

**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Thursday, 21st April, 2016

The Senate met at 10.58 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy President in the Chair)

CLOSED SESSION

Plenary suspended - 11.04 a.m.

Plenary resumed - 12.26 a.m.

The Deputy President: The Senate in the Closed Session deliberated on issues relating to 2016 Appropriation Bill and the way forward for quick resolution of all the matters related and the early implementation of the budget in the best interest of our nation.

Is it a true reflection of what transpired in the Closed Door Session?

Several Distinguished Senators: Yes.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, we have the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 20th April, 2016 before us for approval. We will start consideration from pages 669 – 673.

Senator Chukwuka Joseph Utazi (Enugu North): Mr. President, if you look at No. 4,670, line 8:

The Deputy Senate President reported that the Senate in the Closed Session deliberated on issues relating to the workings of the Senate and agreed to resolve - there was a mistake there.

The Deputy President: It is noted, it should be resolved? We will resolve it, Secretariat take note. Senator Foster Ogola, move for the adoption of the Votes and proceedings.

Senator Foster Ogola (Bayelsa West): President, I rise to move that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 20th April, 2016 be approved. I so move.

Senator Ahmad Rufa'i Sani (Zamfara West): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 20th April, 2016 be approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting of the Reconciliation Committee

The Deputy President: There will be a meeting of the 12-man Reconciliation Committee of the Senate immediately after Plenary at the office of the Senate Leader. The names of the members are as follows:

Senator Ahmed R. Sani	-	North-West
Senator Suleiman O. Hunkuyi	-	North-West
Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim	-	North-East
Senator Joshua M. Lidani	-	North-East
Senator Samuel A. Egwu	-	South-East
Senator Hope Uzodinma	-	South-East
Senator Godswill Akpabio	-	South-South
Senator James E. Manager	-	South-South
Senator Abdullahi Adamu	-	North-Central
Senator Barnabas Gemade	-	North-Central
Senator Monsurat J. Sunmonu	-	South-West
Senator Gbenga Ashafa	-	South-West

Signed
Senator Hope Uzodinma

Visitors at the Gallery

The Deputy President: I will like to acknowledge the presence of members of the National Union of Enugu State Students University of Abuja, Gwagwalada.

We also have the members of the Emmanuel Baptist Church Gwagwalada, Abuja, and the students of the Supreme Parliament, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State.

Students stood up for recognition.

They are all here to observe our proceedings of today. You are most welcome.

Let me also recognise in the Gallery, one of us, a friend and a brother, Chief Osita Chidoka, former Minister of Aviation and Corp Marshal FRSC.

Visitor stood for recognition.

Meeting of the Northern Senators Forum

There will be a meeting of the Northern Senators Forum on Tuesday, 26th April, 2016 immediately after the Senate sitting. The venue is in Senate hearing room 0.22 White House.

Please ensure you attend as very important matters will be discussed.

(Signed)

Senator Abdullahi Adamu
Chairman

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

Senator Ali Ndume (Borno South): The first business of the day is the presentation of a Bill standing in the name of Distinguished Senator Ben Murray-Bruce on the Deep Offshore and Inland Basin production Sharing Contract Act (Amendment) Bill 2016.

Deep Offshore and Inland Basin production Sharing Contract Act (Amendment) Bill 2016,

Deep Offshore and Inland Basin production Sharing Contract Act (Amendment) Bill 2016 (SB.252) – presented by Senator Ben Murray Bruce (Bayelsa East); *read the First Time.*

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Gutted Dormitory of Federal Technical College, Zuru

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah (Kebbi South): Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, I want to proceed under Order 42, Rule 1 of the Senate Rule, with your permission, I read.

The Deputy President: Read.

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Mr. President, the Order 42 (1) reads:

The matter for discussion shall, if possible, be referred to the President of the Senate before commencement of the day's sitting and the President of the Senate shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite and urgent.

Mr. President, I represent the people of Kebbi South. From Independence to date, we have only one Federal presence in the entire Kebbi South Senatorial District, representing the Federal Technical College Zuru. For 18 years, it has been on its temporary site but I just received news that fire gutted the entire dormitory of the College.

I am of the opinion that this may require the Senate intervention and it is urgent. I am therefore seeking the indulgence of my Colleagues that I bring this matter as a Motion at the next legislative day. I so move.

