



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

Tuesday, 26th September, 2017

1. Prayers
 2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
 3. Oaths
 4. Announcements (if any)
 5. Petitions
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. Flooding and Flood Control: The Need for Urgent Action.

Sponsor: Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi (*Kebbi North*)

The Senate:

Notes with concern the recent calamities that befell several locations and Communities as a result of overflow of rivers and waterways resulting in huge losses of life and properties all over the country;

Further notes the recent extensive flooding and its destructive aftermath along the Rivers Niger and Benue and their inland tributaries which has become very endemic, recurring almost every year during the rainy season with its disastrous effect recorded so far in several locations and Local Government Areas in Kebbi, Niger, Kogi, Kwara, Imo and Benue States;

Notes also the unacceptable losses of lives, livelihoods, houses, farmlands, crops and livestock which over the years have become a major source of impoverishment and destitution of the poorest segment of our people, in both rural and urban areas;

Notes the efforts of various State Governments and the Nigerian Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in providing relief and succor to the people affected including the attendant cost of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

Observes that this regular recurrence of flooding along our nation's major rivers and their inland tributaries is the outcome of the siltation and blockages along the water channels that did not allow the water to flow through its natural course, thereby overflowing into people's houses, farms and businesses;

Observes further that a lot of urban flooding and building collapses also arose from the blocking of water channels and siting of dwellings and business premises along dry water channels and flood prone areas; indicative of deficient urban land use planning;

Concerned about our National Policy and Policy Implementation deficit on drainage, water management and urban development planning and implementation,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Urge* the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to design and implement a National integrated community-based riverine and water channel dredging, desiltation and drainage program to cover the entire national riparian network;
- ii. *Urge* the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to commence the dredging and desiltation of Rivers Niger and Benue;
- iii. *Urge* the Federal and State Governments to institute strict land use and environmental planning, including building codes and cadastral planning of all urban locations under their respective control to ensure proper drainage systems and siting of dwellings and business premises away from water courses, river channels and flood plains; and
- iv. *Urge* the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently mobilize to the locations affected by the flood disasters with a view to extending humanitarian and medical assistance to avoid the outbreak of communicable diseases, particularly gastroenteritis and cholera which are very much prevalent in such places.

2. Stabilizing and sustaining post- recession growth of the economy.

Sponsor: Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi (*Kebbi North*)

The Senate:

Recalls that about this time last year, we resumed from summer recess with rude shock of official declaration of the nation's economy having fallen into recession as a result of successive two quarters of negative GDP growth;

Notes that this event forced members into a two-day session during which a wide-range debate on the Economy was undertaken that culminated in the National Assembly's recommendation of a copious array of economic policy measures that were recommended to the Executive Arm of Government for implementation;

Notes that Exactly one year later, it has now been officially confirmed that the economy has come out of recession following two quarters of positive growth, the last being a growth rate of 0.55% attained in June, 2017;

Seizes this opportunity to congratulate the national economic policy makers and managers for this great achievement, with a caveat that we should not rest on our oars;

Further Notes that the economy's exit out of recession was largely made possible by a very favorable combination of improved national and international economic environment, that include the following:

- Relative peace and stability in the Niger Delta region that facilitated increased volume of oil production;
- Favorable international oil prices that rose from a dismal \$30 per barrel to above \$54 per barrel, today;
- Relatively stable exchange rates of N360 to \$(parallel) and N305 to \$(official) that was achieved at a great cost to the Nation's Central Bank;(Nearly \$9billion spent to support the Naira);
- Rise of our foreign exchange reserves from about \$25 Billion (2015) to above \$ 34 Billion, today;
- Regular and sustained releases of the 2016 Capital Budget;
- Favorable weather condition in the last two years and the economic conditions that drove our people back to the farm, which resulted in good harvests and positive growth of our agricultural sector by over 5.0 percent;

- Maintenance of tariff policy regime that excluded over forty (40+) Exported items from access to official foreign exchange;
- Some measure of stability and growth in our capital market that was revitalized with CBN intervention in the Investors and Exporters foreign exchange window;

Cautious however that this positive atmosphere is reversible, therefore we should not take anything for granted and should do everything possible to avoid relapsing into another recession,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. Urge the national economy managers to remain focused and ensure that the current weak growth of a mere 0.55% is built upon and increased substantially in the months and years to come;
- ii. Urge the fiscal and monetary authorities to come together and harmonize fiscal and monetary policies with a view to drastically reducing the high interest rate that has adversely affected borrowing for investment by the real sector of the economy;
- iii. Urge fiscal authorities to drastically reduce the accumulation of domestic debt in order to free the market for better access by the private sector;
- iv. Urge the CBN to revert to its traditional core mandate and responsibility as the Banker of the Federal Government, supervisor of the Banking industry, stabilizer (guardian) of the National currency and as the institution in-charge of our monetary policy and its institutions, and curb its foray into direct development funding; and
- v. Urge the CBN to transfer its operating surpluses to the government instead of operating as another fiscal institution in order to avoid the incidence of the Federal Government going into debt to finance capital budget.

