



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 2nd May, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:42 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 27th April, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcement:**

Acknowledgment:

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Students of Royal Family Academy, Wuye, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

4. **Petitions:**

- (i) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ben Murray-Bruce (*Bayelsa East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Henry Azukaeme on behalf of thirteen (13) others, over unjustified incarceration since their repatriation from Thailand prisons by Maximum Security Prison, Apapa, Lagos. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

- (ii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator David Umaru (*Niger East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mr. Aluwa Y. Emmanuel, over wrongful stoppage of salary and non payment of promotion arrears by the Federal Ministry of Information. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

- (iii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Yele O. Omogunwa (*Ondo South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from D. I. Kekemeke & Co. on behalf of W/Sgt. Yetunde Oladimeji, over wrongful dismissal by the Nigeria Police. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

5. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu (*Lagos Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the 65th birthday celebration of her husband Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which was graced by many Distinguished Senators. She expressed her appreciation to the Senate Leadership and her colleagues for their presence, phone calls and prayers.

6. Ad hoc Committee on Mounting Humanitarian Crisis in the North-East:

Report on the Mounting Humanitarian Crisis in the North-East:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of *Ad hoc* Committee on Mounting Humanitarian Crisis in respect of a motion on the Mounting Humanitarian Crisis in the North-East (*Senator Shehu Sani — Kaduna Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. Executive Communications:

Confirmation of Nominations:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, on the Confirmation of the Nominations of the following persons as Non-Career Ambassadors Designate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

S/N	NAME	STATE	REMARKS
1.	Justice Sylvanus Adiewere Nsofor	Imo	Re-submission
2.	Joseph Olusola Iji	Ondo	Replacement
3.	Comodore Yusuf Jonga Hinna (Rtd)	Gombe	Replacement (<i>Senate Leader</i>).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs to report within two (2) weeks.

8. Confirmation of Nominations:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, on the Confirmation of the Nominations of the following persons for appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioners for the Independent National Electoral Commission:

S/N	Nominees	State of Origin	Remarks
1.	Professor Godswill Obioma	Abia	New Appointment
2.	Ibrahim Abdullahi, mni	Adamawa	New Appointment
3.	Alhaji Ahmad Makama	Bauchi	Reappointment
4.	James Iorliam Apam	Benue	New Appointment
5.	Barr. Mike A. Igini	Delta	Reappointment
6.	Dr. Nkwachukwu Orji	Ebonyi	New Appointment
7.	Dr. Iloh Joseph Valentine Chuks	Enugu	New Appointment
8.	Hussaini Halilu Pai	FCT	Reappointment
9.	Sadiq Abubakar Musa	Kaduna	Reappointment
10.	Jibrin Ibrahim Zarewa	Kano	Reappointment
11.	Dr. (Mrs.) Asmau Sani Maikudi	Katsina	New Appointment
12.	Dr. Mahmuda Isah	Kebbi	New Appointment
13.	Professor Samuel G. Egwu	Kogi	New Appointment
14.	Amb. (Dr.) Rufus O. Akeju	Lagos	Reappointment
15.	Professor Mustapha Zubairu	Niger	New Appointment
16.	Agboke Mutiu Olaleke	Ogun	New Appointment
17.	Sam Olugbadebo Olumekun, mni	Ondo	Reappointment

18.	Abdulganiyu Olayinka Raji	Oyo	New Appointment
19.	Professor Riskuwa A. Shehu	Sokoto	New Appointment
20.	Barr. Kasim Gana Geidam	Yobe	Reappointment
21.	Ahmad Bello Mahmud	Zamfara	New Appointment
22.	Dr. Nentawe Goshwe Yilwatda	Plateau	New Appointment
23.	Umar Ibrahim	Taraba	New Appointment
24.	Mr. Emeka Ononamadu Joseph	Imo	New Appointment
25.	Obo O. Effanga	Cross River	New Appointment
26.	Professor Francis Chukwuemeka Ezeonu	Anambra	New Appointment
27.	Dr. Briyai O. Frankland	Bayelsa	New Appointment

(Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission to report within two (2) weeks.

9. Composition of Committee:

The Senate President announced the name of Senator Suleiman M. Nazif (*Bauchi North*) as the Chairman, Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

10. Conference Committee:

Report on the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) Bill, 2017 (SB. 173 & SB. 183):

Motion made: That the Senate do adopt the Conference Committee Report on the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (*Senator Bayero U. Nafada — Gombe North*).

