



**SENATE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER**

Tuesday, 23rd May, 2017

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1. **Prayers**
 2. **Approval of the Votes and Proceedings**
 3. **Oaths**
 4. **Announcements (if any)**
 5. **Petitions**
-

PRESENTATION OF A REPORT

1. Report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare
Constituencies Projects (Budgetary Provisions) Bill, 2017 (SB.103)
Sen. Malam Ali Wakili (*Bauchi South*)
-That the Senate do receive the report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare on the Constituencies Projects (Budgetary Provisions) Bill, 2017 (SB.103) – *To be Laid.*
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. **Worrisome dimension of Cyber-Crime and Insecurity- urgent need for concerted efforts to secure Nigeria's Cyberspace.**

Sponsor: Senator Buhari Abdulfatai (*Oyo North*)

The Senate:

Notes that the positive posture of ICT revolution is being dampened by malicious activities of criminal elements in society which invade the cyberspace, presenting risks to businesses, national economies and security such as malicious use of the social media, identity theft, electronic fraud, data damage or alteration, espionage, etc;

Aware that these elements have developed several hacking technics, one of the most recent being *Ransomware* known as *WannaCry Worm* or *WannaCrypt* which infects computer operating systems and networks, encrypt files and ask for ransom;

Worried that cyber-attacks are taking a dangerous dimension all over the world, for instance the *Lloyds Banking Group* and *Barclays Bank* of UK suffered 48-hour online attack from 11th to 13th of January this year, in which the criminals attempted to block about 20 million accounts, bombarded *Lloyds*, *Halifax* and *Bank of Scotland* with millions of fake requests designed to grind the groups' systems to a halt and asked for a huge ransom in bit coins to end the attacks which were being prevented by the *Denial of Access (DOS)* system;

Further Worried that on the 12th of May alone this year, at least 200,000 targets in over 150 countries were hit by cyber-attacks which the *Internet Protocol* suggested to have originated from the *Middle East* particularly from

Syria and Iran, as well as from Kenya, supposedly using a malware known as Lazurus to compromise systems in banking and information networks, with no clear evidence yet as to how the act was perfected, and that the criminals are already targeting Nigeria;

Alarmed about revelations from studies that over 70% of hacking attempts so far, i.e. about 3,500 cyber-attacks on the Nigeria ICT space, have been successful resulting in loss of over \$450 million and that government servers are currently under serious threat;

Further Alarmed about Oversight findings of the Senate Committee on ICT and Cybercrime which reveal that ICT shortfall in the country is enormous, that Nigeria's cyber space is porous and that the system lacks a well-structured and effective approach to cybercrime control;

Concerned that in view of voluntary and involuntary insider compromise, together with poor information technology standards in the country, Nigeria's security and financial system could be an easy prey to the heightened threatening ramifications of e-crime;

Further Concerned that there is an urgent need to up-scale Nigeria's consciousness towards protection of the country's cyber space;

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Urge* the National Security Adviser to alert all security agencies and financial institutions in the country about the current and threatening dimensions of cyber-attacks; and
- ii. *Mandate* the Senate Committee on ICT and Cybercrime to immediately convoke a National Stakeholder Conference on Cyber Security with a view to stimulating a collective reflection among relevant stakeholders and articulating a national and broad-based approach to keeping the country ahead of the challenge.

2. Need to ensure Affordable and Accessible Mental Health Care for Nigerians.

Sponsor: Senator Oluremi Tinubu (*Lagos Central*)

The Senate:

Worried about the rising spate of suicides and suicide attempts in Nigeria;

Notes that Nigeria was ranked 78th happiest nation in the world and 4th in Africa in the 2015 world happiness report;

Notes further that the report published in March 2017 rates Nigeria as 95th happiest nation out of 155 Countries;

Concerned that suicide and its attendant causes namely: depression, social and economic problems, low self-esteem, traumatic experiences, physical and emotional abuse, substance abuse, bullying etc. are not alien to Nigerians;

