



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 21st March, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:44 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read Prayers.
2. The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 16th March, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

(a) **Meeting:**

The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Mao A. Oluabunwa (*Abia North*) as follows:



Senator Mao Oluabunwa, FNIST, NPOM, KSC
ABIA NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Chairman, Committee on Primary Healthcare & Communicable Diseases
Deputy Chairman, Committee on Employment, Labour & Productivity

21st March, 2017

The Committee on Primary Healthcare and Communicable Diseases will be meeting today, 21st March, 2017, 2:00 pm. at the Office of Chairman, Suite 3.16 with Prof. Maduake who discovered the cure for HIV/AIDS.

(Signed)

Senator Mao A. Oluabunwa
Chairman

(b) **Acknowledgment:**

The Deputy Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

- (i) Members of Law Student's Association, Igbiniedion University, Okada, Edo State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Prosperity International Academy, Dakwa, Niger State;
- (iii) Staff and Students of Skycrest Academy, Mararaba, Nasarawa State; and

(iv) Staff and Students of Whiteplains British School, Jabi, Abuja.

4. Privileges:

Rising on Rules 14 and 15, Senator Mohammed A. Ndume (*Borno South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the two issues that became the major headlines in print and social media last week. The first issue was the insinuation that the invitation of the Comptroller-General of Customs, Col. Hameed Ali (rtd.) by the Senate was informed by the seizure of a bullet proof SUV vehicle belonging to the Senate President, purported to be cleared with fake National Assembly documents, while the second issue has to do with the alleged First Degree saga of Senator Dino Melaye as reported in the Punch Newspaper Publication of Tuesday, 21st March, 2017 on page 10, captioned "Dino Melaye in first degree certificate scandal". He urged the Senate to investigate these issues with the view to redeem its image.

Publications Laid.

Matters accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions to report within four (4) weeks.

5. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Obinna J. Ogba (*Ebonyi Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the victory of Mr. Amaju Pinnick, Nigerian Football Federation (NFF), Chairman, as the Executive Committee Member of Confederation of African Football (CAF), election on Thursday, 16th March, 2017 in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia. The emergence of Mr. Amaju Pinnick made him the third Nigerian to serve in CAF in about 6 decades. He therefore congratulates Nigerians.

6. Motions:

(a) *The Ethnic Clash in Ile-Ife, Osun State:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes with dismay the recent clash/skirmishes in Ile-Ife, Osun State between the indigenes of the town and the Hausa community in a dispute said to be essentially between two persons;

observes that the dispute came at a time when strenuous efforts are being made to build bridges of understanding between and among all ethnic groups in the country as a symbol of one people united under one nation;

further notes that Ile-Ife holds a special place in the consciousness of the Yoruba race as their ancestral home and in which other ethnic groups including the Hausa have lived and thrived for several decades, if not centuries;

conscious of the fact that the amity could not have been achieved if the people of Ile-Ife were not a part of a race that is very accommodating as exemplified by the fact that the immediate past Ooni of Ife, Oba Sijuade was the closest traditional ruler, friend and ally to the late Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero;

further observes that the present Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi since his ascension has demonstrated an uncommon zeal of symbol of unity among the diverse peoples of the country; and

regrets that in the recent clash in the ancient city of Ile-Ife, several people were reported killed and scores of houses and businesses burnt in an orgy of anger which invited the attention of the Inspector-General of Police and the Army High Command.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the dead victims of the clash;

- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police to prevent a re-occurrence of such dispute in Ile-Ife or anywhere else in the country, he should conduct a thorough investigation into the remote and immediate causes of the Ile-Ife dispute;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to bear the cost of rebuilding the burnt houses and businesses, and pay adequate compensation to the families of the bereaved victims and the injured as a matter of utmost urgency; and
- (iv) send high powered delegation of the Senate to condole with the Government and people of Osun State on the incident and also visit the scenes of destruction and report to the Senate within two weeks (*Senator Jibrin I. Barau — Kano North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence for the dead victims of the clash — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Inspector-General of Police to prevent a re-occurrence of such dispute in Ile-Ife or anywhere else in the country, he should conduct a thorough investigation into the remote and immediate causes of the Ile-Ife dispute.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word “dispute” in line 4, *insert* the words “and those found wanting be prosecuted” (*Senator Rabiul M. Musa — Kano Central*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to bear the cost of rebuilding the burnt houses and businesses, and pay adequate compensation to the families of the bereaved victims and the injured as a matter of utmost urgency — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do send high powered delegation of the Senate to condole with the Government and people of Osun State on the incident and also visit the scenes of destruction and report to the Senate within two weeks — *Negatived.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the dead victims of the clash;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police to prevent a re-occurrence of such dispute in Ile-Ife or anywhere else in the country, he should conduct a thorough investigation into the remote and immediate causes of the Ile-Ife dispute and those found wanting be prosecuted; and
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to bear the cost of rebuilding the burnt houses and businesses, and pay adequate compensation to the families of the bereaved victims and the injured as a matter of utmost urgency (*S/Res/111/02/17*).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

