



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

Tuesday, 6th June, 2017

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 Foreign Affairs.
Screening of 3 Non-Career Ambassadorial Nominees
Sen. Monsurat Sunmonu (*Oyo Central*)
-That the Senate do receive the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Screening of the following persons as Non-Career Ambassadors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria - *To be Laid.*

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. The increasing rate of Dropped Calls and other unwholesome practices by Telecommunication Network Operators in Nigeria that have robbed Nigerians of their hard earned billions of naira.

Sponsor: Senator Andy Uba (Anambra South)

Notes that telecommunication services have gradually become an integral part of the Nigerian Economy, as well as an important tool in the social-economic life of Nigerians, over the last decade;

Observes that the Nigerian Mobile Telecommunication Subscribers have of late:

- a. Experienced a disturbing and yet increasing rate of dropped calls;
- b. Encountered incomprehensible speech and voice quality that sounds like speaking from the bottom of a fish tank;
- c. Not been able to control bundle usage, nor the choice to restrict browsing to the resources which they have allocated resulting in a sudden and unexplained expiry of data bundle with the network automatically switching to a pricier airtime option when surfing/ browsing the internet;

d. Lost hard earned billions of Naira through network related call disconnections;

Worried that all the G.S.M operators in Nigeria have recently been experiencing terrible congestions on their networks, thus, denying subscribers the benefits of getting value for their resources and hampering their ability to make or receive calls successfully;

Observes that operators also have an unfair advantage with dropped calls from per-minute users as callers end up paying for an entire minute if a call drops in between, especially within the first few seconds;

Worried also that subscribers' expectations that the quality of service delivery proffered by a G.S.M. Network Operator improves as the Network matures is no longer realistic;

Further observes that despite the warning issued by the Nigerian Communications Commission on the activities of telecom operators using the dropped call mechanism to defraud Nigerians by deducting money from phone users illegally, no serious sanction / penalty has been issued against any operator to date;

Concerned that though service providers have continued to expand their network coverage beyond what their existing infrastructure could carry, no adequate provision has been made to improve service delivery. A recent investigation shows that the four (4) major operators namely MTN, Airtel, Etisalat and Globacom could not provide the rate of drop calls on their networks; and they appear not to see the reason to compensate their customers for disconnected calls or address their frustrations;

Disturbed that operators in the telecommunication industry have not invested substantially on their network to improve the quality of service rendered, a clear case of investment not keeping pace with contemporary needs,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Strongly condemn* the inefficiency of GSM Network operators in Nigeria resulting in poor service delivery;
- ii. *Urge* the Nigerian Communication Commission to invoke the appropriate provisions of the Law and other extant agreements, to protect consumers where necessary and to refund them henceforth for disrupted calls caused by network issues and allow them have more control over their usage of data bundles as practiced by telecom operators in countries like Kenya (Safaricom), South Africa, etc;
- iii. *Urge* Nigerian Communications Commission; the consumer Protection Council; The Standards Organization of Nigeria and other regulatory agencies to carry out effective supervision of the Telecoms service providers to ensure regulatory excellence; operational efficiency and sterling service delivery;
- iv. *Direct* Nigerian Communications Commission and other relevant agencies to carry out a thorough investigation of the causes of dropped calls in the GSM network and come up with innovations that will improve customer experiences; and
- v. *Direct* it's Committees on Communications and Trade & Investment to further look into the issues raised in this Motion.

2. World Environment Day – Monday 5th June, 2017.

Sponsor: Senator Oluremi Tinubu (*Lagos Central*)

The Senate:

Notes that 5th June is World Environment Day, set aside to create awareness for environmental issues and protection of the environment;

Further Notes that the theme for this year's World Environment Day is 'Connecting People to Nature', in celebration of nature's beauty and man's dependence on nature for his wellbeing;

Observes that the Sustainable Development goals include ensuring clean water and sustainable hygiene, sustainable urban development, sustainable consumption through increased use of natural resources and reduction of toxic materials, combating climate change and its adverse effects, conservation of aquatic resources and preservation of terrestrial biodiversity;

Aware that in the light of Nigeria's environmental issues such as Gully erosion in Eastern Nigeria, Desertification in the North and Large scale environmental degradation in the oil rich South-South, illegal mining, uncontrolled excavation of laterites etc., there is a need to be proactive in addressing Nigeria's environmental issues;

Concerned that these environmental issues have widespread effects on the economy, health, and social wellbeing of the people;

Further concerned that women and children are the most vulnerable groups and tend to suffer more from the adverse effects of these environmental issues;

Notes that the school curriculum fails to teach children at a young age about the impact of their actions and their civic duty to the environment;

Disturbed because tomorrow's leaders ought to be equipped with the knowledge to deal with future challenges;

Worried that in spite of the recent launch of the Ogoni Cleanup Campaign, it does not appear that work has commenced;

Reiterates that the environment is being held in trust for our unborn generations and thus, must be kept in pristine condition;

Also worried about the absence of clear framework and institutional actions to counter climate change and its effects;

Further worried about implementation of the Paris agreement (COP 21) and COP22 in light of the recently announced withdrawal of the United States of America;

Certain that if our environment flourishes, we will thrive in all facets of our lives,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Call* on Government at all levels to create a feasible framework for realization of the protection of the environment under the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - ii. *Urge* the Ministry of Environment to create awareness and sensitize Nigerians on environmental issues with a view to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of the citizenry;
 - iii. *Urge* the Federal and State Ministries of Education to include Environmental Studies in the curriculum of school children;
 - iv. *Accelerate* the passage of the Erosion Prevention and Control Bill, 2017 (SB 32) and other environment protection related Bills;
 - v. *Mandate* the Ministry of Environment and relevant agencies to create a framework to stop and prevent further deforestation and degradation; and for replacement of lost vegetative cover; and
 - vi. *Mandate* the Ministry of Environment and relevant agencies to create a sustainable and viable framework to counter climate change and its effects.
3. The dire need for a Stakeholders Round Table to address increasing interest rates in Nigeria.