Question put and agreed to

Warehouse Receipt Bill, 2016

Warehouse Receipt Bill, 2016 (SB. 253) - presented by Senator Sam Egwu (Ebonyi North); *read the First Time.*

The Deputy President: Clerk, please read the order Bills for First Reading.

Anti-Piracy Bill, 2016

Anti-Piracy Bill, 2016 (SB. 254) - presented by Senator Nelson Effiong (Akwa-Ibom South); *read the First Time.*

National Centre for Disease Control Prevention

National Centre for Disease Control Prevention (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 256) – presented by Senator Theodore Orji (Abia Central); *read the First Time.*

Federal Competition Bill, 2016

Federal Competition Bill, 2016 (SB. 257) – presented by Senator Andy Uba (Anambra South); *read the First Time.*

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

National Poverty Eradication Commission (Establishment etc.) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to establish the National Poverty Eradication Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016 –

Order for Second Reading

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, the First Order of the Day is the Second Reading of National Poverty Eradication Commission (Establishment etc.) Bill, 2016.

You will recall that the Bill was read the First Time in this Chambers on Thursday, 8th October, 2015. You may wish to invite Senator Ibrahim Gobir to move the Motion for the Bill to be read the Second Time.

Question proposed.

Senator Ibrahim Gobir (Sokoto East): Mr. President, this is a lead debate for an Act to establish the National Poverty Eradication Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016.

I thank you most sincerely for this opportunity to lead the debate on the Second Reading of the National Poverty Eradication Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016. The Bill was read the First Time in this hallowed Chamber on Thursday, 8th October, 2015.

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) is a creation of the Federal Executive fiat in the year 2000, as an off-shoot of the Poverty Eradication Programme (PAP). It has a blueprint of absolute poverty eradication in Nigeria by the year 2010. The outfit serves as a Secretariat of the National Poverty Eradication Council (NAPEC), the apex body for the formulation of policies on poverty eradication in Nigeria. NAPEC is chaired by Mr President, with the Vice President as the Vice Chairman and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation as Secretary. Its membership includes the Ministers of the 17 Core Federal Ministries, selected for the poverty reduction content in their statutory missions, the Economic Adviser to the President and the National Coordinator of Programme.

Poverty is the greatest challenge of our history. Today, this cancer constitutes major threats to peace and security in our country. It is sad to mention here that after over 11 years of the establishment of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), the programme is yet to effectively impact on the lives of average Nigerians, basically due to lack of effective legislative enactment to direct, regulate and modify the blueprints on which it was established. Similarly, statistics has shown that over 70 *per cent* of Nigerians are enveloped in abject poverty according to the Nigeria Living Standards Survey (NLSS), the World Bank, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the National Planning Commission (NPC)

The Bill seeks to establish the National Poverty Eradication Commission to perform the following key functions:

1. Coordinate and monitor all poverty eradication activities;
2. Coordinate, monitor and achieve on all social protection activities of government;
3. Assist in formulating and reviewing policies on poverty eradication;
4. Provide technical expertise and sensitise all levels of government and organisation on poverty eradication issue;

5. Evaluate and monitor the level of social amenities throughout the country with direct impact on the poor;
6. Act as government agency for catalysing resources at all times of government and throughout the economy for the purpose of eradicating poverty for mass participation in the economic development process;
7. To Maintain a databank on all poverty issues;
8. Periodically extend palliative projects as contained in the schedules of this Bill as a cushioning measures for the poor to ensure their overall social protection.
9. Maintain an outreach to International Donor Agencies Development Partners; and
10. Quarterly informs Nigerians of the percentage (%) reduction in poverty.

Mr. President, this Bill seeks to establish a National Poverty Eradication Commission as a statutory body vested with the responsibilities of coordinating and monitoring all poverty activities in Nigeria.

The Commission is made up of Five Directorates to be headed by a Director General under the supervision of a Chairman and six other members, one representing each of the six geo-political zones. It is structured into thirty one (31) Clauses and grouped into seven parts viz:

- Part 1: Establishment of the National Poverty Eradication Commission, etc.
- Part II: Functions of the Commission.
- Part III: Structure of the Commission.
- Part IV: Staff of the Commission.
- Part V: Financial Provisions.
- Part VI: Legal Proceedings.
- Part VII: Miscellaneous. The Bill also has three Schedules.

