

2017

2018

**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Tuesday, 15th March, 2016

The Senate met at 10.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Colleagues, we shall consider the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday 10th March 2016 for approval. We will start consideration from Page 57- 568.

Senator Binta Masi Garba (Adamawa North): Mr. President, I move that the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 10th March, 2016 be adopted.

Senator Fatimat Olufunke Raji-Rasaki (Ekiti Central): Mr. President, I second the Motion as moved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 10th March, 2016 be adopted.

MESSAGE FROM MR PRESIDENT

The President: I have before me, letter from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which read as follows:

14th March, 2016

*Distinguished Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki,
President of the Senate,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**TRANSMISSION OF BILLS FOR ACT TO PROVIDE
FOR THE DOMESTICATION AND ENFORCEMENT
IN NIGERIA OF THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE
TAXATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AND THREE
OTHER COUNTRIES (SOUTH KOREA, SPAIN AND
SWEDEN)**

The Senate is invited to note that agreements for the avoidance of double taxation between countries facilitate inter-states trade, economic and business activities as well as to enable prospective investors to know the income tax obligation in each country and the tax incentives available.

They also ensure stable and reliable tax regimes and improve the cooperation between tax authorities through exchange of information among others.

2. Pursuant to the above, the Federal Government of Nigeria entered into agreement for the avoidance of double taxation with the **Kingdom of Sweden, Republic of South Korea and Kingdom of Spain** which were dully executed on 18th November 2004, 6th November 2006 and 23rd June, 2009 respectively, after series of negotiations between Nigeria and each of these countries.

3. For the agreement to be enforceable in Nigeria, they must be domesticated in line with provisions of Section 12(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) which states that: No treaty between the Federation and any other country shall have the force of law to the extent to which any such treaty has been enacted into law by the National Assembly.

4. Bearing in mind the interest of Nigeria and each of the three countries to these agreements vis-à-vis economic vision of this government, the coming into the force of these agreements would no doubt facilitate the interchange of direct foreign investment.

5. Therefore, I have the pleasure to forward one copy each of the Draft Bills for Acts to domesticate each of the agreements for consideration and enactment by the Senate.

6. Please accept as always, the assurances of my esteemed consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

2019

2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

8th March, 2016

The Senate President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly,
The Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

My dear President,

DEMISE OF THE PARAMOUNT RULER OF GAMAI NATION IN SHENDAM LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL, LATE MISKOM HUBERT SHALDAS II (OON) THE LONGAMAI AND REQUEST FOR CONDOLENCE VISIT

It is with my heart full of sorrow but total submission to the will of God that I wish to formally inform this Distinguished Senate of the transition to glory of his Royal Highness, the Long-Gamai and the Traditional ruler/first Class Chief of Shendam Local Government Area, Late Miskom Hubert Shaldas II (OON).

2. *The unfortunate event occurred on the 8th of February, 2016 and burial has since taken place.*

3. *Late Miskom Hubert Shalda II (OON) was born on the 25th of October 1939. He served in the Nigeria Army and retired as a Major after the civil war. He was the Finance Officer, 2nd Division based in Benin during the Nigeria Civil War. Late Miskom Hubert Shaldas II (OON) was installed as the Long-Gamai of Gamai Nation on the 17th of December, 1988. He reigned for 28 years.*

4. *He was until his death, the Chairman of Shendam Traditional Council and an active member of Plateau State Traditional Council. He held various other positions of responsibility including Ag Chairman of Plateau Traditional Council after the demise of the Late Gbong Gwom Jos, Dr Fom Bot.*

5. *The Late Long Gamai would be remembered as a philanthropist, peace maker and bridge builder in Shendam, Plateau Southern Senatorial District and the good people of Plateau State in general.*

6. *In the light of the forgoing, I wish to kindly request that this Distinguished Senate sends a powerful delegation to commiserate with his family, Shendam Local Government Area, Plateau Southern Senatorial District and the good people of Plateau State in general.*

7. *Thank you Mr. President for your kind consideration of my humble request.*

Yours most sincerely,

(Signed)

Senator (Gen) J.T Useni, Dss Psc, Mni, Cfr
Sardaunan Plateau and Nasarawa States

Birthday Wishes

This is to announce the birthdays of two of our distinguished Colleagues; Senator John David Jang on the 13th of March and Senator Lanre Tejuosho on the 15th of March. On behalf of the Senate, I congratulate them and wish them many more years good health and prosperity.

Visitors in the Gallery

I wish to acknowledge the presence of staff and students of Saint Anthony's Nursery/Primary School, Angwan Barau, Niger State; Staff and students of IQ Academy, Garki, Abuja and staff and students of New Horizons College, Minna, Niger State who are in the Gallery to observe the Senate Proceedings.

I wish them fruitful observation of the Senate Proceedings.

(The Visitors stood for recognition)

Please, sit down.

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume (Borno South): Mr. President, the first Business of the Day is the presentation of five Bills. You may wish to invite the Clerk of the Senate to read the Short Title of the Bills.

Nigerian Army Institute of Technology and Environmental Studies (Est. Etc.) Bill 2016

Nigerian Army Institute of Technology and Environmental Studies (Est. Etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 123) – presented by Senator Kabir Marafa (Zamfara Central); *read the First Time.*

Whistle Blowers Protection Bill, 2016

Whistle Blowers Protection Bill, 2016 (SB. 158) – presented by Senator Biodun Olujimi (Ekiti South); *read the First Time.*

2021

Public Officers CAP P41 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 Act (Amendment Bill), 2016

Public Officers CAP P41 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 209) – presented by Senator Gilbert Nnaji (Enugu East); *read the First Time.*

National Roads Fund (Establishment etc.) Bill, 2016

National Roads Fund (Establishment etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB.218) – presented by Senator Kabiru Gaya (Kano North); *read the First Time.*

Federal Road Safety Corps (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Federal Road Safety Corps Act No. 22, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB.221) – presented by Senator Kashamu Buruji (Ogun East); *read the First Time*

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Notification of Demise of Governor Ibru

Senator Ovie Augustine Omo-Agege (Delta Central): Mr. President, Point of Order.

