



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 27th September, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:37 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 26th September, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Oaths:**
Senator-Elect, Uchendu Andrew Igbonule (*Rivers East*) took and subscribed to Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as required by law.

4. **Announcements:**

- (a) **Invitation to Birthday/Thanksgiving Service:**

The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Joshua M. Lidani (*Gombe South*) as follows:



Senator Joshua M. Lidani

(Baraden Kaltungo)

GOMBE SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON DRUGS AND NARCOTICS

27th September, 2017

*His Excellency
President of the Senate
National Assembly
Abuja.*

My dear Senate President,

INVITATION TO ATTEND BIRTHDAY THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

I will by the grace of God be 60 years old on 1st October, 2017. To mark the occasion, I have scheduled a thanksgiving service at ECWA Church, Central Area, Opposite Churchgate Towers behind new Russian Embassy at 9.00am.

I will therefore be most grateful if you find time to attend and help me thank the Lord Almighty for his grace and blessings and bringing me thus far. In the event you may not be chanced to attend, kindly offer a prayer on my behalf for God's continued guidance and favour upon me.

Please accept the assurance of my brotherly love.

(Signed)

Sen. Joshua M. Lidani

(b) Acknowledgment:

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

- (i) Staff and Students of Folk Technical College, Ikwo, Ebonyi State; and
- (ii) Staff and Students of New Age Comprehensive Secondary School, Idembia Ezza South, Ebonyi State.

5. Petitions:

- (i) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe (*Abia South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituents, Kalu Samuel and 348 others, against Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, over the suspension of their appointments. 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 Matthew A. Urhoghide (*Edo South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Njemanze & Njemanze & Co. on behalf of Senior Staff of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), over cancellation of the 2016 promotion examination. 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 Olanrewaju A. Tejuoso (*Ogun Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Abiodun A. Badamasi, against the Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), over non compliance to Court Judgement. 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.

- (iv) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Gershom H. O. Bassey (*Cross River South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Chief T. O. S. Oparaugo, against His Excellency, Governor Rochas Okorocha, over demolition of Eke Ukwu Owerre Market and killing of innocent civilians by the security agents. 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)].

- (v) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu (*Imo East*) drew the attention of the Senate to five (5) petitions from:
 - (a) Gbenga Adeiye Esq. against Conoil Plc, Defunct DEVCOM Bank and Dr. Mike Adenuga;

- (b) Kennedy Barnabas Wakawa, against Sahab Insurance Company and Stanbic IBTC Pension Fund Administration (PFA) for undue delays in the payment of the benefits of a deceased officer (Hassan M. Yerima) of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation;
- (c) G. A. Augustus, against Alhaji Aliu Abubakar for issuing of a dud cheque in liquidation of debt sum of ₦375,034,000.00 (Three Hundred and Seventy Five Million, Thirty-four Thousand Naira) owed Augusco Tech. Nig. Limited;
- (d) Henry Ilamah on behalf of HYPREP Staff, for intervention on the non-payment of 37 months staff salaries of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Restoration Project, (HYPREP) Ministry of Petroleum Resources; and
- (e) Comrade (Chief) Kelvin Umeh, a case of 41 wrongfully disengaged union leaders of Afribank Plc now Skye Bank Plc since 1999.

He urged the Senate to look into the matters.

Petitions laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)].

6. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator John O. Enoh (*Cross River Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to heavy flooding and mudslide that befall Bumaji community in his Senatorial District which washed away the only road linking over 78 communities and the Republic of Cameroun. He informed the Senate that the menace has caused untold hardship to his people, and therefore, urged National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide the necessary assistance.

7. Privileges:

Rising on Rule 15, Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe (*Abia South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Daily Trust Newspaper publication of Wednesday, 27th September, 2017 with a front page captioned "IPOB-Senators Query Abaribe over Kanu's Bail". He said the publication has impugned on his privilege and that of every Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as it was a misrepresentation of what transpired in the Chamber on Tuesday, 26th September, 2017 in a Closed Session. He believed that what the Presiding Officer read after the Closed Session was a true reflection of the decision taken by the Senate. He urged the Senate to investigate the matter.

