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**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Thursday, 28th April, 2016

The Senate met at 12.10 p.m.

PRAYERS

(The Deputy President in the Chair)

CLOSED SESSION

Sittings Suspended: 11:06 a.m.

Sitting Resumed: 12:06 p.m.

The Deputy President: Let me report that the Senate in a Closed Door Session deliberated on the issues affecting the Senate in particular and the National Assembly in general.

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

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy President: Distinguished Senators, we have before us the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 27th April, 2016 for approval. We will start consideration from Page 687 – 690.

Senator Abu Ibrahim (Katsina North): Mr. President, I move that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 27th April, 2016 be approved.

Senator Obinna Ogba Joseph (Ebonyi Central): Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 27th April, 2016 be approved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 27th April, 2016 be approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors in the Gallery

I wish to acknowledge the presence of members of Law Students Association (North America) University, Cotonou, Benin Republic; they are here to watch our proceedings.

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(Visitors stood for recognition)

On behalf of the Senate, I welcome you and wish you a fruitful observation of the Senate Proceedings of today. Please sit down.

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The Death of six Prominent Ekiti Doctors and their Driver on National Assignment

Senator Duro Samuel Faseyi (Ekiti North): Point of Order!

The Deputy Senate President: Senator Faseyi, what is your Point of Order?

Senator Duro Samuel Faseyi: Mr. President, I am relying on Order 42 - Matter of Urgent Public Importance - *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.*

(2) If the claim is allowed by the President of the Senate, and the Leave of the Senate is given, by at least one-fifth of all the Senators, the matter shall stand over till the next legislative day.

(3) Not more than one such Motion may be made at the same sitting.

Mr. President, I rely on this Section to bring about the death of six prominent Ekiti Doctors and their driver on national assignment in a ghastly motor accident along Abuja – Kaduna road.

The Deputy President: Distinguished Colleagues, he did mention this to me but in accordance with our rules, you should obliged him or not, and if you obliged him, that means we will take it within the next legislative date.

Question put and agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Poverty Eradication Commission Bill

Senator Ibrahim Abdullahi Gobir (Sokoto East): Point of Order.

The Deputy President: Senator Gobir, what is your Point of Order?

Senator Ibrahim Abdullahi Gobir Mr. President, I come under Order 43, personal explanation. Can I read?

The Deputy President: Yes, you can go ahead.

Senator Ibrahim Abdullahi Gobir: Order 43 says, *by the indulgence of the Senate and the leave of the President of the Senate, a Senator may make a Personal Explanation although there be no question before the Senate; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the Explanation. The terms of the proposed statement shall be submitted in detail to the President of the Senate when his leave to make it is sought.*

Mr. President, you may wish to remember that I submitted this Poverty Eradication Commission Bill on Thursday, 21st April, 2016. It was read the Second time and referred to the Committee on National Planning only, but we have a Standing Committee that is Poverty Alleviation and Welfare. What I want is that this should be sent to both Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Welfare Committee as a lead and also the Committee on National Planning

The Deputy President: It makes sense since we have Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation, they should be involved in considering this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

The Committee on Poverty Alleviation should now join as a lead Committee, while the Committee on National Planning will be the supporting Committee.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

The gruesomely massacre of people of Nimbo Community in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State

Senator Chukwuka Joseph Utazi (Enugu North): Mr. President, Point of Order!

The Deputy President: Senator Utazi, what Order?

Senator Chukwuka Joseph Utazi: Mr. President, I come under Order 52, kindly permit me to read.

The Deputy President: Please read.

Senator Chukwuka Joseph Utazi: Mr. President, Order 52: *Notice shall not be dispensed with in the case of a Motion or in respect of any other proceeding for which notice is required except with the consent of the President of the Senate and the general assent of the Senators present.*

I am representing Enugu North Senatorial District and I have heard from the hinterlands of yesterday the Proceedings in this Senate discussing the killing of my people in Nimbo Community, Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, today is a different day for me. If you look at me my attire is totally black from my cap down to my shoes.

I want the Senate to give an opportunity to move this Motion in respect of these people who lost their lives in the comforts of their homes without any preparation. I pray that you give me this opportunity to move this Motion.

The Deputy President: Distinguished Colleagues, he spoke to me this morning but I said to him that in accordance with our Rules, the Senate will decide whether he will be given the opportunity to do so.

I will now put the Question?

Question put and agreed to.

Senator Chukwuka Joseph Utazi: Mr. President, thank you for this rare opportunity given to me to speak on the gruesomely massacre of the people of Nimbo Community in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Senator Sunny O. Ogbuoji (Ebonyi South): Mr. President, Point of Order!

The Deputy President: Senator Ogbuoji, what Order?

Senator Sunny O Ogbuoji: Mr. President, I have a Petition and I am rising under Order 41.

The Deputy President: We have a Motion going on or do you want to stop him?

Senator Chukwuka Joseph Utazi: The gruesomely massacre of the people of Nimbo Community of Uzo-Uwani Local Government of Enugu State.

The Senate:

Recalls that a resolution was passed in this Chamber following a Motion I moved on tackling the perennial conflicts between herdsmen and settled farmers in which I warned the nation of the threat posed by nomadic Cattle Herdsmen to settled farm and land owners and prayed the nation to move fast to avert any further escalation of the conflicts;

Aware that around 4.00 a.m. in the early hours of Monday, 25th April, 2016, Fulani cattle herdsmen in their numbers, armed with sophisticated dangerous weapons invaded Nimbo Community in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State, while the inhabitants were asleep;

Informed that about seven villages namely Nimbo Ngwoko, Ugwuijoro, Ekwuru, Ebor, Enugu Nimbo, Umuome and Ugwuechara were predominantly the areas attacked by the herdsmen;

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Informed that these rampaging gunmen, who entered through the border with Kogi State, unleashed unspeakable mayhem on the Community, shooting, hacking, knifing, matcheting, slitting the throats of unsuspecting residents of the village and torching buildings;

Shocked that following this orgy of killings by the herdsmen, our people were gruesomely murdered, over 100 persons sustained varying degrees of injury, many fatally, many domestic livestock were slaughtered and countless number of houses and other property were razed. There is ongoing intensive search to recover more corpses or account for missing persons;

Informed that two Churches, Christ Holy Church of Nigeria, as known as *Odozi Obodo*, and the Parish House of Saint Mary's Catholic Church in the Community were torched;

Informed that the dead have been deposited at the mortuary of Bishop Shanahan Hospital and the General Hospital in Nsukka; the injured are being treated in various hospitals in Nsukka, while the severe cases of injury have been moved to the UNTH, Enugu;

Informed that the whole Nimbo town is in panic and deserted as the human population has been moving into neighbouring communities like Nkpologu, Uvuru, Adani with some running Northwards towards Nsukka and others Southwards Omasi in Anambra State. There is widespread fear of more attacks as there has been recurring attacks by herdsmen on communities in Uzo-Uwani Local Government recently;

Concerned that the towns that harboured these internally displaced people are themselves in panic, apprehensive of possible attacks by these marauding herdsmen while the risk of an outbreak of disease due to the pressure on available facility in this rural communities is looming;

Recalls that only about three months ago Abbi community, a neighbouring community to Nimbo was attacked by herdsmen and scores of people killed, houses and bans of farm produced set ablaze which was also part of the fulcrum of the earlier Motion referred to above;

