



## THE SENATE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 31st October, 2017

1. The Senate met at 11:02 a.m. The Senate President read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**  
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 26th October, 2017.  
*Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.*
3. **Announcements:**
  - (a) **Formal Inauguration of the Nigeria-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group:**  
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Bala Ibn Na' Allah (Kebbi South) as follows:

**THE SENATE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
Nigeria-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group  
National Assembly Complex.**

NASS/SINGP FG/abj/10/03A

30<sup>th</sup> October, 2017

*His Excellency,  
Senator Bukola Saraki CON.  
National Assembly Complex,  
Three-Arms Zone  
Maitama District,  
Abuja.*

*Your Excellency*

**RE: NOTICE OF FORMAL INAUGURATION OF THE NIGERIA-GERMANY  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

*I wish to humbly remind your Excellency for the Formal Inauguration of the Nigeria-Germany  
Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

*The event is scheduled as follows:*

*Date: Tuesday, 31st October, 2017*

*Venue: Senate Meeting Room 117, National Assembly, Complex, Abuja*

Time: 2:30 pm

*While the Group looks forward to your honouring the invitation. Please accept the assurances of my highest regards.*

*(Signed)*

**Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah**

*Deputy Senate Leader/Chairman*

**(b) Remarks:**

- (i) The Senate President expressed his sincere and profound appreciation for the large turnout of Distinguished Senators who graced the occasion of the wedding ceremony of his daughter on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 in Lagos. He stated that the gesture was a show of love and support to the family which is highly appreciated; and
- (ii) The Senate President announced with shock the demise of the wife of Distinguished Senator Mohammed D. Goje, Hajiya Yelwa M. Goje in the United States of America. The family will announce the burial arrangement as soon as the body arrives Nigeria.

**(c) Acknowledgment:**

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Members of the Students' Union of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Osun State who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

**4. Petitions:**

- (i) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Foster Ogola (*Bayelsa West*) drew the attention of the Senate to two (2) petitions from:
  - (a) Prof. Joy Eyisi, against the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, over her maltreatment by the University Authority; and
  - (b) Prof. Joy Eyisi on behalf of her son Noble Eyisi, against the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, over his inhuman treatment by the University Authority

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)] to report within two (2) weeks.*

- (ii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator John O. Enoch (*Cross River Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Edwin Eja Jr., against the Mobile Telecommunication of Nigeria (MTN), over his unlawful dismissal. 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 Samuel N. Anyanwu (*Imo East*) drew the attention of the Senate to thirteen (13) petitions submitted to the office of the Senate President as follows:
  - a. Craft Engr. Shehu M. Dandada, against Jos Electricity Distribution Plc. (JED) for unlawful dismissal from the service;
  - b. Mgbado Murphie, against the Nigerian Army for unlawful termination of his appointment;

- c. Mr. Samson Ofuebo on behalf of Chevron/Texaco Retirees Association, against Chevron/Texaco Corporation for their forceful and premature retirement;
- d. Chief Emeka Mkpuru on behalf of the Association of Contractors to the Nigeria Police, over non payment of contracts by the Nigeria Police;
- e. Foluso Davies, against Hon. Justice Danlami Senchi, President of the Badminton Federation of Nigeria;
- f. Mr. Osuji Alexander, against the Deputy Commissioner of Police Mr. Agyole Abe, over abduction of his daughter, Miss Precious Osuji aged Sixteen(16) since November, 2015;
- g. Alhaji Alih, over his wrongful dismissal from Service of Public Complaint Commission;
- h. Prince Engr. Isaac D. A. Omolua on behalf of Centenary Developers, against Centenary City projects over wrongful acquisition of their land;
- i. Moses D. Fannap on behalf of Dr. Chukwu Otuh Oko Chukwu, against the Federal College of Veterinary and Medical Laboratory Technology (FCVMLT) and National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI), Vom, Plateau State for nepotism;
- j. Mrs. Rosemary Emodi on behalf of 18 affected staff, against National Judicial Institute, Abuja, over wrongful termination of their appointments;
- k. Mr. Etima Ekpo, against the Comptroller General of Nigeria Prison Service, over unlawful termination of his appointment;
- l. Shebwokpa Landlords' Association, against Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), over unjust billing since November, 2013; and
- m. Ikwue Eche James, against the Provost and Management of Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri and the University of Nigeria Nsukka, over various corrupt practices.

