



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 26th July, 2007

1. The Senate met at 11: 10 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 25th July, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Announcement:**
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Students of Manor School, Abuja in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings.
4. **Closed Session:**
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into a Closed Session to deliberate on matters relevant to the workings of the Senate (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Senate in Closed Session	—	11:40 a.m.
Senate in Open Session	—	12:20 p.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in Closed Session deliberated on issues bordering on office accommodation for Distinguished Senators and other matters relevant to the workings of the Senate.
5. **Menace of Quelea Birds and Locust Infestation:**
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do recall its Resolution of Thursday, 9th September, 2004 (*S. Res/077/04*) on the need for Nigeria to collaborate with other West African countries to stem the menace of swarms of quelea birds and locust infestation in West Africa;

Observes also that Nigeria's commitment to the collaboration has been dismal;

Observes the implication of this sub-regional collective effort without Nigeria's involvement would be disastrous especially in the light of revelations by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) experts that the pests are capable of traveling at 100km per day;

Concerned of the devastating effect on crops in recent years especially in Bama, Konduga, Jere, Mafa, Dikwa Ngala, Kala, Balge, MMC and Local Government Areas of Borno State worth millions of Naira;

Observes the fast spread of these pests and birds in other neighbouring States of Yobe, Jigawa, Bauchi and Gombe;

Concerned about the inadequacy and ineffectiveness of the aerial spray being undertaken by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; and

Notes the urgent need to harmonise efforts by all tiers of Government at Federal, State and Local Government levels.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* the President, Commander-in-Chief to give effect to the Senate Resolution No. (S. Res/077/07) of 9th September, 2004; as it becomes a yearly phenomenon;
- (ii) *Urge* the Federal Government to immediately direct the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to embark on a wholistic approach to deal with this menace; and
- (iii) *Direct* its Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, to liaise with the appropriate Government Agencies to ensure the eradication of this menace (*Senator Kaka Mallam Yale*).

Debate

Prayer (i):

That the Senate do urge the President, Commander-in-Chief to give effect to the Senate Resolution No. (S. Res/077/07) of 9th September, 2004; as it becomes a yearly phenomenon — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (ii):

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to immediately direct the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to embark on a wholistic approach to deal with this menace — *Agreed to*.

Prayer (iii):

That the Senate do direct its Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, to liaise with the appropriate Government Agencies to ensure the eradication of this menace

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the provision in prayer (iii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do direct the Committee on Agriculture to liaise with the appropriate government Agencies to combat this menace" (*Senator Teslim K. Folarin*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do urge the President, Commander-in-Chief to give effect to the Senate Resolution No. (S. Res/077/07) of 9th September, 2004; as it becomes a yearly phenomenon;
 - (ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to immediately direct the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to embark on a wholistic approach to deal with this menace; and
 - (iii) That the Senate do direct the Committee on Agriculture to liaise with the appropriate government Agencies to combat this menace (S. Res/011/01/07).
6. *Motion made and Question Proposed:* That the Senate do stand down items (1) and (2) on the Order Paper till the next legislative day (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

7. **Kerosine Explosion in Warri, Delta State:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate recalls that Nigeria had witnessed recurrent episodes of kerosine explosions in the past resulting in high mortality and morbidity of her citizens.

Notes that on the 19th of July 2007, another episode of adulterated kerosine explosion was recorded in Warri and Effurum, Delta State;

Notes that no fewer than (ten) 10 persons lost their lives in the series of those explosions. Among the latest victims was one Mrs. Beauty and her three children.

Notes that more than twenty other victims are presently lying in critical condition at the Warri Central Hospital and other medical centers in the State;

Notes also that more than twenty other victims are presently lying in critical condition at the Warri Central Hospital and other medical centers in the State;

Notes further that properties worth several millions of Naira were equally lost to the inferno;

Observes that the incidence of adulterated kerosine explosions resulting in the loss of precious lives and property in some parts of the country has become a recurrent decimal and needs to be checkmated:

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Send* a message of condolence to the Government and people of Delta State;
- (ii) *Urge* the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently send relief materials to the victims of the explosions;
- (iii) *Urge* the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to carry out a nationwide enlightenment campaign on the dangers of kerosine adulteration

Debate:

Prayer (i):

That the Senate do send a message of condolence to the Government and people of Delta State — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (ii):

That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently send relief materials to the victims of the explosions — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (iii):

That the Senate do urge the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to carry out a nationwide enlightenment campaign on the dangers of kerosine adulteration.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the words “to carry out a” in line 1 and *insert* the words “intensify its” instead thereof (*Senator Eze Ayogu*).

Question that the amendment be made put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do send a message of condolence to the Government and people of Delta State;
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently send relief materials to the victims of the explosions; and
- (iii) That the Senate do urge the National Orientation Agency (NOA) intensify its nationwide enlightenment campaign on the dangers of kerosine adulteration (*S. Res/012/01//07*).

8. **Adjournment:**

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 4th September, 2007 at 10:00 a. m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:50 p.m.

David A. B. Mark
President of the Senate