Worried that the regularity and audacity of these attacks has become a pattern and a whole people of Uzuani local government area are facing a clear danger of extermination;

Further worried that those Boko Haram terrorists fleeing the sustained onslaught of the military in the North-East may be fleeing to the South-West around communities unleashing havoc on their way;

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Disturbed that we are witnessing the incessant activities of terrorism in the Southern part of Nigeria beginning with the South-East as a choice of targeting Churches and places of worship is not consistent with the most criminal ordinary herdsmen activities;

Aware that the purpose of government is the welfare and the security of the people;

Pained that there was credible intelligence on the impending attack of Nimbo that was passed unto security agencies to forestall the attack and protect lives and properties and yet somehow, the action came post factum;

Concerned that the people of Uzuani local government area and the surrounding communities in Enugu North Senatorial District now live in constant fear of attacks by herdsmen;

Alarmed at the dramatic escalation of recent attacks by cattle herdsmen who kill, maim, burn, rape and terrorise villages with impunity; by some reports, herdsmen attacked and killed about 80 people in 2013. By the end of 2014 it has risen to 1,229;

Recounts that the serial attacks by herdsmen across the country in 2016 thus:

On January 4, 2016 between 12 and 38 were killed in Udeni Ruwa in Nasarawa State.

On January 10, up to 45 were killed in Agatu in Benue State.

On January 17, 3 people were killed by cattle rustlers in Garaji village in Taraba State.

On January 23 between 30 and 60 people were killed including a police D.P.O Demsare, Wunakomokoh, Dijikam and Taboungo all in Adamawa State.

On February 2, another 7 people were killed in yet another early morning attack in Agatu in Benue State.

On February 7, 10 people were killed in Tom Ayin in Benue State.

Four days later on February 11, two people were killed in Abbi, Enugu State, I mentioned it earlier and 19 were declared missing, they have not been found up till now.

Thirteen days after the attack on Abbi on February 24 between 300 and 500 Nigerians were killed in Agatu.

On February 28 another 9 were killed in Agatu.

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On March 7 8 people were killed in Logo and the next day 12 people were killed in Baya Tombo both in Benue State and Baya Tombo suffered two more deaths on March 13, 2016 and then 15 more on March 17.

On March 20 residents of Ossissa in Ndokwa Delta State fled their homes following attacks by herdsmen.

Six days later on March 26 residents of Ugunesi in Ogun Local Government Area were left wondering as if they were second class citizens as they were arrested and detained by soldiers in Umuahia for holding a meeting to discuss the problem of herdsmen attacks in their area. They were granted bail on April 1st after the intervention of the Governor of Enugu State.

On March 29 between 7 and 16 people were killed in Ohali-Elu in Rivers State for stealing cows.

On April 3rd and 4th there were violent protest in Tarka Benue State over the murder of a local political chieftain by herdsmen, Tarka General Hospital was also attacked during those two days.

On April 9 in Lado, Ondo State, Olu Falaye a former SGF was attacked again and a security guard was killed. Between 15 and 44 people were killed in Angai, Dasholi, Dori, Mesuma villages all in Taraba State on April, 10.

On April 13, a herdsman was killed in a reprisal attack in Ilaramokin in Ondo State showing that the people are now taking matters into their own hands.

On April 18 there was news that another 18 people were being killed in Moor in Benue State.

On April 20 soldiers were attacked in Agatu Benue State and a police man was missing, it has not been reported that he has been found.

On Monday 25th April despite forewarnings, the attack of Nimbo Community of Uzo-Uwani local government in Enugu State happened, killing up to 38 persons now discovered because the homicide is still in the farm looking for more dead bodies with more still uncounted for.

Disturbed that it is strange that all economic groups in this country only herdsmen bear and flown sophisticated arms even along highways without interference by security authorities giving the impression that some groups are officially satisfied as being above the law;

Concerned that the unrestrained and rampant violence activities of herdsmen across the country is like sitting on the cake of gunpowder as people and communities will have no option than to take extra ordinary measures to defend themselves from these re-occurring brutal attacks with grave implications for national security;

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Concerned that the silence of security authority to these series of attack which contrast with the rush to issue public statements as recently witnessed gives the impression that there are graves of killings the security service may take interest in and this militates harmonious coexistence in a nation like ours;

Convinced that a stitch in time saves nine and that Nigeria can still afford the multiplicity of security crisis bedevilling it now and must therefore, nib this arising threats of herdsmen and sustain the infiltration in the South-East by terrorist forcing as herdsmen before it can escalates beyond what we can manage;

Therefore, resolves to:

- (1) Observe a minute silence in memory of those who were killed in the attacks in Nimbo Community and other communities.
- (2) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency, and other relevant Agencies to urgently dispatch relief materials to Nimbo Community and other neighbouring Communities of Nkpologu, Uvuru, Ugbene-aji ma and Adani to ameliorate the living conditions of the victims of the attack who have become Internally Displaced Persons.
- (3) Call on the Security Agencies of the nation to improve its Intelligence gathering capabilities and be proactive rather than reactive to threats to internal security, especially in cases where there is credible intelligence to act on to safeguard lives and property.
- (4) Call on Security Agencies to enforce the laws on arms bearing by unauthorised persons.
- (5) Call on the Nigerian Police to expedite action on the establishment of a Rapid Response Police Unit around the Communities where these attacks take place.
- (6) Send a delegation of the Senate to commiserate with the people of Nimbo Community, the Local Government, and the State on the unfortunate attacks.
- (7) Invite Security chiefs to brief the Senate on the movement of fleeing terrorists to ensure that measures are put in place to forestall a spread of terrorist activities all over the country.
- (8) Mandate the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Police Affairs and National Security to carry out an investigation of the incident and suggest ways of stopping these attacks before the affected communities resort to self-help.

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Mr. President, my heart is with my people over there. Many people who have visited our people in the hospital have seen the gory side. I have never seen the gory side that I saw on Monday before and up till now decomposing human corpses are everywhere. I have never seen such a quiet and peaceful people like those in my community, Uzuani and Enugu North Senatorial District being the border between the North and the Southern Nigeria.

The good heart of our people in welcoming visitors in their communities is now becoming an issue that their lives are put at stake.

The President: Senator Utazi, you have now finished with your Motion so you can take your sit please.

Senator Ibrahim Abu (Katsina South): Mr. President, I condole with the distinguished Senator and his people who lost their lives. We Senators should not condone killings. Luckily enough, by yesterday, Mr President has ordered the Chief of Defence Staff, the Inspector General of Police and other security agencies to take full control and find out what really happened.

I am surprised the way these horrendous killers are being tagged as Fulani herdsmen, it is wrong to start terming who they are. Nigeria's borders are so porous; we have terrorists coming from Mali and Libya to Nigeria. The common Fulani man I know is not so sophisticated to be taking AK 47 and be killing people and so we should be very serious. By limiting it to Fulani herdsmen, we are not giving enough scope to look into these issues properly. We should call these people terrorists and then let us give opportunity to look at all angles and obviously, my Committee, the Committee on Police will definitely look into this. I support the idea that the Joint Committee on this will look into this matter more so that the President has ordered full investigation and we will certainly wait for their Report.

But obviously, the Senate should condole with the families of those who are killed, NEMA should assist and we should be more proactive and make it more comprehensive; we should not be talking of Fulani herdsmen alone because we would be limiting ourselves to areas of search.