Debate:

The Senate mandates the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matter to look into the issues raised and report within two (2) weeks.

11. Motions:

(a) *Urgent need to regularize the agreement between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the government of the United Kingdom on the transfer of Sentenced Persons:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Government of the United Kingdom entered into an agreement on the 9th of January 2014 for the transfer of sentenced persons in both countries;

further note that the agreement was made by both countries and authorized by their respective Governments; for the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mohammed Bello Adoke, the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, signed on behalf of Nigeria while the United Kingdom was signed by, Jeremy Wright, the United Kingdom Minister of Justice;

aware that based on this agreement, the Government of the United Kingdom has commenced the return of several prisoners to Nigeria, and has currently initiated the application for the transfer of more prisoners to Nigeria;

further aware that the United Kingdom Government has referred to this agreement as compulsory, whereas the content of the agreement made no mention, nor indicated that the agreement was compulsory;

cognizance that international law is based on cooperation of states, as such the rule of international law implies that where parties have contracted a cooperation agreement, they are expected to do all that is necessary to ensure a successful implementation of the agreement by following the essential internal constitutional and legal procedures required;

further cognizance that the provisions of section 12(1) of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides that no treaty between the Federation and any other country shall have the force of law except to the extent to which any such treaty has been enacted

into law by the National Assembly, while Article 16(1) of the agreement provides that each of the Parties shall notify the other upon completion of their respective internal constitutional and legal procedures required to allow this Agreement to enter into force;

disturbed that the provisions of the Constitution regarding section 12(1) has not been complied with; the agreement in this instance signed by the then Attorney General of the Federation was not subjected to legislative scrutiny or enactment by the National Assembly; the agreement is therefore, not in force;

further disturbed that the British National Offender Management Service may be under a misinformed impression that all the internal procedures have been completed warranting the entry into force of the agreement on 29th September 2014;

worried that certain provisions of the agreement have been deemed to be in breach of the fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

further worried that Article 2 (3) of the Agreement provides for the transfer of the Sentenced Persons with or without consent; it can be noted, that this Agreement differs from many other similar Agreements, for instance in the scheme for the transfer of convicted Offenders within the Commonwealth, domesticated and codified in the LFN 2004, Section 4 (1)(d) clearly states that the transfer must be consented to by the Convicted Offender or where in view of his age or his mental or physical condition, one of the two Countries considers it necessary, consented to by a Person entitled to act on behalf of the convicted offender. It is imperative to note that both Nigeria and the UK are members of the commonwealth. Although the Scheme was amended in 2013 by this National Assembly removing the requirement of consent, it did not vitiate the requirement under Section 12 of the 1999 Constitution;

concerned that the Agreement which is in clear breach of the provisions of Section 12(1) of the Constitution, does not also conform to the provisions of Section 19(a) of the Constitution which provides that the foreign policy objectives shall be "promotion and protection of the national interest"; and

regrets that the issue of consent of the prisoner is akin to the fundamental human rights as provided by the Constitution, therefore where a prisoner's right to consent is taken away, as is the nature of this Agreement, the Agreement is said to have violated the basic tenets of the Fundamental human rights.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) direct the Committees on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; and Foreign Affairs to invite the Attorney General of the Federation, Minister of Justice and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to shed light on issue of Transfer of Sentenced Persons with regard to the Agreement entered into between Nigeria and the United Kingdom on the Subject Matter, and report to the Senate within one month for further legislative action;
- (ii) direct the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to invite the Comptroller General of Prisons to brief the Committee on his level of involvement in complying with the Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners between Nigeria and United Kingdom and report to the Senate within one month to enable the Senate determine further course of action; and

- (iii) direct the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to invite the Attorney General to give an update on the status of ratification of all treaties from 1999 to 2017 and report to the Senate within one month for further legislative action (*Senator Ike Ekweremadu — Enugu West*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do direct the Committees on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; and Foreign Affairs to invite the Attorney General of the Federation, Minister of Justice and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to shed light on issue of Transfer of Sentenced Persons with regard to the Agreement entered into between Nigeria and the United Kingdom on the Subject Matter, and report back to the Senate within one month for further legislative action — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do direct the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to invite the Comptroller General of Prisons to brief the Committee on his level of involvement in complying with the Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners between Nigeria and United Kingdom and report to the Senate within one month to enable the Senate determine further course of action.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the words “Comptroller General of Prisons” in line 2, and *insert* the words “Minister of Interior” (*Senator Monsurat J. A. Sunmonu — Oyo Central*).