The President: What is your Point of Order, Senator Ovie?

Senator Ovie Omo-Agege: I refer to Order 42 and with your permission I will read.

The President: Please read.

Senator Ovie Omo-Agege: Order 42 reads:

- (1) *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.*

Order 52 (*Interruptions*)

The President: Distinguished Senator Ovie, what is the subject matter?

Senator Ovie Omo-Agege: Mr. President, it is to formally notify the Senate of the demise of Governor Ibru who served here as a distinguished Senate in the 5th Senate.

2022

The President: Distinguished Colleagues, Senator Omo-Agege did see me and asked if he could raise the Motion under matter of urgent public importance. As by our Rule, it is for me to seek the consent of our Colleagues.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Motion be stood down till the next Legislative Date

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Incorporate and Enforce Certain Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, the protocol to the African Charter on Human and people's rights, on the rights of women in Africa, and other Matters Connected therewith (SB. 116) –

Order for Second Reading.

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, the first Order of the Day is a Second Reading of a Bill on Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, 2016. You will recall that the Bill was read the First Time in this Chambers on Tuesday 20th October, 2015.

You may wish to invite Senator Olujimi to move the Motion for the Bill to be considered.

Senator Biodun Olujimi (Ekiti South): Mr. President, I rise to move the lead debate on a Bill for an Act to Incorporate and Enforce Certain Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, the protocol to the African Charter on Human and people's rights, on the rights of women in Africa, and other Matters Connected therewith.

Permit me to lead the debate on the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill which seeks to give effect to the provisions of Chapter II and IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) dealing with the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy and the Fundamental Human Rights including the Right to Life, Right to dignity of human person, Right to personal liberty, Right to fair hearing and Right to freedom from discrimination etc; and the International Covenants on Human Rights which affirm the principle of non-discrimination and proclaims that all humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights set out without distinction of any kind including distinction based on sex.

2023

The Domestication of certain provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the protocol to the African Charter on the rights of Women in Africa.

The Bill was read for the First Time in this Chamber on Tuesday 20th October, 2015.

Section 4 of the Bill deals with prohibition of discrimination, it states that no person, Organ or Agency of government, public or private institution, Commercial or Corporate body, Community, or either entity, or any representative of such organ or agency of government, public or private institution, commercial or corporate body, community, or other entity shall either through words spoken, acts, inactions, omissions, laws, regulations, administrative procedures, policy, guideline, rules, customs or practices discriminate against any person on the ground of gender, age or disability.

The proposed law therefore seeks to promote equality, development and advancement of all persons in Nigeria. Section 5 of the Bill accordingly provides that every person, body, institution, community, authority or private enterprise whether public organ or body, public institution, individuals communities or authority and private enterprise in Nigeria shall take all appropriate measures, including regulatory policy, fiscal and administrative measures, to ensure the full development and advancement of all persons, especially young women and girl children, for the purpose of guaranteeing to them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of non-discrimination and equality of all persons.

The Gender and equal Opportunity Bill seeks to provide for women empowerment in the following areas:

Women's freedom of movement, this continues to be legally restricted in some part of the country. This restriction is often due to marriage laws. In addition to laws, women's freedom of movement is also restricted by social practice of female seclusion prevalent among some communities which often leads to the minimising of the movement of women in public spaces and restriction on their social and professional interactions.

In many parts of the Nigeria, girls' access to education is very restricted. Girls face many obstacles which prevent them to take part in education, including: early and forced marriages, early pregnancy; prejudice based on gender stereotypes at home, at school and in the community, violence on the way to school, or in and around schools; long distances to schools; vulnerability into the HIV epidemic; school fees, which often lead to parents sending only their sons to school; lack of gender sensitive approaches and materials in classrooms.

2024

Accordingly to OHCHR, there have been multiple attacks on schools worldwide during the period 2009-2014 with *a number of these attacks being specifically directed at girls, parents and teachers advocating for gender equality in education.* The United Nations Population Fund says:

About two thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women. Lack of education severely restricts a woman's access to information and opportunities. Conversely, increasing women's and girl's' educational attainment benefits both individuals and the future generations. Higher levels of women's education are strongly associated with lower infant mortality and lower fertility, as well as better outcomes for their children.

Women are underrepresented in most National and State Parliaments (One of them is here). The 2011 UN General Assembly resolution on women's political participation called for female participation in politics and expressed concern about the fact that *women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere.*

Institutions also play an essential role in achieving and enforcing gender equality. However, basic legal and human rights, access to and the control of resources, employment and earnings and social and political participation are still not guaranteed in many social and legal institutions.

Female economic activity is a common measure of gender equality in an economy. UN Women States: *Investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth.*

Gender discrimination often results in women ending in insecure, low wage jobs, and being disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and exploitation.

The fact that the disparity of gendered pricing still exists within today's society, shows that women still continue to be disempowered in many aspects of economic life. It is also important to remember that price differentials will have differing effects on women of different cultural backgrounds and social standing, thus effecting the economic empowerment of women in different ways.

Equal rights for women in marriage, divorce, and property/land ownership and inheritance are essential for gender equality. The legal and social treatment of married women has been often discussed as a political issue from the 19th century onwards.

2025

2026

The law of servitude in marriage is a monstrous contradiction to all the principles of the modern world, and to all the experience through which those principles have been slowly and painfully worked out.

Violence and mistreatment of women in relation to marriage has come to international attention during the past decades. This includes both violence committed inside marriage (domestic violence) as well as violence related to marriage customs and traditions (such as dowry, bride price, forced marriage and child marriage; the various taboos and traditional birth practise; son preference and its implications for the status of the girl child; female infanticide; early pregnancy; and dowry price.