Senator Joseph Gbolahan Dada (Ogun West): Mr. President, I stand today at this very desperate hour of our nation history. Our nation is witnessing violence of bigger dimension and if you are not careful, everywhere will become a killing field very soon. The government has to stand up to the task and investigate carefully who are behind these massacres because it is becoming too many; there should be a serious police action to protect our people from arms men.

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Over the years, I do not believe these killings are not well planned. It could be accidental; it could be a deliberate effort, the government of this nation at this desperate period has to take actions that are decisive to make sure that this is brought to an end. It is spreading across everywhere now and I do not know why the government should allow people to carry such sophisticated arms roaming the cities without licences. This has to be contained. The military has to disarm these people otherwise it could be continuous. People who are attacked can also have reprisal and that will now become a problem for our nation. I feel this 8th Senate has to stand up for these villages and support what is decent and right for our society otherwise we are going to have a problem.

Senator Ben Murray Bruce (Bayelsa East): Mr. President, the herdsmen are now considered one of the worst terrorist organisations in the world today. They are deadly force and have turned Nigeria into a very dangerous country. They have been going around killing, raping, maiming innocent people and destroying homes. They have killed more people in Nigeria on an annual basis than Boko Haram.

Several distinguished Senators: No. Do you have the statistics?

Senator Ben Murray Bruce: Calculate! It is true. They are very dangerous and have killed more people than Boko Haram. I will be happy to provide the statistics but here is the problem: the problem is a very serious one; for people who cannot remember history, this is how the Civil War started. My problem right now is when regular people start retaliating and that day is here. The Civil War was fought in a conventional fashion – one army facing another army – and when retaliation begins, you are going to have guerrilla warfare; it is not a war anybody can win, it will cause the destruction of Nigeria. We must urge the Nigeria government to take action to disarm cattle rearers. As far as I am concerned, you need a licence to own a gun, nobody has a right to own a gun without a licence, certainly, not outside the theatre of war.

This is a very, serious issue. Motion after Motion has been presented here; from the North, South, East to the West, everybody is affected but what is going to happen now? People are going to read religion and ethnicity into this fight and once that happens, illiterates will start retaliating. What some people have not said is that retaliation is taking place as we speak. The war has already started; it is not war anyone can win. We urge the government not just to talk about it but take action that will stop this blood bath. This has to stop!

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Senator Mao Ohuabunwa (Abia North): Mr. President, I stand here to speak against this condemnable act. Definitely, my heart bleeds for the people of Uzouwani and other communities affected and in solidarity with my brother, you can see I am putting on a belch with dotted white, not completely black which shows that there is hope and that there is light at the end of the tunnel. It is not totally dark and black but this is a serious matter.

I am privileged to have served in the then Gongola State which is today Adamawa and Taraba States. I was also privileged to own cows while I was there. I was also privileged to know what the herdsmen look like. They carry sticks but today, I believe that whether they are herdsmen or whatever these masquerades carry guns to maim, rape and kill people. This is the right time that we must stand, not only as a Parliament but as a nation to fight. Whatever to nip in the bud should be done. Like it has been said, the other day it was in Agatu, another time it was somewhere but today it is in Uzouwani, tomorrow who knows where it will be? Any moment from now, we will begin to have reprisals and once you have reprisals, it means we would have lost control.

If these masquerades are using herdsmen as a shield then, it is important that the Police should increase its intelligence and have their ears on the ground and ensure that if there are herdsmen who now turn to gun men, they should fish them out and deal with them accordingly. And if there are those who are using herdsmen as a shield, we should also differentiate the chaff from the wheat and let the law take its course. I am shouting because I am involved and I know that if we do not take this seriously now, definitely, it will get to a stage we cannot control it anymore.

In addition to all the prayers listed in the Motion, we have vigilantes in those villages and communities, what has happened to those vigilantes? The vigilantes should be up and doing because if they had been doing their work, they should have been able to know when those people were coming because some of them invaded those towns at night when innocent people were sleeping.

Senator Abu Ibrahim has said today that Nigeria has a very porous border. When we talk about herdsmen, there are other herdsmen from Mali and different places. They come in and sit with these people and commit mayhem. Therefore, it is time we differentiated the wheat from the chaff. The Police do not need to pay lip-service to this; they must face action with action. This is the time for them to move in and ensure that this problem is nipped in the bud else, we all will live to regret but God forbid.

Senator Isah Hamma Misau (Bauchi Central): Mr. President, I support this Motion in totality but I have a different view from the last speakers. We do not like telling ourselves the truth; if you look at our security agencies, most of them concentrate more on politics than even doing the real work.

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If you look at those herdsmen that we are talking about, most of them are not Fulanis, they are people that came from Mali, Niger and Chad; most of them are even rebels in their countries. But because our borders are porous Nigeria has become an open place where anybody can enter to do that and as well commit robberies. A lot of things are happening and it is very difficult for us to stop unless our security agencies are made to do their work, because these people identify soft targets. If you look at all the places where these killings are happening, how many percentage of Policemen, SSS and Army do we have there? You will find out that in that whole community you will not find more than ten (10) Policemen, one SSS or Military Personnel and these people might come in, maybe, like hundreds. Even if the Policemen, the Military men or SSS are there they cannot confront them and they come at odd hours.

For example, try to move around at 2:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. in this country, you will find out that even the Policemen that are supposed to be at checkpoints would be sleeping at that time. There are a lot of things that are happening in the Police force; right now the Police are demoralised. We do not want to say it because some of our people have been promoted because of politics. There are officers in the Police that have been promoted above their seniors, those senior officers are not happy therefore they are reluctant and are not doing the work. If we do not address the issue of where politicians will just write letters to the Inspector General of Police or to the Police Service Commission whereby a junior officer will be promoted above his seniors, we will continue to have this problem.

Again, I always say it when I have opportunity like this that the Nigeria Police Force only have 350,000 serving personnel and out of this number, about 30,000 are with politicians and companies. Even the 350,000 are not even general duty police, it is combined; and by the United Nations' standard, Nigeria is supposed to have about one million standing policemen but now we have only 350,000.

Looking at the intelligence, where is the intelligence that we are having? For the past six years we have been fighting Boko Haram, by now if you tell the security organisations to bring the compendium of the intelligence that they have gathered, you will find out that most of the time they concentrate on other things than this intelligence.

Therefore, we must wake up and find a way of improving the strength of our Policemen, the Military and the SSS. Looking even at Agatu case, all these places are soft targets and the presence of the Policemen, the Military men and the SSS are not much. If we are not careful and take this issue very serious it is going to be more than Boko Haram.

I also had little intelligence that most of these people that are moving around in the name of herdsmen are part of the Boko Haram that has been displaced from Sambisa. Some of them are running away and they are finding their routes to other places, therefore, we have to call the Inspector General of Police, the Director General of SSS and the Military Officers so that they look at these issues. Most of the Boko Haram people are fleeing from Borno and Yobe and they are moving to other places and they are the people camouflaging as herdsmen.

So, this matter is very serious, we have to take it beyond what we are even talking here. We have to put resources together and make sure that the community should have vigilante groups whereby some of them will not be sleeping at night. Some people will be moving around to alert people of things like this because at this time we do not have the luxury of sleeping. We should make sure that we alert our communities to form vigilante groups in order to check all these things, if not, this will continue and we would not know when it will stop.