I urge my Colleagues to identify with the United Nations Millennium Development Goal 1 (MDG), which targets the reduction of half the proportion of Nigerians living in extreme poverty through wealth creation and youth development in Nigeria.

In line with our Order 77(3), the compendium of the financial implication is hereby attached.

Mr. President, I thank you for your attention and anticipated support on this Bill. The Bill is so important that on quarterly basis, we should be able to know the percentage of poverty reduction or increase in Nigeria.

Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade (Benue North East): Mr. President, I rise to support this Bill as presented by Senator Gobir, it is so eloquently analysed and presented on the subject matter that is very dear to my heart. You will recall that I chaired the Committee on National Planning Poverty Alleviation and Economic Affairs in the 7th Senate and I had the benefit of overseeing an Agency called NAPEP, which is National Agency for Poverty Eradication Programme.

There was no law establishing that project, it was just an ordinary agency by the pronouncement of the Executive branch of government. Its operation was somehow restricted to the whims and caprices of whoever deemed it necessary to do something about poverty at any given time in the governance of this nation. For which reason, most of the policies were doing ding dong movement; one time budget took care of poverty and another time budget were completely silence on issue of poverty eradication. We keep on paying lip service to this subject without any effect whatsoever.

At this particular moment, as we speak, that Agency called NAPEP has, in fact, being abrogated by government and no longer exists in the programme of the Nigeria Government. We are in the era of change and the new government did say clearly while the party campaigned for elections that the new administration, when it came to power, would deal with the issue of the down trodden, poverty stricken citizens of this nation. It is for this reason that a sum of ₦500 Billion was provided in the Budget proposal in line with the Manifestos of the Old People Progressive Congress to provide for the very poor Nigerians.

No details were spelt out on how this policy will be implemented but we do know that there are many different ways of dealing with the subject of poverty eradication. Employment generation in itself is one arm of reducing poverty among the population but more than that, there are a lot of citizen who are not employable because they are not educated, also they do not have any skill whatsoever. Therefore, there must be deliberate attempt to ensure that we establish certain schemes to deal with their own style of poverty and how they can be alleviated. Sometime ago, conditional grant schemes were being introduced; outright payments of stipends to unemployed people were being done. Nevertheless, the effect of this thing was simply just scratching the surface of the subject of poverty eradication in Nigeria.

This Bill could not have come at a better time than this, it is going to help the administration to bring about the framework under which the implementation of the budget provision of ₦500 billion to deal with poverty can well be harnessed and handled.

For these reasons and many others which my Colleagues will bring up, since I do not have to bring everything up, it is necessary for us to support this Bill and pass it into law as quickly as possible so that the Poverty Eradication Commission will come alive under the law of this country, and we would be able to tackle this matter and deal with the issue of eradication of poverty in Nigeria once and for all. Thank you for given me this opportunity.

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Mr. President, first, I must state that this Bill is timely in view of our present position, but it is important for us as a Senate and the Government of the day to understand that from independence to date, Nigeria does not have a defined policy of re-distribution of income; it is either you are employed by government and you have access to government favour or otherwise. The question to ask is whether there is that government that posses the capability to employ at least 70 *per cent* of 180 million Nigerians as government workers and the answer is no. All over the world, what generates employment is private sector-driven economy, and unfortunately, the country again has not provided atmosphere conducive for this private sector development to develop the capacity of absorbing the teeming population that needs employment.

So as it stands today, regrettably, what we had was the situation where the distribution of resources in this country largely depended on corruption. You have 2 - 5 million that you have stolen, you go to the village to buy land, you want to build and therefore the tipper man gets something, the bricklayer gets something, and that is how the income was or is being distributed, because there is no defined way.

Now that the government is going to fight corruption to stand still, there is no any other way again that money can circulate the length and breadth of this country without the government's intervention in specific terms. I think that is what the Bill aptly captures, as sponsored by distinguished Senator Gobir.

In addition to the Poverty Eradication Commission, we must admit, as a country, that all the known vices that we today spend a lot of money fighting, half of that money, if used in providing the necessary atmosphere for people to earn through what they are capable of doing to support themselves, it is better for the country than to use the money in fighting the crime associated with lack of this. Even in terms of cost benefit analysis, it is better for government to do a commission that will effectively tackle the reduction of poverty in the country than resorting to putting so much money in fighting crime.

I am very happy to have this Bill come up, I have been waiting for it and I say this is one of the occasions where I will call on my Colleagues to support the Second Reading of this Bill and to expedite its passage into law so that certain people can have a level of cushioning somewhere.

