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**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Tuesday 3rd May, 2016

The Senate met at 11:02 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, we have before us the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th April, 2016. We will start consideration from page 691 to 697.

Senator Mohammed Shaaba Lafiagi (Kwara North): Mr. President, I move that the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th April, 2016 be approved.

Senator Jeremiah T. Useni (Plateau South): Mr. President, I second the Motion that the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th April, 2016 be approved.

Question put and agreed to

Resolved: The Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th April, 2016 are hereby approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Visitors in the Gallery

I wish to acknowledge the presence of Members of the Federation of Ekiti State Student Union, University of Abuja Chapter Gwagwalada Abuja; Members of Law Students Society Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos State; Staff and Students of Babylove School Nursing and Primary FHA, Lugbe Abuja who are all here in our Gallery to observe the Senate Proceedings.

(Visitors stood for recognition.)

I wish you all a fruitful observation of the Senate Proceedings. Please sit down.

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PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

Petition against NDDC

Senator Ben Murray-Bruce (Bayelsa East): Mr. President, Petition!

The President: Go ahead, Senator Ben Bruce.

Senator Ben Murray-Bruce: Mr. President, I have a petition from a member of my constituency, Valentine Ageri, who was wrongfully dismissed by the NDDC and has no recourse to be reinstated.

The President: Come and lay the petition.

Petition laid.

Senator Sunny Orji Ogbuaji (Ebonyi South): Mr. President, my point of Order is Rule 41 on Petition, can I lay it on the table?

The President: Yes, lay it on the Table.

Petition laid.

(Petitions accordingly referred to the Ethics and Privileges Committee and to report back in two weeks.)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha (Taraba South): Mr. President, Point of Order! I rise on the strength of Order 43 - Personal Explanation.

The President: Go ahead.

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha: Mr. President, there is an ongoing exercise within the greatest party in Africa, the PDP. This is important because the other ones are interest groups, not really political party. A Congress is going on for the PDP and that is why we have a low turnout of our Senators.

This is for the information of this Distinguished Chamber. Thank you Mr. President.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Climate Change and Greenhouse Emission Reduction Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Provide for measures to address climate change with a view to assisting to achieve a sustainable future for the country, to set targets to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions within Nigeria to promote the use of renewable sources of energy, to promote business and community understanding about issues surrounding climate change, to facilitate the early development of policies and programmes to address climate change, and for other purposes –

Order for Second Reading.

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah (Kebbi South): Mr. President, the first Order of the Day is the Second Reading of the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Bill, 2016. You will recall that the Bill was read the First Time in this Chamber on Wednesday, the 16th day of March, 2016.

You may wish to invite Senator Isah H. Misau to move the Motion for the Bill to be read the Second Time.

Question proposed.

Senator Isah H. Misau (Bauchi Central): Mr. President, I rise to move the Motion for the Second Reading of a Bill for an Act to provide for measures to address Climate Change with a view to assisting to achieve a sustainable future for the country. And to set target to achieve a reduction in Greenhouse Gas within Nigeria to promote the use of renewable sources of energy; promote business and community understanding about issues surrounding climate change, to facilitate the early development of policies and programmes to address Climate Change and for other purposes 2016 (SB.108).

It is a privilege for me to lead the Debate on the Second Reading of the Climate Change and Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Bill 2016. This Bill seeks to provide measure to address climate change with a view to assisting the achievement of a sustainable future for the country. The Bill was first read on the Floor of the Senate on 16th March, 2016.

This Bill sets target for the achievement of a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; promote the use of renewable sources of energy; promote business and community understanding of issues surrounding climate change; and facilitate the early development of policies and programmes to address climate change in the country.

Climate change is a consequence of global warming. It is essentially an ecological reaction to the gradual increase in the earth surface temperature. And this has in recent times resulted in incidence of hotter summers, severe snow storms, increasing flooding, remarkable shift in the traditional weather pattern and growing climate uncertainty and unpredictability.

Climate change resulting from global warming is generally believed to be man-made. This is because the increase in the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, coincide with increased industrial and commercial activities and demand for energy. A report indicates that over the last 50 years, carbon emission coming from burning of fossil fuels have increased dramatically.

Global State of Affair:

Over the years, developing nations are rising to the stark realities of global warming and climate change. The Global Legislators Organisation for Balanced Environment, GLOBE, a parliamentary support group, recently posited that:

Climate change is a global issue and there is an obligation on us all to take action in line with our capabilities and historic responsibilities.