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, first, I want to condole with the people of Enugu North where Senator Joseph Utazi Chukwuka is representing; the incidence that happened there is one among many but very sad.

I am appealing to us that we should take issues that border on security and the welfare of our citizens very serious. In fact, it is the main purpose of government as stated in our Constitution Section 14 (2) - *It is hereby, accordingly, declared that:*

- (a) *Sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria from whom government through this Constitution derives all its powers and authority;*
- (b) *the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government; and*
- (c) *the participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.*

The main purpose of governance is security and welfare of its citizens. This problem of what we now call herdsmen community have been there lingering and every time degenerating to very bad situation. First, we started saying that it is Fulani and now when the Meyeti Allah are saying and have proved that they are not involved because we know that Fulani are used to carrying sticks but we see these people with AK47, we see people moving from one community to the other.

I listened to contributions of our colleagues but it is more of lamentation instead of proffering solution and we as Senator in the high Chamber of this country should go beyond that.

We should just not stop at emotional expressions, we should say; what do we do in order to forestall this kind of problem. I do not want to believe that somebody will come from Mali and go to Enugu and kill people because this is not the first time that we have Fulani herdsmen going round.

When I was doing my NYSC in 1982, surprisingly, I met a Fulani man in Ogun State who could not speak Hausa but he speaks Fulani and Yoruba and I cannot speak Yoruba or Fulani very well. When I met him there was a problem of communication and I was surprised that he does not know how to speak Hausa but he can speak Yoruba, that is how it has being. But when we discovered that the Fulanis we found are not Fulanis, something has to be done.

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha raised a Motion here that Boko Haram are claiming to be Fulani herdsmen and invading, robbing and killing people; there were emotional expressions and arguments here but later on, the Inspector General of Police and the Ministry of Interior confirmed that.

So this is Senate, we have to be serious and put on our thinking cap, what do we do? We need to call the people that are involved, conduct Public Hearing and investigate these things; we need to come up with a very concrete steps to address this matter before it gets out of hand. We played around with Boko Haram last time and see where we found ourselves; when it started they were looking for scape goats and blaming that it is Muslims killing Christians, before you know it, everybody was being killed.

Distinguished Colleagues, we are the Senators, representing the people and the country is expecting much from us. I sympathise with our people once again but we should not conclude this Motion without coming up with the concrete thing that we need to do in order to address this issue.

Senator Olusola Adeyeye (Osun Central): Mr. President, I joined in condoning with our people of Enugu North represented by Senator Utazi and I thank you for bringing this Motion for our attention. I am glad that everyone who has spoken did that with a sense of seriousness recognising that this kind of trouble in any part of Nigeria is a signal of grave matters, matters that we must do everything to prevent from getting worst.

Throughout the length and breadth of Nigeria, Nigerians of different ethnicity and religion live together in peace. My own father, an Igbomina man, lived for decades in Ilaro, Iyewa now called in Ogun State. He prospered there and he was a Councillor there for 11 years.

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The great Nnamdi Azikiwe, an Onitsha man, contested election from Lagos, so did Enesikoli an Ijaw man went to the House of Representatives from a Yoruba Constituency. But as today, if I try to contest election from Ibadan where I went to school, paid my tax, built three Houses before 1999, I would be asked to pack my load and go back to my State of origin. It is a pity that on this kind of grave importance we still have time for snide remarks when millions of our people and their faith is at stake, there must be time when there must be soberness in this Chamber.

Mr. President, we were alive when all these things took place, we have now gotten to a Nigeria where we were worse than we were before the Biafra crisis, and if we must solve it, I thank God for what our leaders said, it must be because we all rise up at this moment of history to say what are the solutions. I want to proffer few solutions.

First, the idea of a Federal Police in Abuja issuing directive to protect every nooks and crannies of Nigeria has failed, and yet when we try to change it in the last constitutional amendment, out of fear of the past, that these Police might be trained to become soldiers and to secede. Let us stop using secession as a way of stagnating Nigerian progress; the idea of Governors that do not have the means of commanding a Force to enforce security in their own State has reduced our stakes to senior prefect who can only exist at the mercy of his co-principal. What we must do is to get back to say, if any State or even Local Government wants to have a means of protecting itself so be it.

Those of us who were trained in America knows that there is no American Campus that does not have a Police, and that police on Campus can arrest, prosecute and you can go to Prison, all they do is to maintain their presence only on their campuses. I want to give an example, the very first job I did when I returned from the United States was to become the Chairman of my Local Government, and the grave problem I faced was armed robbers coming everyday terrorising my people. What I did was simple, I said every person in this Local Government who has gone to Secondary School whether you pass or failed, if you do not have a job and you are willing to take ₦1,000 a week, you are now going to be employed into a community patrol. I got the permission of the State Commissioner of Police then Mr. Bako in Osun State, and at the end of just four weeks it became past tense, every thief in Osun State knows that if you dare enter Ifedayo you will be arrested. We had six cases where we got armed robbers prosecuted and Ifedayo became no go area. We must go back to community policing. Nobody can come from Mali, Niger or from any Hausa place in this country and go to Enugu if Enugu people are empowered to patrol themselves and defend their territory.

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Some Local and State Governments must say, if the Federal Government lacks the means to protect us, we are going to summon the wisdom and the courage to protect ourselves.

Secondly, here is where we are supposed to best protect our Constitution, today the idea of Local Government had died in this country. Once upon a time we used to say that there are Constitutional appendages of the States, they are now whims and capricious edifices to be used for whatever Governors wanted and that is why Local Governments do not have the resources to do what they need to better the welfare of the people in this respective Local Governments. We need to revisit this issue so that with the means of attending to local problems we can solve this. Every problem is local, and when you bring local resources to attend to local problems you find harmonious solution.

Senator Paulker Izibefien Emmanuel (Bayelsa Central): Mr. President, I condole with the people of Enugu North who have suffered this fate from the perceived herdsmen. The trend is becoming very dangerous. This thing started by narrowing down this problem to Benue State, I remember vividly when Senator Emmanuel Bwacha raised his Motion suggesting that these herdsmen are Boko Haram, at that particular time, we did not believe it to the extent that we are convinced today. I am bothered when the assertion was made that these people are none Nigerians, they are from Mali and Niger Republic, it makes me fear that if these people are foreigners they would have the guts to enter into our land and commit this havoc, killing hundreds of men and women, maiming thousands of people.

At this stage, it is better for us to do everything humanly possible to stop this menace. I share in the sentiments raised by my colleagues who spoke earlier that if it comes to the point of reprisal we cannot sit comfortably in this Floor and address this problem. This is because we will come to a point just as the Chief Whip mentioned, if people now decide to take laws into their hands to defend themselves believing that they have no defence at all from the military and the police, then, we are doomed. I do not believe in talking about the issue resulting to civil war because several persons have known the bitter part of war, no reasonable Nigerian will ever think of allowing a few individuals to drag this country into that perspective.

The herdsmen are just following these cows but the main owners of these cows are resting somewhere, they are well to do Nigerians. My suggestion is that we cannot run away from establishing grassing land. They should acquire land within the vicinity where cows are being raised.

