings in the Senate. We are conscious of the number of days that are left before we proceed on annual recess. We are pleading with the Senate to give us up to Wednesday next week for us to submit the Report. That is my personal explanation.

The President: Is it the wish of the Senate that we allow them up to Wednesday to present the Report? But please harmonise it with the House of Representatives so that we do not go for Conferencing Committee thereafter. You have the extension up to Wednesday to present your Report.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

Electric Power Sector Reform Act, (Amendment) Bill, 2009

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin (Oyo Central): Mr. President, the first Order of the day is the presentation of an Executive Bill on the Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill

Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009. - *read the First Time.*

National Thanksgiving Day Bill, 2009

The second business of the day is the presentation of the Bill standing in the name of Senator Smart Adeyemi on the National Thanksgiving Day Bill, 2009.

You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

National Thanksgiving Day Bill, 2009, sponsored by Senator Smart Adeyemi - *read the First Time*

0387

**Federal Arbitration and Conciliation Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2009**

The third business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Senator Umaru Dahiru and four others on the Federal Arbitration and Conciliation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2009.

You can invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

Federal Arbitration and Conciliation Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2009 - *read the First Time*.

**Students Loans Board (Establishment, etc)
Bill, 2009**

The fourth business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Senator Mohammed K. Jibril on the Students Loans Board (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2009.

You may invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bill.

Students Loans Board (Establishment, etc) Bill,
2009 – *read the First time*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Confirmation of Nominations of NDDC Board

Senator Folarin: The first 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 nominations of the following as Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in accordance with Section 2(2) of the Niger Delta Development Commission Act. The names are as follows:

1. **Larry Koinyan** AVM (Rtd) - Bayelsa - Chairman
2. Chibuzor Ugwoha – Managing Director – Rivers – Full Time Member
3. Arc. Esoetok Ikpong ikpong Etteh – Executive Director (Projects) – Akwa Ibom – Full Time Member

0388

4. Pastor Power Aginighan – Executive Director (Finance and Accounts) – Delta – Full Time Member

5. Mr. Aloysius Nwagboso – Abia – Part Time Member

6. Chief (Barr.) Bassey Dan Abia – Akwa Ibom – Part Time Member

7. Mr. Anthony Orubo – Bayelsa – Part Time Member

8. Hon. Ekpo Asuquo Okon – Cross River – Part Time Member

9. Mr. Emmanuel O. Ogidi – Delta – Part Time Member

10. Hon. Jude I. Ise-Idehen – Edo – Part Time Member

11. Akeru Ikechukwu Joseph – Imo – Part Time Member

12. Barr. Benson G. Enikuomehin – Ondo – Part Time Member

13. Engr. Emmanuel I. Georgwill – Rivers – Part Time Member

14. Dr. Rabi Musa Kwankwaso – Representative of Non-Oil Mineral Producing States (N/W) – Part Time Member

15. Maj. Gen. Tunde Ogbeha (Rtd) – Representative of Non-Oil Mineral Producing States (N/C) – Part Time Member

16. Alhaji Asheikh Jarma – Representative of Non-Oil Mineral Producing States (N/E) – Part Time Member

17. Dr. Daru Owei – Representative of Oil Producing Companies in the Niger Delta – Part Time Member

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 Committees 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 nominations of the following as Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in accordance with Section 2(2) of the Niger Delta Development Commission Act.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamowora (Lagos East): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion as moved by the Leader that this Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief in respect of nominations for appointments to the

0389

NDDC Board and that the request be referred to the appropriate Committees

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the nominations of those mentioned in the Order Paper as Chairman and members of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in accordance with Section 2(2) of the Niger Delta Development Commission Act.

The President: It is referred to the Committee on Niger Delta. Senator James Manager, how many days do you need?

Senator James Ebiowou Manager (Delta South): Mr. President, the number is large so for us to do a good job, we need two weeks.

The President: Why can you not work extra hours and get it done in a week?

Senator James Manager: Mr. President, we agree we are very energetic; there is no doubt about that but even the documentation itself, we have not received anything and today is already Wednesday. The Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters had a discussion with me yesterday in the evening and he said it would take them up to Monday next week to bring forth the entire documentation. By that Monday, one week is almost over.

We need to do a thorough job but we are conscious of the pending recess. If you give us two weeks, by the grace of God Almighty, we would complete the assignment and present the report in two weeks.

The President: Because we know the capability of the Chairman and the Members of that Committee, we know that they are very dedicated and if they are just a little bit more dedication, in one week they should come back with a progress report and we hope that the progress report would be a submission of their report. So, we will start off with one week but if in one week you are not able to complete it, you will come back.

0390

(Matter accordingly referred to the Committee on Niger Delta to report back in one week)

Senator Andrew Abidemi Babalola Point of Order!

The President: Senator Babalola, you can raise your Point of Order.

Senator Andrew A. Babalola: Mr. President, my Point of Order is on Section 14(3) of the 1999 Constitution.

The President: Please, read it.

Senator Andrew A. Babalola: Section 14(3) of the 1999 Constitution states thus:

The composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity, and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few states or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that Government or in any of its agencies.

I observed from the letter sent yesterday by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief that every section of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria has representation on this Board except the South-West. *(Interruptions)*

The President: Please, distinguished Colleagues, let him finish.

Senator Andrew Abidemi Babalola: All the oil producing geo-political zones have representation except the South-West.

The President: Senator Babalola, have you finished?

Senator Babalola: I have finished, Sir.

The President: You should read the Act itself. If you read the Act and South-West is very ably represented, you can see that there is no South-South,

0391

South-East and South-West because they are oil producing areas. Read the Act properly. If you have read the Act properly, you would not have come by your Point of Order.

In any case to save time, let me rule you out of order very quickly. I rule you out of order.

Confirmation of Nominations of NDIC Board

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, the second Order of the day is a Motion requesting the Senate to consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the nominations of the following as Chairman and Members of the Governing Board of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) in accordance with Section 5(4) of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation Act. The names are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hassan Adamu | (WakilinAdamawa) |
| Chairman | |
| 2. Chief David Oghene | Member |
| 3. Chief Oyebisi L. Ilaka | Member |
| 4. Lawan Z. Gana | Member |
| 5. Mr. Razaq Tunde Lawai | Member |
| 6. Mr. Abdulrahman Dikko | Member |
| 7. Ms. Bennedikter China Molokwu | Member |

The purpose of this Motion is for the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief to be referred to the relevant Committee for further legislative action. I now move that the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief for the confirmation of the nominations of the persons mentioned above as Chairman and Members of the Governing Board of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) in accordance with Section 5(4) of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation Act:

Senator Olorunnimbe Mamowora: Mr. President, in seconding this Motion, I would like the Senate, especially the Committee that the request would be eventually referred to, to consider the revelations of yesterday. I think this would help us. I hereby second the Motion as moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief, for the confirmation of the nominations of those mentioned in

0392

the Order Paper as Chairman and Members of the Governing Board of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) in accordance with Section 5(4) of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation Act.

The President: Senator Nkechi Nwaogu, I hope that you would not receive any threat call by the time you finish with these people? Can we have it back in one week?

Senator Nkechi Nwaogu (Abia Central): Mr. President, hopefully we can, though we do not have any of their documents at the moment.

The President: It is referred to the Senate Committees on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions and they are to report back in one week.

(Matter accordingly referred to the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other financial Institutions to report back in one week)

Surging Incident s of Kidnapping and Hostage Taking in Nigeria

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, the third Order of the day is a Motion standing in the name of Senator Ike Ekweremadu and nine others on the Surging Incidents of Kidnapping and Hostage Taking in Nigeria.

You will recall that on Tuesday, 7th July, 2009 the Senate vied Order 42(2) of our Standing Order approved that this Motion be moved on the next legislative day which is today. Accordingly, you may now invite the Deputy Senate President to move his Motion.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu Central): Yesterday, I sought and obtained the permission of Mr. President and distinguished Colleagues to move this Motion this morning. Outside the names of distinguished Senators who are here as co-sponsors more Senators have indicated interest to co-sponsor this Motion, including Senator A. D. Sodangi.

On this note, the Senate is invited to:

Note with deep concern the surging incidents of kidnapping and hostage taking of Nigerians and foreign nationals resident in Nigeria and even those who visit Nigeria for the first.

0393

Notes that since the year 2005, kidnapping and abduction have become a daily occurrence in Nigeria spreading first from the South-South, through the South-East and have now enveloped the entire country, up to the fringes of the Sahara Desert.

Also notes the damages on several levels that these occurrences inflict on Nigeria. On the international level, the news of kidnap of hundreds of foreigners, mostly oil workers affects the country's image negatively. The country is now perceived as being insecure. The flow of foreign investments is consequently on the decline.

Notes that domestically, the incidents of kidnapping and hostage taking have contributed in dwindling Nigeria's oil output, thereby destabilising and distorting national budget.

Notes that this national malaise, instead of abating is, in fact, on the increase. From what was in 2005, insolated acts of Niger Delta activists taking hostages for ransom it has grown into a national industry of shame and pain. In the South-East, victims of commercially motivated kidnappings include traditional rulers, high profile businessmen, politicians, children and relations of wealthy persons, even parts of Nigeria that where assumed to be immune to the contagion of kidnapping for ransom have recorded cases of kidnap of Nigerians and recently of a visiting Rotarian from Canada.

Aware that some State Governments have enacted laws making kidnapping a serious offence attracting in some instances death penalty or life time behind bars.