Matter accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Petition and Privileges to investigate and report to the Senate.

8. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade (Benue North-East) drew the attention of the Senate on the flood disaster in Benue State. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate notes that flood has ravaged twenty one (21) out of the twenty three (23) Local Government Areas of Benue State;

Notes further, the torrential rainfall in Benue State on Sunday, 27th August, 2017; has caused the displacement of over 100,000 persons;

concerned, that the rise in water levels, as a result of the flood have submerged houses which rendered them inhabitable with properties worth billions of naira completely destroyed;

concerned further, that thousands of houses have collapsed as a result of the heavy down pour, especially in the rural areas across the twenty one (21) LGAs; roads washed away and many bridges cut off;

aware, that Benue State which is renowned as the food basket of the nation has been destabilized and economic activities grounded to a halt with fears expressed of the whole State being submerged;

aware also, that there has also been news of flooding and displacement of people and properties in Niger, Kogi and several other States also requiring attention;

alarmed, with the high levels of water in dams and lakes, in Cameroon, excess water will soon be released which will lead to more flooding of States along Rivers Benue and Niger and their tributaries; and

aware, that dignitaries have visited the flood victims in Benue State led by Mr. President who was ably represented by the Vice President, the Governors of Imo and Kebbi States, corporations such as Dangote group, MTN foundation, banks, and well-meaning Nigerians, etc. but the problem still remains enormous.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to scale-up its operations in all the flood affected areas by providing relief materials to victims of the flood disaster;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to assist Benue State with grants for rebuilding and resettling of communities; and
- (iii) send a delegation to visit the people and Government of Benue State;

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to scale-up its operations in all the flood affected areas by providing relief materials to victims of the flood disaster — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to assist Benue State with grants for rebuilding and resettling of communities — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do send a delegation to visit the people and Government of Benue State — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to scale-up its operations in all the flood affected areas by providing relief materials to victims of the flood disaster;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to assist Benue State with grants for rebuilding and resettling of communities; and
- (iii) send a delegation to visit the people and Government of Benue State (*S/Res/034/03/17*).

9. **National Commission for Refugees Act, CAP N21 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2017 (SB.335).**

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Commission for Refugees Act, CAP N21 LFN 2004 and enact the National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Migrants to provide a framework for management, rehabilitation, return, reintegration and resettlement of victims of displacement, refugee, migration and for Other Related Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Ubali M. Shitu — Jigawa North-East*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Special Duties; and Interior to report within Four (4) weeks.

10. **National Fertilizer Quality Control Bill, 2017 (SB. 338):**

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Regulate the Manufacture, Importation, Distribution and Quality Control of Fertilizer in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Abdullahi Adamu — Nasarawa West*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

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

11. **Firearms Act CAP F28 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 489):**

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Firearms Act CAP F28 LFN 2004 to provide for increase of fine and provide for destruction of firearms illegally imported into the country or in possession of individuals without valid license and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Gbolahan J. Dada — Ogun West*).

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.

12. **Nigerian Institute of Management Act No.14 2003 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 13)**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. **Border Communities Development Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 523):**

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Border Communities Development Agency and for Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Abdullahi A. Gumel — Jigawa North-West*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

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

14. Nigerian Police Development Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 433):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Police Development Fund and for Related Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Abu Ibrahim — Katsina South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Police Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to report within Four (4) weeks.

15. Mortgage Institutions and Allied Matters Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 214):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Mortgage Institutions and Allied Matters Act and for Other Related Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Rafiu A. Ibrahim — Kwara South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to report within Four (4) weeks.

16. Ecological Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 395);

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. Nigerian Law Reform Act CAP N118 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 26):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Law Reform Act CAP N118 LFN 2004 to remove the bottleneck to the Commission's Reform Initiative, Ensure its Autonomy and bring the Act in conformity with the provisions of 1999 Constitution (as amended) and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Babajide C. Omoworare — Osun 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.

18. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 28th September, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:56 p.m.

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