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If you go to United Kingdom, you will see ranches all over; these cows are fed fat and would produce even more milk to our meal. I remember Senator Bukar Ibrahim mentioned that his cows are restrained, they do not go anywhere, and other people should follow the good path. If we do that and Nigerians' cows are being restrained in ranches I do not think the Malians or the Niger Republic people would have the got to enter our hinterland.

So the first thing to do is that whether there is Law or not those who own these cows in their numbers should see it as a point of duty at this point in time that ranches should be created to house their cows. The situation is appalling and once more, I wish to convey the condolences of my neighbours to Enugu North people but there is dare need for us to stop this menace now before it degenerate to a point that we cannot stop.

Senator Goodwill Obot Akpabio (Akwa-Ibom North West): Mr. President, I want to first extend my condolences to the families who lost their loved ones through this unfortunate incidence. My wife comes from Enugu State so I am also very aggrieved and that is why I also ensure that today I wore black to show the mood of the nation and my in-laws.

The Chief Whip of the Senate has done a good job in elucidating the problems and also proffering solutions. I had an experience with kidnapping as a State Governor and a lot of other vices. One of the things I did in my State was to create what I called Community Surveillance Group and they were coordinated by the Police Senior Superintendent. We have over two thousand, seven hundred villages and a representative in each village reporting any incidence while going round, he has his stipends every month and his job was to give information.

Then we have a local government coordinator, from there it dove-tail into the State. Whenever, I have functions you will see over one thousand five to two thousands of them wearing T-shirt and then when they come to the State level we call it crowd control because security is not something you discuss in the open.

Mr. President, something happened within a space of three months after the formation of this group, we arrested one armed robber and he was crying, he said when they told him that there was a job, he did not know it was in Akwa-Ibom that in Akwa-Ibom nobody goes free.

Whilst I align myself with the submissions of my colleagues that some of these people are coming from Chad and Niger, the reality is that we are just trying to play politics with a very serious issue. In my personal opinion, more than ninety-five *per cent* of these people are Nigerians, so there is no need for us to say that they are from Niger and Chad.

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How would they walk from Chad and Niger with sophisticated weapons not even AK 47, some of them come with Machine Guns and they come all the way from Chad and they enter into Uwani in Enugu just for the sake of going to kill over forty or fifty people in one night.

Let us say the truth. The Nigerian Civil war started like a joke and it also involved South East. Today, the attacked on the South East has resulted in numerous losses of lives and they are now begging Nigeria to do something, now they have come to this Hallowed Chambers. We must listen; Nigeria cannot cope with the Second World War. No country survive two civil wars and more over with the resinous problems of Boko Haram that we have in the North East, what is now happening in the South East combine would destroy our democracy and it is threatening national security that is why we should not even have discussed this in the open. We should have gone into a Close-Door Section on this issue where we would be able to proffer solutions without the public knowing so that at the end we can make proper representation to the Leadership of this country and the Security Services so that at the end of the day we can nip this problem in the bud.

This is a serious issue and if it is not tackled, we must remember that the Arab Spring started with just one individual in Tunisia setting himself ablaze and so the entire Middle East has no peace and the war has now enter into major refugee crisis. With the population of 170 million, if a civil war comes again in Nigeria, West Africa cannot contain Nigerians because with just 50 million Nigerians fleeing into Ghana and other places they would have taken over the entirety of West Africa up to Gambia. We cannot even say we have a government or a democracy when we cannot solve this particular problem.

The danger of it which I must correct my distinguished Senator Ben Bruce is that the information available to me is that there has not been any reprisal attack. The people have taken the legitimate means of reporting to Security Services and they are waiting for what Nigeria would do. So far, I do not think there have being any revenge or vengeance attack but I do know that already it has created IDPs because a lot of people who are not from Enugu State are afraid and now running to police and army barracks for protection, so we are creating another set of IDPs because of herdsmen.

Therefore, my submission is that the Senate must take the issue very seriously even if we have to go into enacting a law that would protect the lives and the properties of citizens and then check-mate this emerging menace we should do so.

Above all, we must have a Close-door Section to really proffer security solution which would not be known to the public so that some of us who have had the experiences of dealing with security can actually tell the Senate what we think to be done and then we present it in a compendium. May the souls of those who lost their lives rest in peace, I support this Motion.

Senator Gilbert Emeka Nnaji (Enugu East): Mr. President, I want to support this Motion sponsored by Senator Joseph U. Chukwuka, I shared with him at this time because what happened at Uzowani is a very bad omen. You can see I did not come to the Chamber on time, even as I speak to you now my people in Enugu East have been calling me because they are ready to go and do a reprisal attacks. Yesterday, the people in Enugu East Local Government went to attack the Hausa people but we tried to use the telephone calls and other security agencies to stop them.

What is happening is not good for our system and some people from Indian, United Kingdom and Australia are calling, asking us what we are doing to save the lives of our people as Senators. It is a very big challenge to this Senate that we have to rise up to come with a very good resolution. A lot of resolutions have passed here in this Senate but none has been implemented. I am also appealing to the Senate even if we can constitute a Committee that can be called Legislative Compliance; it can help us because after we finish passing resolutions nothing happens, we cannot implement it.

What happened in Enugu State can happen at any other place and our people in the South East have been asking us to go to the Chambers and declare Biafra, we have been trying to calm them down to explain to them the situation. They said that the government is not doing anything and has not said anything about it, but I thank God that yesterday Mr. President came out to condemn what happened in Uzo Uwani.

Therefore, I am asking that this Senate should come up with a very concrete solution that can stop this attack in our place.

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha (Taraba South): Mr. President, the issue under debate is a topical one and I am happy today that we are taking this matter very seriously. I remembered in the 7th Senate, our colleagues from Borno State including the Late Zanna spoke with emotional outburst about the danger of Boko Haram and the threat it posed to the unity of Nigeria. Quite a number of us thought they were kidding and before we knew it, it spreads to Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe, Adamawa States and the entire North-East region. The only State that was not affected operation wise was Taraba State.

When the Boko Haram insurgent started infiltrating into Taraba State, we saw them coming, we knew, but we were helpless because we had an illegal contraction that was in place then until it was dispatched by the Supreme Court and then there was better latitude to confront the matter.

When I was raising the matter here I was being prophetic, I knew that one day it will become a matter that every Nigerian will agree that, yes, this is the true position.

I am not surprised that we are waking up now because when the issue started in Borno the key centre of Boko Haram, the politicians who were supposed to tackle this matter frontally sat and never do much about it, and that is why we are not surprised today some of them were being tagged as sponsors of Boko Haram.

When I raised this matter of the insurgents coming into Taraba State, surprisingly a colleague of mine said that no, that was not true. Not long after all, the Deputy Governor's mother was kidnapped in Taraba State and this is the same place where a notable kingpin of the Boko Haram insurgent was picked up.

After all these issues I raised somebody sent me a text on my phone with a picture of a coffin with some Arabic inscription on it, and I refused to reply him. Why, because, if you know this thing why should you be afraid of death because to live is Christ to die is gain. I did not see anything fearful about it and it dawned on me that what I was saying was the truth that these are insurgents and I clearly said that these people are masquerading as Fulani Herdsmen.

We have lived with Fulani Herdsmen, I said it here on the Floor, grew up with them, we go to their place to take *nunu* and things like that. These ones are different set of people; when you see a cow or a donkey with a lot of loads at the back, they are arms. For the security operatives to have risen up then, probably it would have saved a lot of lives but it is not too late, it is better to start now than never.