Acknowledging that social factors like poverty, unemployment, the widening gap between the rich and the poor, and absence of comprehensive national welfare package could be reasons for the upsurge in cases of commercially motivated kidnap of persons.

The Senate is invited to resolve to:

- (i) Invite the Inspector-General and the National Security Adviser to brief the Senate on the measures being put in place to arrest the growth of an industry of kidnap and hostage taking in Nigeria

0394

- (ii) Urge the Federal Government to take the issue of youth empowerment seriously to address the root cause of kidnapping and related offences.
- (iii) Urge religious leaders, education planners at all levels, relevant government agencies and parents to intensify measures that will guarantee reversal of youth delinquency in Nigeria.
- (iv) Urge the State Governments who have not done so to quickly enact laws providing stiff penalties against kidnapping and related crimes.

I so move.

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (Cross River Central): Mr. President, I am a co-sponsor of this Motion and I am rising in that capacity to second it.

The state of kidnapping in this country has become not only unbearable and intolerable but also embarrassing. Even this Senate has not been immune to this new cankerworm. If you recall, sometime last year the wife of a distinguished Senator was kidnapped, Senator Aloysius Ekot's wife. Not long after that the mother of Senator Lee Maeba was also kidnapped and very recently there was an attempt on Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe leading to the death of one or two security personnel attached to him. Even this Senate has not been immune to this new dangerous criminal phenomenon.

Kidnappings in recent times started from the South-South, where it was linked to the pursuit of a course for the Niger Delta region. From the South-South it moved to the South-East where it has assumed a business dimension and it appears now permanently domiciled in the South-East. Kidnapping has now become a business venture adding to the specter and perception of insecurity in the country.

Not long ago, I was in South Africa and I heard a very embarrassing story from our High Commissioner in South Africa. He said a group of Nigerians in South Africa lured a Japanese businessman to South Africa apparently to do a business deal with the Japanese and after the Japanese showed up they announced that he has been kidnapped. It looks like we are even trying to export this phenomenon of kidnappings beyond our shores. It is a very dangerous trend that we must address urgently.

0395

Firstly, because it has negative consequences on our image as a nation and it is also beginning to have negative consequences on us as Nigerians. These kidnappers do not come from the air, they live amongst us, they live in communities. I believe that if communities return to their traditional role of being the keepers of everybody, of being whistle blowers, we would be able to stem the trend of kidnapping. Every community must be held responsible for those who live amongst them. Our traditional institutions have a great role to play in this regard. Let traditional institutions go beyond honouring people whether deserved or underserved with traditional titles of making sure that they also audit those who live in their communities and blow the whistle if they see strange characters in their midst. They have a role to play in this attempt to stem the tide of kidnapping.

Secondly, this trend would continue if something is not done about the level of unemployment in the country. Where you have educated, but frustrated young men and women who are idle, they must create activities for themselves. We must as a country begin to address the issue of youth unemployment very critically.

Finally, the ranks of kidnappers are swelling, because even those who have petty businesses have now been forced out of their businesses by the terrible power situation in the country. Vulcanizers and hairdressers were forced out of business and so, we must address the issue of power so that those who can do little businesses by the side can return to those businesses. For as long as we have the level of unemployment in this country, I am afraid that we would not go to the roots of the problem of kidnapping. It is time we begin to address these issues. I thank you for this opportunity.

Senator Ikechukwu John Obiora (Anambra South): Mr. President, I am most obliged for this opportunity. I can say that the hush that just fell when my name was called seems to show that my friends here are happy that I have been given this opportunity.

The President: Are they happy because you have a role to play in kidnapping because I cannot really understand why they should nominate you to be their spokesman.

Senator Obiora: It is a carry over from the debate on the Petroleum Bill when I consistently raised my hand and I was not recognised.

0396

I am most obliged and let me start by commending Senator Ike Ekweremadu, (*The Ikeohandigbonine, GCON*). The issue of kidnapping, violent crimes and armed robbery has taken a totally different turn in the Nigerian polity. As a matter of fact, it is pushing the nation to the precipice unless we do something very urgently. We talk about unemployment, lack of equipment for the Police, but we have been saying all these for a long time. The question is, why is anything concrete being done?

In the South East, particularly in Anambra State, there is no day that passes without an incidence of kidnapping or armed robbery. In fact, I heard of the attack on our Governor in spite of all the retinue of the security details. Last week, armed robbers brazenly shot at people standing and doing their respective businesses and killed three Lawyers. Those Lawyers were not in the vicinity of the bank premises. They were just bystanders going about their normal course of work during the day, but they killed them.

In Lagos State, a cousin of ours, Mr. Chukwuma Offormata, who came from America to bury his father, but he brought some investments which were based in Lagos State. He went over to Lagos State to look at the investment he has made and how it was striving. In the night, they came and killed him. Nigerians in Diaspora, especially in America, how would you expect them to come back with investments? Or how do we expect them to come to Nigeria to visit their people? It is something that must be given urgent attention.

It is time we muster political courage to restructure the Nigeria Police Force. The Nigeria Police Force, given the circumstances of lack of equipment and poor salary, I would say that they are doing their best. But we have to do something. We have been running away from State Police, perhaps, in order to curb a degeneration of internecine battles into anarchy, but we have to re-visit that. If we give responsibilities to various states to hire and fire policemen, they would be able to hire as many policemen as each particular state would require because the security situation varies from state to state. The State Government would hire and fire its policemen and most probably they would hire policemen from the various vicinities of the state and those people would be responsible and be infused with pride of professionalism and patriotism.

0397

In the interim, until we amend the Constitution and other Laws, we should use this opportunity to solve that inexcusable paradox where we have so many unemployed youths and skilled workers who have left universities without work, meanwhile we do not have enough policemen on the streets.

If the nation has the political will, we could appropriate money for the Nigeria Police Force to hire at least 500,000 more youths to go into the Force and use any of the military barracks and other formations for their training. If we hire 500,000 youths out of the unemployment cadre, we would have given employment to some people and we would have had additional policemen to curb this insecurity. We must energise ourselves to come up with this political will.

We have talked about unemployment for too long, this Motion says that we should urge the Federal Government to take steps to curb unemployment problems in the country but I believe it is time we develop a Marshal Plan for unemployment and that would concern and connect the three tiers of government, federal, state and local governments, to come up with a plan to target unemployment.

In the South East Asia countries, the way they tried to curb unemployment problems in the 70s was through the use of cooperative partnerships where you have ten to fifteen people, especially school leavers who are unemployed, coming together and forming themselves into a cooperative society and being given some money or micro credit to start a particular business or go into farming. We cannot just wait until these jobs are created before we do something. To do that, we have to use that foremost instrument of Civil Societies, that is, the Churches, the Mosques and other religious organisations. If we have these cooperatives coming out from various Churches and Mosques and Pastors and Imams acting as Coordinators or as Moderators, then we would take off a lot of people from these unemployment cadre into the work force. We have to do something about it. I do not know whether we are able as a nation, given our poor statistics database to create that enabling environment.

In conclusion, just as Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba has said, we may have to re-work this Seven Point Agenda and give more credence to the creation of energy so that businesses can take off.

I have more to say but since I have been called to order I will take it and rest my case here.

0398

Senator Dahiru Awesu Kuta (Niger East): Mr. President, I am concerned about what is happening in the South-South and the South-East. My fear is that while we talk about lack of employment, we must also talk about lack of adherence to contractual agreement by the employers. You can imagine a Local Government in the South East, specifically, in Abia State being unable to pay salaries for more than eight months. In that area, there ought to be a total anarchy. Everybody is printing his own receipt and all the internally generated revenue go into peoples' pockets. The outcome is that people are now taking to kidnapping in that part of the country. *(Interruptions)*

Some distinguished Senators: Are you from that area?

Senator Dahiru Kuta: One of the distinguished Senators from there will bear me witness. I have a friend who is giving me all the details.

Again, as we watch helplessly the advancement of the desert towards the South, many people are daily being thrown out of job. As long as they remain out of job, they will think of how to make ends meet. One of the lucrative businesses now is kidnapping. The Bill on Desertification Control should be brought up immediately so that we can get more people employed to check desert encroachment as well as reducing the level of unemployment. I support this Motion.

The President: Senator Kuta, I am not clear about the connection between desertification and kidnapping. Are you by any chance suggesting that because the desert is advancing people would begin to kidnap in those areas also?

Senator Dahiru Kuta: As the desert advances, many people are being thrown out of job as a result they would think of other ways of making money and one of the ways of making money these days is through kidnapping. So, they may take to kidnapping.

The President: Let me take Senator Uche Chukwumerije. It is not because Senator Dahiru Kuta mentioned Abia State per se that I am recognising you to speak. *(Laughter)*

Senator Uche Chukwumerije (Abia North): Mr. President, let me protest against calling me to such a prominent context. I do not think Abia State is the first in kidnapping.

0399

Let me begin by adopting everything said by all here especially on the level of unemployment. I attribute the increasing delinquency and criminality of youths to anger against what they see as failure of the State to take care of them. But all these said, I always considered the cultural value of our educational system. One aspect is bothering me a lot which the Motion does not capture and nobody has mentioned it. Let me paint that aspect with a little story.

Many years back, a criminal gang led by one Anini was terrorizing Benin City. The Police worked so hard. In the course of that they were able to breakthrough something. They discovered that an insider was very much involved. One ASP Iyamu was involved. After that, at least, for many years, Benin City had peace.