3. Innovative Education Technology: E-Learning and Blended learning in the education sector in Nigeria.

Sen. Rose O. Oko (*Cross River North*)

The Senate:

Notes that developments globally and in Nigeria in particular have shown that oil alone cannot propel Nigeria economically into world prominence, but a massification to unleash the power of information technology through e-learning by its young, digitally-savvy, English speaking youths;

Notes that as the largest economy in sub-saharan Africa, Nigeria must capitalise on its huge human capital and employ recent innovations in education technology of e-learning to massively improve the skills of its workforce, including its teachers, service sector workers, infrastructures, finance, IT, private sector workers and very importantly students;

Notes that two major global players that are at the forefront of capturing this confluence of digital and demographic trends are the Philippines and India with large number of educated digitally-savvy English speaking youths.

Notes also that the Philippines is the world leader in BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) with it's call centers that directly employ 1 million of her youths and indirectly benefits 2 million through collaboration with the service sectors, and provides \$25 billion in annual foreign exchange earnings;

Further Notes that Philippines and India are No. 1 & 2 globally in providing skills for the new space called online outsourcing (OO) and freelancing platforms, followed by the US, Pakistan and Bangladesh; noting that the characteristics that they all posses are: English speaking, large number of educated youths and large pool of digitally-savvy internet users;

Aware that while Philippines, the world leader in BPO and OO services has 54 million internet users, Nigeria has 93 million users- 8th largest in the world, hence the need to harness the numerical advantage to capture the potential large dividends, against the backdrop of the fact that an estimated world BPO market of \$50 million annually is largely untapped, and so could be tapped into by Nigeria;

Notes that with the advent of the internet and large number of users in Nigeria (93 million users) in education and skills development can now be delivered in smart phones, tablets and laptop computers, where in-classroom teaching and learning can be blended with and supported by new learning technologies to greatly improve learning outcome and career readiness with industry relevant skills to secure jobs and increase productivity;

Further notes that the International Telecommunications Union (ITU 2017) reported that Nigeria ranked 2nd globally in internet growth between 2000-2017, increasing by 45.699%, while majority of internet users in Nigeria are among the youngest in the world, digital natives, engaging in Facebook, linked-in, twitter and other social media, and so are natural users of the internet, therefore making an extension of usage for education easy;

Worried by the decay in education in Nigeria arising from multiple factors such as lack of access to education, infrastructure, instructional materials, qualified teachers together with dearth of teachers;

Notes that maximising the convergence of demographic and digital dividends in Nigeria through e-learning will not only enhance the standard of education, but also propel Nigeria to a world leader in demonstrating economic renaissance driven by the power of mobile-education against the backdrop of the fact that Nigeria already possesses a young, English-speaking, digitally-savvy population with 93 million internet users, 16 million youths on facebook daily, and 360 million geo-located tweets;

Further notes that there is growing global acceptance of e-learning for example through educational technology giants like coursera.org, udacity.com, Gnowbe.com, furturelearn.org, Lynda.com among others;

Aware that excellent opportunities abound through e-learning for Teachers Professional Development (TPD) to efficiently and cost-effectively upgrade the pedagogic and subject matter expertise of over 1 million teachers in Nigeria, where only about 60% of primary school teachers are qualified;

Concerned that with an annual training capacity of 152,000 per year, it will take Nigeria seven (7) years to complete the Professional Development Training of the over 1 million teachers using traditional methods, whereas with the massive training capability of e-learning, 1 million teachers could be trained in 1 year;

Aware that educational tech giants such as Coursera currently offer 2000 plus courses from 150 top universities with 28 million users, while Udemy has 55,000 courses with 17 million users and Gnowbe has over 1 million users;

Concerned that Nigeria must use the opportunity of e-learning to bridge the gap in teacher professional development in basic education in particular and improve learning by students in general;

Further concerned that appropriate broadband technology needed for the effective adoption and execution of educational technology is currently not available,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. Urge the government through UBEC to examine the feasibility and adopt the policy of education technology in promoting e-learning especially at the basic education level;
- ii. Request the Ministry of Communication to provide broadband facilities to cover e-learning in schools in Nigeria; and
- iii. Mandate the Committees on Education (Basic and Secondary), TERTFUND and Tertiary institutions and Communication to conduct a public hearing on Innovations in Educational Technology with relevant industry stakeholders with a view to enriching such a policy and report back in 4 weeks.

