



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 26th September, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:44 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**

Closed Session — 10:49 a.m.

Open Session — 12:23 p.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on national issues and resolved as follows:

- (i) That the unity of Nigeria is non-negotiable and fully committed to the preservation of the territorial integrity of the country;
- (ii) That the Senate will seek all possible avenues to make sure that peace is restored in all parts of Nigeria; and
- (iii) That the Senate hereby advised that all groups seeking to pursue any agitation to do so through Constitutional means.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**

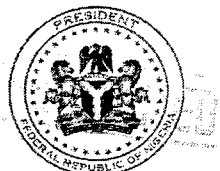
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings(2) of Thursday, 27th July, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Messages from Mr. President:**

The Senate President announced that he had received two letters from President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

- (i) **Resumption of Office:**



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

21st August 2017

Distinguished Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Distinguished Senate President

RESUMPTION OF OFFICE

In compliance with Section 145 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), I write to intimate the Senate that I have resumed my functions as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with effect from Monday 21st August, 2017 after my medical follow-up in the United Kingdom.

Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

(ii) **Request for the amendment of Fiscal Responsibility Act:**



**VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

SH/AG. PRESIDENT/02/16

4 August 2017

His Excellency
Distinguished Senator (Dr.) Bukola Saraki, CON
President
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone

Dear Senate President,

**REQUEST FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT BY THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE PROPOSED PROMISSORY NOTE AND
BOND ISSUANCE PROGRAMME**

I forward herewith, for your kind consideration and passage into law, the Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

2. The proposed amendment is necessitated by the need to commence the programme of promissory note and bond issuance to provide a final solution to the long-standing issue of outstanding obligations of the Government that have been quantified at a gross amount of N2.7 Trillion.

3. This programme has become imperative in view of the seriousness of the accumulation of these obligations, which are inimical to Government plans to revive the economy through the provision of improved and modernised infrastructure; and, at a human capital level, the issue of pension and promotional arrears, which go back as far as 2012, is causing untold hardships among those who have served. It also adversely affects the morale of those currently in service, and on whom we depend to implement Government programmes.

4. However, as you are no doubt aware, pension and salary arrears are recurrent expenditure and the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 (FRA) clearly stipulates in sections 41(1)(a) and 44(2)(b) that the proceeds of borrowing by Governments shall be applied solely towards capital expenditure.

5. In this regard, I request that the National Assembly approves the proposed amendment to the FRA to provide legal backing for the use of the mentioned instruments in the satisfaction of the accumulated obligations.

6. I look forward to an expedited treatment of this request by the Distinguished Senate and attach the draft Bill for your consideration.

7. Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards.

(Signed)

Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON
Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

5. Announcement

Demise of Wife:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Gilbert E. Nnaji (Enugu East) as follows:



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Senator (Dr.) Gilbert Emeka Nnaji

Chairman, Senate Committee on Communications
Enugu East Senatorial District

26th September 2017

His Excellency, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, CON,
President of the Senate

Your Excellency,

NOTIFICATION OF THE DEMISE OF MY LOVELY WIFE

On behalf of my family and constituents, I humbly notify Your Excellency and my Distinguished Colleagues of the unfortunate passing away of my lovely wife, Princess Anne Nnenna Nnaji.

Until her departure on September 9, 2017, she was a devout Christian, an embodiment of a virtuous woman, a praying wife who inspired awesome faith in God, an exemplary mother, a caring sister, a dependable friend of all seasons, great mentor, peace-maker and true pillar of support. Also she would be sorely missed for her profound love for humanity and dedication to family unity.

Her body will be laid to rest on Friday, November 10, 2017 at my Country home, Iji-Nike, Enugu-East LGA, Enugu State.

Your Excellency, while we count on your kind understanding and that of the Senate in the circumstance, please accept as usual, the continued assurances of my highest esteem. Meanwhile, your timely condolence message could be forwarded to my office, my Enugu and Abuja residences or info@senatorgilnnaji.com.

(Signed)

Senator (Prince) Gilbert Nnaji

Chairman, Committee on Communications

6. Remarks by the Senate President:



WELCOME BACK SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, HIS EXCELLENCY, SENATOR (DR) ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAHI (CON) ON THE 8TH SENATE'S RESUMPTION OF PLENARY FROM THE 2017 ANNUAL RECESS ON TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER, 2017.