The President acted wisely to have given that matching order to the security operatives, we expected this, and that is why Nigerians were becoming very curious.

We are happy that the President has given the matching order and in fact, in some communities they have to resort to self-help, trying to find a means of defending themselves because in the society of lawlessness it becomes illegal to be law abiding.

That is what was beginning to happen until now that the security operatives had been encouraged, and given the mandate and the Commander-in-Chief has given that clarity. We can now sleep, though with one eye open because the situation is still very dicing.

I am happy that this has become a subject and official position of government that Boko Haram is now masquerading as cattle herders. I am so happy and I trust God will help us to overcome this major national security challenge.

Senator Mallam Ali Wakili (Bauchi South): Mr. President, let me start by expressing my sincere sympathy and condolence to Senator Utazi, the people of Enugu North, Enugu State and all other various places that this dastardly, condemnable, reprehensible, disgusting action has taken place. From Agatu to Zamfara to Kano to Lere my village, to Binin – Gwari, where these cattle rustlers have gone to commit havoc in the name of cattle herdsman, it is very reprehensible.

Secondly, let me join Senators Bwacha and Nnaji in commending the President for his timely reaction by condemning those incidence and directing the security agencies to act as appropriate.

Thirdly, let us talk as statesmen not as politicians, I dissociate myself with some of us here that are talking about the drums of war; it has not reached to that situation. These issues are affecting all parts of Nigeria.

Last week you saw me confiding with the Inspector-General of Police, I was requesting from him to approve the establishment of Police Station and a Police Division in my village because of activities that are happening in Enugu-North. So it is not only confining to a certain part of the country, it is all over Nigeria.

Luckily the government and people of Zamfara have come together with the government and people of Kano and Kaduna to set up a special Joint Task Force. The colossal loss of lives and properties in Zamfara alone, if it is chronicled, everybody will be on course here. So, it is not only confined to one part of the country, I am cautioning us to talk as statesmen please.

Senator Mao raised an issue, a typical herdsman has certain characteristics; he does not go along with AK 47. If you see the real herdsman, he will be with a hat Malfa, a stick that serves as his guide and his rod. You will see him with his kettle (Jallo) that carries his water, Kabido that serves as his raincoat, and a simple machete. This machete is meant for him to cut tree leaves in the bush to feed his cattle. Outside that one, no real herdsman goes along with sophisticated weapons.

Some four weeks back here we were discussing the issue of Taraba, we have agreed that let us not stigmatised certain ethnic groups and blame them for whatever happens, it does not augur well for the unity of this country.

We have agreed that the Security Agencies should be funded, they should be up and doing and that some Committees should go and look at certain problems. Again, we should remember that one of our colleagues raised an issue that his people have promised to condemn him if he speaks about creation of grazing land for any cattle farmer in Nigeria. Some State Governments have even enacted a law that will not allow any grazing land. If we have to look at these problems that affect the real herdsman then all of us our hearts must be opened. Nigeria is one. You cannot say that my father as a Fulani man with cattle cannot go to your land, if you said that what happens to your own brother that is in my own land. Let us talk like Statesmen so that the Unity of this country must continue to be maintained.

Senator Barau I Jibrin (Kano North): Mr. President, I will like to sympathise and condole the people of Enugu North who lost their loved ones in the conflict that led to the death of many people from that area, it is sad and it is something that should be condemned. This incidence is becoming something that has gone round this country and reoccurring. I remembered some months ago, it started from my own Senatorial Zone, Agwai Shanono area where these people came, killed and maimed several people. Incidentally, the majority people of that area are Fulanis and when you translate *Shanono* into English, it means drink milk. It shows that the majority of the people there are people that are involved in rearing cattle but yet this people came in and killed them. It is also happening in Zamfara State, it is everywhere and we begin to wonder even where these people are coming from and up till now my people cannot really say where these people are coming from to kill them. There is information reaching us that they are from Mali, Niger, Chad and Senegal; we do not know from where these people are coming.

This is not something that can be particularised to an area, it is something that is widespread, and we should be well informed. I heard the contribution of my respected Senator Ben-Bruce and it is very painful. If somebody from my area or from Zamfara hears this, they will ask why this Senator is not well informed about the problem. It is not something that the people of this country are creating. People who are coming from other countries put us into this. They are the ones coming to create these problems, we do not know them. They look different from us and if you look at them, if you see them you will know that they are not Nigerians.

We should be well informed that these people are not from this country then the issue of civil war or clashes amongst our people should not even arise. The security agencies should go into this matter, make sure they fish out these people and know where these people are coming from in order to deal with this matter and bring it to an end.

Senator Samuel Ominyi Egwu (Ebonyi North): Mr. President, I want to sympathise with Senator Utazi who comes from Enugu North for this cruel massacre of innocent villagers. Like you know, we have been reading through the Newspapers and internets that before this happened there was a security meeting and enough intelligence to notify security agencies. I also heard that the Governor of the State held meetings with the community Fulani-Hausa Nomads in that area and still it happened. The question therefore is that the security agencies in the State are they not prepared to safeguard the lives and properties of the people that were so slaughtered?

Why must they wait until Mr. President gives the marching order? They have a Constitutional duty to protect lives and properties of the area they are occupying. Must they wait for Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief before they do their duty? Why has nobody been arrested?

I listened to Senator Utazi, he enumerated the areas and different parts of the country that have been experiencing this and we never heard of any arrest or measure taken to stop this and they continue occurring. This is one of the countries where a crime will be committed and nothing is done about it, tomorrow it will be committed and nothing would be done, it gives a resemblance of a failed State; that is the implementation. Incidentally, this situation did not start today, it started before the advent of this administration and that was why most of us felt that with the incoming of this new Administration most of this impunity and recklessness will stop but it has continued.

We have to do something about it as a Senate; I feel we should invite the security agencies to ask them what are their limitations and challenges because this is not how a country functions. A crime is committed and nothing is done, tomorrow it is committed and nothing is done, it will continue like that. It is either we do not have a country or we are just moving like people without a direction. Mr. President and Commander-in-Chief, has a lot to do on his shoulders, the issue of the security has been given to security agencies and they should do their jobs, until they come here and tell us their challenges, it is either they are conniving with the people or they are not interested in their duties. As a Senate, we owe it as a duty to really find out because this is already a very dangerous situation befalling this country and we need to do something about it.

I am of the view that this Senate should summon the head of security agencies to come and tell us their challenges because the way we are going if care is not taken a situation will come whereby everybody would be on his own. And it now leads us to the issue of restructuring this country so that we should have a direction.

Senator Musa Mohammed Rabiu Kwankwaso (Kano Central): Mr. President, I will like to join my colleagues in standing side by side with distinguished Senator Utazi. What happened in his Senatorial District is condemnable. What happened in Enugu North Senatorial District is very common with what has been happening across this country. We had reasons in my State to face these challenges of herdsmen and farmers clashing, not only in Kano State but across the country. We have seen situation especially in the North West and particularly in Zamfara State where these cattle herdsmen come out from forest and other places to attack communities, killing hundreds of people and almost on regular basis.

We need to do something as legislators. We must not run away from our responsibilities when it comes to area of legislation. We have to come up with something or legislation that will help in terms of conflict resolution, to take care of both sides, the side of farmers who are very important and also the side of the herders. Until that is done, unfortunately we will keep on coming here and lamenting what is happening from one constituency to another.