To guarantee effectiveness and practicability of these provisions, the Bill further makes provision for the adoption of temporary special measures to eliminate discrimination and ensure equal opportunities for majority of Nigerian women. These special measures cover political and public sphere in offices, positions, or appointments, employment opportunities, credit or other economic sphere in the public or private that a minimum of 35 *per cent* be reserved for women; in the case of educational placement and school enrolment, including award of scholarships, bursaries, or such allocations, that parity is ensured for boys and girls, men and women; and in the case of primary school enrolment. Mechanisms should be put in place to ensure parity in enrolment and retention of boys and girls.

It is also important to note that this law also proposes some modification to some of our socio-cultural practices that promote discrimination and gender based inequality. It therefore states that it shall be the responsibility of all public or private institutions and all entities in Nigeria to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of gender stereotyping, prejudices, and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or the roles for men and women.

The Bill further provides that all appropriate measures be taken to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life, eliminate discrimination against women in education, eliminate discrimination against women in employment, occupation or any profession, prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of marriage, marital status or maternity, eliminate discrimination against any person on any ground whatsoever, in the field of health care and more importantly, ensure that all women who are pregnant and within two years of delivery, and all children under the age of 12 are given free and quality health care services, including provision of all necessary medical, surgical, diagnostic, and pharmacological supplies.

This Bill also prohibits all forms of violence against women in private and public places. All forms of violence against women are prohibited, whether the violence takes place in private, family or public sphere, including unwanted or forced sex, or traditional, religious or cultural practices harmful to the health, well-being and integrity of the woman. All forms of violence against elderly women including sexual abuse, and discrimination based on age are prohibited. All forms of violence against women with disability including sexual abuse, and discrimination based on disability are prohibited. Every educational school or training authority shall promote peace education through curricular and social communication in order to eradicate elements in traditional and cultural beliefs, practices and stereotypes which legitimise and exacerbate the discrimination against women, persistence and tolerance of violence against women. All forms of trafficking in women stereotypes which legitimise and exacerbate the discrimination against women, persistence and tolerance of violence against women. All forms of trafficking in women and children, abuse and exploitation of women and children in any manner or way, and medical experiments on women without their informed consent, or on children without the informed consent of their parents or legal guardian, are prohibited.

Part B of the Bill provides for the Commission and Jurisdiction for the implementation of the law when passed. The Federal Character Commission is vested with the powers to enforce and implement the provision of the Bill. The High Court of the Federal Capital Territory is vested with the original jurisdiction to look into applications arising from any breach of the provisions of this Bill.

I therefore seek your support and urge you all my Distinguished Colleagues to support the Second Reading of this all important Bill to remove all forms of discrimination against women in Nigeria.

This Bill seeks to warehouse everything that discriminates against the woman, the child and the youth and especially elderly women even the young ones.

With the passage of this Bill, I believe that this Chambers at the next election will be able to have at least 20 women representing their Constituencies because the 35 *per cent* that is being asked for by this Bill is not equality it is just parity. It is for us to have a say in our affairs and the affairs of the nation.

I believe that the 7th Senate tried to do something about this Bill, this 8th Senate will be remembered for putting the issues of gender and women and gender parity on the front burner.

2027

2028

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah (Kebbi South): Mr. President, I am in support of this Bill to the extent that local circumstances permit its implementation. Discrimination has consistently been the issue all over the world and it is only fair that a legislation that specifically takes care of it be encouraged by this Senate. In the area of law, there are certain issues that cannot just be thrown away. It dates back to our existence as a nation. Distinguished Senator Akpabio and all my Colleagues who are lawyers will remember that when we decided as a nation that we wanted independence and a break away from the British Rule, one of the first things that was done was to give us our own laws and in so doing, I am sure if my memory has not failed me, Section 45(1) CAP 89 of the Interpretation that says:

Subject to this provision and except in so far as there is any Federal Law, the Common Laws of England, the Doctrines of Equity together with statutes of general application that were enforced in England on the 1st day of January, 1900 shall be regarded as being enforced in the Colony of Lagos, which was then our Capital and they said, if it exceeds to such legislative competence it shall be enforced elsewhere.

That was when an attempt was made to see to the extent of the application of the received laws in the Northern part of Nigeria and the other parts.

If you look at Section 5(4) of this very good Bill it says:

A widow shall automatically become the guardian and custodian of her children after the death of her husband unless it is contrary to the interest and welfare of the children.

An existing law is already in place which has already been taken care of by our provision. For example, the issue of guidance and custody of children vary from one community to another and those of us who are lawyers will equally know that when these laws were received, it says:

Where there are inconsistent with local circumstances, the law prevailing in the local circumstances should take effect.

For example, a widow shall have the right to an equitable share in the inheritance of the property of her husband and shall have the right to continue to live in the matrimonial house. In case of remarriage, she shall retain this like if the house belongs to her or she has inherited it.

Again, local circumstances in some places do not allow this. When this Bill comes to public hearing, I hope that the Committee should carefully look at this so that we do not run afoul of our existing law but in principle the Bill is good in contents and I urge my Colleagues to support the Bill.

Senator Ibrahim Abdullahi Gobir (Sokoto East): Mr. President, I rise to lend my support to this Bill because the Bill is all encompassing with everything. Anything that has to do with the United Nations Charter, I support that. We should go ahead, but there is information that I want to pass. I remember that last year, we passed a Bill on equal opportunities and that Bill was sponsored by Senator Helen Esuene. It also talked about domestic violence, child abuse and so many other things. They need to get that law and then try to incorporate because that Bill has not gotten the assent of Mr. President. It would be good if we get that Bill and then try to marry the two together.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu West): Mr. President, I rise to as usual support our women. Only last night, I was going through a document prepared by President George Bush of America. He was trying to do an analysis of the difference between countries that are doing well and those that are not doing well. One of the indices is that those countries that are doing well gives women access to governance, they treat them with respect and they are involved in everyday lives of their respective countries.