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

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do direct the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to invite the Attorney General to give an update on the status of ratification of all treaties from 1999 to 2017 and report to the Senate within one month for further legislative action.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word “General” in line 2, *insert* the words “and Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs” (*Senator James E. Manager — Delta South*).

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

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“Urge the Federal Government to stop prisoners’ transfer from United Kingdom until this matter is settled” (*Senator Ahmad I. Lawan — Yobe North*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) direct the Committees on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; and Foreign Affairs to invite the Attorney General of the Federation, Minister of Justice and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to shed light on issue of Transfer of Sentenced Persons with regard to the Agreement entered into between Nigeria and the United Kingdom on the Subject Matter, and report to the Senate within one month for further legislative action;

- (ii) direct the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to invite the Minister of Interior to brief the Committee on his level of involvement in complying with the Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners between Nigeria and United Kingdom and report to the Senate within one month to enable the Senate determine further course of action;
- (iii) direct the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to invite the Attorney General and Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to give an update on the status of ratification of all treaties from 1999 to 2017 and report to the Senate within one month for further legislative action; and
- (iv) urge the Federal Government to stop prisoners' transfer from United Kingdom until this matter is settled (*S/Res/150/02/17*).

(b) ***The Poor State of Infrastructure in Queens College, Lagos:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes with deep concern the sorry state of infrastructure in Nigeria's oldest all-girls unity school, Queens College, Lagos founded on October 10, 1927 when Nigeria was still a British colony;

worried that for a school with such rich history in academics and character formation for our girl-child from every part of the country, the facilities have completely deteriorated and dilapidated to the point of endangering not just the quality of learning taking place in the school but also, now, adversely affecting the health of these girls;

disturbed at the very unsanitary environment, overcrowded dormitories and quality of water in this premier institution which before now was renowned for excellence, distinction, standard setting and international orientation of both learning and facility;

unhappy that for a facility and environment initially constructed for 500 students, the current student population is 3,558 of which 2,800 are boarders, clearly depict the imminent calamity waiting to happen;

saddened that by the end of January 2017, the sick bay in the school, a facility put in place to provide mostly basic and preventive care to children was full to capacity with hundreds of sick children complaining of similar sickness presenting symptoms of stooling, vomiting, fever, pains in the orifices and various skin infections;

regrets that due to the poor living conditions in the school, the college was shut down on February 15th 2017 with day facilities opened only for those in examination year on the advice of the Lagos State Ministry of Health;

dismayed that factors which prompted the closure of the school were such that vigilance and good management could have helped avoid. Such issues as severe overpopulation and poor care for the student population part of which reportedly resulted in the death of 3 young girls namely Vivian Osuinyi, on 14th February, 2017, Bithia Itulua, on 22nd February, 2017 and Praise Sodipo, on 30th March, 2017; are clearly matters within the borders of criminal negligence; and

alarmed that far from being unique, the situation at Queens College is calamitous and unfortunately reflects the sad state of our public schools across the country and the terrible fate of our children caught up in this terribly depressing state of our academic environment generally.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the three girls who lost their lives in Queens College, Lagos;

- (ii) urge the Minister of Education to address urgent infrastructure upgrade and to provide safe water and sewage treatment and expand the current boarding facilities for the purpose of decongesting the dormitories and direct the Committee on Appropriations to provide funds for infrastructure development of the school in the 2017 budget;
- (iii) urge the Ministry of Education to ensure the enforcement of a credible admission policy that limits admission to merit lists from each of the 36 States and the FCT to a maximum of 200 per year and 1,200 total school population;
- (iv) urge the Minister of Education and Health to enforce the establishment of a comprehensive school health service in line with the National School Health Policy (2006) that will monitor both preventive and curative aspects of the health of Students; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Education (Basic and Secondary); and Health to carry out a public hearing on the poor living conditions in Queens College, Lagos and the deaths of the three girls (*Senator Binta Masi Garba — Adamawa North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence for the three girls who lost their lives in Queens College, Lagos — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Minister of Education to address urgent infrastructure upgrade and to provide safe water and sewage treatment and expand the current boarding facilities for the purpose of decongesting the dormitories and direct the Committee on Appropriations to provide funds for infrastructure development of the school in the 2017 budget — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Education to ensure the enforcement of a credible admission policy that limits admission to merit lists from each of the 36 States and the FCT to a maximum of 200 per year and 1,200 total school population — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Minister of Education and Health to enforce the establishment of a comprehensive school health service in line with the National School Health Policy (2006) that will monitor both preventive and curative aspects of the health of students — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution(v):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Education (Basic and Secondary); and Health to carry out a public hearing on the poor living conditions in Queens College, Lagos and the deaths of the three girls — *Agreed to*.