PROTOCOL

1. *Distinguished colleagues, it a great pleasure to see you all back from our annual recess. In truth, it has always been a special privilege to welcome you my colleagues into this chamber, and today is no exception. I believe the recess afforded us, opportunity to take stock on the journey so far, consult widely with our constituents and be re-energized for the tasks ahead.*
2. *Let me also use this opportunity to, on behalf of the entire Senate commiserate with our colleague Senator Gilbert Nnaji, Enugu East who recently lost his amiable wife Lady Ann Nnaji after a brief illness. We pray that the good lord will grant her eternal rest and you our dear Senator Gilbert, the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.*
3. *Distinguished colleagues, we have in the last two sessions of our term devoted enormous time, working hard on critical legislation, some with historical essence and others with relatively high-level implications for enhancing the welfare of our people and putting food on their tables. I am happy to tell you that some of these bills which have since become law have already started yielding expected gains. This is especially so with the Secure Transactions in Movable Assets Act, with increased lending to private sector. We expect more to come. Our ultimate aim will be, inclusive growth, full employment for our people and frameworks that enable our young people to run viable startups.*
4. *Distinguished colleagues, as a firm believer that economic security is first and most important security we can offer our people, it is the apparent inadequacy of this security that is at the heart of the general disaffection of our people towards government. We have done this with the believe that with less hunger on the street; with more of our people gainfully engaged; insecurity will be significantly reduced and our economy revamped. In this period, I expect us to conclude work on the National Transport Commission Bill, and the National Road Funds Bill, the Petroleum Industry Fiscal and Host Community Bill which are pending. It is my hope that we shall conclude work quickly on the Bank lending rate reduction initiative and the National Payment Systems Bill.*
5. *As we continue to take action to strengthen our economy, let me use this opportunity to congratulate all Nigerians for working together to get us out of recession. While we congratulate ourselves for exiting the recession, it is important that we don't rest on our oars as this is not an end in itself. There is a lot of work ahead. Our aim is to see our*

economy create millions of new jobs and see growth rates of 7% or more. This is why the implementation of the 2017 budget is crucial.

6. *By the first week of October, we expect to begin the review of the implementation of the 2017 budget. To set the stage for this, we expect to invite the Ministers of Finance; and Budget and National Planning to come and brief the Senate on implementation so far. Nigerians want to see a more significant improvement in the level of implementation of the budget this financial year. Let me therefore use this opportunity to call on all our standing committees to begin the process of putting together their oversight plan for a close and proper review of the performance of the 2017. In the same token, we must remind ourselves of the initiative we started and for which we have significant stride-that is, the Made in Nigeria initiative. Distinguished colleagues, it is time to enter the next stage of this initiative; the oversight of implementation to ensure that the policy yields expected gains.*
7. *I will like therefore to see the Committees demonstrate proactivity and readiness to engage government to ensure that at least a significant portion of our annual budget is fully dedicated to local procurement. All Committees of the Senate must be involved in this and find better channels to engage our people and enable feedbacks. However, for these efforts to be successful requires we maintain the peace and political stability. Hence the need for all of us to fight to keep Nigeria united and prosperous.*
8. *Distinguished colleagues, a house divided against itself will not stand. More than ever before, we need to stand for the unity and indivisibility of our country. We must condemn in the strongest possible terms all forms of violence as a form of engagement. The constitution and laws has laid down tools and procedures for us to push through our interest as all democratic nations do. Our nation is blessed with exceptionally talented and beautiful people, we are collectively strong and indomitable and it is time for all of us to stand up for our nation. Our dream of a virile nation must keep us motivated and this dream is already at the horizon.*
9. *Distinguished colleagues, as leaders, closest to our people, we must rededicate ourselves to the values we have institutionalized in this Chamber. In this chamber, we are first and foremost, Nigerians. Yes, we are Igbos, Yorubas, Hausas, Fulanis. Yes, we are Muslims, Christians and traditional worshipers. But we must in all our conversations and decisions continue to be first and foremost Nigerians and as Nigerian citizens be our brothers' keepers. Too many of our youths, too many of our families from the South to the North need a lifting. Our job is to help government give them a hand and once again make them feel great again being Nigerians. This is our mission.*
10. *As we work to even make our constitution better, it must be remembered that constitution review is a continuous process which must undertake with the vision of the future in our minds. The process we have already will continue in earnest with the meeting of the speakers of the various States of Assembly and the National Assembly with a view to moving forward with the process. As promised, we will revisit and consider areas of the constitution we believe will further strengthen our Federation and enable our collective dream for a more prosperous Nigeria.*
11. *In the fight against corruption, aside the bills we have passed, it is important that we also sharpen up our oversight tools to ensure that government remains accountable always. However, I urge us all to more than ever, operate above board ourselves. In the last two years, we have successfully exposed numerous cases of corruption in our agencies and officers of government and as a result saved government enormous amount of public resources. This is what Nigerian people expect of us and we must continue to deliver on this. We must not make the mistake of resting on our oars. I say this to encourage you to keep up with the good works of exposing corruption as you have been doing so far. Yes, like Senator Isah Hamma Misau who had the courage to expose deep rooted institutional*