What happened in his constituency, as it has been mentioned earlier cuts across all the constituencies of this country. The only thing which I believe that it is very important is that we caution ourselves in terms of talking about ethnicity because it has nothing to do with that. We have to caution ourselves about religion because it has nothing to do with that. Of course, we have to look at both sides, the side of farmers who are very important, many of us here are farmers and of course the side of herders, many of us like Senator Mao who also owns cattle, many of us own cattle here. Until fairness and justice is done in that direction we will continue unfortunately to have all these challenges in our hands.

Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero (Kebbi Central): Mr. President, I rise to also join my colleagues in commiserating with Senator Utazi. It is sad and very unfortunate that we have this re-occurring dismal. It has happened in so many States and this is the third time we are discussing herdsmen, farmers or communal clashes. I am not going to spend so much time lamenting on what happened rather I would talk about solution because as Senators, we should be more concerned with solutions and how to prevent future occurrences of this ugly phenomenal.

The Governors have the primary responsibility of protecting lives and properties within their domain even though we know that the Police Force, the SSS and the army are not under their direct control. These things cannot be happening without apportioning blames. Just like my colleague said, I could recall that it has happened more than four or five times in Zamfara State. The Governor of Zamfara State and other neighbouring Governors held meetings on how they can prevent future occurrence of these security problems. I would recommend to the South-East Governors to have the same security meetings just like the North-West Governors because to some extent, it has brought normalcy and peace to the area.

We have been talking about grazing reserves; we have been talking about ranches. Nowadays, all over the world the practice is how we can have the cattle stationed in one place providing food for their livelihood, providing amenities for the herdsmen, schools, hospitals and what have you? We should start thinking of doing this.

Lately, the Minister of Agriculture has spoken eloquently on this that very soon the Federal Government will assist States to establish ranches. The State Governors should key into this agenda of the Federal Government by providing ranches as a solution to farmers and herdsmen clashes. We have lost so many lives. Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere that is why I support this Motion and I urge my colleagues to also support it.

The Senate directed the Senate Committee on Agriculture and National Security to hold a Public Hearing on farmers and herdsmen clashes. We met yesterday and planned the strategy on how we can conduct this Public Hearing. We are going to invite all stakeholders beginning from the representatives of the herdsmen, farmers, community leaders, security agents and opinion moulders. The idea is to have holistic view of the whole problem.

We cannot just be talking about herdsmen coming from Niger Republic, Cameroun, and Chad without investigating properly to know from where they are actually coming. We want to hear from the victims and the herdsmen. We cannot just sit here and conclude that this crime is being perpetrated by a particular set of people. There are even statements coming from the police force that what happened in Enugu is actually a clash between communities. We need to investigate and find out precisely what happened. Without conducting proper investigation, we will not be able to come out with the truth.

Senator Shehu Sani (Kaduna Central): Mr. President, four decades ago the people of Enugu North were in the front line of a national war and today they are victims of the murderous activities of the herdsmen.

It is not only Enugu North, the herdsmen are becoming a national and regional menace and it requires a collective action to address the problem.

I must say this very clearly that what this Senate can do differently from what is being done now is that we must move away from the usual culture of condemnation, threats of war, reprisal and vengeance. We must come out with practical solutions that will address this problem and I believe that what is needed now and immediately as said by Senator Samuel Egwu is to summon Security Chiefs to come here and explain to us why is this thing going on.

Secondly, a multi-joint task force of all security agencies, the army, Police, Civil Defence and the DSS is very much needed.

Thirdly, we must engage the Cattle Rearers/Breeders Association to go after these men. We have seen it; it is not in Enugu North alone, it is in Birnin Gwari, Zamfara, Agatu in Benue State and everywhere. It is a national menace that needs a collective action and what this Senate can do differently is to proffer solution rather than the usual condemnation and this problem still goes on.

The Deputy President: Thank you distinguished colleagues. I am aware that certain people will like to contribute, but we have said so much regarding this matter. We have to do this because to the ordinary people of Nigeria, what they know is that we are all in government. There is no difference between the Executive, the Legislature and, indeed, the Judiciary. We are all held responsible in issues such as this and so I believe it is important that while the Executive is making efforts, as Parliamentarians, we must be seen to be doing something because the people see all of us as being part of government. We must show some sensibility in matters concerning our people.

Once more I will like to express our condolences to the people of Uzouwani and the entire people of Enugu State on what happened few days back. As has been said here, there are too many idle men and women in Nigeria today who are frustrated by economic realities and they will make themselves available for any possible issues or mishap or concerns that this will give rise to. I believe that the earlier we nip this in the bud the better for us all.

We want a very peaceful country and we need to work towards that. As leaders, we must be held responsible if there is break down of law and order because the primary purpose of government is the protection of lives and properties of the ordinary people. Governance comes with responsibilities and one of our responsibilities is to protect the lives of our people. We must be able to come up with immediate approach to this problem, then, mid-term solutions and finally, a long time solution so that people will see that we are interested in their welfare and are also interested in the protection of their lives and properties.

2401

Having said this, distinguished Colleagues, I will go straight to the Prayers and if there are ones you want us to amend we will amend accordingly and take the Resolutions.

- (1) *Observe a minute silence in memory of those who were killed in attacks in Nimbo Communities –*

Question Proposed.

Senator Muhammed Adamu Aliero (Kebbi): Mr. President, I wish to amend this Prayer to read as follows:

Observe a minute silence in honour of those who were killed in attacks in Nimbo and all other communities in similar circumstances.

A distinguished Senator: I second the Motion as moved by Senator Adamu Aliero.

Amendment put and agreed to.

- (2) *Urge National Emergency Management Agency and other relevant agencies to urgently disperse relief materials to Nimbo Community and other neighbouring Communities of Nkpologu, Uvuru, Ugbene-Ajima, and Adani to ameliorate the living conditions of the victims of the attacks who have become Internally Displaced Persons –*

Question put and agreed to.

- (3) *Call on the security agencies of the nation to improve its intelligence gathering capabilities and be proactive rather than reactive to threats to internal security, especially in cases where there is credible intelligence to act on to safeguard lives and properties.*

Question Proposed.

Senator Theodore A. Orji (Abia): Mr. President, some of us were not given the opportunity to talk. In some cases, you see that security agencies are partial. In Ohafia, where we have 14 Brigade of the Nigerian Army and we have these cattle rearers, whenever they have clashes with the natives, the cattle rearers will just go to the Brigade Commander and report and the man will not judge anything, he will just send armed men to go and invade the villages. That type of thing is not good and so we expect that these people should be very considerate and impartial when they are handling situations like that.

2402

Therefore, I am amending this to say: *and those security agencies should also be impartial when cases of dispute between farmers and the cattle rearers come to them.*

The Deputy President: Is there any Seconder?

Senator Ogola Foster (Bayelsa West): I second the Motion as moved by Senator Theodore Orji.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, I have just a little guide. In view of the seriousness of the incidence that led to this Motion and the decision thereof, we should look at the Prayers closely and not one after the other so that we do not mix it up. I am thinking that Prayer 6 is the one that is more relevant now and the amendment of Prayer 8 as we discussed with the Senate President.