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“Urge the Ministry of Education to mandate its Inspectorate Department to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the infrastructure and welfare facilities in all Unity Colleges with a view to implementing remedial measures” (*Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi — Kebbi North*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the three girls who lost their lives in Queens College, Lagos;
- (ii) urge the Minister of Education to address urgent infrastructure upgrade and to provide safe water and sewage treatment and expand the current boarding facilities for the purpose of decongesting the dormitories and direct the Committee on Appropriations to provide funds for infrastructure development of the school in the 2017 budget;
- (iii) urge the Ministry of Education to ensure the enforcement of a credible admission policy that limits admission to merit lists from each of the 36 States and the FCT to a maximum of 200 per year and 1,200 total school population;
- (iv) urge the Minister of Education and Health to enforce the establishment of a comprehensive school health service in line with the National School Health Policy (2006) that will monitor both preventive and curative aspects of the health of students;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Education (Basic and Secondary); and Health to carry out a public hearing on the poor living conditions in Queens College, Lagos and the deaths of the three girls; and
- (vi) urge the Ministry of Education to mandate its Inspectorate Department to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the infrastructure and welfare facilities in all Unity Colleges with a view to implementing remedial measures (*S/Res/151/02/17*).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

(c) ***Calabar Football Viewing Centre Tragedy:***

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(d) ***The urgent need to provide Pedestrian Bridges on Federal Highways:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes the absence of pedestrian bridges on major Federal Roads across the country;

saddened that deaths are constantly being recorded as a result of pedestrians crossing Federal Express Roads and Highways;

disturbed to see citizens/pedestrians running across busy roads and thus, putting their lives at risk;

further saddened that it is not unusual to see young children crossing major roads on their way to and from school;

notes that children from indigent families are at a higher risk as they are more likely to use public transport and thus, may be required to traverse roads;

observes that there are several busy roads that ought to but do not have pedestrian bridges.

These include but are not limited to:

- a. Madalla Junction on Zuba road in the FCT;
- b. Okigwe Junction on the Enugu - Umuahia Expressway;
- c. Ariaria Junction leading to the very busy Ariaria International Market, on the Enugu - Port-Harcourt Road;
- d. Command Day School, Abuja Junction on Kubwa - A. Y. A Highway;
- e. Iyana-Ipaja Bus stop in Lagos State; and
- f. Dopemu Bus Stop in Lagos State;

further observes that some of the existing bridges are misplaced, thus defeating their purpose;

further notes that existing pedestrian bridges are most often occupied by beggars and petty traders, thus restricting the flow of human traffic;

observes that many of these bridges are not roofed to protect against adverse weather conditions;

further observes that many of these bridges are also poorly lit, with the effect that pedestrians avoid them at night as they have become a hideout for hoodlums and thieves; and

informed that ensuring safety of lives is a fundamental duty of the government.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the law enforcement Agencies to enforce the use of pedestrian bridges;
- (ii) urge Government at all levels to provide pedestrian bridges over large express roads and at major bus stops;
- (iii) urge relevant law enforcement Agencies to rid pedestrian bridges of beggars and petty traders, to allow for free movement of persons;
- (iv) urge Government at all levels to ensure that roads and pedestrian bridges are lit up to prevent proliferation of crimes in those areas; and
- (v) urge that Security Agencies such as the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) be stationed at these Pedestrian bridges (*Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu — Lagos Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the law enforcement Agencies to enforce the use of pedestrian bridges — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge Government at all levels to provide pedestrian bridges over large express roads and at major bus stops — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge relevant law enforcement Agencies to rid pedestrian bridges of beggars and petty traders, to allow for free movement of persons — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge Government at all levels to ensure that roads and pedestrian bridges are lit up to prevent proliferation of crimes in those areas — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(v):