He cited example of Scandinavian countries where most of their leaders are women, 70 to 80 *per cent* of their Parliaments are populated by women and those countries are stable and doing extremely well. He was also recommending that to growing economies and developing countries.

In our country Nigeria, I must admit that our women have done extremely well. If you look at the issue of Judiciary in the 40s, 50s and up to 60s, we had just few women as lawyers but today, 70 *per cent* of our Nigeria lawyers are women and the same thing applies in our Courts; about 80 *per cent* of Judges in this country are women and they are still growing. The same thing has happened to teachers, when we were growing up, most of the teachers are men, but today, 70 to 80 *per cent* of our teachers are women.

Let me also look at nutritional rights of women; where I come from, it used to be a taboo for a woman to touch egg not to talk of eating it. They do not even go near the essential organs of such animals as bush meat, elephant *etcetera*. They are restricted to other non-essential parts of those animals, but today they can buy gizzard and eggs from super markets, fry them, relax and swallow it down with red or white wine. Therefore, they are making progress. Even in Parliament, there was hardly any woman in the First Republic but for the second, third and fourth Republic up to the present, I have seen upsurge of women in our Parliament. Some of them rose to become Speakers in our various State Assemblies including one of us here who was Speaker of Oyo State House of Assembly. So, our women are doing well.

I believe that we need to encourage this kind of advocacy. What we needed is time and education, not necessarily legislation. The problem with the legislation at times is the enforcement. If you look at this law, it provides in some places one year jail term for those who offend this law. I believe that no woman would want her husband or relation to be jailed for one year because he has offended the spirit or letters of this law.

Therefore, as we make haste, we need to make haste slowly. I therefore believe that we will continue our advocacy and continue to encourage our women. We will do as much as we can to pursue this within the fundamental objectives of State policy and hope that we will be able to get there. Whatever law we are making, we must as much as possible try to ensure that it is liberal so that it will not defeat the essence.

I support this Bill but I believe that as I said, we have to make our haste very slowly. On this, I would like to congratulate my sister for raising this very important issue concerning the quality of women in our country.

Senator Fatimat Olufunke Raji-Rasaki (Ekiti Central): Mr. President, I rise to make my humble submission in support of this important Bill before us today. This Bill was long overdue considering the recent happenings in the country where women and girl child have become object of ridicule. The recent case of a teenage girl in Bayelsa State, Ese Oruru, though 14 years old, but she is five months pregnant as we speak is a critical example. It is noteworthy to say that this Bill when passed into law will bring about development and advancement of all persons in this country irrespective of gender affiliation. It will also go a long way in eliminating such cultural practices like force marriages, female genital mutilation, early pregnancy which are inimical to women and girl child development.

Martin Luther King (Jnr) once said, all men are created equal. It is therefore behoves on all of us who are privileged to sit in this Chamber to represent our good people to seize this opportunity to re-write history by passing this Bill into law.

I therefore urge my distinguished Colleagues to support the passage of this Bill.

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, I rise to support this very important Bill in today's society. According to the title of the Bill, it is to enforce certain provisions of the United Nations Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of women in Africa. This law that is being amended is very important especially when there is a clear conflict when it comes to particularly issues dealing with widows, inheritance, divorce and even marriage itself.

In our society of today as the Deputy Senate President Senator Ike Ekweremadu said, there are various traditions. The problem we have now is the combination of our tradition and our new religious belief. New in the sense that in African context, Islam and Christianity, you will find an Igbo young man who cannot speak language because he studied or grew up in America coming back home to first of all do traditional marriage, then he will go to the Church and do Church marriage. The Church wedding says that you will abandon everything and you and your wife becomes one, while in the Igbo tradition, when you marry a wife, she becomes more or less your property and these are two marriages at the same time. So, when issues come up after the marriage or during the trying times of the marriage, you will now wonder which one to take, whether the traditional ways of dealing with such issues or what Christianity or Islam says.

As for inheritance, divorce and right to children, how it should be done is clearly stated in Islam. But if you combine that with their tradition, then you will find out that woman is being discriminated or treated in a disadvantageous manner. Therefore, there is the need for women that are involved in this advocacy to also engage in enlightenment, which means that if you are to marry; you either choose Christian marriage or Muslim marriage; you are not to go again for traditional marriage so as to avoid two weddings. If you are involved in two marriages and there is problem in the marriage, which law do you take? Is it the traditional law or the Christian way of divorce?

This Bill is timely, it is important and our Colleagues will at the public hearing look at the Bill very well so that it takes care of certain traditions that are in conflict.

Senator Binta Masi Garba (Adamawa North): Mr. President, I rise in total support of this Bill and it is well expressed by the Mover or the sponsor of this Bill. If you look at our Constitution and when they talked about equal opportunity Bill, Section 12 of the Constitution talked about Treaties that Nigeria went into but it will come into law when the Assembly must have passed it. Section 14 (3) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Constitution talked about Federal Character and when we talk about gender equality, the Constitution believes in equal opportunity irrespective of gender but when it comes to governance, women are being denied the same opportunity the Constitution has given to everyone. We are of different religion and the religious aspect of it stipulates issues that concern marriages, inheritance and even the children but when it comes to it being manifested in the physical, we now have an issue.

Let us take a good example of a country call Rwanda. After what they went through, the genocide, today, Rwanda stands to be almost the economic power of Africa.

2031

Again, when you look at Rwanda Parliament, 56 *per cent* are women, even in the government, 52 *per cent* are women; in short, the economy of Rwanda today is going higher because when you give women opportunity to serve, they serve diligently and adequately well.

Nigerians have been signatory to Treaties, Conventions and Charters, yet we do not have a political will to enforce those Treaties or Conventions to which we are signatories. I want to crave the indulgence of all my Colleagues; we obviously have daughters, mothers and wives. Most of us as husbands here, their wives are public officers and definitely they do not want those women to be discriminated in her place of work, so it is better we give good governance in legislation that at the end of it, every Nigerian irrespective of his or her gender will be proud to be called a Nigerian.