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)] to report within two (2) weeks.*

**5. Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Rule 43 and Section 88(2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah (*Kebbi South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the determination of the case of the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Engr. Babachir Lawal and Mr. Abdulrasheed Maina, whose investigation of corrupt practices emanated from the National Assembly. He emphasised that he is proud of his Membership of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate, thanked the Senators for their selfless service and urged the Standing and Ad hoc Committees on various investigations to expedite action at concluding their assignments. He also urged his colleagues to keep the spirit of patriotism.

**6. Committee on Niger Delta:**

***Report on the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Act 2000 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.544):***

*Motion made:* That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Niger Delta on the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Act 2000 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (*Senator Peter O. Nwaoboshi — Delta North*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Laid.*

**7. Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:**

***Report on the Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 445):***

***Motion made:*** That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND on the Federal Colleges of Education Act CAP F8 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Senator Jibrin I. Barau — Kano North).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Laid.*

**8. Motions:**

**(a) *The Excess Crude Account: an Illegality and a Drain Pipe:***

*Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**(b) *The preventable economic loss and national embarrassment arising from the failure of Federal Government to complete the National Library after eleven(11) years:***

***Motion made:*** That the Senate notes that the National Library Building project was conceptualized by the Federal Government in 2002 but awarded in 2006 to Messrs Reynolds Construction Company (RCC) at the sum of ₦8.590 Billion with a project timeline of 22 Months;

*notes* that while the company commenced work on the project in April, 2006, it could not proceed due to the failure of Government to release sufficient funds for the completion of the project, leading to its being revised 3 times over the period;

*observes* that a comprehensive report made in the Daily Trust Online Newspaper, published on October 18, 2016 and a recent report on Channels TV detail the pitfalls of the project as follows:

- a. That after a series of false starts leading to the initial suspension of work on the project, sometime in 2009, the project scope was reduced from the initial 8 floor plan to 5 floors and the contract sum of the reduced scope was reviewed upward to ₦17 billion from the original sum of ₦8.590 billion;
- b. The Bureau of Public Procurement issued a compliance certificate of 'no objection' on the review and the Federal Executive Council approved the revised sum. The completion period for the revised project was made 21 months effective from July, 2010. The project could not be completed again due to paucity of funds; and
- c. That in 2012, the presidency requested for the return of the project back to full scope. A presidential anticipatory letter with reference number NLO/C.62/VI/66 was sent to National Library of Nigeria(NLN) dated October 11, 2012 with directive to OIA to instruct the contractor to revert to full scope. By then, the contractor was about concluding arrangement for roofing at fifth floor. The initial reviewed sum of ₦23.153 billion for the full scope was submitted by the consultants to the Ministry of Education but it was never processed. In February 2013, the contractor requested for the extension of time and reviewed the contract sum upward to ₦48 billion;

*observes* that despite the importance of this National Library, the project has been poorly funded since its inception;

*disturbed* that the allocation to this project between 2008 and 2015 as reported are as follows:

- i. 2008 - ₦2,269,197,198.00 appropriated ₦1,217,401,308.05 was released;
- ii. 2009 - ₦2.4 billion budgeted and ₦2,367,968,402.14 released;
- iii. 2010 - ₦1.8 billion budgeted ₦708,301,501.34 was released;
- iv. 2011 - ₦758,549,771.00 was earmarked but ₦491,230,136.70 was released;
- v. 2012 - ₦2 billion budgeted and ₦1,081,448,443.00 was released;
- vi. 2013 - ₦4 billion was budgeted and ₦3,164,726,518.19 was released;
- vii. 2014 - ₦2.2 billion was budgeted and ₦555,697,923.52 was released; and
- viii. 2015 - ₦1.4 billion was budgeted, but ₦7 million was released;

(Source "National library project rises from ₦8bn to ₦38bn" - Daily Trust Online Newspaper, published on October 18, 2016);

*worried* that the continuous failure to properly fund the project within the specified period would cause the government losses modestly estimated to be in the range of 40 to 50 Billion Naira and that if this failure to fund the project expeditiously continues, it might cost the Government even more in the long run;

*disturbed* that 57 years after the birth of Nigeria and with trillions of naira sunk in the development of Abuja, the National Library of Nigeria still operates from a rented building because it does not have a permanent site;

*disturbed* that the National Library is of critical importance to the country because it would serve as an important intellectual monument, representing the value placed on information, learning, knowledge, culture, and history amongst others;

