



THE SENATE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 1st November, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:53 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 31st October, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcement:**

Acknowledgment:

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

- (i) Staff of Gombe State House of Assembly, Gombe, Gombe State;
- (ii) Members of Students' Union, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Sokoto State; and
- (iii) Staff and Students of St. Michael's Anglican Diocesan College, Kaduna, Kaduna State.

4. **Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah (*Kebbi South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the released report of the World Bank's Doing Business of Tuesday, 31st October, 2017 which Nigeria progressed from last year's position of 171 to 145 despite recession facing the country. He recalled that in September 2016, the Senate came up with what it called a 20-point solution agenda to assist the Executive arm of government in addressing the challenges and other fast tracking Bills to revive the Nigerian economy. He emphasised that he is proud of his Membership of the 8th Senate, thanked Senators for their selfless service and congratulated Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, the National Assembly and Nigerians.

The Senate accordingly congratulates Nigerian Government and Nigerians.

5. **Committee on Finance:**

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Reports of the Committee on Finance on:

- a. The Companies Income Tax Act CAP C21 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 140); and
- b. The Tax Incentive Management and Transparency Bill, 2017 (SB. 331) (*Senator John O. Enoh — Cross River Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Reports Laid.

6. Committee on Local and Foreign Debts:

Report on the Approval of Ogun State Development Policy Operation (DPO) loan of US\$350 million:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Local and Foreign Debts on the Ogun State Development Policy Operation (DPO) loan of US\$350 million from the World Bank (*Senator Shehu Sani — Kaduna Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. Motion:

The Assent of the North East Development Commission Bill:

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the North East Development Commission Bill was passed by the National Assembly and assented to by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on Thursday, 26th October, 2017;

notes also that the assent to the Bill marks the establishment and take-off of the North East Development Commission to among other things:

- a. Receive and manage funds allocated by the Federal Government and international donor agencies for the resettlement, rehabilitation, integration and reconstruction of roads, houses and business premises of victims of insurgency as well as tackling the menace of poverty and environmental challenges of the area;
- b. Coordinate projects and programmes within the master plan for the rehabilitation, resettlement, reconciliation, reconstruction and sustainable development of the North East Zone in the fields of infrastructure, human and social services, including health and nutrition, education and water supply, agriculture, wealth creation and employment opportunities, urban and rural development; and poverty alleviation;
- c. Liaise with Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies, States and Development partners on the implementation of all measures approved in the master plan for the stabilization and development of the North East by the Federal Government among others;
- d. Assess and report on any project being funded or carried out in the North East by any Federal Ministry, Department and Agency or company that has an agreement with the Federal Government, and ensure that funds released for such projects are properly utilized;
- e. Liaise with other stakeholders on the tackling of humanitarian, ecological and environmental problems and degradation that may arise from natural causes, insurgency and industrial activities in the North East Zone. Seek humanitarian, human, material, technical and financial support from Development partners (local or international) and Non-governmental organisations with a view to developing the North East Zone;
- f. Co-ordinate civil-military confidence building and stabilization measures and also activities that lie within the civil-military interface especially before, during and after military and security operations; and act as the focal point to coordinate and harmonise all other intervention programmes and initiatives that the Federal Government is involved with in the North East Zone.

aware that the establishment of the Commission (NEDC) is a direct response by this administration to address the widespread devastation inflicted on the zone by the activities of the Boko-Haram insurgents which has been around for the past 8 years;

aware also that the Commission will provide an institutional framework that will ensure transparency, accountability and prudent management of funds that will build the confidence of Donor Agencies and Foundations towards assisting and funding projects of the Commission;

observes that the Commission will end the huge humanitarian crisis in the North East that no other Committee or institution could have done within the short and long term; and

convinced that as an institution backed by law, the commission would remain the biggest succour for people of the region that is adjudged to be one of the poorest regions even before the advent of the Boko-Haram crisis because their lives would be rebuilt through its activities.

According resolves to:

- (i) commend Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for his assent to the North East Development Commission Bill and commitment to the plight of the North East Region;
- (ii) commend the Senate President, the leadership of the Senate; and Distinguished Senators for their support which would see to the restoration of normal life in the Northeast;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to make adequate financial provisions in the 2018 Budget for the Commission's appropriate take-off; and
- (iv) urge the Donor Agencies to continue to support the North East through the newly established Commission (*Senator Ahmad I. Lawan — Yobe North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do commend Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for his assent to the North East Development Commission Bill and commitment to the plight of the North East Region — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do commend the Senate President, the leadership of the Senate; and Distinguished Senators for their support which would see to the restoration of normal life in the Northeast.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "Senators" in line 2, *insert* the words "of the 8th Senate" (*Senator Theodore A. Orji — Abia Central*).

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

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to make adequate financial provisions in the 2018 Budget for the Commission's appropriate take-off — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Donor Agencies to continue to support the North East through the newly established Commission — *Agreed to*.

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) commend Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for his assent to the North East Development Commission Bill and commitment to the plight of the North East Region;

- (ii) commend the Senate President, the leadership of the Senate; and Distinguished Senators of the 8th Senate for their support which would see to the restoration of normal life in the Northeast;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to make adequate financial provisions in the 2018 Budget for the Commission's appropriate take-off; and
- (iv) urge the Donor Agencies to continue to support the North East through the newly established Commission (*S/Res/103/03/17*).

8. Federal Polytechnic Silame, Sokoto State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 406):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to establish the Federal Polytechnic Silame, Sokoto State to Provide Full-time Courses in Technology, Applied Science Management and Other Fields of Studies and to Make Provisions for the General Administration of such Polytechnic and for Other Related Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Aliyu M. Wamakko — Sokoto North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within Two (2) weeks.

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

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to establish the Nigerian Tax Academy in order to provide training, develop standard curriculum for continuing education of tax administrators and collectors to facilitate effective service delivery and for Other Related Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Aliyu A. Sabi — Niger North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

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

10. Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.315):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria and for 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. Legal Practitioners Act CAP C11 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 435):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to amend the Legal Practitioners Act CAP C11 LFN 2004 and for Other Connected Matters, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Godswill Akpabio — Akwa-Ibom North West*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, Human Right and Legal Matters to report within Four (4) weeks.

12. **National Orientation Agency Act CAP N100 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.333):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to amend the National Orientation Agency Act CAP N100 LFN 2004 to provide an operational framework for the Global Initiative for Harmony Corps to promote inter-ethnic integration, mediation, peace building, mutual understanding, patriotism, for peaceful co-existence and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2017 be read the Second Time (*Senator Dino Melaye — Kogi West*).
- Debate:*
- Question put and agreed to.*
- Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Information and National Orientation to report within Two (2) weeks.*
13. **National Tea and Coffee Development Council (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 462):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
14. **Legal, Fiscal and Regulatory Framework for Sustainable Energy Development in Nigeria Bill, 2017 (SB.431):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
15. **Federal Capital Territory Act CAP F6 LFN (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 115):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
16. **National Youth Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 385):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
17. **Nigerian Bank of Industry (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.366):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
18. **Nigerian Institute of Management Act No.14 2003 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.13):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
19. **National Institute of Credit Administration (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.153):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
20. **Nigerian Council for Food Science and Technology (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.92):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
21. **Federal University of Agriculture and Technology Oke-Ogun (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.466):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
22. **Federal Polytechnic Kabo (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 407):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

23. Foreign Service Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.422):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

24. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 2nd November, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
(Senate Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:16 p.m.

Ike Ekweremadu, CFR
*Deputy Senate President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*