Question: That the Senate do urge that Security Agencies such as the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) be stationed at these Pedestrian bridges — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the law enforcement Agencies to enforce the use of pedestrian bridges;
- (ii) urge Government at all levels to provide pedestrian bridges over large express roads and at major bus stops;
- (iii) urge relevant law enforcement Agencies to rid pedestrian bridges of beggars and petty traders, to allow for free movement of persons;
- (iv) urge Government at all levels to ensure that roads and pedestrian bridges are lit up to prevent proliferation of crimes in those areas; and
- (v) urge that Security Agencies such as the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) be stationed at these Pedestrian bridges (*S/Res/152/02/17*).

(e) ***Urgent need to speed up all necessary steps towards construction of 3,050 MW Mambilla and 700 MW Zungeru Hydro-Electricity Power Projects:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the engine of life in today's world is an uninterrupted electricity power supply. Again, there is a strong link between per capita electricity power consumption and the state of physical advancement of a nation. This shows the strategic importance of electricity power supply to the development of any nation;

further notes that Renewable Energy options present the most efficient and most viable energy strategies to drive socio-economic activities of the world without hurting the environment;

notes also that Hydro-electric power option ranks the first in efficiency and safety amongst the rest of the renewable energy options, for which the Mambilla Plateau (with an average elevation of more than 1,700m above sea level, and average rainfalls running above 3,000mm, annually) in Nigeria, presents an excellent site to construct and efficiently run a hydro-electric power plant;

aware that the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electricity power projects were conceived over three decades ago, and that several attempts at their realization have been going on since then, which have seen defined stages from Feasibility Studies, through policy options and development, and then to Tenders and Bids, and further to contract negotiations and financing options;

aware that processes leading to the realization of the 700 MW Zungeru Hydro-electricity power project have slowly resumed after years of suspension, delays and technical and administrative bottle necks, arguably costing the nation valuable resources and development that would have advanced our socio-economic and technological development to enviable heights;

aware also that the 3,050 MW Mambilla Hydro Dam Project proposal has come a long way, and has drained so much national resources such as to merit more serious attention that it is given at the moment. That the National Assembly have been supporting the Executive arm with budgetary allocations of not less than ₦14 billion since 2003;

further aware that a 3,050 Megawatts Mambilla Hydro-electricity plant is currently the largest single power plant capacity realizable in this region, with good capacity to serve and stimulate further development of the nation's sources of electricity power generation. That the six top thermal stations in Nigeria have a combined capacity of 3,030 Megawatts, which is less than the 3,050 Megawatts of the proposed Mambilla Hydro Dam;

further aware that in numbers, even at a capacity factor of 0.5, completed Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-Electricity plants will mean an addition of some 3,750 Megawatts into our national grid which will generate about 17,000,000 Megawatts-hour per annum, or some

17 Terawatts-hour annually. This is enough, in the first instance, to power more than 163,000 new supplies to homes and then improve electricity supplies to more than 14,000 existing home in addition. This is a milestone in efficiently and adequately powering more than 177,000 homes. This will also translate to a citizen population of over 15 million addition enjoying adequate electricity supply. More than seventy thousand Small Scale Businesses and Industries in Nigeria will be established from this development;

convinced that the combined Local Contents of the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electric Power projects can serve as a large stimulus package for the Nigerian economy coming out of a recession, with the provision of a sizeable market for the cement industry as well as create good employment for iron and steel in their respective constructions, which will spur the active and full realization of the Ajaokuta Iron and Steel industry. That attendant socio-economic benefits of the two Hydro Dam projects will spread across direct employments running above seventy thousand, with over a thousand entrepreneurs, and then agriculture and agro-allied businesses and industries in the scenes of irrigation and fishing as well as tourism and Water Sports Development;

worried that a 3,050 Megawatts Mambilla Hydro-electric power plant has taken more than thirty years lingering in a planning stage, while the standard period for planning, construction engineering and test-running of such a project is just between five and seven years. That an engineering and technological edifice of the status of the Mambilla Hydro Dam has, unfortunately, become a political campaign tool through successive governments and administrations, through which politicians garner and gather votes, instead of its original platform of being a socio-economic driver of modern development for the nation;

