



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 9th March, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:29 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 8th March, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

- (a) **Invitation to attend a Sensitization Workshop on Health Plan for the National Assembly:**
The Deputy Senate President read a letter from M. A. Sani-Omolori, Clerk to the National Assembly as follows:

Clerk to the National Assembly
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Three Arms Zone, PMB 141, Garki Abuja
Office No. 0816-500-9426 E-mail:msaniomolori@yahoo.com



*The President of Senate
Federal Republic of Nigeria*

Your Excellency,

ANNOUNCEMENT

INVITATION TO ATTEND A SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON HEALTH PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

This is to formally invite all Distinguished Senators to the Sensitization Workshop on Health Plan organized by the United Healthcare International in collaboration with the Management of National Assembly.

The forum will avail Distinguished Senators the opportunity to key into the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) as provided for every government appointee as well as other opportunities available within the healthcare delivery services provided by the National Assembly. In furtherance to this, I crave your indulgence to have the announcement made during plenary please.

The Sensitization workshop is scheduled as follows:

Date: Monday, 13th March, 2017

Venue: Senate Conference Room 231 Senate New Wing

Time: 11.00 a.m

(Signed)

Mohammed Ataba Sani-Omolori

Clerk to the National Assembly.

8th March, 2017.

(b) Acknowledgment:

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

- (i) Members of ASACS International Staff College, Bwari, Abuja;
- (ii) Members of Nigerian Universities Accounting Students Association, Benson Idahosa University, Benin City, Edo State;
- (iii) Members of Students' Union Government, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu, Enugu State; and
- (iv) Staff and Students of God's Own Scholars Academy, Masaka, Nasarawa State.

4. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Philip T. Aduda (*FCT*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Social Media Network relating to Mr. Michael Nwakwe, Corps Member serving in Nasarawa Academy Gusau, Zamfara State, who was allegedly brutalised by the parent of the student he punished in the course of his duty. He urged the Senate relevant Committees to look into the matter.

The Senate directed the Committee on Sports and Youth Development to investigate the matter and report within one (1) week.

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Sun Newspaper publication of 9th March, 2017 captioned "Customs Dares Senate". He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes that its passed a Resolution on 7th March, 2017 on the implementation of payment of duties on old vehicles in the country by the Nigeria Customs and directed the Agency to stop action on the payment of duties forthwith;

aware that Nigerians are totally not in support of this policy, and that Customs Officials aid the smuggling of vehicles into the country via different borders;

further aware that the policy is retrogressive and contravenes Section 4(9) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) capable of subjecting the citizens of Nigeria into more hardship;

further notes that the stand by the Nigeria Customs is in total disregard and direct confrontation to the Principles of Separation of Powers as provided by the 1999 Constitution (as amended);

disturbed that if this policy is allowed, it can push Nigerians into taking arms against the Agency because Customs Duties were supposed to be paid by motor dealers/importers, and not by the end users who purchased the vehicles from them locally;

further disturbed that Customs revenue has dropped from over ₦1 trillion to about ₦600,000 million annually due to unpleasant and unpopular policies introduced by the Customs; and

notes that the Comptroller-General of Customs needs to wear his rank uniform as a mark of respect to the Institution, and to guarantee leadership and diligence to the Service.

Accordingly resolves to:

invite the Comptroller-General of Nigeria Customs Services to appear in Plenary and in appropriate Uniform to defend the retrospective duty payment on vehicles in Nigeria, on Wednesday, 15th March, 2017.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do invite the Comptroller-General of Nigeria Customs Services to appear in Plenary and in appropriate Uniform to defend the retrospective duty payment on vehicles in Nigeria, on Wednesday, 15th March, 2017 — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do invite the Comptroller-General of Nigeria Customs Services to appear in Plenary and in appropriate Uniform to defend the retrospective duty payment on vehicles in Nigeria, on Wednesday, 15th March, 2017 (S/Res/104/02/17).

6. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Nigerian Postal Bill, 2017 (SB. 437) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Unclaimed Dividends Funds Bill, 2017 (SB. 195) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Law Officers Bill, 2017 (SB. 269) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 315) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Legal Practitioners Act CAP C11 LFN 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 435) — *Read the First Time.*
- (vi) Income Tax Holiday Bill, 2017 (SB. 319) — *Read the First Time.*
- (vii) Artisan Development Centre (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 322) — *Read the First Time.*
- (viii) Sports University of Nigeria Nkalagu (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 393) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ix) Nigerian Police Act CAP P19 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 413) — *Read the First Time.*
- (x) Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act CAP R7 LFN (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 41) — *Read the First Time.*
- (xi) Federal College of Education Gumel (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 417) — *Read the First Time.*