Mr. President, you will recall that in the most developed countries, what Senator Gobir is trying to do is what they call Welfare Package where at least the irreducible minimum of a citizen is that he can eat three square meals. That is why you find today in the United States of America, if you do not have a job, you have a card that entitles you to enter any super market and buy only food and nothing more. I think this is where the country should be going towards.

With these few remarks, I urge my Colleagues to support this Bill to pass Second Reading.

Senator Barau Jibrin (Kano North): Mr. President, I stand to support this Bill. This Bill is apt and the importance of the intendment cannot be over-emphasised. We know it is a fact that the greatest number of the people of this country live in abject poverty and everybody knows the effect of poverty on mankind not even Nigeria alone. It is a threat to security, it is a threat to peace; in fact it is a threat to everything human. Therefore, an attempt to create a Commission that will be saddled with the responsibility of dealing with the menace of poverty is clearly a very important initiative and it should be supported by all.

The importance of this Commission when established was clearly spelt out when the sponsor read his lead debate. What I want to add is this; when the law is passed and commission is created, it will help to remind our policy makers and leaders of the importance of eradicating poverty. It will allow people to always know that poverty is always something that should be eradicated, that it is not friendly, that it is bad not only to Nigerians alone but to the whole of mankind. Therefore, I do not think that this debate needs to be elongated because the intendment of this Bill is very clear. I therefore urge my colleagues to support this Bill so that it can be passed expeditiously.

Senator Nelson Asuquo Effiong (Akwa Ibom South): Mr. President, I want to commend the sponsor of this Bill, the greatest problem that we have are poverty and unemployment. I do not know whether you observe, I do not know whether others, especially PDP Senators, observe that one of the PDP Senators' phone numbers were posted on the net. And we have been inundated with text messages and phone calls and 80-90 per cent of those messages and phone calls are for assistance. We have text messages like

- *Oh I finished school five years ago, there is no job I need your assistance to start candle making.*

- *my wife put to bed, they need blood etcetera.*

The problem we have in this country is that the governments have not taken eradication of poverty seriously. In civilised clime like the United States, they have so many agencies that assist their citizens in employment, they have Employment Bureau. They have so many other agencies.

If you lose your job in United States of America for example, you go to employment agency and report. They put you in their data bank, and then you go to unemployment service and then they pay you some stipend. It may not be fantastic but they give you food stamp if you are classified as low income, and you will go to the market and buy food to eat. They even have government apartment where they give to the poor people to live with subsidised rate.

This Bill is only trying to establish a commission that will take poverty eradication seriously, because you cannot tackle poverty if you do not have a statutory body to oversee it. I want to urge my Colleagues to support this Bill.

There is a direct correlation between poverty and crime, most criminals were not born criminals but because of their condition. I think if we pass this Bill and the government takes this Bill serious, we can achieve something. But it is one thing passing the Bill and then it is another thing implementing to a level of impact. If we pass it and then take this Bill seriously, I think we might have succeeded in reducing crime to the barest minimum.

So I want to urge my Colleagues to support this Bill, it is a straightforward Bill which seeks to enhance the wellbeing of our citizens. I so support.

Senator Abdullahi Adamu (Nasarawa West): Mr. President, this Bill is probably one of the most strategic Bills that have been initiated since the coming into being of constitutional governance in Nigeria from 1999 to date. Here we are, we pride ourselves as biggest black nation in the world; here we are priding ourselves with the fact that we are the biggest economy in Africa.

The Bill is important to the weakest, I mean the proverbial common man. This is a very crucial Bill to them. I was saying that giving the status that we have given ourselves or that nature has given us; which the international community recognises in that we are in the comity of nations; the weakest link in our chain is not getting the attention of government as we should. When I say this, I am not talking of the current administration. I am talking of what we have done as a country, particularly since the inception of Constitutional government in Nigeria in 1999.

It is notorious fact that more than two-third of Nigeria live below poverty line. What this means in very practical terms is that that percentage of our population cannot even afford what we call, three square meals; three meals, whether there are square meals or not. Just three meals on a continuous basis, they cannot because they are so poor. They live in our kind of ghettos, the infrastructure that they require to ensure healthy living is not available to them. The wherewithal to get medical attention as and when needed is not there, employment is a tall order for those who are still within employment bracket. Over and above this, the government itself over the years may have tried something. In fact, there was a time that Nigeria had a Ministry for Social Welfare, but that is part of history, it is no longer there.