4. Boundary crisis arising from non-delimitation of Nigerian internal boundaries.

Sponsor: Sen. Gershom H. Bassey (*Cross River South*)

The Senate:

Notes that Nigerian borders are afflicted by a multitude of boundary crisis that straddle villages and cause loss of lives and properties;

Further notes that farmlands and the use of land mass as means of revenue allocation in Nigeria is a major factor contributing to boundary disputes;

Aware that the core mandate of the National Boundary Commission is to define and delimitate boundaries between states, LGA's or communities in the federation and between Nigeria and her neighbors in accordance with delimitation instruments or documents established for that purpose;

Worried that despite the National Boundary Commission's mandate, close to 150 active border disputes resulting from non-delimitation of boundaries exist within and between states across the country;

Further worried that territorial disputes over possession and control of land between communities leading to loss of lives and property is on the increase in Nigeria;

Disturbed that the National Boundary Commission's intervention in the settlement of boundary crisis in Nigeria, even after judgments of the Supreme Court, is always belated and comes after loss of human lives and properties;

Recognizes that a proactive and effective delimitation of Nigerian internal boundaries by the National Boundary Commission will forestall incessant boundary disputes in Nigeria,

Accordingly resolves to:

Urge the National Boundary Commission to take immediate steps to stop the many lingering boundary disputes by clearly delineating Nigerian internal boundaries.

5. The Need to construct Captive Dams in all Communities across the country.

Sponsors: Sen. Barnabas Gemade (*Benue North East*) and Sen. Stella Oduah (*Anambra North*)

The Senate:

Observes that the level of drilling boreholes for ground water has increased tremendously in the last 10 years especially since the introduction of constituency intervention projects and the advent of the UN programme of MDGs now SDGs;

Notes that the increased exploitation of aquifers has the effect of drastically raising the level of table water in many Communities across the country;

Notes that this has the effect of also contributing to the dryness of allevia layers of the land thereby affecting the survival of vegetation during dry seasons which is also contributing to desertification;

Notes also that the free running of streams tributaries and rivers is also causing top soil erosion and degradation of the land;

Further notes that the erection of these streams tributaries and river banks is carrying with it large volumes of silt that is clogging the channels of these rivers and causing excessive flooding of lands along these rivers;

Observes that the phenomenon of building captive dams has been extensively used in other countries to recharge aquifers and to maintain good levels of ground water table even where extensive irrigation from boreholes is adapted;

Further observes that there are many other advantages of captive dams when constructed:

- a. Increasing the amount of fresh water available for human and animal use rather than letting all fresh water run to the oceans to become salt water which is expensive to process for these uses;
- b. Improving on water supply sources to our villages; Etc,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Encourage* the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to construct small captive dams in all communities and locations where there are about 4000 small dams per year;
 - ii. *Urge* the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to work on all river crossing of the highways with capacity to capture some water without jeopardizing the road structure itself since this will allow the money spent to serve dual purposes;
 - iii. *Urge* the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to carry out investigation of ground water situation in all River basins and monitor its deployment; and
 - iv. *Direct* the Committee on Water Resources, Works and Agriculture and Environment to develop implementation guidelines for captive dam construction programme.
6. Urgent need to control the indiscriminate erection of speed bumps on Federal Roads Nationwide.

Sponsors: Sen. Barnabas Gemade (*Benue North East*) and Sen. Stella Oduah (*Anambra North*)

The Senate:

Notes with dismay the thousands of speed bumps recently erected on almost all Federal high ways nationwide ostensibly to control speed of motor vehicles plying the roads;

Observes that these bumps are indiscriminately erected in several communities, villages, hamlets, petrol filling stations, markets, road side bukas and even individual homes by who ever wanted vehicles to agonize their locations;

Aware that there is need for speed control on our high ways to avoid over speeding by motorists especially around hospitals and schools, however the FRSC has introduced a speed control device to be installed in commercial vehicles which took effect two months ago;

Believes that Federal highways are meant for smooth traffic flow and there should be no constraints restricting the free flow of traffic;

Aware that these speed bumps now constitute a nuisance source other than serve any useful purpose whatsoever;

Some of the hazards to vehicle owners are accelerated wear and tear of the vehicles, loss of many hours in billions when quantified nationwide, damage to vehicle suspension systems as most of these bumps are not professionally designed;

Aware that bumps are used strictly on city streets to control crossing intersections without slowing down and not on free traffic high ways that are not crossing any other roads, while roads that cross Federal highways should have the bumps and not the highway itself;