(b) *Averting the looming crisis and monumental corruption in Nigeria's Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS): a time for action:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes:

whereas the National Health Insurance Scheme was established for the noble objectives of promoting the health status of Nigerians as a co-factor in national poverty eradication efforts;

whereas the NHIS like every other Department and Agency of government operates under the supervision of a Ministry and a Minister;

whereas the NHIS like every other Department and Agency of government operates within the extant provisions of the law;

concerned by the scandalous activities of the new Executive Secretary of the NHIS since his appointment;

aware of the boastful and disrespectful behavior of the Executive Secretary to the staff of the Agency and his superiors in the Ministry;

aware also that the Senate Committee on Health had at a point expressed grave concern over the rude behavior of the Executive Secretary especially to his superiors in the Ministry over official matters;

further aware that the Executive Secretary has a spending limit of only ₦2.5 Million;

aware that any spending above his threshold must either be referred to the Board or his supervising Ministry;

aware of the corrupt expenditure of ₦292 Million singlehandedly incurred by the Executive Secretary on Health Care Financing Training without recourse to any appropriate approving authority;

aware also of the illegal expenditure of ₦118 million by the Executive Secretary for training of staff without reference to any approving authority;

aware also of another scandalous expenditure of ₦400 Million spent, purportedly, for training in the month of October 2016;

aware also that despite presidential orders banning promotional items and souvenirs, the Executive Secretary still went ahead to expend ₦50 million for such promotional items, such as, T-shirts and Face caps;

further aware of the recent illegal appointments into the Agency without recourse to due process;

aware of the lopsided nature of the said employment, including the fraudulent change in the designation and nomenclature of General Manager (GM) to 'Head', to circumvent the provision of extant laws establishing the NHIS;

aware of the unilateral recruitment of 15 staff either on full employment or secondment without adherence to extant civil service rules;

aware of the recent appointment or elevation of a barely 32 years old to the position of Assistant General Manager (AGM), equivalent to an Assistant Director in the Ministry who, in fact, had less than 10 years in service;

aware that this appointment and the behavior of the Executive Secretary has dampened the morale of the staff of the agency, especially those that have over 15 years in service;

aware also of the petition by the NHIS Staff Union to the Presidency, the Senate Committee on Health and the NLC over the illegal employment and other sundry matters;

concerned about the industrial consequences these may bring to bear in the activities of the Agency and its staffers and particularly, President Muhammadu Buhari's war on corruption;

mindful also of the consequences these might have on the country's health insurance and its ramifications on poverty eradication; and

concerned that the corrupt and scandalous activities of the Executive Secretary if left unchecked could affect the smooth running of the agency.

Accordingly resolves to:

constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee to investigate the unholy activities of the Executive Secretary from the date of his appointment (*Senator Kabir G. Marafa — Zamfara Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee to investigate the unholy activities of the Executive Secretary from the date of his appointment — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee to investigate the unholy activities of the Executive Secretary from the date of his appointment (*S/Res/112/02/17*).

Ad hoc Committee on National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS):

The Deputy Senate President named the following Senators as *Ad hoc* Committee on National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS):

(i)	Senator Ahmad I. Lawan	—	Chairman
(ii)	Senator Isa H. Misau	—	Member
(iii)	Senator Albert B. Akpan	—	Member
(iv)	Senator Kabiru G. Marafa	—	Member
(v)	Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa	—	Member
(vi)	Senator Ahmad R. Sani	—	Member
(vii)	Senator Ahmed S. Ogembe	—	Member

(c) ***The need for the Federal Government to establish more Colleges of Education (Special) in Nigeria:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes that there is only one Federal College of Education (Special) in Nigeria located in Oyo, Oyo State, purposely established for the training of teachers to teach pupils and students with disabilities including the blind, deaf, dumb, and other physically challenged children;

concerned that the Federal College of Education (Special) in Oyo does not produce enough teachers to cater for the increasing number of children with disabilities as an average of six hundred out of four thousand disabled applicants get admission annually to study in the school, representing only 15%;

further observes that the under provision of teachers in the field of special education amounts to contravening the equal education opportunity rights of children with disabilities provided for by the National Policy on Education (NPE) under the inclusive education clause;

notes that providing adequate educational training to students with disabilities would help a great deal in helping them become useful members of the society, thereby reducing the high rate of begging going on in many States of the Federation; and

convinced that there is a need for the Federal Government to establish more Colleges of Education (Special) to enable the production of adequate teachers that could be employed to train children with disabilities in different parts of the country.