concerned that the absence of reliable power supply in the country is almost always cited by businesses and industries as the biggest obstacle to doing business and rapid economic growth in Nigeria. The Council for Renewable Energy in Nigeria, in 2009, estimated that power outages cost the country over \$984 million, annually; and

further worried that national resources of an alarming magnitude, running into tens of billions of naira, have already been spent, and is still being spent, without encouraging and commensurate results. The present Administration had earlier taken a momentous stand on power projects, with necessary steps reaching advanced stages towards enhancing our sources of electricity power; for the Mambilla Hydro Power project, the momentum has slowed down with negotiations stalling and freezing at contract sum disagreements. That the fear that this gigantic developmental project is freezing and, heading for the rocks is enough nightmare for a development- oriented government, a striving business class and the general Nigerian citizenry.

Accordingly resolved to:

- (i) urge Mr. President to direct the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to speed up the remaining steps and processes towards fast-tracking the immediate commencement of the two projects constructions;
- (ii) urge Mr. President to direct the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to periodically publish proceedings, events and actions relating to the commencements and realizations of the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electric power projects;
- (iii) urge and direct the Federal Government not to be distracted by, or with, wasteful and unviable energy options on the Mambilla Plateau, such as reducing its capacity of 3,050 Megawatts Hydro by 2,000 Megawatts for Solar energy harnessing, which would unnecessarily take over productive agricultural land, with some bad attendant distortions of existing land premium. This would certainly not augur well for the economy. Solar energy harnessing is more efficient in hot, dry and arid areas of which Mambilla Plateau is the complete opposite;
- (iv) urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of expediency, declare a State of Emergency and establish respective Project Management Teams to handle the remaining steps and processes towards the commencements and subsequent constructions of the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electric Power projects, as well as on other similar on-going power projects in the country;
- (v) invite the Minister of Power, Works and Housing to the Senate Plenary to come and state the current status of the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electric Power projects, as well as brief the Senate on the issues relating to the projects; and
- (vi) constitute a high-powered Senate *Ad hoc* Committee for the purpose of pursuing for expedient action in order to realize the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electric Power projects within the shortest possible time (*Senator Yusuf A. Yusuf — Taraba Central*).

*Debate:****Proposed Resolution(i):***

Question: That the Senate do urge Mr. President to direct the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to speed up the remaining steps and processes towards fast-tracking the immediate commencement of the two projects constructions — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge Mr. President to direct the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to periodically publish proceedings, events and actions relating to the commencements and realizations of the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electric power projects — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge and direct the Federal Government not to be distracted by, or with, wasteful and unviable energy options on the Mambilla Plateau, such as reducing its capacity of 3,050 Megawatts Hydro by 2,000 Megawatts for Solar energy harnessing, which would unnecessarily take over productive agricultural land, with some bad attendant distortions of existing land premium. This would certainly not augur well for the economy. Solar energy harnessing is more efficient in hot, dry and arid areas of which Mambilla Plateau is the complete opposite — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of expediency, declare a State of Emergency and establish respective Project Management Teams to handle the remaining steps and processes towards the commencements and subsequent constructions of the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electric Power projects, as well as on other similar on-going power projects in the country — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution(v):

Question: That the Senate do invite the Minister of Power, Works and Housing to the Senate Plenary to come and state the current status of the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electric Power projects, as well as brief the Senate on the issues relating to the projects — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution(vi):

Question: That the Senate do constitute a high-powered Senate *Ad hoc* Committee for the purpose of pursuing for expedient action in order to realize the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electric Power projects within the shortest possible time — *Negatived.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge Mr. President to direct the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to speed up the remaining steps and processes towards fast-tracking the immediate commencement of the two projects constructions; and
- (ii) urge Mr. President to direct the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to periodically publish proceedings, events and actions relating to the commencements and realizations of the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-electric power projects (*S/Res/153/02/17*).

The Senate mandate the Committee on Power to submit a report on Mambilla and Zungeru Hydro-Electric power projects within two (2) weeks.

- (f) ***Urgent need for the Repairs/Re-construction and Dualization of Okene - Auchi - Ekpoma - Benin Road:***

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 3rd May, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:33 p.m.

Abubakar Olubukola Saraki, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.