*further disturbed* that the failure of prioritization of this project by successive governments, is a direct reflection and metaphor for the almost inexistent premium we place on knowledge and intellectual capital as a country. This trend must stop and we must rise once again to the occasion;

*concerned* that in view of the population explosion taking place in Nigeria, we no longer have the luxury of relegating knowledge and information amongst the populace. In the world of today, knowledge is the new black gold and we must not only diversify our economy into agriculture and solid-minerals but most importantly migrate wholly into a knowledge based economy. In achieving this, Government must be focused on providing public access to quality knowledge and information;

*worried* that the future of generations yet unborn is in jeopardy, as a failure to properly fund the National Library Project would greatly affect the capacity of the country in the area of proper documentation of historical documents, artifacts and archiving in general. Our heritage as a people is now at risk of extinction if we do not move; and

*disturbed* that this failure of strategic planning is not peculiar to the National Library Project alone but has become the bane of various capital projects across the country, amounting to a significant number of abandoned projects and preventable economic loss.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to prioritize the funding and completion of the permanent site of the National Library of Nigeria in order to mitigate losses accruable to the project;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Education to meet with the Honourable Ministers of Education and the Federal Capital Territory; and the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria to adopt an appropriation strategy that would ensure the completion of the project starting from the 2018 Appropriation Bill; and
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to be more strategic in the award of contracts with a view to embarking on only projects that can be adequately financed to the tune of its budgetary appropriation (*Senator Bareehu O. Ashafa — Lagos East*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution(i):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to prioritize the funding and completion of the permanent site of the National Library of Nigeria in order to mitigate losses accruable to the project — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution(ii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Education to meet with the Honourable Ministers of Education and the Federal Capital Territory; and the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria to adopt an appropriation strategy that would ensure the completion of the project starting from the 2018 Appropriation Bill — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution(iii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to be more strategic in the award of contracts with a view to embarking on only projects that can be adequately financed to the tune of its budgetary appropriation — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to prioritize the funding and completion of the permanent site of the National Library of Nigeria in order to mitigate losses accruable to the project;
  - (ii) mandate the Committee on Education to meet with the Honourable Ministers of Education and the Federal Capital Territory; and the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria to adopt an appropriation strategy that would ensure the completion of the project starting from the 2018 Appropriation Bill; and
  - (iii) urge the Federal Government to be more strategic in the award of contracts with a view to embarking on only projects that can be adequately financed to the tune of its budgetary appropriation (*S/Res/100/03/17*).
- (c) ***Abuse of Expatriate Quota by Foreign Multinationals:***  
*Motion made:* That the Senate notes that the Immigration Act, Cap 11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 conferred on the Nigeria Immigration Service and the Nigeria Investment Promotion Council delegated powers to grant expatriate quota to companies seeking to employ expatriates in Nigeria, among other functions;

*observes* that the same Act mandates such operators to apply and receive approval from the Board of such multinational companies before making any application for expatriate's quota approvals to the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs or any other agency of government charged with the responsibility;

*aware* that such approvals are usually for 2-3 years renewable and limited to four (4) expatriates in the first instance;

*aware also* that approvals are to be granted as a result of non-availability of experts locally in the position to be occupied;

*aware also* that the objective is to fill up inadequate supply of manpower, train local manpower, attract foreign investments and transfer of technology;

*observes* that in recent times there has been avalanche of complaints of improper application of the above stipulations;

*worried* that the unemployment ratio is on the rise daily and still some Nigerian outfit are alleged to have in their employment over 300 expatriate in positions that could be filled by Nigerians; and

*convinced* that this is a gross abuse of our laws and total disregard of government effort in providing employment to her teeming unemployed youths.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

mandate the Committees on Interior; and Employment, Labour & Productivity to investigate through a Public hearing all the allegations and report within one (1) month (*Senator Andy E. Uba — Anambra South*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

***Question:*** That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Interior; and Employment, Labour & Productivity to investigate through a Public hearing all the allegations and report within one (1) month — *Agreed to.*

***Resolved:***

That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Interior; and Employment, Labour & Productivity to investigate through a Public hearing all the allegations and report within one (1) month (*S/Res/101/03/17*).