The President: Distinguished Colleagues, is there anybody against this Bill?

Senator Ahmad Rufa'i Sani (Zamfara West): Mr. President, after going through the Bill, I found that Section 5 of this Bill specifically on modification of sociocultural practices are directly in conflict with the Nigerian Constitution, because the Nigerian Constitution is very clear, it scrutinises the customs and practices of all Nigerians, especially in relation to their religious right as guarantee by Constitution.

For Christianity, we have Common Law and for Muslims, we have Sharia Law as recognised by the Constitution. For customs, those who believe in their customs and traditions also have Customary Laws. For the Bill to provide that a Widow shall automatically become the guidance and custodian of her children is in conflict with Nigerian Constitution.

Where she also say a widow shall have the right to an *equitable share in the heritance of property of her husband*, this is also in conflict with Nigerian Constitution. Section 17, women and men shall have the right to inherit in equitable shares their parent properties; this is also in conflict with Nigerian's Constitution. Section 19, every organs of agency of government, private or public institution, commercial or corporate body, community or other entity shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in political, *etcetera*.

We have to redo this Bill again; there are so many sections that are directly in conflict with the Nigerian Constitution, therefore it cannot stand. I will ask the sponsor of this Bill to retrieve her Bill and remove all areas that are in conflict with the Constitution before it can be presented.

2032

Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero (Kebbi Central): Point of Order.

The President: What is your point of Order, Senator Aliero?

Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero: Mr President, I rise to bring a Constitutional Point of Order, with your permission I want to quote. Chapter (1), Part (1).

- (1) *This Constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all authorities and persons throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

Again Mr President, I want to quote another Section of this Constitution. Section 1 (3):

- (3) *If any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, this Constitution shall prevail, and that other law shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.*

I do not want us to start an exercise that will end in futility. The Bill brought by Senator Olujimi is inconsistent with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution. I do not want us to waste our time debating it. We should stop now and proceed with another Bill, there is no point discussing this issue. The Sharia Court of Appeal is already in this Constitution and what this Bill is prescribing is inconsistent with the Provisions of the Sharia Court.

The President: Senator Aliero, your observation are noted, that is why we have processes of having a debate. After the debate, I put the question and after that, if it passes, it will still go to Public Hearing and all these areas will contribute.

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha (Taraba South): Mr President, I want to appreciate my Colleague, Yarima Bakura for the issues he raised in respect of this Bill. For the avoidance of doubt, I want to give us an insight even unto the position of Christianity as it affects this Bill. The struggle for women liberation or independence as some will want to call it has its origin in the family of a devout Catholic feminist. Margaret Sanger who is the original founder of the Planned Parenthood Federation came from a devout Catholic family. The father who was a drunk was prone to beating the wife. Anytime he comes back drunk, he will beat the mother and Margaret Sanger was watching. She told the mother why can you not leave the marriage, the mother said, no, Christianity does not allow divorce, I have to stay in subjection to the authorities of the Holy Bible. One day, as a result of this beating, this woman died.

2033

I want us to understand this clearly, Christianity does not support battering, beating the wife and maltreatment of the wife. Margaret Sanger out of protest threw her Bible away and said she was protesting against a religion that will not give woman freedom and she left and form a Magazine called *the Woman Rebel*. The purpose of that Magazine was to propagate the autonomy of the woman. A woman should be free even married; a woman can move around on her own and have the choice of having sex outside marriage. These are historical facts.

Now, Christianity preaches salvation to the sacredness of the institution of the marriage. In the Lead Debate, page 3 and 4 state thus:

My highly respected Colleagues, the Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill seek to provide For Women Empowerment in the following areas. That Women Freedom of Movement continues to be legally restricted in some part of this country. This restriction is often due to marriage laws which mostly and largely are informed by religious believe that a Woman can do whatever she likes.

This will give rise to a situation wherein our Northerner language that said, Mijin Hajiya; you will become Mijin Hajiya at the end of the day, where your woman can move around, interact any how under your watch.

This is an apostasy. This is heresy and we must not encourage this kind of law in this Chamber. As long as we live as Parliamentarians, we must come out with laws that encourage morality, after all, our laws supposed to be a product of moral course. That was the original essence of law even in the old Elizabethan England. Therefore, we must not join the multitude in the world to do things the way the world do. We must be conscious of our morality. We must stand firm and ensure that our society remains clean and transparent morally.

The President: Distinguished Senator, I will now put the Question for the Bill to be read the Second Time.

Question put and negatived.

Deferment of two Bills to another Legislative Day

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, on the request of the Sponsor of the next Bill, I move that the second Reading of the Witness Protection Programme Bill be stood down to another Legislative Day.

Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio (Akwa-Ibom North West): Mr. President, I second the motion moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

2034

(With the leave of the Senate, Bills stood down to another Legislative Day)

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, in view of the fact that I cannot see Senator Peter Nwaboshi, I move that we stand down the Bill on the Public Officers Protection Act CAP P41 Laws of the Federation, 2004 to another Legislative Day.

Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio: Mr. President, I second the motion moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

(With the leave of the Senate, Bill stood down to another Legislative Day)

MOTION

Interim Financial and Material Support/Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Returnees

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, the fourth Order of the Day is a Motion standing in my name and 8 others on the Interim Financial and Material Support/Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Returnees in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States. With your permission, I wish to move the Motion.

The President: Senate Leader, go ahead.

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, this is a Motion for Interim Financial and Material Support/Assistance to internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Returnees in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States.