What point am I trying to refer to here? We have to explore the possibility of collusion, if any, between kidnappers and certain elements in our security system. The impunity with which kidnapping is taking place all over the country suggests, and it is being rumoured in many places, that there is the possibility of a collusion between kidnapping and certain elements in our security system.

In addition to that, as we talk here today, the politicians should examine their conscience. The political class during its electioneering campaigns becomes the rich nursery of these classes of criminals. We know from confessions that we read in the newspapers that many of them graduated from thuggery employed by politicians to this level of crimes since there are no elections for now. Whatever we want to do about these things, we have to take into consideration, in addition to all the suggestions made earlier.

First, Security operatives have to look inwards to ensure that within them they remain security forces;

Second, something has to be done to completely ban the use of any form of thuggery by politicians or anybody. In fact, if this could mean disqualification of candidates, let it be. If we are able to plug these two sources then we can face the issue of level of unemployment and the issue of our educational system.

Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya (Kano South): Mr. President, I am a co-sponsor of this Motion ably moved by our great Deputy Senate President, because of our concern to fight the menace of kidnapping and restoring peace to Nigeria.

0400

We have to look into the issue critically and that is why I have submitted a Bill on the Punishment for Offence of Abduction or Wrongly Restraining Persons that means kidnapping. It is right that the Deputy Senate President brought this Motion. When my Bill comes up it would only affect FCT because we are the National Assembly of the Federal Capital Territory. If other States have done likewise, creating Laws to prevent kidnapping as has been done by some states that have been mentioned here such as Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Rivers, and Abia States and so on. All these States have enacted Laws preventing kidnapping in their States and I believe there is need for us to enact the same Law for the FCT and its environs.

I am worried about the situation recently reported in Kaduna State. Kidnapping has moved from the South to the North. Initially, we hear such stories how it happens there and now that it has moved to our domain it is now a national issue. You are aware that a Canadian Lady was kidnapped in Kaduna State on the 15th of April 2009. I do not want to mention names of the kidnappers, but I am aware of where they came. (*Interruptions*)

The President: Do you have the names of those kidnappers?

Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya: I am not AIG Nuhu Aliyu, otherwise I would have mentioned names. But, it was on the pages of newspapers. The names of the kidnappers and the names of those kidnapped were published.

It also happened to one John Ayodele of Power Holdings. I heard that he was kidnapped in Gwarinpa, Abuja and the ransom they asked for was N30 million. Later, it was reduced to N3 million when he was finally released.

Also at Gwagwalada, Abuja a lady was kidnapped and later rescued at Lokoja. When I was returning from Lagos, I was in the same aircraft with the Inspector General of Police we discussed this issue which culminated into the Bill that I have forwarded to the Senate for consideration.

It is also unfortunate in Oyo State, Dr. Iyiola Bashiru's house was stormed and her three-year old son was kidnapped with her car and some money. It was only later they requested for a ransom of ₦20 million and at the end of the day the police worked hard and got the boy back

0401

All these issues bother on many reasons. First, we may have to be blamed. The politicians are using militants to fight their course in terms of election and immediately after the election these young men who do not have jobs find themselves abandoned. As a result of that abandonment, they go into kidnapping to get money to survive. So, within ourselves here, we have to understand that there is a need to reform ourselves in this aspect.

I also encourage the police. There are areas I mentioned as a way out and which we should look at clearly. The youth should stand up to their God given self-esteem to avoid being improperly appreciated. The democratic stakeholders should evolve a more constructive settlement formula for youths engaged in electioneering campaigns so that the practice of use and dump of the youth would stop.

Other issue is poverty. The Government must address poverty. Nobody would want to use arms to make money unless he has no way to survive or to eat. So, if we could address the issue of poverty, we would reduce the twin issues of hijacking and kidnapping.

Finally, I support the Motion being a co-sponsor. This problem should be looked at and when the Bill comes up we should do justice to it.

Senator Effiong D. Bob (Akwa Ibom North-East): Mr. President. I want to sincerely thank the sponsors of this Motion. It is a very serious matter we are discussing now because those that are pointing fingers at some States do not know when it would come to their own. It is a national issue which must be addressed by all of us. It had been mentioned here that some Senators were victims and who knows who may be next.

I want to say that, God forbid, the issue of kidnapping is not sparing anybody. The load on some state governments on how to curb this threat to security is very enormous. If you make reference to my own State, the government has done virtually what it should be done to complement the effort of the Police to curb this menace; the more the effort, the worse the situation.

So, I want to suggest that, maybe, the Inspector-General of Police should be invited to really brief the Senate on the state of security in this regard. Last week, a staff of State Security Service was kidnapped.

0402

Then who is safe? Till now, as I am speaking, from the information we have, she has not been released. I do not know where we are heading. My distinguished brother mentioned, even though he was strong enough to talk even during the supposed hunger strike, he is even getting fatter, that we should address the problem power so that people would be engaged; people would find work to do.

Also, another Colleague mentioned the issue of using thugs during elections by politicians. After the elections these people expected to be appointed as Special Advisers or Special Assistants but they were disappointed. Hence, the situation throws the entire political arena into who gets what.

Some of the state governments have really, from what we can see put in a lot. But who is in charge of security of the country? We are talking about investments and investors, how would they come when there is insecurity and when nobody is sure of free movement of goods and services? There is no way investments would be enhanced in this kind of situation.

As I earlier said, I thank the movers of this Motion and I believe that when it comes to the Prayers, which I believe all of us would pray very well for answers to come, we would then be urged to take the bull by the horns so as to ensure that this matter is taken seriously and drastic action taken to prevent kidnapping turning into real warfare.

Senator Abubakar Danso Sodangi (Nasarawa West): Mr. President, I am one of the co-sponsors of this Motion. As has been stated and I want to subscribe to that, that we take this issue very seriously. It appears some of us are just cracking jokes with this matter. This is more than an issue of jokes.

As stakeholders and as representatives of the people, when we go to our various Constituencies, this is the cry everywhere. It is dangerous not only to the security of this country but also to our foreign visitors, investors and our families. As the last speaker said, who knows who will be the next person. It could be any other person. The last episode in Gwagwalada at the University of Abuja involved the daughter of a House of Representatives Member. She was lucky that she was rescued by the police. The Police succeeded in rescuing her from her abductors. The dangerous trend has taken serious and alarming proportions. Nobody is safe.

0403

Yes, on the issue of unemployment, I agree. If we want to get this malaise out of our system we must provide jobs for the young ones. Our textile industries either in Kaduna, Kano, Aba, Onitsha or Lagos are not working. Those who need power to work cannot do anything because there is no light. If you attend any social function in your Constituency the jobless youths will converge on you, either supporting you or asking you to give them money. You have to pay a kind of ransom. The number of these jobless youths is increasing everyday.

We must take this matter seriously. Our economy is the matter. We must provide jobs. But, this is not to say that people should go into this venture for economic gains. People that are doing these things ask for a very colossal sum of money – N30 million, or N40 million. But if you give jobs that will provide these people legitimate earnings of, maybe, N20,000, N30,000 or N50,000 a month, they may not take to it again. We must radically address the issue.

It goes beyond saying that it is caused by joblessness. Because the kidnappers are getting ransom money from the relations of their victims, the kidnappers target particular people; politicians, traditional rulers, business gurus and the rest of them. We have to take the bull by the horns. I am happy that some State Governments like the Akwa Ibom have enacted laws against kidnapping and some others are also in the verge of doing the same. We also must do the same and at the same time, provide jobs for the jobless youths.

I do not want to subscribe to the belief by some people that politicians are contributory factor to this challenge. I do not see any reasonable politician that will ask a gang or jobless youths to go and harass people. We must holistically look at this issue and see that we provide jobs and also sanitise the system. Our security agencies; the Police, the SSS and in fact, everybody should be given orientation on how to fight this menace.

All hands must be on deck, Security Agents, Politicians, the Imams, the Reverend Fathers; Pastors and everybody must join hands to sanitise this country. This country belongs to us. You cannot visit Anambra or any other state in the South-East safely without being afraid. If you want to go for naming ceremony or any event, you will be afraid of going. Foreign investors are not willing to come because everybody is afraid. Who is next?

0404

Unfortunately, kidnappers do not only kidnap and keep the person in a safe place and ask for money but they traumatise and dehumanise their victims. If she is a woman, they would attempt to sleep with her and this is very un-godly. I will urge us to advocate sanity and there must be good governance and the security agencies must be up and doing so that this act of terrorism should be stopped and stop forever.

Senator Mohammed Mana (Adamawa North):
Mr. President, first and foremost, I congratulate Senator Ike Ekweremadu and his co-sponsors for bringing this Motion. The spate of kidnapping that has now assumed an alarming stage is very worrisome to every Nigerian, particularly, we, the leaders of this country. I remember, in the 70s when the spate of armed robbery started in this country, it started just like this and it has now assumed a stage that it has graduated into kidnapping. This is very worrisome and very disturbing. All of us; the government and the people have a responsibility in this. Those involved in this unfortunate incidence are our brothers, our sons and our relations. Therefore, we must do everything possible to stop it.

The government has the responsibility to protect every Nigerian and every Nigerian has a responsibility to protect his brother. Every citizen has the responsibility to ensure that he assists the security agencies by providing information on those who take part in these notorious activities.

I remember very well that when this spate of kidnapping started in other parts of the world like Columbia started like this. Columbia is very notorious for kidnapping. At one stage, the rebels in that country took control of the whole parts of the country kidnapped and kept somebody for ten to fifteen years until large sums of money were paid. We should not allow Nigeria to degenerate to this extent. We, therefore, must rise against it.