Further concerned that societal ills, economic difficulty, crime rate etc. which are prevalent in Nigeria are sufficient to send anyone over the edge;

Saddened that in spite of the dominant presence of these suicide catalysts, Nigeria's mental health support system is barely existent;

Further saddened that access to mental health specialists is expensive and almost nearly out of reach of the poor and middleclass citizens. The effect is where pressure becomes overbearing for these persons, they attack people around them or attempt to take their own lives;

Concerned that the incidences of these suicides is made worse by lack of attention, and the belief that depression and other personality and mental disorders are the white man's sickness and thus, does not affect Nigerians;

Saddened to remember the case of Ariyo Taiwo who posted on Facebook, indicating that he had a few hours left to live. Instead of his post being seen as a plea for help, comments in response mocked and encouraged him. He was said to have taken his life a few hours later;

Reminded that the wellbeing of citizens is the primary duty of government;

Mindful that accessibility of Mental Health care will also ensure that the teeming number of psychology and psychiatry graduates across the country can put their knowledge to use and be gainfully employed,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Urge* the Ministry of Health at Federal and State levels to embark on mental health sensitization and awareness campaign;
- ii. *Urge* the Ministry of Health at all levels to set up free and accessible mental health stations in all Government owned Hospitals and clinics across Nigeria; and
- iii. *Urge* the citizenry to look out for possible symptoms of unhappiness, depression etc. and to seek professional help where necessary.

3. Calabar Football Viewing Centre Tragedy.

Sponsor: Senator Gershom Bassey (*Cross River South*)

The Senate:

Notes with great concern the death of several youths in Nyangassang community in Atimbo area of Calabar on 22ND April, 2017 after a High Tension Cable that belongs to Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company (PHEDC) fell and electrocuted them at a Football Viewing Centre;

Further notes that this sad incident threw Nigeria, other football loving nations and organizations into mourning;

Observes that President Muhammadu Buhari through his Media Aide condoled the families of the deceased and expressed sadness over the death of the football fans;

Further observes that the leadership of the National Assembly also condoled the deceased families and Cross River State for the tragic loss;

Aware that football is a game of unity that contributes in taking restive youths off the streets;

Further aware that the Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) as a body that takes safety at football venues seriously also expressed sadness over the unfortunate electrocution of football fans in Calabar;

Acknowledges that Manchester United, the football club whose fans were affected by the electrocution, had through its twitter handle condoled with the friends and families of the victims of the tragedy;

Concerned that the Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company (PHEDC) as a successor company of PHCN should be responsible for regular checks of its electrical installations in all areas of its operation,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Observe* a minute silence for the 7 persons who lost their lives in the tragic event;

- ii. *Urge* all Electricity Distribution Companies to carry out regular checks and maintenance of their installations so as to forestall tragedies such as this; and
- iii. *Mandate* the Senate Committee on Power, Steel Development and Metallurgy to invite the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission, Nigeria Electricity Management Services Agency and the Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution Company to ascertain the remote and immediate causes of the accident and report its findings and recommendations to the Senate.

4. **Urgent need to investigate the alarming rate of Rape and Sexual Assault against Women, Children and Vulnerable people across the Country.**

Sponsor: Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Kebbi South)

The Senate:

Notes the frightening increase in cases of Sexual violence, notably rape where more than half of the victims are minors, children below the age of consent;

Further Notes that in most of these cases, the perpetrators are usually familiar neighbors, employers of labor and close family members;

Concerned that the activities of these sexual predators constitute a serious security threat to the larger segment of our society and are severely underreported;

Worried that the perversion is spreading across the country, with both the male and female gender as victims especially in view of the poor prosecution and conviction numbers being turned out;

Further worried with statistics released by the Lagos State Government, as reported in Thisday Newspaper on April 24, 2017, stating that 1,480 cases of domestic violence ranging from rape, child abuse, sexual abuse, assaults, defilement, and matrimonial issues in a space of two years;