The Senate:

Aware that the Federal Government is winning the War against insurgency in the North East particularly Borno, Adamawa and Yobe;

Notes that most of the Local Governments, Towns and Villages hitherto occupied by the insurgents have been recaptured and secured by the Nigerian Security Forces particularly the Nigeria Army;

Also aware that the highways leading to and from all the Local Governments from the State Headquarters of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe have been demined and opened to commuters;

Worried that the Internally Displaced Persons from these State ran away from their various homes leaving everything they own behind with the hope of returning in short-time but end up losing everything to the insurgents (Boko Haram);

2035

Also notes that significant numbers of the victims of insurgency a round our border towns ran to Niger, Chad and Cameroon;

Also worried that the Displaced Person's houses and other physical properties, like vehicles, machineries, other buildings and almost everything have been destroyed or vandalised by the insurgents (Boko Haram);

Concerned that most or almost all the affected persons are relatively poor with no savings, source of income or gainful employment;

Also concerned that for two years consecutively the people in the affected States have not been able to farm;

Notes that many people especially children are currently dying because of hunger and sanitation related diseases;

Aware of the effort the Federal Government through NEMA, PINE, VSF and National Refugees Commission do to provide basic relief materials to the Internally Displaced Persons in the various camps;

Worried that the Internally Displaced Persons that are eager to return home or are been relocated have nothing to take home also have nothing to meet at home from what they left behind when they ran away;

Observed that for the Internally Displaced Persons to return home, they need immediate and interim financial and material assistance in term of cash transfer and food relief to start their lives all over in the short term before the intervention from proposed North East Development Commission, PINE, VSF, Save School Initiative or any form of intervention camps.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Urge* the Federal Government to release grains from the strategic grain reserve to the affected States of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.
- (ii) *Direct* the Senate Committee on Appropriation to allocate the sum of ₦10 billion under service Wide Vote for relocation and resettlement of the IDPs returnees in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.
- (iii) *Urge* NEMA and Refugees Commission to make Special arrangement for repatriation and resettlement of Nigeria refugees in Cameroon, Niger and Chad.
- (iv) *Direct* the appropriate Committees to write a letter of appreciation to the Embassies of the Host countries, where the refugees are accommodated.

2036

- (v) *Urge* the Victim Support Fund to allocate reasonable amount from the fund for immediate relocation and resettlement of the IDPs pending the short and medium term plans they might have.

This is more of a humanitarian crises; this is a motion of appeal for the situation that is more imagined than the real situation on ground. The is the situation that our people are in, especially the affected areas of Northern Adamawa in Yobe, Gujuba and Gulani and some part of Geidam; in Borno, 22 local governments are affected and these people, as I said in the motion, ran away thinking that after a day or two, they will be back to meet their properties.

Again, where there is savings for those that have, in Borno for example, we have 27 Local Governments and only seven of the Local Governments have banks, 20 Local Governments have no banks; in the whole of Northern Borno, I do not think there is a Local Government that has banks and that means people living in these areas have their banks in their houses. So, when they ran away, they had left everything behind with the hope that the problem will be over within a short time. In my Local Government for instance, we have a population of over 370 thousands, Gwoza Local Government was completely dislocated and they became IDPs in various camps.

In Abuja alone, Gwoza people are scattered over 17 camps and these people wants to go back home because of the relative peace, but they have nothing to go back to. In fact, most villages in Borno, Adamawa and part of Yobe have been completely destroyed and these people have almost nothing to go back to; they have no food, they have not farmed for two years and the rainy season is just by the corner. So, these people need immediate financial support and relief materials so that they can go back and start their lives.

When they were in camp for over one year, they were not working, they were being merely fed; they were not doing any form of trade or business. In as much as they continue to constitute some kind of societal burden on the host communities, taking them back home will require minimum assistance to them so that they will start their lives again.

Distinguished Colleagues, I want to appeal that we take this motion not only very important, but as a humanitarian action that we need to take at this material time. Why we asked for this motion to be taken today is because we have short window for our Appropriation to be done with; we want to appeal that the prayers of this motion which are straightforward be all approved and supported.

2037

2038

Senator Abdul-Aziz Murtala Nyako (Adamawa Central): Mr. President, I second the motion ably moved by the Leader, Senator Ali Ndume.

I have a very brief contribution; when this crisis started in Borno some six years ago, those of us in Adamawa felt that this problem was extremely far and very remote from us. Gradually, we came to realise that the whole of Borno State have been overrun. Gradually, the whole of Yobe was overrun, but for the gallantry of the Nigeria Army that stopped the insurgents in Gombi, in Adamawa State, they would have totally overrun Adamawa itself.

My appeal is that we should look at this matter the way it deserves to be looked at. You might not be from the North-East but I assure you that if we make the mistake of allowing this matter to continue, it will eventually consume Nigeria just like the world left Afghanistan; it was looking very remote and eventually it led to 9/11 and it cost crises for the world. For us in the North-East, we once again appeal the earlier we settle these people, the faster it will be for us to come up with a process of stopping this incubation of terrorism in Nigeria.

I therefore stand in clear support of this motion and appeal to our Distinguished Colleagues to look at this matter as ably presented by the Leader and to kindly support us to make sure we get additional funds to resettle Nigerians that have found themselves in the North-East.

Senator Bareehu Olugbenga Ashafa (Lagos East): Mr. President, I support this motion, but to call our attention to the process within which we are going to operate in order to achieve the prayers.

- (1) The ₦10 billion that is being proposed to be released in the Appropriation, in which Commission are we going to put, how is it going to be released and who is the money going to be released to? What formulae are we going to use in the distribution? We have to take that into consideration.
- (2) If you look at the agencies that have already being formed – the PINE as mentioned by the Leader, Senator Ndume as well as the VSF; I wonder whether they do not have the mandate of the Federal Government to regularly release some certain amount of money. What we need to do is to ask them to work hand-in-hand with the appropriate Committee in the Senate to find out how much has been released and to account for what they have done with the money already released.

- (3) Most importantly, I think we can help this country and save our face and arrest this destruction by passing the Bill on North-East Development Commission. The earlier we pass that Bill, the better.

On this note, I support this motion and urge my Colleagues to assist in ensuring that we bring down the problem that is permeating the North-East.