Therefore, I am urging distinguished Senators that Prayers 3, 4, 5, and 7 should be deleted and then, we take Prayers 6 and 8 as amended. This is because we are thinking of setting up a serious Ad-Hoc Committee to look into this matter and proffer solutions to it. Investigating the matter, that will take care of all the invitations in the Motion but sending a delegation stands on its own.

The Deputy President: Senator Utazi, is that acceptable to you?

Senator Joseph U. Chukwuka: Mr President, we can still pass these resolutions and then Ad-Hoc Committee can be set up.

The Deputy President: All right, do not worry. Let us quickly go to Prayer 3 again.

- (3) *Call on the security agencies of the nation to improve its gathering capabilities and be proactive rather than reactive to threats to internal security, especially in cases where there is credible intelligence to act on to safeguard lives and properties –*

Question put and agreed to.

- (4) *Call on security agencies to enforce the law on arms bearing by unauthorised persons.*

Question put and agreed to –

- (5) *Call on the Nigeria Police to expedite action on the establishment of a Rapid Response Police Unit around the communities where these attacks take place –*

2403

Amendment Proposed.

Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke (Osun West): Mr. President, Prayer 5 which says *call on the Nigeria Police to expedite action on the establishment of a Rapid Response Police Unit around the communities where these attacks take place*, we have them but they are not enough. I want to include in the words of the Majority Whip of the Senate to include vigilante groups in those communities where these attacks take place because the Rapid Response Policemen are not enough to cover those areas.

The Deputy President: Is there any Seconder?

(No response)

Senator Obinna Ogba (Ebonyi Central): I have an amendment.

The Deputy President: Is it further amendment or are you seconding this one?

Senator Obinna Ogba: Mr. President, I want to make amendment because when criminals devise a new method to attack people, the Nigeria Police should also devise a new method too. We are talking about herdsmen carrying arms when they are not supposed to carry, whether they disguise in the form of herdsmen or not the amendment should read thus: *the Nigerian Police should introduce stop and search on the herdsmen that are carrying cattle.*

Extension of Time

The Deputy Senate President: Please hold on let us extend our time.

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume (Borno South): Mr. President, I move that we stand down relevant sections of our Standing Order in order to enable us sit beyond 2.00 p.m. in view of the importance of the Motion in consideration.

Senator Philip Aduda Tanimu (FCT): Mr. President, I second the Motion as moved by the Leader.

Amendment proposed.

Senator Ogba Joseph Obinna: Mr. President, my amendment is on Prayer 5, that we should *call on the Nigerian Police to introduce a team of police that will act as stop and search on the herdsmen movement even if it is in the bush or the main road* because they are not allowed to carry arms. Now, you see them going armed but the police will only stop those who are moving on the tarred roads. Therefore that Prayer 5 should be amended.

2404

Senator Ogola Foster (Bayelsa West): Mr. President, I second the amendment as moved by Senator Ogba Joseph Obinna.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke (Osun West): Mr. President, my amendment was not seconded before another amendment.

Senator Abubakar Kyari (Borno North): Mr. President, I second the amendment proposed by Senator Adeleke which says that *vigilante groups should be included in the fight against what we have at hand now.*

I am saying this out of the success that the Civilian JTF has recorded in Borno State in the fight against Boko Haram, I so second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

- (6) *Send a delegation of the Senate to commiserate with the people of the Community, the Local Government, and the State on the unfortunate attacks –*

Question put and agreed to.

- (7) *Invite Security Chief to brief the Senate on the movement of fleeing terrorists to ensure that measures are put in place to forestall a spread of terrorist activities all over the country –*

Question put and agreed to.

- (8) *Mandate the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Police Affairs and National Security to carry out an investigation of the incident and suggest ways of stopping these attacks before they affected communities resort to self-help –*

Amendment proposed.

Senator Olusola Adeyeye (Osun Central): Mr. President, in view of the urgency and gravity of these matters and importance that we have attached to it, borne by the fact that it is the only matter we are discussing today and even so, we are extending our sitting time. I propose that we amend that the Senate would *set up an Ad-Hoc Committee with representations from every geo-political zone to meet as quickly as possible to attend to this matter and proffer solutions.*

2405

Senator Tijjani Yahaya Kaura (Zamfara North): Mr. President, I earlier wanted to amend this prayer but after hearing from the Chief Whip, I finally agreed to second the amendment he submitted to this Hallowed Chamber: That we form a Committee of this Hallowed Chamber with representatives from at least each geo-political zone especially those States that are mostly affected so that we can suggest to the Government what actions would be taken to resolve this problems.

I so second.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do:

- (1) Observe a minute silence in memory of those who were killed in attacks in Nimbo Communities and all other communities in similar circumstances.
- (2) Urge National Emergency Management Agency and other relevant agencies to urgently disperse relief materials to Nimbo Community and other neighbouring Communities of Nkpologu, Uvuru, Ugbene-Ajima, and Adani to ameliorate the living conditions of the victims of the attacks who have become Internally Displaced Persons
- (3) Call on the security agencies of the nation to improve its intelligence gathering capabilities and be proactive rather than reactive to threats to internal security, especially in cases where there is credible intelligence to act on to safeguard lives and properties and those security agencies should also be impartial when cases of dispute between farmers and the cattle rearers come to them.
- (4) Call on security agencies to enforce the law on arms bearing by unauthorised persons.
- (5) Call on the Nigerian Police to introduce a team of police that will act as stop and search on the herdsmen movement even if it is in the bush or the main road and vigilante groups should be included in the fight against what we have at hand now.
- (6) Send a delegation of the Senate to commiserate with the people of the Community, the Local Government, and the State on the unfortunate attacks.
- (7) Invite Security Chief to brief the Senate on the movement of fleeing terrorists to ensure that measures are put in place to forestall a spread of terrorist activities all over the country.

2406

- (8) Set up an Ad-Hoc Committee with representations from every geo-political zone to meet as quickly as possible to attend to this matter and proffer solutions.

The Deputy Senate President: So, we will first take the one minute while we await the Senate Leader to give us the list of the members of the Ad-Hoc Committee, therefore, may we rise to observe the one minute silence.

(A minute silence accordingly observed in honour of those who were killed in the attacks in Nimbo Community and all other Nigerians who died in similar circumstances.)

Ad Hoc Committee on Perennial Conflicts between Communities and Cattle Herdsmen

(1) Senator Ali Ndume	-	Chairman
(2) Senator Adetunji Adeleke	-	Member
(3) Senator Mao Oluabunwa	-	Member
(4) Senator Abdullahi Adamu	-	Member
(5) Senator Shehu Sani	-	Member
(6) Senator Ben Bruce	-	Member

The Committee must start work by next week on the Public Hearing on this important subject.

Suspension of all other Items on the Order Paper

Senator Ali Ndume: Mr. President, in view of the fact that we are time constrained and we have an outstanding budget issue which we promised to resolve today, I want to move that we stand down the rest of the items on the Order paper to another legislative date

Senator Philip Aduda (FCT): Mr. President, I second the Motion moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

(With the leave of the Senate, all other items stood down till another legislative day)

ADJOURNMENT

The Deputy President: I wish you all a happy May Day celebration. This Senate is hereby adjourned to Tuesday, 3rd May, 2016 at 10: a. m. prompt.

And it being 2:04 p.m. the Deputy President adjourned the Senate without question put pursuant to Rule 13(8) of the Senate Standing Rules.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 2:04 p.m.