corruption, you will be attacked, blackmailed and insulted but, unlike any former Senate before this, we will not bow or be intimidated.

12. *Distinguished colleagues, our focus on interventions critical to our national development will continue in the session. We will be interacting with stakeholders with the aim of repositioning our education sector and the health sector especially with the health insurance subsector as key primers of the economy. The major direction will be to expand access to basic education and health, incentivize investment in these critical sectors and find lasting solutions to issues of strikes and interruption in these sectors.*
13. *Dear colleagues, we are all witnesses to the revolutionary growth of innovative works and remarkable fits Nigerians both in the entertainment industry and software development are making across the globe. However, their ability to fully harness and reap the fruits of their effort continues to be hampered by our intellectual property regime which is yet to be reformed to meet with today's digital realities and opportunities. We are determined to contribute our quota to make their lives easier and better by initiating and paying close attention to our Intellectual Property (IP) rights frameworks.*
14. *Distinguished colleagues, a lot has happened in our nation within the last few weeks especially with the floods. Let me take a moment to commiserate with all Nigerians who may have been affected by the recent floods. Our hearts and prayers are with you at this period.*
15. *On a salutary note, I am happy to report to you distinguished colleagues that while we were away, we also took note of some of the strides Nigerians have been making. We congratulate our women on the winning of the African Basketball Championship. We also congratulate our Super Eagles on their journey so far for the world cup qualifiers and we will continue to support and encourage them.*
16. *Before, I conclude this speech, let me on another winning note and on your behalf welcome Mr. President, who has acknowledge his return to office through an Executive Communication earlier within the period of our vacation back to the saddle. We pray that the Almighty Allah will continue to grant him full restoration.*
17. *Let me wish us all a very successful session. Thank you all and God bless Nigeria.*

(Signed)

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

7. Composition of Committees' Chairmen and Vice Chairmen:

The Senate President announced the composition of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Senate Standing Committees as follows:

S/N	Committee	Chairman
1.	Trade and Investment	Sen. Sabo M. Mohammed
2.	Interior	Sen. Andy E. Uba
3.	Public Accounts	Sen. Matthew A. Urhoghide
4.	Culture and Tourism	Sen. Fatimat O. Raji-Rasaki
5.	Local Content	Sen. Solomon O. Adeola
6.	Cooperation and Integration in Africa & NEPAD	Sen. Stella A. Oduah
7.	Capital Market	Sen. Mustapha Bukar
S/N	Committee	Vice Chairman
1.	Trade and Investment	Sen. Mustapha M. Sani
2.	Health (Secondary and Tertiary)	Sen. Clifford A. Ordia

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| 3. | Communications | Sen. Nurudeen A. Adeleke |
| 4. | Judiciary Human Rights and Legal Matters | Sen. Babajide C. Omoworare |
| 5. | Local Content | Sen. Godswill O, Akpabio |

8. Composition of Committees' Membership:

The Senate President announced the composition of Membership of Standing Committees as follows:

(a) Distinguished Senator Shuaibu Lau:

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| 1. | National Identity Card and National Population | Vice Chairman |
| 2. | Petroleum Resources (Downstream) | Member |
| 3. | Trade and Investments | Member |
| 4. | Interior | Member |
| 5. | Air force | Member |
| 6. | Public Procurement | Member |
| 7. | Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | Member |

(b) Distinguished Senator Ademola Adeleke:

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | Communications | Vice Chairman |
| 2. | Federal Capital Territory | Member |
| 3. | Establishment and Public Service Matters | Member |
| 4. | Defence | Member |
| 5. | Marine Transport | Member |
| 6. | Ecology and Climate Change | Member |

9. Motions:

(a) Flooding and Flood Control: The Need for Urgent Action:

Motion made: That 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 over flowing 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; and

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 (*Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi — Kebbi North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do 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 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to commence the dredging and desiltation of Rivers Niger and Benue.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word “Benue” in line 2, *insert* the words “Hadejia-Jamare (Kano and Jigawa States) and Komadugu-Yobe Basins” (*Senator Ubali M. Shitu — Jigawa North-East*).

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

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do 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 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do 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 — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (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, Hadejia-Jamare (Kano and Jigawa States) and Komadugu-Yobe Basins;
- (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 (*S/Res/030/03/17*).

(b) ***Stabilizing and sustaining post-recession growth of the economy:***

Motion made: That 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 \$59 per barrel, today;
- Relatively stable exchange rates of ₦360 to \$1(parallel market) and ₦305 to \$1(official) that was achieved at a great cost to the Nation's Central Bank;(Nearly \$9 billion 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; and

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 Central Bank of Nigeria (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 Central Bank of Nigeria (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 (*Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi — Kebbi North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do 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 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do 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 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge fiscal authorities to drastically reduce the accumulation of domestic debt in order to free the market for better access by the private sector — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (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 — *Negated.*

Proposed Resolution(v):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (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 — *Negatived.*

Resolved:

- (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; and
- (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 (*S/Res/031/03/17*).

(c) ***Innovative Education Technology: E-Learning and Blended learning in the education sector in Nigeria:***

Motion made: That 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 possess 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; and

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 Communications to provide broadband facilities to cover e-learning in schools in Nigeria; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Education (Basic and Secondary), TETFUND and Tertiary Institutions and Communications to conduct a public hearing on Innovations in Educational Technology with relevant industry stakeholders with a view to enriching such a policy and report within 4 weeks (*Senator Rose O. Oko — Cross River North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do 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 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do request the Ministry of Communications to provide broadband facilities to cover e-learning in schools in Nigeria.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word “Communications” in line 1, *insert* the words “in collaboration with Service Providers” (*Senator Samuel O. Egwu — Ebonyi North*).

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

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Education (Basic and Secondary), TETFUND and Tertiary Institutions and Communications to conduct a public hearing on Innovations in Educational Technology with relevant industry stakeholders with a view to enriching such a policy and report within 4 weeks — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (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 Communications in collaboration with Service Providers to provide broadband facilities to cover e-learning in schools in Nigeria; and
 - (iii) mandate the Committees on Education (Basic and Secondary), TETFUND and Tertiary Institutions and Communications to conduct a public hearing on Innovations in Educational Technology with relevant industry stakeholders with a view to enriching such a policy and report within 4 weeks (*S/Res/032/03/17*).
- (d) ***Boundary crisis arising from non-delimitation of Nigerian internal boundaries:***
- Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*
- (e) ***The Need to construct Captive Dams in all Communities across the country:***
- Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*
- (f) ***Urgent need to control the indiscriminate erection of speed bumps on Federal Roads Nationwide:***
- Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*
- (g) ***Inadequate releases in the 2017 Budget and the need to expedite releases in order to stimulate the Economy:***
- Motion made:* That the Senate notes 2017 Appropriation Bill was passed by the National Assembly on 11th of May, 2017 and was assented to on the 12th June, 2017;

notes that the total size of the 2017 budget tagged as the Budget of Economic Recovery and Growth is in the sum of ₦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 ₦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 ₦310 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; and

aware that the rainy season is just about to give way to the dry season that would last between October, 2017 and 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 to 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 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 (*Senator Bareehu O. Ashafa — Lagos East*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do 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;

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do request that the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning to 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 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to maximize the upcoming dry season in funding the infrastructural projects contained in the 2017 Appropriation Act;

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do direct the 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.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Proposed Resolutions (i),(iii) and (iv) (Senator Ike Ekweremadu — Enugu West).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do request that the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning to 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 (S/Res/033/03/17).

10. Adjournment:

And it being 2:00 p.m. the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 27th September, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 2:00 p.m.

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