



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 8th March, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:27 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**
Closed Session — 10:29 a.m.
Open Session — 10:53 a.m.

The Deputy Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session reviewed the 2017 Budget consideration and the progress made so far. The Senate also considered the proposed visit to the South African Parliament over xenophobic attacks on Nigerians. In view of the House of Representatives desire to visit South Africa on the same purpose, the Senate decided to cancel the visitation to avoid multiple delegation to South Africa.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 7th March, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Announcements:**

(a) **Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senate Caucus:**

The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Godswill O. Akpabio (*Akwa Ibom North-West*) as follows:



SENATE MINORITY LEADER

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be meeting of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senate Caucus immediately after Plenary in Hearing Room 1, today, 8th March, 2017.

Kindly endeavour to attend, please.

(Signed)

Senator Godswill O. Akpabio
Senate Minority Leader

(b) Acknowledgment:

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

- (i) Members of Students' Union, Lagos State University, Lagos, Lagos State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Design 4 Kids International School (Montessori), Apo, FCT, Abuja;
- (iii) Staff and Students of Prince and Princess Ultra-Modern Schools, Kubwa, Abuja; and
- (iv) Members of the Nigeria Universities Accounting Students Association, University of Abuja Chapter, Gwagwalada, Abuja.

5. Petitions:

- (i) Rising on Rule 41, Senator David Umaru (*Niger East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Baba Shehu Ahmad & Co. on behalf of Habibu Adamu Habke, over illegal detention 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.

- (ii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Obinna J. Ogba (*Ebonyi Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Dr. Patrick Ifeanyi Uba, over dispute between Capital Oil and Gas Industries Limited; the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON); and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). 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.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Rose O. Oko (*Cross River North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the recent strike embarked upon by the Nigerian Union of Allied Health Professionals (NUAHP) over non implementation of agreement reached with the Federal Government in 2009. She urged the Senate relevant Committees to intervene.

The Senate directed the Committees on Health; and Employment, Labour and Productivity to engage the Union with a view to ending the strike.

7. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Avoidance of Double Taxation Between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Spain Bill, 2017 (HB. 444) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Avoidance of Double Taxation Between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of South Korea Bill, 2017 (HB. 445) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) National Postgraduate College of Medicine Laboratory Science Bill, 2017 (HB. 405) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Avoidance of Double Taxation Between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Sweden Bill, 2017 (HB. 443) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Federal Capital Territory Magistrate (Salaries and Allowances) Bill, 2017 (SB. 429) — *Read the First Time.*

- (vi) City University of Technology Enugu (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 426) — *Read the First Time.*
- (vii) National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Migrants Commission Bill, 2017 (SB. 335) — *Read the First Time.*
- (viii) Federal College of Education Sabon Birni, Sokoto (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.430) — *Read the First Time.*

8. Motion:

International Women's Day; Theme "Women in the changing world of work: Planet 50:50 by 2030":

Motion made: That the Senate notes that March 8, is the International Women's day, a day that honours the achievements and calls attention to the rights of Women;

further notes that the theme for this year's celebration is "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50:50 by 2030" with particular focus on Women's empowerment. Many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically recognize the need to empower women as both an objective and a key to sustainable development;

recalls that the International Women's day (IWD) was first officially recognized in 1911 and later recognized by the United Nations in 1975. In 1995, over 189 countries including Nigeria converged in Beijing, China for the 4th world conference on women and signed an action plan called "Beijing Declaration";

observes that in 2015, world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, placing gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This year's international Women's Day Focuses on Goal 8 of the SDGs: Decent Work and Economic Growth, which Challenges Governments around the World to achieve "Full and productive employment and Decent Work for all women, including young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.";

further observes that achievement of goals including ending poverty, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, reducing inequalities within and between countries, and achieving gender equalities and empowerment of all women and girls, rest upon unlocking the full potential of women in the world of work;

aware that policies are needed to promote women's access to innovative technologies and practices, decent work and climate-resilient jobs and protect women from violence in work places;

further aware that the "Violence against Persons Prohibition Act" (the VAPP Act) that was signed into law in 2015 is yet to be domesticated in any state of the federation; let alone implement;

concerned that the implementation of policies that prohibits violence against women and girls are still very poor. Practices such as violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation, early child and forced marriage, female genital mutilation are still being practiced;

further concerned that women often bear the burden of unpaid care and domestic work, and when these unpaid hours are added to salaried work, women actually work very long hours in both developing and developed countries; and

moreover women are also significantly under-represented as Legislators, Senior Government Officials and Corporate Chief Executive/Managers.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) felicitate with Nigerian Women on this year's International Women's Day Celebration;
- (ii) call on Government at all levels to give women a quota in all elective offices; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Women Affairs to look into the Domestication of the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act in all the States of the Federation and report to the Senate (*Senator Bintu Masi Garba — Adamawa North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do felicitate with Nigerian Women on this year's International Women's Day Celebration — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do call on Government at all levels to give women a quota in all elective offices — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Women Affairs to look into the Domestication of the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act in all the States of the Federation and report to the Senate — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) felicitate with Nigerian Women on this year's International Women's Day Celebration;
- (ii) call on Government at all levels to give women a quota in all elective offices; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Women Affairs to look into the Domestication of the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act in all the States of the Federation and report to the Senate (*S/Res/103/02/17*).

9. Investment and Securities Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 394):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to amend the Investment and Securities Act 2007 and for Other Matters Connected therewith, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Hassan Mohammed — Yobe South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Capital Market to report within Four (4) weeks.

10. Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education Owerri (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.398):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of the Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education Owerri and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within Four (4) weeks.

11. Federal University of Education, Kano, (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.397):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the Federal University of Education, Kano and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Jibrin I. Barau — Kano North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within Four (4) weeks.

12. Gas Flaring (Prohibition) Bill, 2017 (SB. 337):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. Integrated Community Development Agency Bill, 2017 (SB.305):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of Integrated Community Development Agency and for Other Connected Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Stella A. Oduah — Anambra North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Establishment and Public Services; and Agriculture and Rural Development to report within Four (4) weeks.

14. Rural Areas Development Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.035):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of a Rural Areas Development Agency to provide for the economic and social sustainability of Rural Areas in Nigeria and for Other Connected Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Chukwuka G. Utazi — Enugu North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Establishment and Public Services; and Agriculture and Rural Development to report within Four (4) weeks.

15. Compulsory, Free, Universal Basic Education Act 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 307):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. Occupational Safety and Health in workplaces (Repeal) Bill, 2017 (SB.200):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. Revised Law of the Federation Bill, 2017 (SB.391):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

18. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 9th March, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:22 p.m.

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