One of the first proverbs I learnt in my English lessons is that, *a hungry man is an angry man*. To that extent, because of the level of poverty in them, they are very vulnerable members of our national community and there is so much poverty in the land. Our young people, men and women, particularly, because they become so vulnerable, they can be mobilised for anything particularly illegal aspect of living.

Every day you see new symptoms of criminality in our society, and every day we talk about these things but there appear to be no legal instruments beyond the provision in our Constitution. Part II of the Constitution, which talks about Fundamental Objectives and Direct Principle of State Policy, is not so much enforceable. Beyond the provision about poverty alleviation and every political party that seeks for election talks about eradication of poverty but we do not seems to be addressing the issue squarely.

I therefore will urge our Colleagues to give this Bill a very special place in the scheme of our functions so that at least there will be an instrument to which the citizenry in despair can come to for salvation. At this point in time, we do not have such instrument. Over and above this submission, I believe that when we are able to pass this Bill as I hope we will pass it, we will not stop there. In our functions of oversight, we must follow the footsteps of the Executive to ensure once this Commission is established, appropriate Executive body like this will check on what and what they do with a view to alleviating this poverty. I am not saying that once a Bill like this is passed, we have arrived at the Promised Land, no! This is only an enablement; this is only to establish an environment that is necessary in the governance of this country that the poor amongst us is being taken care of.

We have for instance, National Health Insurance Scheme, who is seeing to the implementation? How far has it gone? What benefit has it had? What impact has it made?

You will see women whose husbands died in the course of fighting Boko Haram and since the civil war, once they lost their husbands, there is no welfare for them, and no welfare for their children, their education, and their health. So, we need to come out with a solution to this very important problem because it affects the patriotism we want out of our citizens.

Patriotism is a double edged sword, if the nation takes care of her citizens, then the duty of the citizen which is patriotism is more enabled and enhanced. Therefore, we have this duty to ensure that this Bill has its right of place in the comity of legislations that we have passed in this National Assembly to ensure that there is a smooth ride for our citizens and the starting point is the welfare of Nigerian citizens.

Senator Mao A. Oluabunwa (Abia North): Mr. President, I want to lend my voice to the earlier speakers who had confirmed that this Bill is coming at the right time. Poverty Eradication or Poverty Alleviation had become a sing-song in this country. My joy in commending my brother and friend, Senator Gobir for bringing this Bill is the fact that before now, you will find out that there had been several ministries and agencies pretending to be alleviating poverty and there has been dissipation of energy and resources. But, I think this Bill, if for nothing, will be an opportunity to consolidate the functions of all these ministries and agencies together so that when we say we are alleviating or eradicating poverty, we will have a focus and direction on how we go and where we are starting from.

Now, we have the Ministry of Women Affairs doing one thing, we have the SURE-P doing another, the NAPEP is doing something else and the Ministry of Special Duties all working towards the so-called direction of alleviating poverty, but I think this Commission would bring everything together so that we can direct and channel our resources together. From 1999 till date, you will see all these ministries and agencies that I have mentioned having one clause or one sub-head that intends to alleviate or work towards eradicating poverty but at the end of the day, you will still see poverty facing us directly.

I am supporting this Bill and I ask my Colleagues to support it because it has come at the right time. We do not need to begin to re-emphasize the issue of poverty and we do not want to go back to that. We know the level of poverty; we know our GDP today, and we do not need to go back. What is important is that this Bill has come at the right time, and for me, this Bill has come at a point to bring all the agencies together so that when we say we are eradicating poverty, we will really be working towards eradicating poverty.

Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio (Akwa-Ibom North West): Mr. President, I want to start by congratulating Senator Gobir for this very innovative Bill and I want to associate myself with the submissions made by all my Colleagues that this Bill is timely, should be supported and that we should expedite action on it in order to solve a lot of problems in the country today.

My personal believe is that poverty on its own breeds corruption and corruption deepens poverty. Therefore, in passing this Bill, it is not going to be the issue of crime alone that will be solved. When a man is hungry, he must find something to eat and that can push him into crime. This Bill will address the issue of crime and unemployment; it will assist us to even reduce corruption. With the present focus of this administration on corruption, I think that this is one Bill that should be passed expeditiously because it will help to address that issue very fundamentally.

