



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:49 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 30th March, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

(a) ***All Progressives Congress (APC) Senate Caucus:***

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Ahmad I. Lawan (*Yobe North*) as follows:



SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

*The President of the Senate,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.*

Your Excellency,

NOTICE OF MEETING

There will be a meeting of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Senate Caucus today, Tuesday, 4th April, 2017.

Time: 2.00 p.m

Venue: Hearing Room 022, New Wing, National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

*(Signed)
Senator Ahmad I. Lawan
Leader of the Senate*

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

The 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 today, 4th April, 2017 at No. 13 T. Y. Danjuma Street, Asokoro, Abuja by 7:00 p.m.

Kindly endeavour to attend, please.

(Signed)

Senator Godswill O. Akpabio
Senate Minority Leader

(c) **Acknowledgment:**

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

- (i) Members of National Association of Jigawa State Students, Jigawa Polytechnic, Dutse, Jigawa State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Goshen International High School, Kurmi Sarki, Niger State; and
- (iii) Staff and Students of Faith Academy Day Secondary School, Kubwa, Abuja.

4. Closed Session:

Closed Session — 11:28 a.m.

Open Session — 11:53 a.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on issues bordering on the workings of the Senate in particular and the National Assembly in general.

5. Petitions:

- (i) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Aliyu A. Sabi (*Niger North*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mr. Shawai A. Mohammed, over wrongful dismissal from the Service of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC). 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 Ike Ekweremadu (*Enugu West*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Engr. Y. Y. Sani, Chairman/CEO of>NNL, over non payment of outstanding monitoring fee by the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment. 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 Buhari Abdulfatai (*Oyo North*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Barr. Wale Adesokan on behalf of Mr. Olaide Adebayo, for payment of Judgement Debt 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.

6. Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions:

Report on the Screening of the Nomination of Mr. Aghatise Erediauwa:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the screening of Mr. Aghatise Erediauwa for re-appointment as an Executive Director, Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions:

Report on the Screening of the Nomination of Mr. Umaru Ibrahim:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the screening of Mr. Umaru Ibrahim for re-appointment as Managing Director, Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

8. Motion:

Outbreak of Meningitis: Urgent need to curb the spread and stop further deaths:

Motion made: The Senate is aware that the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control has confirmed the outbreak of Cerebra Spinal Meningitis (CSM) in five States with at least 282 deaths related to the disease;

further aware that according to Chikwe Ihekweazu, the Chief Executive Officer, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, that as at Thursday, 30th March, 2017, 1,966 suspected cases have been recorded, while 109 have been confirmed and are being treated since the outbreak of the disease in February, 2017 as published in Thisday Online Newspaper of Thursday, 30th March, 2017;

regrets that the outbreak of the disease has affected States like Zamfara, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Niger and the Federal Capital Territory;

further regrets that according to Mr. Ihekweazu, Zamfara has the highest number of confirmed cases of 44, followed by Katsina with 32, Sokoto -19, Kebbi -10, and Niger - 4;

observes that the outbreak has reached the Federal Capital Territory Abuja as reported by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Wednesday, 29th March, 2017, that the FCT Primary Health Care Development Board recorded four deaths on Tuesday, 28th March, 2017 in Durumi area of Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC);

further observes that the Board also confirmed the death of a boy in Dakwa area of Bwari Area Council on Wednesday, 29th March, 2017, while the autopsy carried out on the deceased at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital Gwagwalada confirmed the cause of death to be meningitis as published in Premium Times Online Newspaper of Friday, 31st March, 2017;

notes that Meningitis is a disease mostly associated with overcrowding, lack of ventilation and usually peak during the dry season between November and April;

further notes that this recent Meningitis type is a new strand of Meningitis called Stereotype C, unlike the previous kind of Meningitis called Stereotype A, which has disappeared, hence the Vaccine that provides protection for this type of Meningitis is not commercially available and needs to be acquired through a special process coordinated by the World Health Organization; and

observes that there is a need for the Federal Ministry of Health and its counterpart Ministries at the State level to work together to prevent further outbreak of the disease.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and its various Agencies/Parastatals to work closely with the World Health Organization in order to acquire sufficient vaccines needed to respond to the outbreak and prevent further cases; and
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and other relevant Agencies to carry out nationwide immunization of children and adults that are susceptible to the disease (*Senator Bareehu O. Ashafa — Lagos East*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Health and its various Agencies/Parastatals to work closely with the World Health Organization in order to acquire sufficient vaccines needed to respond to the outbreak and prevent further cases.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word “Organization” in line 2, *insert* the words “and United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF)” (*Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa — Abia South*).

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

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Health and other relevant Agencies to carry out nationwide immunization of children and adults that are susceptible to the disease — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- (i) “That the Senate do advise the Nigeria Prisons Service, Nigeria Police, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other managers of detention facilities nationwide to be proactive in preventing the outbreak of the Cerebra Spinal Meningitis (CSM) in the prisons, Police Stations, Cells, detention facilities and Internally Displaced Persons Camps” (*Senator Malam A. Wakili — Bauchi South*).

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

- (ii) “That the Senate do urge Federal Ministry of Health, the National Centre for Disease Control and Other relevant Agencies of Government to urgently undertake massive sensitisation of the citizens in all States and Local Government Areas of the country on the meningitis scourge, causes, effects, treatment and prevention to minimize the spread and to avoid a pandemic” (*Senator Godswil O. Akpabio — Akwa Ibom North-West*).

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

- (iii) “That the Senate do urge Federal Ministry of Health and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to strengthen and step-up epidemiological surveillance of Meningitis and other similar diseases” (*Senator Aliyu A. Sabi — Niger North*).

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

- (iv) “That Senate do urge the Federal Government to administer free Cerebra Spinal Meningitis (CSM) vaccine in all public hospitals” (*Senator Abdullahi A. Gumel — Jigawa North-West*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and its various Agencies/Parastatals to work closely with the World Health Organization and United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in order to acquire sufficient vaccines needed to respond to the outbreak and prevent further cases;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and other relevant Agencies to carry out nationwide immunization of children and adults that are susceptible to the disease;
- (iii) advise the Nigeria Prisons Service, Nigeria Police, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other managers of detention facilities nationwide to be proactive in preventing the outbreak of the Cerebra Spinal Meningitis (CSM) in the prisons, Police Stations, Cells, detention facilities and Internally Displaced Persons Camps;
- (iv) urge Federal Ministry of Health, the National Centre for Disease Control and Other relevant Agencies of Government to urgently undertake massive sensitisation of the citizens in all States and Local Government Areas of the country on the meningitis scourge, causes, effects, treatment and prevention to minimize the spread and to avoid a pandemic;
- (v) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to strengthen and step-up epidemiological surveillance of Meningitis and other similar diseases; and
- (vi) urge the Federal Government to administer free Cerebra Spinal Meningitis (CSM) vaccine in all public hospitals (*S/Res/131/02/17*).

9. Local Government Act No.8 of 1976 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.365):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Federal University of Education, Zaria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.400):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Nigeria Arabic Language Village, Ngala (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.386):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. Nigeria French Language Village, Badagry (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.387):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. **Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Act, CAP C4 LFN, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.64):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. **Chartered Polymer Institute of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.396):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

15. **Federal Entrepreneurship Centres (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.133):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. **Adjournment:**

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 5th April, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
(*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:54 p.m.

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