It is the responsibility of the government to sensitise people for this. Our Deputy Senate President has started by bringing this Motion. We, therefore, must all support this Motion and ensure that we recommend to government to, first and foremost, strengthen our security services. We must empower the Police to carry out their duties. We must look into the issue of unemployment in this country. State Governments, Local Governments and the Federal Government must look into the issue of youth unemployment. We must ensure that we educate our youths and build centres that can train them on certain professions.

0405

We must also encourage agriculture. During the colonial days, we depended on agriculture. Agriculture was then the mainstay of our economy. Agriculture can employ almost the 150 million Nigerians. We must do something about agriculture. In that respect, I must commend the present government for doing something; but it is not still enough. We should devote substantial portion of our budget to agriculture. If the youths are employed, they would not go into kidnapping. I know that agriculture will not fetch them as much as kidnapping is, but while we are doing that, we will also try to revive the power sector so that people can work. As has been said by Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba, the power sector is not able to work because vulcanisers and welders cannot get electricity to do their work. The government is doing the right thing now by reorganising the power sector and hopefully, by next year, all these jobs will come back and people will have something to do.

We must ensure that kidnapping does not pay those who engage in it. We will curtail the malaise by empowering the security agencies that will identify, arrest and punish those involved in the act.

Senator Zaynab A. Kure (Niger South): Mr. President, I thank the Deputy Senate President for this timely Motion. This Motion could not have come at a better time.

I have listened attentively to those that contributed before me and the kidnappers they are referring to, majority of them are within the age bracket that we call the youths of this country. Of course, it has been acknowledged that social factors such as poverty, unemployment and the widening gap between the rich and the poor are the reasons kidnapping has become a gold mining in this country at the moment. But taking into account all that has been said and with a lot of things that are happening in this country now, some of us would want to see a situation whereby guidance and counselling could be inculcated in the curriculum of education in this country. This is because quite often than not most of our young ones are not guided and are not counselled the way they should be.

The issue of the widening gap between the rich and the poor comes to fore if we look at some of our own behaviours; and without us checking such behaviours, of course, these issues would continue to surface. I am talking about some of us that are guilty of flaunting wealth here and there, intimidating those that do not have. We are supposed to as much as possible, carry others along.

0406

Of course, some of us, if not all of us have one programme or the other of alleviating poverty in our areas but the ways and means of going about them are supposed to be taken into consideration. A situation whereby we find some of us guilty of shearing motor-cycles, sowing machines without training those that are supposed to use those sowing machines, and shearing so many other things that we have not trained our youths into knowing how to use them, amounts to a situation whereby we are just giving them fish and not teaching them how to fish. We must take up our responsibilities properly. As much as possible, we must teach our youths how to fish and not give them fish.

On the side of government, there is need for governments at all levels to streamline and, of course, harmonise all intervention policies they have that have to do with empowerment of either the youths, the women or whatever groups that we are talking about. They must be streamlined and I know that in our Committee we have sponsored a Bill which has scaled through the First Reading and it is about being taken for the Second Reading and that has to do with an establishment of Poverty Eradication Commission. There are a lot of poverty eradication policies and interventions by government but they have not been harmonised in such a way that their activities can be well appreciated to the level that it should. These are just some few of my comments but as I have said, there are so much that we can do in terms of where we have found ourselves now. Most importantly, guidance and counselling should be taken up as one of the subjects in our institutions of learning.

Senator Eme Ufot Ekaette (Akwa Ibom South): Mr. President, I thank the Deputy Senate President for bringing to fore this topic. It has become a real problem in certain states and Akwa Ibom State happens to be one. Our Governor has done a lot. He has signed a law in this regard that has provided for maximum penalty. He has donated equipment to the security agencies yet, this issue is unabated.

My Colleagues have talked about power, poverty, security but we have to address the issues that have led to some of these problems. I had an opportunity to visit the Prisons recently on an oversight function and we found out that some of those inmates have been in prison for months if not years on very flimsy offences. They are all mixed up with hardened criminals in prison. If they have opportunity to be released they would become very dangerous. The simple reason

0407

given for their continued stay in prison for a long time was that it takes about two years to prepare a case file for a simple crime. In some cases when they are taken to court they are bounced and brought back to the prison. All of them are just there, desperate. If you release such hardened criminals back into the society after so many years of incarceration, we are going to have very many problems.

During that oversight functions, we noticed that the Justice Department is very slow in taking cases. If there is somebody arrested for kidnapping, for instance, and he is in prison for three years, he is taking to court once a year, he is there, very frustrated and angry with the society.

We believe that if we go back to the basis of our religion and teach them the virtues of good life it would address most of those problems. What I have noticed in dealing with the youths is that some of our families have abrogated their responsibilities and so the child is bigger than the parents and they do not take corrections. The children are not disciplined, the community do not take responsibility for their activities, nobody is held responsible for anything that has happened within the society. I know that when somebody is kidnapped, apart from the millions that we are calling, some of them are so traumatised that it takes a lot of effort to bring them back into their real life.

This is a menace that has to be addressed. I believe that we have to bring in the Inspector-General of Police and the National Security Adviser as proposed, to tell us what they are doing. This is because as politicians, we are so frightened to go home because we are not too sure of our lives. Even if you are bold enough to go, you have to be tactful and quiet in what you do so as not to unnecessarily expose yourself to danger. This is something that we must condemn in its totality. We must do everything to eradicate it so that we can have a very safe environment.

I thank you Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute.

Senator Patricia Naomi Akwashiki (Nasarawa North.): Mr. President, I want to add my voice to congratulate the Deputy Senate President for this very worthy Motion. I want to take our memories back to when kidnapping was on a smaller scale in Nigeria. It was called ritual kidnapping when children and some adults were kidnapped rituals. When you have a social

0408

ill in the country that is not tackled, it grows and that is what we have seen now where people are being kidnapped for financial gains.

I tend to differ a bit from those who attribute kidnapping to poverty and other social ills. I agree that they are a bit contributory factor, but I believe that we must treat kidnapping as criminal offence. If we do not stand firm and treat kidnapping as criminal and give all sorts of excuses such as lack of job, existence of social ills and moral issues, it will not solve our problem. We must stand firm that kidnapping is a criminal offence that should be treated as such. Rivers State Governor has now come out firmly to say that kidnappers are criminals and should face death sentences.

I remember the case of the Chinese that was kidnapped in Enugu or one of the States, who died because of exposure. They kidnappers might not have killed him but because of the condition in which they held them. When people kidnap for financial gain, it is not because they do not have job, but because they do not have job that will give them many thousands of Naira. Most of these kidnappers will not take jobs that will pay them peanuts. We must agree that something has gone wrong but all said and done kidnappers are criminals. They are people who started with armed robbery and now graduated into kidnapping.

I agree totally that Government can do a lot more to provide employment. I want to say that Government has been trying with policies especially in agriculture. I know that the Ministry of Agriculture has a scheme whereby it pays about 25 *per cent* on tractors and State Governments who are interested pay 15 *per cent*.

Yesterday the scheme was launched in my State and my State Governor encouraged a lot of people to go back to farming. We have fertilizer and tractors. When there is collaboration between the Federal and the States Governments, they take off like 40 *per cent* off the cost of tractors and make them available to the people. Governments at all levels can take the initiative by providing avenues for youths to get back to gainful employment. Everywhere in the world jobs are being lost, therefore, we must look inwards and see what individuals can do on their own. (*Interruptions*)

The President: The mothers have a lot of contributions to make in the up bringing of the children. Those of you on that side should allow the distinguished Senator to make her point.

0409

Senator Patricia Akwashiki: Government can do a lot more by improving the infrastructure in the country. I also sincerely think that a person must be inherently a criminal and a bad person to think that because he cannot go into gainful employment, hence he must go into kidnapping of people and demanding ransom. We cannot find excuses for them. We must treat kidnappers as criminals.

As I earlier said, it started as ritual kidnapping. In Abuja there were cases where people who joined taxes were taken to the bush and killed. There was a girl that was pushed out of a taxi. You enter a taxi innocently not suspecting that somebody was hidden in the boot, and suddenly the boot flipped open from inside and the person emerged with dangerous weapon and you become a victim of kidnap. We had lots of cases like that.

Our law enforcement officers have been doing quite some good job, we need to encourage them by making available all they need to do their job. We must encourage them to pursue issues to their logical conclusion. There are cases of kidnap that are treated half way.

Also, kidnapping is done with assistance from the people within the environment. The kidnapping that is targeted at lawmakers is done by the local boys in the same community. We have a lot to teach our youths. We the older ones should live by example. We should do not flaunt our wealth. There are a lot of people who are really bitter in the society, so we must look inwards and behave well for our youths to copy.

Senator Chris N. B. Anyanwu (Imo East): Mr. President, I will be very snappy. A lot has been said about this but as a woman and a mother I will speak for my Constituency, the women in the society. The women of Nigeria had lost sleep. Things have really fallen apart, life really has become nightmare for a lot of women in this society. They cannot travel without the fear that somebody is going to take away their children. They do not know if their husbands are going to be waylaid on the way coming home. In some villages, people no longer sleep. People are evacuating certain villages in certain parts of the country. If this does not qualify for a social upheaval, I do not know what else qualifies.

A lot has been said about the under current reasons. The young people are losing faith in Government; that Government does not care and does not commit fully

0410

to investing in the issues that concern them. That the Police have lost the courage to fight crime; that people from different parts of the country are using these issues as instruments of unfair competition and I will get to that.