Sponsor: Senator Rafiu Adebayo Ibrahim (Kwara South)

The Senate:

Notes the pre-eminent position of the banking sector as the blood channel for sustaining the economy and the need to ensure that indices operating at all times are good for the survival of business and the economy;

Aware that Section 2 of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, 2007 has given the Central Bank of Nigeria amongst other things responsibility to ensure monetary and price stability; issue currency; act as banker and provide economic advice to the Federal Government;

Aware that the Central Bank Act, 2007 established the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for the purpose of facilitating the attainment of the objective of price stability and providing supports for the economic policies of the Federal Government and also formulating monetary and credit policies and guidelines;

Also aware that the current MPR of 14% has remain so and very high compared to other developing nations such as Brazil-10.25%, Kenya-10%, South Africa-7%, Rwanda-6.25%, Bangladesh-6.75%, Botwana-5.50%, and many West Africa countries with single digit MPR some as low as 2.95%(Cameroon);

Further disturbed that despite all these negative indices, banks continue to declare huge earnings and profitability which as at 31st March 2017 increased significantly by 151.02% as PBT stood at #186.155 trillion as against #74.160 trillion in December 2016;

Worried that most of this profitability are derived from investment in risk free Government securities such as Treasury Bills and Bonds;

Also worried that the CBN is now faced with difficulties in decision- making on some of its core mandates of controlling the inflation rate, exchange rate and interest rate. Available and reliable records indicate that between January to December, 2016, the CBN as regulator of the banking industry had mopped up about N5.784 trillion in interest expenses for liquidity Management thereby targeting inflation at the expense of economic growth, development and employment;

Worried that the reported explosive increase in net credit to the government in April, 2017 annualized to 72% compared to a programmed rate of 33.12% for the year and significant decline in credit to the private sector below 14.88% target for 2017 portend grave challenges for future macroeconomic stability if allowed to entrench, crowding out private sector borrowing from the economy;

Concerned that the current regime of high interest rate continues to place a major burden on business investments and household consumption spending in Nigeria, thereby negatively impacting on the survival of Nigerian businesses;

Worried that this is perpetuating the indicator which shows that only about 3% of SMEs starting up in the Country having access to credits from banks which ironically employ about 88% of our work force and therefore the backbone of the economy;

Disturbed that lending rates to the private sector has hovered between 28% to 30% across board 2017;

Further acknowledges that if we are to make the necessary reforms of the economy work we cannot neglect the challenges that increasing interest rates pose to the survival of businesses;

Advise the CBN and Deposit Money Banks under its purview to adopt strategies that will lead to reduction on lending rates in the short to medium term, especially in the interest of nation building and poverty reduction, rather than profit making only;

Aware that the CBN has made appreciable effort at boosting the value of the Naira to about 370/1US\$1, a clear and helpful indicator;

Further acknowledges that since the foreign exchange regime seems to be stabilizing, there is need to urgently address this most crucial aspect of the economy: INTEREST RATES REGIME,

Accordingly resolves to:

Mandate the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to organize a Round-Table session with CBN, Banks, NDIC, other relevant Stakeholders and Industry experts with a view to finding immediate, sustainable and lasting solutions that would help usher in a new interest rate regime that supports enterprise development in Nigeria.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. Conference Committee Report
National Assembly Budget and Research Office (Est, etc) Bill, 2017 (SB. 222)
Sen. Emmanuel Paulker (*Bayelsa Central*)
-That the Senate do consider the Conference Committee Report on the National Assembly Budget and Research Office (Est, etc) Bill, 2017 (SB. 222) (*Re-committal*).
2. 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 consider the report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare on the Constituencies Projects (Budgetary Provisions) Bill, 2017 (SB.103).
3. Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment
Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Bill, 2017 (SB. 257)
Sen. Fatima Raji-Rasaki (*Ekiti Central*)
-That the Senate do consider the report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Bill, 2017 (SB. 257).
4. Report of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters
Witness Protection Programme (Est, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 157)
Sen. David Umaru (*Niger East*)
-That the Senate do consider the report of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters on the Witness Protection Programme (Est, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 157)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No.	Committee	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters	Tuesday, 6 th June, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 313 Senate New Building
2.	Gas	Tuesday, 6 th June, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 327 Senate New Building
3.	Customs, Excise and Tariff	Tuesday, 6 th June, 2017	1.00pm	Committee Room 211 Senate New Building
4.	Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters	Tuesday, 6 th June, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 221 Senate New Building
5.	Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs	Tue. 6 th - Thur. 8 th June, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 438 Senate New Building
6.	Ad-Hoc Committee on Alleged Mis-use, Under-Remittance and other fraudulent Activities.	Tue. 6 th - Thur. 8 th June, 2017	12.00noon	Committee Room 204 Senate New Building
7.	Science and Technology	Wednesday, 7 th June, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 117 Senate New Building

8.	Banking, Insurance other Financial Institutions	Wednesday, 7 th June, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 107 Senate New Building
9.	Communications	Wednesday, 7 th June, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 221 Senate New Building
10.	Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs	Mon. 12 th - Tue. 13 th June, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 438 Senate New Building
11.	Ad-Hoc Committee on Alleged Mis-use, Under- Remittance and other fraudulent Activities.	Tue. 13 th - Thur. 15 th June, 2017	12.00noon	Committee Room 204 Senate New Building