Senator George Akume (Benue North West): Mr. President, this is a Motion that I believe every member here would want to support, if there is a difference, it could be by way of operational method, it is the approach that could be put in a little bit of questioning.

I attended a wedding in Maiduguri and I was also taken round, I saw some devastation on a scale that I never imagined. This is so because the way we disseminate information on disasters in our country leaves much to be desired. On a daily basis and even on hourly basis, we see the plight of refugees in other parts of the world, particularly, in the Middle East, the Margrave and even Europe.

Mr. President, I like this Bill but again I talk about the methodology of releasing money. These are people who are in camps; if you release money to them, the possibility of this money being stolen is also very high. Rather, I believe that emphasis should be placed on completing action on the Commission so that this money could be put in that Commission and the money that the Danjuma Committee or Panel is also collecting could be put in this Committee.

We in this Senate had commented on the issue of North-East before, I know my colleagues in the 7th Senate also called for some form of a martial plan for the North-East. Other Nigerians and well-meaning people have called for same.

I support this Motion and I also want to add that for those of us in place that are also devastated but not in the same scale like this, can be treated to a mini-martial plan. I am talking of Benue, Taraba, Plateau and Bauchi. Quite frankly, we need some intervention even in Bauchi. It may not be as big as this, but if you look at the destruction of our schools and other critical infrastructures in all these places, you will support this extension which may form part of the variation of this Bill.

2039

Senator Abubakar Kyari (Borno North): Mr. President, as one of the co-sponsors of this important Motion, I would, of course, subscribe to it 100 *per cent* and I would like to urge and plead with my fellow colleagues that the prayer of this Motion is to prove immediate and interim succour to the displaced persons. I believe that the concerns of most of my colleagues here is how do we appropriate such moneys or who do we give it to?

The Motion is very clear on where to be appropriated because it also add prayer (3) to urge NEMA and Refugees Commission to make special arrangement for returning of Refugees from either the bordering countries to their various communities. So I believe that if there will be any appropriation, it should be towards these two agencies, more preferably to the Refugees Commission.

On the issue of displaced persons or insurgency in the North-East, we can sit here and talk over and over. As I have said, unless you have been there and you have seen it, you will never appreciate the gravity of destruction that has taken place. I know that I cannot ask everybody here to visit those areas, but please believe us that we are affected; we have seen it and have gone through the trauma of the insurgency. We urge you to please support this Motion in its entirety and support the incoming North-Eastern Development Commission Bill.

Senator Philip Tanimu Aduda (FCT): Mr. President, there cannot be a better time for this Motion, it has come really at the appropriate time when we are working on the Appropriation Bill which is just about to be passed. I believe that this could be appropriated into 2016 Appropriation Bill.

Why I am saying this is that there are IDPs not only in the States that have been mentioned in this Motion but also in Edo State, Taraba, Benue, and other States of the federation. In fact, the leader while presenting the Motion had said, there are over 17 camps in the FCT. So we should urge NEMA to identify these various IDP camps. Somebody had talked about how do we reach out to the various IDPs? Maybe a form of registration, or a form of knowing whom they are, where they are and seeing to their welfare can be taken care of.

Somebody had said maybe the earlier the better we put up the Commission that will be in charge of the North-East Development Commission. That is all right but the IDPs do not really only fall within the North-East alone. Mine is, while we are working on the Commission for the North-East, we can as well use this to serve as a palliative to the people. Of course, the people want to go back home but their livelihood has been destroyed. They want to go back to their various livelihoods which are farming and others but if you are sending them back, how will they farm? What farm implements are they going to use? What equipment are they going to use?

2040

This Motion has come at the right time whereby some money can be gotten so that people who want to go back home can go and rebuild themselves while this Commission is being put in place to rebuild them.

With these few remarks, when we come to the various prayers, we can still make some contributions and amendments.

Senator Abdullahi Adamu (Nasarawa West): Mr. President, what this Motion is all about is driving home the message that yes, as a country and as a government, we are unanimous on the fact that there is the need for a martial plan for the North-Eastern part of Nigeria given what it faced over the last five – six years.

The departing point between the martial plan and what this Motion is asking for is that there is an interim period in-between getting people who have been displaced as a result of this crisis and the time that the martial plan will be concluded and implemented. There is a need for us to address primary problems that these displaced persons are facing.

I want to remind all of us that in the beginning of the crisis caused by the Boko Haram which has affected the North-East in such a miserable measure is the fact that poverty has been the main driving force that brought these children (our boys and girls) to take to this extreme religious position. The international community has told us so. Our local current affairs students have told us the same thing. We must not run away from the fact that right now, these people are in dire need of some assistance. What do we do? All that this Motion is seeking to get from this hallowed Chambers is that we are agreeable on the need to assist.

It is a given fact that it may not be only the North Eastern States provided by this Motion that is affected with the issue of displaced persons but the fact of the matter is that the gravity of the issue being addressed is concentrated in that part of the country. I want to add in support of this Motion that we do accept in principle the need for this interim intervention. Once it is decided, the choice is for the Executive to pass the budget into law before this measure is taken or to mobilise funds, wherever we can find the funds, and provide this immediate succour for this misplaced fellow citizen of this great country.

We are going into a very critical period of our lives, that is, the planting season. Any part of Nigeria you may come from, whenever it is March/April we launch the planting season and 90 *per cent* of the displaced persons are farmers. They derive their lives from agricultural corporations. If they miss the essential timing of this season, you can as well forget next year as far as they are concerned.

2041

I want to urge our very dear Colleagues to take a look and agree in principle. Yes, there are pockets of other IDP camps around the country; there is no doubt about it. But the fact of the matter is that if we take the principle of this Motion, we can when we come to Prayers add whatever we believe is absolutely necessary but let us not in the process of wanting to emphasis the occurrence of other places reduce the very essence of the message of this Motion.

Therefore, I support the Motion and urge my Colleagues to join us in ensuring that this Motion passes through in this Chamber.