Recalls a publication by Human Rights Watch of 6th November, 2016 alleging that government officials raped and sexually abused women and girls who survived Boko-Haram violence which incidence has not been legally concluded to serve as a deterrent;

Disturbed that on a nearly daily basis our newspapers are awash with reports of rape and other sexual violence;

Observes that these acts portray the country in bad light and are alien to both our cultural and religious orientation as a people;

Recalls that the 7th Senate had passed the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) VAPP Act 2015 and the 8th Senate has passed the Sexual Offences in Tertiary Institutions Prohibition Bill 2016 to combat these perversions,

Accordingly Resolves to:

- i. *Urge* the Inspector General of Police to investigate and prosecute cases of sexual abuse, violation, and violence in line with the provisions of the extant laws of the federation;
- ii. *Mandate* the Senate Committees on Health, Women Affairs and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to engage relevant stakeholders with a view to resolving these issues;
- iii. *Further urge* the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and paramilitary agencies to establish functional help desk to provide assistance and support to victims as well as handle such cases; and

- iv. Urge all heads of courts to revisit the sentencing policy on all sexual offences and domestic violence to address the seriousness it deserves.

5. The Continued Voters Registration Exercise; Matters Arising.

Sponsor: Senator Godswill Akpabio (*Akwa-Ibom North West*)

The Senate:

Notes that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) commenced a nationwide "Continued Voters Registration (CVR) Exercise" on the 27th April, 2017;

Notes also that the exercise is meant for Nigerians who attained 18 years between the last exercise to this day, those who were not previously registered, those who previously registered but whose names cannot be found in the register of voters and those whose cards are lost or damaged;

Aware that the exercise is ongoing in all the Commissions Offices in the 774 Local Government Areas throughout the Federation;

Observes that the exercise has been faced with several challenges across the country which include Malfunctioning of the Direct Data Capture Machines, non-availability of the machines in some Local Government Areas, slowness of the Direct Data Capture Machines, inadequate man power and inaccessibility of registration centres from prospective registrants, especially those residing in the rural areas;

Observes that the challenges are worse in states like Akwa-Ibom and Anambra where only 30 voters are registered per day in each Local Government with over 20 Wards;

Whereas Governorship election will be taking place in Anambra State come November, 2017 and these challenges if not tackled will jeopardize or make the election less credible if urgent steps are not taken;

Aware that the inability of the Federal Government to effectively address the Challenges of the registration exercise can lead to disenfranchisement of voters which could result in serious voter's apathy which may render the 2019 general election unacceptable, not credible and undemocratic,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. Urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to undertake the Continued Voters Registration (CVR) exercise on a continuing and permanent basis in the respective Polling Unit until every prospective registrants are registered; and
- ii. Mandate the Committee on INEC to monitor the exercise and report progress and challenges periodically to the Senate.

6. Undue Dramatization of the Fight against Corruption in Nigeria.

Sponsor: Sen. Chukwuka Utazi (*Enugu North*)

The Senate:

Acknowledges that corruption is a major governance challenge in Nigeria, a huge disincentive to the development of Nigeria and one of the greatest enemies of the Nigerian nation;

Aware that corruption in Nigeria is a cankerworm that has deeply embedded itself into the fabrics of the nation and has created a system of cronyism which discourages enterprise and merit, enthrones mediocrity, compromises the moral fibre of the society, undermines time-honoured values and spreads poverty;

Acknowledges that the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has made the fight against corruption in Nigeria a cardinal pillar of his government and the President has demonstrated an unprecedented political will for a successful prosecution of the war in order to ensure that the resources of the Country are utilized wholly for the development, security and well-being of the country and its people;

Lends its total support and partnership to the fight against corruption in Nigeria in recognition of the debilitating effects of corruption on the corporate existence of the nation;

Congratulates the Anti-Corruption Agencies, for their determination in exposing and prosecuting cases of corruption in Nigeria;

Commends the whistle-blowing policy of the Federal Government on corruption matters which has led to the discovery of looted funds in unconventional locations across the country;

Worried however about the Agencies penchant for undue publicity of its body of evidence at the commencement of investigation;