I want to go back to really emphasise what a lot of my Colleagues have talked about. Poverty alleviation! We are not investing adequately in poverty alleviation. A lot of money is going the wrong way. We are losing money through all kinds of ways. Government is not putting enough premium in the things that touch on the lives of the people; health, education and social welfare. Those things that elevate and improve the quality of living in the society, not enough money is going there.

I want to call attention that only last week we vired money that ought to have gone into health and education to roads. Then what happens? Our people keep dying. You need to go to the hospitals to see the slaughter houses that we have in the name of hospitals. Things have gone wrong.

I want to also state that one of the major reasons for this social problem is the lopsided development in this country. We may sit down here and deceive ourselves that it is a South-South or a South-East problem, but the fact is, it is a global problem. If you do not have it today, it will come to you tomorrow. Those parts of the country where a lot of the money is being sunk for development, youths from the underdeveloped parts will flow to that part and they will have you for breakfast and that is what is going on. If there are jobs in Lagos, the ones where there are no jobs are going to come there and give you trouble. That is why kidnapping is no longer a South-South problem. It started from South-South, it flowed over to South-East, it has spread to Kaduna, Zaria and Lagos. Only a few months ago, a friend of mine was nearly shot to death when they came to kidnap his children in the heart of Lagos. So, nobody is save anywhere in the country.

One of the problems that troubles me is how it is being used as instrument of competition. Two years ago, a Governor in this country called me. He had gone to China to persuade a company that was investing in another part of the country that that part of the country is not safe and on the strength of his persuasion that company pulled out and went to his State.

0411

Last year, I convinced a company to come to my Constituency and invest in a project that would have employed, at least, two hundred (200) youths but before we had even dotted the Is and crossed the ts the kidnapping thing started and the company withdrew. No investment will happen in any place that is insecure. Those who exploit it as an instrument of developing their own areas would find out that ultimately, the whole area would become insecure.

Kidnapping began as an instrument by the youths of the Niger Delta to force national attention to their plight but the criminals in the Niger Delta joined and began to use it as an instrument of extortion. Then, the criminals in the Delta widened their operations in non Delta areas. Then the commercial kidnappers in the South-East joined and now we have a national problem.

Why was it easy to spread? One reason is because our people do not react to situations. Our people in the nooks and the crannies of this country have refused to assume their social responsibility of acting as their own watch dogs. They see bad things happen; they will see their sons and their brothers bringing in cars and ill-gotten wealth without asking questions. They will see them go out at night and come back at day and they do not ask questions. They will even see them kidnap people and bring them to their territory without asking questions and they look at the Police as the sole savior of the society. No amount of policing can make it happen unless the people of Nigeria join up and take up their social responsibility of watching out for their own security. The people have to react, report things happening in their neighbourhood and really show a will to fight this development.

Finally, I want to repeat what I said at the beginning that we have to deal with the problem of underdevelopment in certain parts of this country. If we keep stacking all our national resources in one or two parts of the country to the neglect of others and those places continue to be underdeveloped and unable to give employment to the youths in those places, the problem would continue to grow.

There would be no where to run; wherever you are, they would hunt for you. We have to deal with equity, justice, equal development, building on the strengths of every part this country rather than neglecting certain parts and putting our resources in one place.

0412

Senator Simeon Olasunkanmi Oduoye (Osun Central): Mr. President, kidnapping, hostage taking and abduction are as old as other violent crimes and known to the statute books. If the offences as enumerated; kidnapping, hostage taking and abduction are not properly managed, they normally end up in murder cases or very serious injury to the victim or to the people who are appendage to the victim. Usually, in all the three cases of hostage taking, abduction and kidnapping, they are merely intended to extort from their victims or from the people who are dependants of the victims.

The increase as indicated would amount to breakdown of security network and it is a major issue. In years gone by, when we take security very seriously, in villages, they have both day and night watch and you cannot enter a community without the community really knowing that a visitor has entered into that community. The villagers have abandoned this aspect of intelligence gathering and being their brothers' keeper. The same thing has extended to the local government level, so also in the states. Where people are being kidnapped or being taken hostage nowadays, instead of people coming round to assist and rescue the victim, they rather run under their beds and they are no longer their brothers' keepers.

Apart from these three crimes of kidnapping, hostage taking and abduction that are purely crime, we have people who now use kidnapping and hostage taking to settle scores, some of them may be economic or politically motivated. Majority of these cases that are tied to economic or political motivation can normally be detected if properly investigated. But these cases end up not being detected because of lack of intelligence gathering within the community itself.

All these kidnappers live among us and we know them within the community. On a serious note, without taking it as a joke, where you have people without jobs for 30 days or 24 months or for several years there must be suspicion about his means of livelihood.

A lot has been said about kidnapping itself and now I want to go straight to what would be the solution. I believe, if we could create job opportunities and people are being properly employed, the twin problems of kidnapping and hostage taking would be reduced. We should equally look at the other side of empowering the youths so that they could be self employed.

0413

The other aspect is the total abolition of thuggery. Majority of the people that are being used for kidnapping or hostage taking are either former political thugs or people that are being used in the garage as touts.

We have to go on a moral re-armament, that is, we have to change our mode of evaluation. These are people who live above their known means of livelihood and the young ones are wrongly copying them and this would eventually lead them into committing crimes. The totality of it all is that we have to be our brothers' keepers, so that when information are passed on we make sure they are passed to the appropriate authorities for the detection of the crime and in some cases to prevent hostage taking or kidnapping.

The President: Distinguished Senators, we have said a lot about unemployment and social well-being. Truly, if anybody who is unemployed in this country decides that kidnapping is an alternative, it will not be a healthy environment at all. If because you are not employed, you take to kidnapping that is truly not a solution to the problem.

There is no point repeating what has already been said by so many other people. I will give a few people chance to speak and then we wind it up.

Senator Ibrahim Mohammed Ida (Katsina Central): Mr. President, I support this Motion so much that if the door is not closed, I would desire to be one of the co-sponsors. I say this because I am an ardent believer in the saying that power is nothing without control. One of the essential features of the social contract between the State and its citizens is that a return for security to life and property, the citizens submit to the Laws of the land.

Here we are faced with an issue that started wrongly as an agitation now transforming into outright criminality. The way to address it is not in the piecemeal approach that is being adopted by the respective State Governments. One can understand why they are doing it that way because Criminal Law or Criminal Code or Penal Code are State Laws. But the fact that the issue is no longer a local matter or a national matter, it is now an international matter, requires drastic action, a unified approach. For that matter, I would suggest that the issue of kidnapping be regarded as a federal offence.

0414

There should be appropriate legislation to that effect conferring jurisdiction for it on the Federal High Court. I say this with every sincerity and conviction that if it is made a federal offence and the Federal High Court is conferred with the jurisdiction that would facilitate the disposal of such cases. It would also make it possible to trial people involved without any local influence.

One of the Prayers of the Motion is for the Inspector-General of Police to brief us, but I am of the view that this issue deserves a special attention of the Police. I am recommending that the Police should set up a Special Squad; Anti-kidnapping Squad that should be responsible for prevention and detention of kidnapping cases. The advantage of having a Special Squad is that the people would be specially trained, and I say this with all the emphasis I can muster. They would be specially trained to follow these cases.

Only yesterday, I was invited to a dinner organised by a group under the auspices of the Deputy Senate President, who is the sponsor of this Motion and I sat next to a Canadian Diplomat. Throughout the dinner, he spoke of nothing but the case of the Canadian that was kidnapped in Kaduna State recently. This shows the seriousness with which we should take this matter.

So, as I have said, I suggest that it should be made a federal offence with jurisdiction conferred on the Federal Court. The Police should set up Special Anti-Kidnapping Squad that should be properly trained and equipped to be able to address this menace. If we do so, we would clinch it in the bud and it would not spread the way it is threatening to do now. If we do that, I am sure Nigeria will get back to what it was; a peaceful and peace-loving country.

The President: Is there any new point that has not been mentioned?

Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim (Yobe East): Yes, Mr. President.

The President: But if you go on the old points the microphone would go off.

Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim: Mr. President. Let me also add my voice to the voices of my Colleagues who have spoken in support of this Motion. I have not heard anybody say anything against this Motion.

0415

Kidnapping, hostage taking, abduction and armed robbery are all criminal activities, and we have tried to analysis the causes. The more of the causes you point out, the more you see contradictions in the causes or the insufficiency of these causes. It is a national malaise and each time we are faced with this kind of problem, we of course, debate and the more we debate, the more closer we are to finding solutions.

The new point I want to add here is that areas where the so-called unemployment is highest, are usually areas where you have prevalence of criminal activities. We should employ more people in those areas so that they will help us find solution. This is part of the new idea I am bringing forward. The issues of poverty and unemployment being part of the problem are under-statement and a very negative addition to our image as a nation.

We also know that part of the causes of this problem is moral decadence; criminality, injustice, inequality and so on. But the irony is that the most poor parts of our society are not areas you have prevalence of criminal activities or where they criminals are bred. Why do the most developed parts of the country not producing a bigger portion of these criminals? So, there is irony in the analysis. We need a more professional approach to finding the real problem so that we can also find real solution to them.

People talk about education; the most educated parts of Nigeria produce bigger criminals than any other part of the country.

Areas where people react to every small negative thing tend to have more criminals than all other parts of Nigeria. We have to look for solutions from other considerations, please.