Recalls that even in the city of Abuja when these bumps were indiscriminately applied on city streets there was an outcry and they were removed and approved only at very necessary points;

Observes that the Department of Highways in the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing is not controlling the development of structures along Federal Highways allowing illegal fixed structures to be erected less than

the prescribed 45m off the roads (in some villages, shops and even houses are erected less than 2 metres from the roads);

Observes also that planning authority in the States and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are not enforcing these regulations governing location of filling stations, markets and places of worship resulting to total closure of the highways when these places are in use,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. Direct the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to remove all the speed bumps indiscriminately erected off Federal Highways nationwide;
- ii. Urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to cause owners of petrol filling stations to build a service lane of not less than 50m on both sides of the stations to avoid customers turning directly to and from the Highways;
- iii. Urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to enforce set back regulations for fixed structures along Highways; and
- iv. Urge Planning Authority regulations for motor parks, markets and places of worship.

7. Inadequate releases in the 2017 Budget and the need to expedite releases in Order to Stimulate the Economy

Sponsor: Senator Gbenga B. Ashafa (Lagos East)

Co-sponsors:

Senator Baba Kaka Garbai (Borno Central)

Senator Rafiu Ibrahim (Kwara South)

Senator Stella Oduah (Anambra North)

Senator James Manager (Delta South)

Senator Kabiru Gaya (Kano South)

Senator Eyinnaya Abaribe (Abia South)

The Senate:

Notes that the 2017 Appropriation Bill was passed by the National Assembly on 11th of May, 2017 and was assented to on the 12th 2017;

Notes that the total size of the 2017 budget tagged as the Budget of Economic Recovery and Growth is in the sum of =N=7,441,175,486,758 (Seven Trillion, Four Hundred and Forty One Billion, One Hundred and Seventy Five Million, Four Hundred and Eighty Six Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Eight Naira) with capital component of the sum of =N=2,177,866,775,867 (Two Trillion, One Hundred and Seventy-Seven Billion, Eight-Hundred and Sixty-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Seven Naira) only, the year ending on the 31st December, 2017, according to the Appropriation Act of 2017;

Observes that according to the Budget Office of the Federal Government as published in the 2017 First Quarter Budget Implementation Report, no fund was released for capital projects/programs due to the extension of 2016 capital budget implementation to 5th May, 2017;

Concerned that since the 2017 budget was assented to by the President, about N310 Billion Naira has been released by the Federal Government to Ministries, Departments and Agencies as funding for capital projects which is far too low to stimulate the economy to address our present economic challenges;

Worried that the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria in line with the prevalent concern of financial analysts stated during the Monetary Policy Committee meeting of the bank which took place on 25th July, 2017 that "the government needs to move quickly to start capital expenditure spending as contained in the 2017 budget to reflate the economy in a way that will impact Nigerians positively;

Further Worried that failure to expeditiously release the capital component of the budget to the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government might return the country to the recession which we have almost exited;

Aware that the livelihood of millions of Nigerians is directly tied to the funding of the budget and execution of projects, considering that the more projects are executed, more Nigerians would be engaged at various levels of the employment value chain;

AWARE that the rainy season is just about to give way to the dry season that would last between October, 2017 to April, 2018, which is usually the best period to carry out construction work and most capital projects;

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Urge* the Federal Government to expeditiously release the capital component of the 2017 budget in order to deliver the dividends of the 2017 Appropriation Act to Nigerians;
- ii. *Request* that the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning appear before the Senate in plenary immediately to brief the Senate on the cause of the inadequate releases and steps being taken to expedite release of funds for the capital component of the 2017 Appropriation Act;
- iii. *Urge* the Federal Government to maximize the upcoming dry season in funding the infrastructural projects contained in the 2017 Appropriation act; and
- iv. *Direct* the Senate Committee on Local and Foreign debts to expeditiously report to the committee of the whole as regards all the pending loan requests from the executive before it in order to enable the legislature advise the executive properly.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No.	Committee	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Employment, Labour and Productivity	Tuesday 26 th September, 2017	2.00pm	Committee Room 328 Senate New Building
2.	Joint Committee on Customs, Excise & Tariff and Marine Transport	Tue. 26 th - Wed. 27 th September, 2017	10.00am	Committee Room 323 Senate New Building
3.	Power, Steel Development and Metallurgy	Wednesday 27 th September, 2017	2.30pm	Committee Room 431 Senate New Building
4.	Health	Thur. 28 th - Fri. 29 th September, 2017 (Inaugural Meeting of the Steering Committee of Legislative Network For Universal Health Coverage)	10:00am -5.00pm	Chelsea Hotel, Abuja Central Area