- (xii) Nigerian Foreign Service Commission Bill, 2017 (SB. 422) — *Read the First Time.*
- (xiii) Arbitration and Conciliation Act CAP A18 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 427) — *Read the First Time.*
- (xiv) Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation Act CAP 137 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.428) — *Read the First Time.*
- (xv) National Energy Bill, 2017 (SB. 431) — *Read the First Time.*
- (xvi) Nigerian Police Development Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 433) — *Read the First Time.*
- (xvii) Federal Polytechnic Ukana (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 434) — *Read the First Time.*
- (xviii) Private Detectives and Investigators (Licensing and Regulation) Bill, 2017 (SB. 436) — *Read the First Time.*
- (xix) Federal Medical Centres Bill, 2017 (SB. 438) — *Read the First Time.*

7. Committee on Sports and Youth Development:

Report on the Nigerian Football Association Act CAP N110 LFN 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 154):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Sports and Youth Development on the Nigerian Football Association Act CAP N110 LFN 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2017 (*Senator Obinna J. Ogba — Ebonyi Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

8. Ad hoc Committee on Boko Haram Insurgents Re-assembling in Taraba State:

Report in respect of a motion on the Boko Haram Insurgents Re-assembling in Taraba State:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the *Ad hoc* Committee on Boko Haram Insurgents Re-assembling in Taraba State in respect of a motion on the need to urgently flush out Boko-Haram Insurgents Re-assembling in Taraba and halt the ongoing silent genocide in the State (*Senator Emmanuel Bwacha — Taraba South*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Presented.

Debate:

Proposed resolution (i)

Question: That the Senate do acknowledge and commend the Taraba State Government for the current peace existing in the State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed resolution (ii)

Question: That the Senate do acknowledge and commend the Security Agencies and Taraba State Government for maintaining peace in the State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed resolution (iii)

Question: That the Senate do acknowledge the existence of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Taraba State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed resolution (iv)

Question: That the Senate do urge for the constitution of Joint Security Task Force to help in checking security breaches — *Agreed to.*

Proposed resolution (v)

Question: That the Senate do urge the Security Agencies to find ways in which local vigilante can be co-opted in maintaining peace — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to construct a road between Toungo and Mayondaga to prevent the regrouping of Boko Haram into Gashaka Gumti National Park to avoid the experience of Sambisa forest (*Senator Yusuf A. Yusuf — Taraba Central*).

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

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do acknowledge and commend the Taraba State Government for the current peace existing in the State;
- (ii) That the Senate do acknowledge and commend the Security Agencies and Taraba State Government for maintaining peace in the State
- (iii) That the Senate do acknowledge the existence of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Taraba State;
- (iv) That the Senate do urge for the constitution of Joint Security Task Force to help in checking security breaches;
- (v) That the Senate do urge the Security Agencies to find ways in which local vigilante can be co-opted in maintaining peace; and
- (vi) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to construct a road between Toungo and Mayondaga to prevent the regrouping of Boko Haram into Gashaka Gumti National Park to avoid the experience of Sambisa forest (*S/Res/105/02/17*).

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

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Prohibit Flaring of Natural Gas in Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Albert A. Bassey — Akwa Ibom North-East*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

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

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

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to amend the Compulsory, Free, Universal Basic Education Act 2004 to Enforce Quality, Compulsory, Mandatory and Free Education up to Senior Secondary Three or Equivalent and for Other Related Purposes, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Suleiman A. Adokwe — Nasarawa South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Education (Basic and Secondary) to report within Four (4) weeks.

11. Occupational Safety and Health in Workplaces (Repeal) Bill, 2017 (SB.200):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Factories Act and make comprehensive provisions for Occupational Safety and Health in Workplaces and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Duro S. Faseyi — Ekiti North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity to report within Four (4) weeks.

12. Revised Law of the Federation of Nigeria Bill, 2016 (SB.391):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the periodic Revision of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator David Umaru — Niger East*).

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.

13. Nigerian Solid Minerals Development Bank (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 56):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Solid Minerals Development Bank charged with the responsibility for providing facilities and development for the Solid Mineral sector and Other Related Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Tijjani Y. Kaura — Zamfara North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

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

14. Emergency Powers Act, 1966 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 182):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Emergency Powers Act, 1966 and provide for the declaration of a State of Emergency and for Related Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator John O. Enoh — Cross River Central*).

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.

15. Insurance Act 2003 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.275):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. Employee's Compensation Act, 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 170):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. Tax Incentive Management and Transparency Bill, 2017 (SB.331):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

18. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 14th March, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:26 p.m.

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