There is a story recently of a girl who felt that her father was not giving her sufficient money, so she collaborated with kidnappers and agreed to be kidnapped. They kidnapped her and the father reluctantly parted with N4 million out of the N20 million ransom that they requested from him and they released the girl and gave her only N400,000 out of the N4 million. She was embittered and she revealed the whole story to her father, the Police and other security agencies. You can see the contradiction. People are becoming more and more sophisticated in this criminal activity. It is not a question of poverty. That girl is a daughter of one of the richest people in the South-East but see how she connived with criminals to cheat on

0416

her father. There are so many dimensions to this crime and I believe the fact that we are debating it nationally; solution would soon come by the grace of God.

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the opportunity to make my contribution when I was almost tired of raising my hand. The last time I spoke on any issue was when we were debating on the Review of the Constitution. I kept raising my hands for hours on issues. Today, somebody was suggesting that I should probably stand with one leg and raise the other along with my both hands. But I am not sure if I can stand on one leg. But I will try to do whatever is possible to ensure that you bring your attention to this side of the Chamber. *(Laughter)*

The President: Senator Bukar Ibrahim just to make sure that I am doing the right thing, if you could help me read from our Standing Orders, Order 53(10) on the Rules of Debate

Senator Bukar Ibrahim: Order 53(10) is very obvious and it is noted but all the same, since you said I should read it, I will read it. *If two or more Senators rise at the same time the President of the Senate or Chairman shall call on the Senator who first catches his eyes.*

The President: So, as soon as you catch my eyes, I always call you. Is there any point that has not been raised?

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

The President: There is no problem, because it is an important topic. As long as we stay on, there is no problem.

Senator Sahabi Ya'u (Zamfara North): Mr. President, I want to first of all congratulate the Deputy Senate President for this noble Motion. It is worth commendable and I concur with and support whatever had been said by the previous speakers.

As you have urged us to stick to what have not been said, I want to confine myself to two issues, which I feel have great impact on what is happening on this kidnapping issues. The first one has to do with the issue of our well to do. The rich ones among us are shying away from their social responsibilities. It is not a secret nowadays that you find people swimming in wealth but not minding what is really happening to their neighbours. The two dominant religions of this country made us to *(Interruptions)*

0417

The President: Sorry, Senator Ya'u, I thought somebody dwelt extensively here on the fact that people are flaunting wealth before everybody.

Senator Sahabi Ya'u: Well, the second issue has to do with the unlimited access of people buying SIM Cards. You find people buying SIM Cards without knowing whom they are, where they live and what they are likely going to do with those SIM Cards. These criminals could buy as many SIM Cards as they want without anybody taking note. They use these SIM Cards to call whoever they intend to kidnap or to arrange criminal activities and immediately destroy the SIM Cards. If only we could adopt a system whereby whoever wants to buy a SIM Card would either produce his passport or identity card and where he lives and other relevant information which would enable him being terraced, it would minimize these criminal activities.

I sincerely support this noble Motion.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamowora: Mr. President, I thank all my Colleagues for their robust support for this Motion which I happen to be one of the sponsors. I am cognisance of the various submissions and I would not touch those areas. I want to look at the perspective of the Constitution under Fundamental Rights.

On this issue of kidnapping, three basic fundamental rights are being violated. The first is right to life because some of the victims get killed in the process. There is also the violation of the right to the dignity of human persons and, of course, the violation of the right to personal liberty. These are fundamental rights being eroded in this issue.

The other aspect is the fate of the kidnapped and members of their family particularly with respect to the psychological agony because the kidnapped is not sure of what happens the next moment and the members of the family, too, are not sure of what will happen. So, there is need for some kind of psychotherapeutic rehabilitation when the whole process is dealt with.

Senator Suleiman Mohammed Nazif (Bauchi North): Thank you Mr. President for recognizing me this time around.

The President: You are welcome. *(Laughter)*

0418

Senator Suleiman Mohammed Nazif: Let me start by congratulating the Deputy Senate President and the co-sponsors of this very important Motion that has been long over due. A Motion that speaks a lot for the voiceless. A Motion that speaks on so many issues that negate the very principles and aspects of what this country stands for. An act of terror that has been perpetrated in the minds of Nigerians especially the victims of these issues relating to kidnapping.

This Motion has presented a very clear picture of the entire situation of kidnapping in Nigeria. Kidnapping and abduction are cases that happen in so many areas and so many countries. In Nigeria, it started basically because of our rich oil resources in the Niger Delta. The malaise, though it started in the Niger Delta and spread to the South-East and it is now enveloping the whole country. Like we know Afghanistan has also adopted that same strategy because of terrorism. Colombia because of their drugs; Sudan because of the poorness of the country and they are trying by all means to get revenues from their victims.

We have several types of kidnapping. We have the organised kidnapping, which all of us are aware are carried out organisations in order to achieve what they want or to achieve or to get resources from their victims. *(Interruptions)*

The President: Distinguished Senator, these are issues that have been raised and canvassed extensively here,. If there are new issues then we would take them because there are so many people that want to speak.

Senator Suleiman Mohammed Nazif: The new issue is that apart from commercial kidnapping, there is the political kidnapping. This has not been addressed in this Motion. Bauchi State, for instance, was ravaged by about 400 people being kidnapped two or three weeks ago. Four hundred people were kidnapped from different locations and put in prison only to be released after an event had taken place. *(Interruptions)*

The President: Senator Nazif, there is a difference between official arrest and kidnap. If people are arrested and put in prison that is not kidnapping. I was wondering how 400 people could be kidnapped. Where are the kidnappers from?

Senator Nazif: That is an institutionalised kidnapping which we must desist from because people

0419

in their offices were kidnapped with impunity. This is called state kidnapping. Unfortunately, Senator Obiora was canvassing for State Police; we are not ready for things like that because they will perpetrate the act of state kidnapping. This is the issue I want to bring to our attention. We need to find lasting solutions to this problem and those as has been projected by the Deputy Senate President in this Motion. It is also important, as Senator Ya'u said, to control the purchase of SIM Cards.

Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan (Yobe North):
Mr. President, I would not risk to be called to order for saying what my Colleagues previously did. Let me say that when a Palestinian kidnaps, he kidnaps for political reasons; he kidnaps in order to swamp with his brothers kept somewhere in Israel. In contrast, when they kidnap in Columbia, they try to draw political attention to themselves and make political capital out of the process.

There are very valuable and expensive targets in the South-South and possibly in the South-East. The targets started with oil company workers; foreigners and even the target that was captured in Kaduna is originally not from that part of Nigeria. In fact, he is not even a Nigerian. Those people that operate in the South-South and South-East are now trying to make it national are economic kidnappers.

In the part of the country I represent, my people are kidnapped by poverty and the prevalence of kidnapping does not exist. My brother is reminding me that *Kafin Zaki Dam* will be the last and final nail which by the grace of God will not happen. I believe there is need for synergy between the Federal, States and Local Governments. We have the National Directorate for Employment (NDE), National Poverty Alleviation and Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and, perhaps, plethora of organisations that are supposed to create employment. The state governments have some and so do some local governments.

We need to ensure that those that are involved in kidnapping are properly and promptly punished but punishment alone cannot solve this problem because people will always have the courage to face the consequences if they think that there is no alternative. That is to say that we have to also do something by way of making sure that we are able to generate and sustain employment environment for our people so that kidnapping becomes unattractive option.

0420

With this submission, I want to congratulate our dear DSP for bringing up this very important and timely Motion and we hope that we will, through this Motion, be able to solve this problem that is nagging the entire country and, indeed, those who do not belong here.

Senator Annie Okonkwo (Anambra Central):
Mr. President, I want to first of all congratulate the Deputy Senate President (DSP). Nigerians had expected this Motion long time ago but thank God, it is coming at this critical point in time.

A lot has been said about kidnapping and hostage taking but we have to think about solution because it is very embarrassing that in the modern world of the 21st Century, we are talking about kidnapping especially they way it is happening in our country. The technology has already shown that it can be curtailed and we need to train our security agents.

We have good communication in Nigeria. Before kidnappers could strike they must communicate. If we train our officers and they are alert to the system, this matter would be curtailed. In some countries this kind of problem is not rampant because they will be caught. We heard what happened in the United Kingdom where people were planning to bomb and underground station and they were caught. Of course, the information was got through the system. They were traced to their hotels and arrested before they could do anything.

What we are seeing the some State Governors are doing is not the solution. We hear of some of them buying armoured tankers, it is not a war zone yet. We must train our security agents, but we need to make use of the technology already existing in this country to detect attempts by kidnapper. Security is important and it is even better than infrastructure. We need to secure this country and free the citizens from fear of insecurity.

In my State, for instance, people no longer sleep in their houses. If they go home on visit they sleep in hotels. It is very dangerous sleep in your house and we cannot continue to live with this kind of situation in this country. I will like the Senate to come out with a Resolution to support the Federal Government put up strategies to tackle this menace so that it does not deteriorate more than it is now.

0421

The President: Training of our Policemen and other Security Agents has been canvassed extensively. The rest is matter of details, how they do their training whether through vigilante or security communications or other more sophisticated means. Please, do not go through an issue that has been canvassed extensively here.

Senator Abubakar Umar Gada (Sokoto East): Mr. President, I will certainly not go in the areas that have already been canvassed. Suffice it to say that this Motion has given some of us, especially those planning to go to government houses, the opportunity to know the type of resistance that we would meet. *(Interruptions)*

Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya (Kano South): Point of Order!