Senator Binta Masi Garba (Adamawa North): As a co-sponsor of this Motion, I thank most of our Colleagues that have spoken in support of this Motion. Adamawa North Senatorial zone and partly of Central Hong Gombi, about seven to eight local governments were under siege during the mayhem that was done by the Boko Haram.

In January this year, I went to the village and what I saw was unspeakable. I had a meeting with people and I could see their lifestyle. They asked me two or three questions which obviously I could not answer:

Number one, they said I should tell the government that they are happy that they are back home but again they are not happy in another sense because they do not have any financial assistance that will kick-start economic activities within that area. Yesterday, some families called me to say that their children are laid off schools because they could not pay a tuition fee of ₦5,000 and I was privileged to speak with Mr. President a couple of months ago and I drew his attention to how these returnees have gone back to their villages and I was told that most of the rice that have been taken away by Customs will be given back to the IDPs.

And I asked myself, a bag of rice now is about ₦15,000, if you give them that bag of rice, they go back to the market to sell it for about ₦7,000 for them to start a livelihood because when you give them a bag of rice or even the grain of maize, the question they ask is what money do they have to go and grind the maize and what money do they have to go to the market to buy some ingredients to cook the food?

We now thought of palliative measure. Every village has a village head and every village that you go; everybody knows who is from which family, the government can give ₦10,000 to ₦20,000 *per* family head. Again, there is a programme with the National Commission for Refugees that is being called Family Support System where some certain palliative measure is given to individual family *per* head to see how such a family can be resuscitated.

2042

I said last week that if you have 20 trailers load of rice which is about almost ₦120million; and just like what the Senate Leader said, 300 families within a local government and, you give each family ₦10,000 *per* 300; you are not spending more than ₦5million on such a family within a given community.

The palliative measure is to see to those that are not within the zone for which the Deputy Minority Whip said, some of the IDPs are in Edo, Abuja, *et cetera* but when they see their family heads being taken care of, virtually, they will have that confidence to go back home. Most of these people are even farmers and if they do not go back to their various communities to go and farm; obviously, we will have food crises in this country.

My brother said that it is an incubator. We do not want the terrorist activities to be in an incubator but we want a free society where everyone will be accommodated and government too will now have leverage, not only fighting the insurgency, but taking care of the people that without their own cause have found themselves in this situation. Therefore, I want to crave the indulgence of all our Colleagues here to passionately support this palliative measure for our people so that we can have a better society.

The President: All right. We will just go to the Prayers.

- (1) *Urge the Federal Government to release grains from the strategic reserve to the affected states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe –*

Question put and agreed to.

- (2) *Direct the Senate Committee on Appropriation to allocate the sum of N10billion under the service wide vote for relocation and resettlement of the IDPs returnees in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe –*

Question put and agreed to.

- (3) *Urge NEMA and Refugee Commission to make Special arrangement for repatriation and resettlement of Nigeria refugees in Cameroun, Niger and Chad –*

Question put and agreed to.

- (4) *Direct the appropriation Committee to write a letter of appreciation to the Embassies of the Host countries where the refugees are accommodated –*

Question put and agreed to.

2043

- (5) *Urge the Victim Support Fund to allocate reasonable amount of fund for immediate relocation and resettlement of the IDPs pending the short and medium term plans, they might have.*

Question put and agreed to.

Additional Prayers

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha (Taraba South): My Additional Prayer is that the designated IDP areas should include those of Nasarawa, Benue, Taraba and Plateau States.

I so propose.

Senator Abdullahi Adamu (Nasarawa West): Mr. President, I rise to support the additional Prayer very ably moved by Senator Emmanuel Bwacha except to put the little pockets of refugees in Imo State and FCT, Abuja.

The President: Distinguished Senator, what is the additional Prayer?

Senator Abdullahi Adamu: Other identified IDP centres in the country and confirm.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to release grains from the strategic reserve to the affected states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.
- (ii) Direct the Senate Committee on Appropriation to allocate the sum of ₦10 billion under the service wide vote for relocation and resettlement of the IDPs returnees in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.
- (iii) Urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and National Commission for Refugees in Cameroun, Niger and Chad;
- (iv) Direct the appropriation Committee to write a letter of appreciation to the Embassies of the Host countries where the refugees are accommodated.
- (v) Urge the Victim Support Fund to allocate reasonable amount of fund for immediate relocation and resettlement of the IDPs pending the short and medium term plans, they might have.
- (vi) Urge the Federal Government to include other identified and confirmed Internally Displaced Persons Centres (IDPs) in Nigeria as beneficiary.

2044

The President: I want to thank the Leader, Senator Ali Ndume for this Motion which is very appropriate and important but as we do, two things we should recognise is that we must commend the efforts of the Security Forces because without their efforts, the issue of IDP's even going back to their villages and towns will not arise. Now that it has been achieved, I agree with you that there is this transition period between when you pass the law for the North-East Commission and other medium terms; that we must do something urgently to ensure that the timing would give support to the IDP Centres, all we are approving in the IDP centres.

Also, those who are working on the North-East Development Commission should also show the importance, they must bring their report back to enable us pass it into law. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, let me use this opportunity to thank you very much for the support.

Having concluded today's proceedings on the Order Paper, I hereby move that this Senate do stand adjourned till Wednesday, 16th March, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. prompt, I so move.

Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio: Mr. President, I second the Motion moved by the Leader.

Delegation to Taraba State

The President: Before I put the Question, these are the delegations going to Taraba State:

- (1) Senator Kabiru Ibrahim Gaya
- (2) Senator Joshua Lidani
- (3) Senator Mohammed Shaaba Lafiagi
- (4) Senator John Owan Enoh
- (5) Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe
- (6) Senator Bareehu Olugbenga Ashafa

Senator Kabiru Gaya will lead the delegation.

I will now put the Question on the adjournment.

Question put and agreed to

Resolved: That the Senate do stand adjourned till Wednesday, 16th March, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. prompt.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 12:38 p.m.