Concerned that this approach tends to compromise the strength of the evidence that could be presented to secure conviction in judicial proceedings;

Alarmed at the string of losses of corruption and financial crimes-related cases in court in the recent past;

Disturbed that these losses, due mainly to insufficient and, sometimes, shoddy investigation and the presentation of inadequate unconvincing body of evidence has cast a dark cloud on the efforts of the current government to reduce corruption in Nigeria to the barest minimum;

Worried that the recourse of, especially the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) in blaming the judiciary whenever it loses its case in court is a failure to acknowledge the Commission's shortcomings in the build-up to each case;

Aware that the success or failure of a case involving financial crimes before a court rests on the tripod of quality investigation, competent prosecution and dispassionate application of the law to the facts to arrive at judgment;

Informed that where investigation lacks depth and quality, and the prosecution thereby does not adduce compelling evidence before a Judge to convict, the Judge would have to apply whatever is presented before him in his judgment. Proper investigation is critical to making prosecution easy to secure conviction;

Convinced that the EFCC's emphasis on media trial before the conclusion of investigation weakens its case, and gives the country a bad image in the comity of nations, discouraging the much-needed foreign investments;

Informed that Nigeria is not the only country that fights corruption and related crimes with the requisite zeal, but we do not hear of putrid stories of sleazy discoveries put out by the countries' anti-corruption agencies to every medium of communication to portray the country in bad light;

Worried that the sudden discoveries of abandoned loot, at airports, in septic and water tanks, in high-brow apartments and the dramatization of the process of the discovery of these orphaned monies paint the anti-corruption war in unpalatable colours giving the world an impression of a group seeking applause through propaganda and engaging in a circus show to a rather grave national effort;

Concerned that rather than conduct itself as a government Law-Enforcement Agency whose personnel carry out their work in a detached, dispassionate and dutiful manner, content at doing an honest day's job for the nation, the EFCC places too much unnecessary rigour not on investigation but in publicizing what efforts they are making, thereby compromising the foundations of its cases before a judicial process,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Urge the Anti-Corruption Agencies, especially the EFCC, to de-emphasize propaganda and undue publicity in its operations and concentrate on the competent discharge of its core mandate; and*
- ii. *Urge the Anti-Corruption Agencies to strengthen the inherent institutional weaknesses in its operations to ensure the comprehensive success of the anti-corruption war of the present government.*

7. *Non usage of coin currencies in Nigeria and its negative effects on the economy.*

Sponsor: Sen Mustapha Bukar (Katsina North)

The Senate:

Notes that according to the Central Bank of Nigeria, all currencies shall be legal tender in Nigeria at their face value and that Nigeria's currency as at now comprises of three coin denominations and eight note denominations, the coins are 50kobo, ₦1 and ₦2, while the note denominations are ₦5, ₦10, ₦20, ₦100, ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1000;

Further notes that in Nigeria there are two types of retail payments, the highly repetitive small value transactions such as urban transportation, sweets, cigarettes, kola nuts, vegetables, sachet water etc, as well as less frequent but high value transactions such as clothing, footwear, raw foodstuff, electronics etc;

Observes that coin currencies globally are designed to cater for the highly repetitive transactions because of the nature and conditions under which they happen, such as crowded markets, bus stations, congested traffic and varying weather conditions, including rainy, sunny and humid conditions in which notes are ill-suited for them;

Further observes that countries regularly upgrade their coinage to keep pace with the prices of this category of retailer items;

Aware that the overwhelming majority of Nigerians engage in the highly repetitive small value transactions due to their income and locations;

Observes that even in developed countries like the United Kingdom, the United States of America (USA), Japan, China, the European Union (EU) and the entire United Arab Emirate (UAE), coins are used as means of exchange through cash transactions;

Worried that although the country's currencies are in notes and coins, indications are that coins are fast going out of fashion and into extinction in Nigeria;