The President: Point of Order, distinguished Senator Kabiru Gaya

Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya: Mr. President, my Point of Order is based on Order 70(1)(c) and with your permission I read: *The following matters not open to debate shall be moved without argument or opinion offered, and shall be forthwith put from the Chair without amendment.*

(c) Motion that the question be now put;

This is an important Motion and we have been discussing it for the whole day and I suggest you put the Question, Sir.

The President: Unfortunately Senator Gaya, we would not run ourselves into this danger because you have spoken. The subject matter is very important. If I rule according to what you have said, in future when somebody finishes speaking on a subject, he will invoke the Order and the precedent that the Question be put. So, I would refer you to Order 25(1)(b) and (f)

Senator Gaya: I have noted the Rules, Sir.

The President: So, I am the one who will observe the Rules and I will interpret them also. So many other people are raising their hands. The point is that people get up and repeat exactly what others have said the other way round. If they do not do that we would not have problem. By the way, to say that you will not repeat what others have said is also repeating what I

0422

said you should not do because I have already said so. So, if that forms part of your address then we are back to square one.

If you have new points I will take them because this is a serious subject matter. If people have suggestions to make or valued points to raise we should listen to them. But we do not want any more address to the nation on it.

Senator Gada Abubakar: Mr. President, because of the importance of this Motion in view of the current realities,, it is very important that we should examine ourselves. We must examine our conscience and then our individual contributions to it. Let me give you a case of adulteress.

Some of the disciples of Jesus Christ brought an adulteress before Him and demanded that she should be stoned to death. Jesus Christ told them *he who has never committed such an offence should cast the first stone*. By the time he looked at the woman and the complainants and made some statements, they all disappeared. He then said; *you woman, go and sin no more*. In other words, go and confess your sin and get redeemed.

On this issue of kidnap, we should isolate our individual contributions. As politicians, he who has no area boys in whatever form or manner should please raise his hand. *(Laughter\)*

The President: Distinguished Senator, whether valid or not valid is not the issue, but this was the very first point that Senator Uche Chukwumerije raised. He said that we should also look inwards and see ourselves; so that point has been canvassed already. It has been raised and so many people have said we should also look at what we have done.

Senator Lee Ledogo Maeba (Rivers South-East): Mr. President, I wondered why people are so happy when I raised my hand to speak. But surprisingly, I would disappoint them because I am coming through other angle. We have to say new things that will help to quench this nemesis of kidnapping.

When we debate kidnapping we are indicting ourselves because the Constitution is very clear that the security and welfare of Nigerians should be the fundamental principle of State policy. So, it started from kidnapping one person and government did not

0423

respond, they kidnapped the second person and government did not respond. The President of Nigeria has no reason to be traveling from one place to the other, hosting the Foreign Envoys, when one man is being kidnapped somewhere in Nigeria. In America, when such thing as kidnap happens every business of State would be paralyzed but here it is done as business as usual. In a day I counted eight persons that were kidnapped in Port Harcourt and there was no comment from the President.

I called the Minister of Internal Affairs and asked him what the government was doing that people are being kidnapped and the government is not responding? That is why I keep saying that we are not implementing our Constitution. If we are implementing our Constitution when the security of a Nigerian is being threatened the State supposed to be on red alert. By this time with the rate of kidnapping that has been recorded for over one year in this country, the President, would have declared security red alert. The entire security of this country would have been put in motion, but nothing like that happened. So, we are joking with the lives of Nigerians.

The President: Again, Senator Maeba, we have canvassed here that government needs to do something positive.

Senator Maeba: I am coming to that, Sir.

The President: No! The preamble is already canvassed

Senator Maeba: It is all right. Another factor is that we are not observing the Laws we passed. We make Laws that are not being observed. Let us consider what has been encouraging kidnapping. Where do kidnappers store their money? There are people who have been kidnapped and N50 million was paid for their release. If you trace that money you will discover that it is in a bank. If a kidnapper collects money from a victim, the next thing you will see is a Marketer from a bank that comes to collect it for safe keeping. We passed the Anti-Money Laundering Act. At the time that Act was being discussed Senator Lawan said that the law would discourage stealing and collection of money from several sources. Now, if a kidnapper collects money and he does not know where to keep the money, he would be discouraged. You can imagine carrying N50 million and you do not know what to do with it. But a kidnapper will take bankers to a hotel room and give him the money for safe keeping

0424

for him. No management of any bank has ever questioned the source of any money lodged in his bank, which is not correct.

Let me see a bank who would claim to have ever questioned the sources of any lodgment made in his bank. I have gone to several countries, even in Ghana, nobody has come to meet me anywhere to ask me to come and lodge money in his bank. We witnessed in the CNN where in the United Kingdom a kidnapper was traced through the money he lodged in a bank and he was arrested.

The President: So, your suggested is checking through the banks.

Senator Lee Maeba: Let me finish, Sir.

The President: Please, time is going and there are so many hands up.

Senator Lee Maeba: Our Rule allows me up to 40 minutes but I have not used even up to five minutes.

The President: You also know that by the same Rule I may not even call you at all. If I do not call you how would you get 40 minutes?

Senator Lee Maeba: That is one aspect of our Rules that is good. The Rule says that the President must call every body who raised his hand.

The President: Rule says I must call anybody who catches my eye, not everybody who raised his hand. It also says that I will interpret it, not you.

Senator Lee Maeba: I do not want to go into that because the Rules who catches your eye first before the next person and then the next person till every body has spoken. That is what the Rule says.

Well, Sir, the banks has a role to play in all this. The issue of accepting deposits from persons with questionable sources of money should be questioned. If a man lodges N10 million in a bank, if bank asks him from where he got the money, you would likely discover it was from a foul means. Therefore, we should involve the banks. Mr. President, does not want me to say more.

0425

The President: You just have been repeating yourself. Distinguished Senator Sekibo, please, no more repetition so that we finish this matter and go to something else.

Senator George Thompson Sekibo (Rivers East): Mr. President, over 50 Senators have spoken and it would be a little bit difficult to take very strict records of exactly what they said so that I do not repeat. But I will try not to repeat what has been said.

The President: I have fairly good record of what has been said.

Senator George Sekibo: While accepting and supporting the Motion raised by the Deputy Senate President, I want to refer you to Section 14(b), 16(b) and 17(d) of the Constitution. I want to start from that point. If you permit me, I would do so.

The President: Yes, read.

Senator George Sekibo: Section 14(b) says: *The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.*

16(b): Control the national economy in such manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity.

17(d): Exploitation of human or natural resources in any form whatsoever for reasons other than the good of the community shall be prevented.

We want to solve a problem, the problem of kidnapping. If any Member from River, Bayelsa, Delta, Akwa Ibom and Edo States, for example, wants to contribute on this Motion, Mr. Senate President should take it as an advantage because I would not want to contribute on a Motion of this nature. Certain issues that would be raised here, you may not be saved but we are saying because we are serving the nation. If you say other people have spoken before, do not speak; maybe, I may say something that will assist the situation.

If a man's eye is paining him and he does not take care of it, after a month or two, perhaps, he would not even be able to go to school, market or work because

0426

when the eyes get blind, the legs cannot go out. Looking at the Motion as raised by the Deputy Senate President, I have interest in two paragraphs. Paragraph 2 says: *Spreading from the South-South, through the South-East and has now enveloped the entire country.*

Paragraph 4 says: *From what was in 2005, isolated acts of Niger Delta activists taking hostage for ransom, it has grown into a national industry of shame and pain.*

From the Motion we are having, from 2005 or even before that, it was an isolated case and as kidnapping was going on, Nigerian government was benefiting because it increases the cost of oil in the international market and our people were suffering. That was just a part of the country which has increased from that point to other areas.

What was the cause of kidnapping activities that he said started from the Niger Delta region? That is very important. When things are happening and we remain insensitive to those issues, they will definitely one day grow beyond that particular area.

The President: Senator Sekibo, please, there is nobody who has spoken on this topic who has not discussed the root cause, where it started from and what it is likely to be in the near future. When Senator Yao, raised the issue of SIM Card, it was a very new topic which he brought because nobody addressed it. But if we go on rhetoric on what is happening, whether we condemn or we do not condemn it, we are just going to stop others from speaking because once it is 2:00 o'clock, we go. Everybody who had spoken had actually tried to trace the root causes, what government ought to do; the sections you read had been referred to over and over.

Senator George Sekibo: The Federal Government is trying to solve the problem of kidnapping. One of the methods of trying to solve it, perhaps, is the amnesty being granted to the militants. The amnesty issue must be critically looked at. It is very difficult to just bring out a criminal who has been in the forest for four to five years. Comparing such person to somebody in the university, after four or five years, the person in the university becomes a graduate in Economics, Mathematics or Law. But these other person has been in the forest for those four or five years and has developed into something beyond human form. To give such a person amnesty without thinking of total package, would also mean bringing people whose reasoning is a bit different from ours to live in the general society.

0427

My thinking is that the Presidency should package the amnesty properly. Give re-orientation to every person that is being brought out from those areas and make him part of the society. They should also create opportunities for them to get real gainful employment so that they may not think of what they have been doing when they were not part of this society.

The President: That is really what the amnesty entails. It was a comprehensive publication. They will be trained in various trades and camped properly. Those are all covered by the amnesty.

Senator Abaribe, please, note that once it is 2:00 o'clock, we would close. If you take other people's time, that will be unfair. Maybe, you comment for a minute or two so that others would have a chance.

Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe (Abia South): Mr. President, I have to thank everyone that has spoken. As a near victim, I would remove a misconception that is on the Floor of this Senate which may lead us into error. That misconception is this. Most people who have spoken today ended up and sometimes said these kidnappers were political thugs and they now graduated. Senator Gada even went to the extent of quoting the Bible. That is a misconception. There is political thuggery all over the country and the highest incidence of political thuggery from our national records, is in the South-West, yet, there is no kidnapping in the South-West. That means that it has nothing much to do with this and far more to do with other factors. I would like to give you one of the factors.

When kidnapping started in Abia State, there was a drastic fall in both bullion van robbery and armed robbery and there is no such things anymore. That means that those who were criminals earlier were the people who converted to something that is much more lucrative. So, we ought to really look at the criminal dimension of it and not to seek for what I will call a bandage solution to say it is all these thugs and so on and so forth.

Senator Umaru Dahiru (Sokoto South): Mr. President, I do not want to repeat what others have said, but I am certainly in support of the Motion. Since the Motion is being debated we shall expand it to include other areas of kidnapping. When Senator Nazif talked about political issues but certainly there are certain kidnappings that have to do with rural community like child kidnapping for ritual purposes. The mothers are afraid that their children are no longer safe. *(Interruptions)*

0428

The President: Senator Patricia Akwashiki mentioned that in her contribution.

Senator Umaru Dahiru: The second point I want to raise is the issue of governance. You will discover along the line that we have the Federal, the States and the Local Governments can we in all sincerity say that the Local Governments are working? They are not working because the money given to them had been captured somewhere.

The President: Senator Ahmed Lawan talked about the synergy between the Federal, the States and the Local Governments.

Senator Umaru Dahiru: Lastly, we are re-branding Nigeria and re-branding has to do with the issues of Sections 23 and 24 of the Constitution which talks about national ethics and, of course, the duties of the citizens. So, I hope that in our Prayers, we shall be able to compel them and discuss more on that.

Senator Joel Danlami Ikenya (Taraba South): Mr. President, I have a different view entirely. I look at the whole issue and I brand it as paying lip service to very important policies of government. Some of these things happen as a result of non implementation of budgets. I understand that from 1999 to now, the Executive arm of Government deliberately does selective implementation of budgets. There has been no funding of even policies that are very key to youth and community development. *(Interruptions)*

The President: Youth empowerment has been canvassed extensively here.

Senator Joel Danlami Ikenya: There has been no release of funds to some Ministries in the last two months or so. Reason given was that those Ministries are not dealing with issues of the Seven Point Agenda. There should be no need for budget rituals in this National Assembly.

Some of the programmes that are so dear to this country are being starved of funds. The Niger Delta crisis started as a beer parlour crisis but today we are finding it difficult to contend.

The President: You are insisting or adding your contribution. This is exactly what everybody has canvassed that Government is not doing enough it should do more.

0429

Senator Joel Danlami Ikenya: In conclusion, I would urge everybody seated here including those in the Executive arm of Government to go back and fulfill their campaign promises.

Senator Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello (Ogun Central): Mr. President, my new point is that there are examples of how to reduce crime in this country. One good example is Lagos State, the neighbouring State to mine. Lagos State has actually been able to reduce all forms of crimes which means it can be done. How did Lagos State do it? They started by employing the unemployed youths and using them in beautification of Lagos State. So, the basis of crime reduction is youth employment.

A country that basis all it does on importation cannot employ its youths. Here, everything we do is based on importation. To get our country moving forward and our youths gainfully employed we need industries. In order to move forward, we cannot want the best of what another country has made. We must be able to compromise and start with the bad products. When the Chinese started their products were bad and their own people used it before it got to the point where they could export.

We should have a manufacturing base to employ all the massive unemployed youths. A population of 140 million people, agriculture alone cannot solve all our problems. We had cassava glut in this country. There was a time cassava was massively produced but there was nothing to use it for and people lost money because there was no industry to use the cassava. You can do anything but without manufacturing you will always have this problem of unemployment and crisis.

Senator Mujitaba Mohammed (Jigawa South West): Mr. President, let me go straight to the point. Senators Sahabi Ya'u and Lee Maeba have already spoken on what I have intended to say but there are still two more points. The first is that we should intensify our intelligence gathering. The case of how kidnappers in Kaduna were apprehended and the celebrated case of Columbia rebels should be our purpose.

The President: That point was very well made by Senator Annie Okonkwo.

Senator Mujitaba Mohammed: We should restrict free sale of internet modem and closely monitor the operations of Cyber café. We should also restrict proliferation of small arms.

0430

Senator Bode Olajumoke (Ondo North): Mr. President, we have 774 Local Governments in this country and in each Local Government, we have the Nigeria Police and the State Security Service (SSS). It is an indictment on the SSS and the Police that they have not been able to find solution to this problem. It is important for our SSS to be up and doing as well as the Police in each Local Government.

The President: That point was very well made much earlier in the day. Let us go to the Prayers now. I believe that every other thing will be covered effectively in the Prayers.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:

(i) Invite the Inspector-General of Police and the National Security Adviser to brief the Senate on the measures being put in place to arrest the growth of the industry of kidnap and hostage taking in Nigeria.

Senator Otaru Salihu Ohize (Kogi Central): Mr. President, the Amendment I want to propose to Prayer 1 is this: *That the Minister for Interior be included on those to be invited to brief the Senate along with the Inspector-General of Police and the National Security Adviser.*

Senator Osita Izunaso (Imo West): Mr. President, my Amendment is: *Invite the Inspector-General of Police, Director-General of SSS, Minister of Interior and the National Security Adviser to brief the Senate on the measures being put in place to arrest the growth of the industry of kidnap and hostage taking in Nigeria.*

The President: Is there any other addition?

Senator Nkechi Nwaogu: Yes. In addition to all the inclusions, I would advise that we include the Minister of National Planning.

Several distinguished Senators: No.

Senator Lee Maeba: I want to re-write this Prayer 1 because this direct invitation makes it look like an indictment on our Standing Committees. We will urge our Committee on Police Affairs, Security and Intelligence Committee to liaise with the relevant security agencies. *(Interruptions)*

0431

The President: Senator Lee Maeba, this is a normal part of their routine activity. Do they need directive from us? Kidnapping is going on. Do they need us to tell them to find out from the Police why things are happening? That is where the indictment would come rather than this one.

Senator Lee Maeba: Then the Prayer should be to direct our Committees to brief the Senate on the various security measures taken on this. We should take brief from our Committees instead of bringing Inspector-General of Police and other Security Chiefs to the Senate everyday like a picture.

The President: That is all right. From the murmuring going on, I am sure that your Amendment has no support from the Floor. I will put the Question on Prayer 1 as amended.

Question on Prayer (i) as amended put and agreed to.

Prayer (ii) says: *Urge the Federal Government to take the issue of youth empowerment seriously to address the root cause of kidnapping and related offences.*

Question put and agreed to.

Prayer (iii) says: *Urge religious leaders, education planners at all level, relevant government agencies and parents to intensify measures that will guarantee reversal of youth delinquency in Nigeria.*

Question put and agreed to.

Payer (iv) says: *Urge the State Governments who have not done so to quickly enact laws providing stiff penalties for kidnapping and related crimes.*

Question proposed:

Senator Ibrahim Ida: Mr. President, what I have as an Amendment is that: *Kidnapping should be made a federal offence and jurisdiction on it conferred on Federal High Courts.*

The President: Can we sit down here through a Motion change one law from being a State Law to a Federal one? That is a constitutional issue and I do not think that would fly at all. Kidnapping at the moment,

0432

is a state offence to be honest and various States should be able to curtail it. It is because of the dimension it has taken that we are discussing it here in the Senate otherwise, it is a state affair. Let me put the Question on Prayer (iv).

Question put and agreed to.

The President: Is there any additional Prayer?

Senator Umaru Dahiru: Mr. President, I am trying to urge other tiers of government, the States and Local Governments in particular, to take the issue of youth empowerment seriously in order to address the root cause of kidnapping and other related offences.

The President: Let me put the Question on the additional Prayer (v) as proposed by Senator Umaru Dahiru.

Question put and negated.

Resolved: That the Senate –

1. Invite the Inspector-General of Police, Director-General of SSS, Minister of Interior and the National Security Adviser to brief the Senate on the measures being put in place to arrest the growth of the industry of kidnap and hostage taking in Nigeria.
2. Urge the Federal Government to take the issue of youth empowerment seriously to address the root cause of kidnapping and related offences.
3. Urge religious leaders, education planners at all levels, relevant government agencies and parents to intensify measures that will guarantee reversal of youth delinquency in Nigeria
4. Urge the State Governments who have not done so to quickly enact Laws providing stiff penalties for kidnapping and related crimes.

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, because of time constraint, I move that other items on the Order Paper be stood down to another legislative day.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamowora: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion as moved by the Senate Leader that other items on the Order Paper be stood down to another legislative day.

0433

Question put and agreed to.

*(By the leave of Senate, other items on the Order
Paper stood down to another legislative day)*

ANNOUNCEMENT

PDP Caucus Meeting

The President: This is just to remind the PDP Senators not to forget their Caucus Meeting. As soon as you stop over by the Senate President's Office, you should move from there to the Caucus Meeting.

0434

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Teslim Folarin: Mr. President, I now move that this Senate do adjourn till tomorrow Thursday, 9th July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamowora: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion as moved by the Senate Leader that this Senate do adjourn till tomorrow, Thursday, 9th July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do stand adjourned till tomorrow, Thursday, 9th July, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 1.55 p.m.