Accordingly Resolves to:

urge the Federal Government to establish more Colleges of Education (Special) in different parts of Nigeria to facilitate the production of enough teachers to train children with disabilities (*Senator Muhammad U. Shitu — Jigawa North-East*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to establish more Colleges of Education (Special) in different parts of Nigeria to facilitate the production of enough teachers to train children with disabilities.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the Proposed Resolution and *insert* the following instead thereof:

“That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to establish five (5) more Colleges of Education (Special), one in each geo-political zone to facilitate the production of enough teachers to train children with disabilities” (*Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to establish five (5) more Colleges of Education (Special), one in each geo-political zone to facilitate the production of enough teachers to train children with disabilities (*S/Res/113/02/17*).

(d) *The need for the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to implement its Intervention Funding Programmes to qualified Nigerian Companies and Exporters:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes Nigeria is undergoing a serious economic recession, with companies, factories, industries, exporters and entrepreneurs no longer growing or going moribund - with the attendant loss of job creation;

notes that the Federal Government of Nigeria, aware that one sure way of fighting economic recession across the nation, in addition to diversification is through the funding of sustainable growth of existing industries some of them inactive; and has therefore resolved to activate the Nigerian Economy through the introduction of different types of long tenured intervention facility programmes, and with the aim of stimulating output production, enhancing value addition and creating employment for Nigerian and these are initiatives that many Nigerian Companies and Commercial Banks have keyed into with great expectations;

aware that based on the above projections and expectations, the CBN in accordance with Section 31 of the CBN Act, 2007 has introduced several intervention funds, including ₦235 billion fund for manufacturing, refinancing and restructuring of facilities of Bank Loans, a ₦500 billion Debenture Stock - with ₦200 billion set aside for refinancing/restructuring of SMEs/manufacturing portfolios, while ₦300 billion is applied to the power and airline projects;

a Non-Oil ₦500 billion low interest Export Stimulation Facilities (EFS) also introduced to compliment the already existing ₦300 billion Real Sector Support Facility (RSSF) established in December, 2014 to further assist the sustainable growth of a recessive economy;

further aware that in the midst of these massive intervention efforts, the CBN has encouraged Nigerian affected companies, factories and exporters to access the facilities through Development Finance Institutions such as Bank of Industries, NEXIM Bank and other direct applications from Commercial Banks, yet very little progress has been made to strongly fund the requirements of many of such valuable institutions that we expect to push the growth of our economy within the growing expectations ignited by the CBN interventions;

observes that the various companies, factories and exporters encouraged by the CBN to go through the rigorous process of accessing the intervention fund programmes, have mostly come out disappointed on the capacity of the CBN to provide expeditious intervention that can reverse the growth of their companies and our economy in recession; and

concerned that if these poor public and real sector economic perceptions are not reversed, they will mean that the needed diversification of the nation's economy from its current reliance on the oil and gas sector, and the new focus on agricultural programmes, will in the long run fail to affect the real sector of the economy and will further retard the expected sustainable growth of the economy in real time.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to consider implementing expeditiously, the approvals and disbursements of intervention facilities to those companies in the real sector that merit such facilities; and
- (ii) invite the CBN Governor to address the Senate on the progress made through the use of its various intervention facility programmes (including the list of beneficiary companies, factories, exporters, etc) in assisting the sustainable growth of the real sector of the economy, and as an instrument for getting out of the nation's economic recession (*Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa — Abia North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to consider implementing expeditiously, the approvals and disbursements of intervention facilities to those companies in the real sector that merit such facilities — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do invite the CBN Governor to address the Senate on the progress made through the use of its various intervention facility programmes (including the list of beneficiary companies, factories, exporters, etc) in assisting the sustainable growth of the real sector of the economy, and as an instrument for getting out of the nation's economic recession.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Proposed Resolution (ii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

“That the Senate do invite the CBN Governor to address the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the progress made through the use of its various intervention facility programmes (including the list of beneficiary companies, factories, exporters, etc) in assisting the sustainable growth of the real sector of the economy, and as an instrument for getting out of the nation's economic recession” (*Senator James E. Manager — Delta South*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to consider implementing expeditiously, the approvals and disbursements of intervention facilities to those companies in the real sector that merit such facilities; and
- (ii) invite the CBN Governor to address the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the progress made through the use of its various intervention facility programmes (including the list of beneficiary companies, factories, exporters, etc) in assisting the sustainable growth of the real sector of the economy, and as an instrument for getting out of the nation's economic recession (*S/Res/114/02/17*).

7. Facial Mutilation (Prohibition) Bill, 2017 (SB.408):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the Prohibition of Facial Mutilation, the Offences, Prosecution and Punishment of offenders and the protection of victims under threat of facial mutilation and to provide for Other Related Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Dino Melaye — Kogi West*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to report within Four (4) weeks.

8. Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Akure (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.399):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Act, CAP C4 LFN, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.64):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Federal University of Education, Zaria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.400):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Federal Entrepreneurship Centres at Local Government Areas (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.133):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. Chartered Polymer Institute of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.396):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 22nd March, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:56 p.m.

Ike Ekweremadu, CFR
Deputy Senate President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.