Again, in the budget we have passed which is yet to be signed, we made very huge provision to take care of the rehabilitation and resettlement of the North-East. As at now, we do not have any structure on ground that will take care of the poverty of the North-East region created by the insurgency. I think if we pass this National Poverty Eradication Commission Bill and all of us support it, I believe strongly that even that amount will be passed through a very structured Commission of this nature so that there will be transparency and accountability.

On that note, let me say, that it is not something that should be debated for long, it is something that nobody will object to and we should move forward. So, I support this Bill in totality and I urge my Colleagues to allow it to go for a Second Reading.

Senator Stella Adaeze Oduah (Anambra North): Mr. President, I would like to also appreciate Senator Gobir for this well-articulated Bill. It is really interesting that if you go through every distinguished Senators manifesto, number one to three will have made an attempt to address poverty and the reason is simply that our community is poverty infested and all you have to do is just to look left and right and you will see poverty.

So, this particular Bill is a very good Bill. Most importantly, if you look backwards you will see that the turnover of agencies that have been put in place with the sole reason to address poverty has not really been able to do so and it is clearly because of the temporary nature of those agencies. I think that in putting this in place, all those ad-hoc issues will not be there anymore, and so the agency will be translated to a Commission.

I hope that very soon it will be a Ministry so that it can have some sort of permanency and so policies that will stand the test of time and working documents and formulations again that will stand the test of time will be in place.

I think the most crucial thing is that it will be a funnel through which all issues that have to do with poverty eradication will pass through.

I think this is a very well-articulated Bill; I support this Bill entirely and I wish we can expedite in passing it through.

The Deputy President: Thank you very Distinguished Colleagues, I would like to commend Senator Gobir like other senators who earlier spoke in sponsoring this Bill. It is of note that both Senator Gobir and most of the people who contributed are either former PDP members or the new PDP members. So, I would like to congratulate all of you.

I believe this matter is a very serious matter because just as Senator Adamu Abdullahi said, *a hungry man is an angry man*. So, we must do everything possible to reduce poverty to the barest minimum in this country and we must start with the redistribution of wealth and natural resources because it appears the gap between the rich and poor in Nigeria is high and unacceptable.

We must also follow the example of other democracies especially in Europe where the tax regime is on the average of about 40 *per cent*. So, that is a fair way of the rich contributing to the welfare of the poor because we must at all times be our brothers' keepers and the best way to do that is through the instrumentality of taxation.

Today, in our sub-region West Africa, Nigeria has the lowest VAT regime, so we must also find a way of taxing luxury goods, so that we will be able to generate enough money to fund this Commission and redistribute wealth and the resources. Some people are blessed with wealth, it is important that they share this wealth with the less privileged in the society and that way, we will have an egalitarian society where everybody is catered for.

Therefore, I think this is basically what this Bill is all about. I will like to commend you for the support you have given to this Bill. I just do hope that when this Bill is finally passed, that the intendment will be achieved so that we do not see a situation where the Commission will start engaging in all kinds of capacity building, all sorts of expenditure that will have nothing whatsoever to do with the intendment of this Bill.

In the past, we have tried to bring about so many poverty reduction strategies but the problem has been that what we see or experience are mere handouts where people are given ₦10,000 or ₦5,000 to sweep the streets or do menial jobs which does not increase our GDP or build the capacity of those who are engaged in it. That is why most of them failed. I just hope that this Commission will be able to put people in productive ventures and support them so that they will be able to add to the GDP of the country.

With that everybody will have a fair share of the natural resources, and a safe share of the blessings of this society. We will all be happy, and everybody will be his neighbour's keeper.

Thank you once more Senator Ibrahim Abdullahi Gobir for bringing this Bill. On this note, I will now put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to report back in four weeks.

Suspension of other items on the Order Paper

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Mr. President, I move that the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixths, seventh and the eighth Order of the Day jointly be stand down to the next legislative day.

Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the remaining items on the Order Paper be stand down till the next legislative day.

Question put and agreed to.

With the Leave of the Senate, all other items on the Order Paper stood down till the next Legislative Day.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Mr. President, having concluded the business of the day and thanking my Colleagues for been around to assist this Senate, I move that we adjourn this Senate to Tuesday, 26th April, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. prompt.

Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 26th April, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 26th April, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. prompt.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 1:30 p.m.