Further worried that a survey recently conducted by experts reveals that in the early 90's, coins were in use and considered good money in Nigeria, and now it is the only country in the entire West African sub-region where there is a total absence of coins in the economy;

Further aware that one of the reasons the United States' one cent coin has never been phased out is due to the inflationary ramifications of such a move. Experts believe that coin denominations are important to the economy as it controls the devaluation of a nation's currency;

Further observes that coins as currency are more durable than the notes and the Apex Bank stands to save a lot from the minting of notes that easily get mutilated;

Disturbed that children born in Nigeria in the early millennium, may hardly connect their history to the use of coins which even the older generations presently consider them as relics of a glorious past;

Regrets that coins disappear in Nigeria because the face value of the metal used in producing it is lower than its intrinsic value. Thus, people will always take it to black/goldsmiths and turn it to jewelry and other ornaments;

Further worried that despite the huge budget by the CBN on sensitizing Nigerians on the need to accept coins, the transaction chains were broken as banks and customers reject the currency, thus, promoting corruption and escalating inflation to the extent of diminishing the value of the coins;

Saddened that local retainers keep rejecting the coins because commercial banks won't accept them as deposit, even when they are reflected on paper, and the CBN still recognizes them as legal tender;

Believes that since the three coin denominations of 50kobo, ₦1 and ₦2 have lost their value due to inflation, the conversion of the lower currency notes into coins will facilitate retail transactions in the country, like we have in other developed economies,

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* the CBN to intensify its sensitization campaign and other efforts at bringing back coins into circulation in our markets;
- (ii) *Urge* the CBN to redesign our coins to cater for the highly repetitive transactions of our economy;
- (iii) *Urge* the CBN to convert the lower currency notes into coins to be used side-by-side with the notes in order to facilitate retail transactions in the country; and
- (iv) *Urge* the CBN to sanction any commercial bank that refuses to collect coins from customers as deposit.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. Report of the Committee on Industries
Nigerian Independent Warehouse Regulatory Agency (Est, etc) Bill, 2017 (SB. 255)
Sen. Sam Egwu (*Ebonyi North*)
-That the Senate do consider the report of the Committee on Industries on the Nigerian Independent Warehouse Regulatory Agency (Est, etc) Bill, 2017 (SB. 255).
2. Report of the Committee on Sports
National Sports Commission (Est, etc) Bill, 2017 (SB. 155)
Sen. Obinna Ogba (*Ebonyi Central*)
-That the Senate do consider the report of the Committee on Sports on National Sports Commission (Est, etc) Bill, 2017 (SB. 155).
3. Report of the Committee on Works
Federal Roads Authority (Est, etc) Bill, 2017 (SB. 219)
Sen. Kabiru Gaya (*Kano South*)
-That the Senate do consider the reports of the Committee on Works on Federal Roads Authority (Est, etc) Bill, 2017 (SB. 219).
4. Report of the Committee on Works
National Road Funds (Est, etc) Bill, 2017 (SB. 218)
Sen. Kabiru Gaya (*Kano South*)
-That the Senate do consider the reports of the Committee on Works on National Road Funds (Est, etc) Bill, 2017 (SB. 218).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No.	Committee	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Ad-Hoc Committee on	Tue. 23 rd - Thur. 25 th May, 2017	12.00noon	Committee Room 204

	Alleged Mis-use, Under-Remittance and other fraudulent Activities.			Senate New Building
2.	Culture and Tourism	Tuesday, 23 rd May, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 107 Senate New Building
3.	INEC	Tuesday, 23 rd May, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 438 Senate New Building
4.	Education (Basic & Secondary)	Tuesday, 23 rd May, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 117 Senate New Building
5.	Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters	Tuesday, 23 rd May, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 313 Senate New Building
6.	Employment, Labour and Productivity	Tuesday, 23 rd May, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 327 Senate New Building
7.	Ad-Hoc Committee on Alleged Mis-use, Under-Remittance and other fraudulent Activities.	Tue. 30 th May- Thur. 1 st Jun. 2017	12.00noon	Committee Room 204 Senate New Building