**(d) *The revitalization of Primary Health Care System across Nigeria:***

*Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**(e) *Inadequate maintenance of Federal Government Owned Hospitals:***

***Motion made:*** That the Senate notes that hospitals are health care institutions designed to provide patients with adequate, timely, and specialized medical attention;

*believes* that the provision of timely and adequate medical attention to patients can save the lives of those who are in need of medical care, and is the first step in ensuring that our health care sector attains the desired standard in boosting the faith of Nigerians in our hospitals;

*recognizes* that despite Nigeria's strategic position in Africa, the country is greatly under-served in the health care sphere and the health care sector has suffered several downfalls, particularly due to inadequate health facilities (health centers, personnel, and medical equipment) as well as incessant strike actions;

*aware* that the current year budgetary allocation to the Nigerian health sector is to the tune of ₦308,464,276.782;

*further believes* that at these times, government owned hospitals are not able to provide basic medicine or drugs (such as paracetamol tablets) while malfunctioning medical equipment such as x-ray machine, oxygen, syringes and most importantly, lack of adequate electricity in the clinics have become the order of the day;

*further believes* renovations or even constructions are baseless if hospitals are not equipped with basic facilities required to save lives;

*notes* that the state of Nigerian health care system is in dire need of attention;

*further notes* that in order to improve the future of medicine and health care system in Nigeria, improving the medical and clinical training system for post-graduate students to enable them acquire various special qualifications is of utmost importance; and

*reiterates* the need to desensitize our hospitals of the attitude that life is cheap, and to purge every sector Nigeria of corruption in order to help move Nigeria forward.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministries of Finance; and Budget and National Planning to prioritize the Ministry of Health in the release of annual budgetary allocation;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Health to ensure efficiency in health care services, and maintain standard of health care delivery services within the country through periodic training, hospital inspections etc.;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Health to investigate, probe, or request the audit of Federal Government owned hospitals; and
- (iv) urge all Federal Government owned hospitals to provide quality management through continuous evaluations (*Senator Monsurat J. A. Sunmonu — Oyo Central*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution(i):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Ministries of Finance; and Budget and National Planning to prioritize the Ministry of Health in the release of annual budgetary allocation — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution(ii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Health to ensure efficiency in health care services, and maintain standard of health care delivery services within the country through periodic training, hospital inspections etc. — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution(iii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Health to investigate, probe, or request the audit of Federal Government owned hospitals — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution(iv):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge all Federal Government owned hospitals to provide quality management through continuous evaluations — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Ministries of Finance; and Budget and National Planning to prioritize the Ministry of Health in the release of annual budgetary allocation;

- (ii) urge the Ministry of Health to ensure efficiency in health care services, and maintain standard of health care delivery services within the country through periodic training, hospital inspections etc.;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Health to investigate, probe, or request the audit of Federal Government owned hospitals; and
- (iv) urge all Federal Government owned hospitals to provide quality management through continuous evaluations (S/Res/102/03/17).

**9. 2017 Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Appropriation Bill, 2017:**

*Motion made:* That a Bill for an Act to authorize the issue from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Administration Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration Account, the total sum of ₦222,360,551,512 (Two Hundred and Twenty Two Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty Million, Five Hundred and Fifty One Thousand, Five Hundred and Twelve Naira) only, out of which the sum of ₦52,574,479,667 (Fifty Two Billion, Five Hundred and Seventy Four Million, Four Hundred and Seventy Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty Seven Naira) only, is for Personnel Cost and the sum of ₦41,294,590,480 (Forty One Billion, Two Hundred and Ninety Four Million, Five Hundred and Ninety Thousand, Four Hundred and Eighty Naira) only, is for Overhead Cost while the Balance of ₦128,491,481,366 (One Hundred and Twenty Eight Billion, Four Hundred and Ninety One Million, Four Hundred and Eighty One Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty Six Naira) only is for Capital Projects, for the service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja for the financial year commencing from 1st January and ending 31st December, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senate Leader*).

*Debate:*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to report within Two (2) weeks.*

**10. Nigerian Tax Academy (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 330):**

*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**11. Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Bill, 2017 (SB.315):**

*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**12. Legal Practitioners Act CAP C11 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 435):**

*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**13. National Orientation Agency Act CAP N100 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.333):**

*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**14. National Tea and Coffee Development Council (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 462):**

*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**15. Legal, Fiscal and Regulatory Framework for Sustainable Energy Development in Nigeria Bill, 2017 (SB.431):**

*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**16. Adjournment:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 1st November, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.  
(*Senate Leader*).

*Adjourned accordingly at 12:39 p.m.*

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