The United States that hitherto refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol, one of the major diplomatic responses to global warming and climate change, is now pushing for a more concerted global response. Through the Energy Act 2005 of the United States, the American President is empowered to:

Establish a Committee on Climate Change Technology, which shall submit to the Secretary and President a national strategy to promote the deployment and commercialisation of greenhouse gas intensity reducing technologies and practices.

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As part of international bilateral cooperation, a United States Government initiative resulted in collaborative efforts with China and Mexico in reducing global methane emission (one of the greenhouses gases). This is proposed to enhance economic growth, strengthen energy security, improve air quality, improve industrial safety and cut greenhouse gas emission.

Such developing countries like Indonesia have made considerable progress towards emission abatement through encouragement of low cost carbon free technologies. Brazil is another success story in containment of greenhouse gases. Its sugar cane-sourced fuel has literally transformed the energy consumption pattern in South America.

The Position of Nigeria:

As Distinguished Senators are aware, Nigeria is a major producer of fossil fuel (petroleum and coal). A study commissioned by the World Bank in 2007 indicated that Nigeria accounted for roughly one-sixth of the worldwide gas flaring which in turn spews some 400 million tons of carbon dioxide, one of the greenhouse gases, into the atmosphere. Though the country has progressively reduced this emission, however, being a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, there is yet no domestic legislation to ensure the sustainability of all international and domestic responses to this challenge.

Furthermore, the country's development plans do not recognise the economic threat posed by climate change nor do they recognise the menace of declining oil price which could result from a reduced consumption of fossil fuel. The United Nations has identified that addressing issues of climate is the ultimate challenge of our time. Nigeria needs to take a leading role in the provision of cleaner alternative sources of energy.

The Bill:

The Bill is basically aimed at promoting action within the country that provides consistency with national and international schemes designed to address climate change, including schemes that relate to emission trading and emission reporting.

The Bill sets target for the programmed reduction of greenhouse gas emission in the country. It provides platform for the development and implementation of plan of action in response to challenge of global warming.

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It anchors the administration of the action plans on a minister who delegates his power to a council for effective and efficient administration.

This Bill essentially provides the legislative framework for an articulate and concerted response to challenge of global warming.

Conclusion:

Climate change is a challenge we must all respond to. The reality is that climate change has huge sociocultural and economic consequences. And effort must be made to respond to it. This Bill therefore is a bold attempt at preparing the country for the unpleasant consequences of Climate Change. I urge my Distinguished Colleagues to support the Second Reading of the Bill.

Thank you very much Mr President for giving me this privilege to lead the debate on the Second Reading on climate change.

Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi (Niger North): Mr. President, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Bill, and in doing so, I want to add my voice from two perspectives.

The first is the consequences of climate change. It is a known fact that those who emit this greenhouse gases are far from areas where the consequences of these greenhouse affects and it is very obvious that those of us in this divide of the world are most in shock of most of the consequences of climate change. As it is, we already have the issue of drought. When you see the rainfall pattern changing and what is happening in this country today, the challenges of insecurity that we have seen cannot also divorce from the issue of resource availability and resource control in the sense that the frontline states are witnessing very severe climate change; the rainfall pattern in those areas has changed.

When you look at their livelihood pattern, things have changed for them and the consequence is that the moment people are in the place where the effect in terms of their livelihood is very harsh, they have no option but to begin to look in the direction where there is means of livelihood. When you look at the impending sociocultural dislocation people face as a result of this, then the aspect of providing a very robust response through the provisions in this Bill is surely something that we must give our utmost attention.

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The other aspect is what it also offers us. With this challenge, there are some opportunities for us to create a green economy and in creating green economy; it means we must begin to look at the technologies that will enable us to tap from the opportunities that addressing these challenges have to offer. We must begin to look at climate smart agriculture, for example, where we have technologies that will enable our farmers to maximise the resources used, so that at the end, they are able to increase their income, and we are able to provide jobs and some other opportunities, especially for the teeming youth.

The obvious economic advantage of this Bill is something we must begin to look at and going forward, I am convinced that, based on the response at the national level, if Nigeria takes advantage of the present climate smart economy or the green economy, then a lot will happen. We have opportunity to provide the Bio-mass, which will shift us away from the oil economy. When you look at the Bio-mass, Nigeria has ample opportunities to go into many aspect of the kind of Bio-mass that we can provide, for example, Sugarcane, and some other Bio-mass crops, these opportunities are very huge.

On this note, I call my Colleagues to support the Second Reading of this Bill.

Senator Dino Melaye (Kogi West): Mr. President, I support this very important Bill. The danger and damage done to the environment by negative and contaminant effects, specifically of global warming, cannot be over emphasised. The depletion of the ozone layer is a serious challenge to humanity and global leaders have assembled time without numbers to challenge this major threat to human existence.

The question is what is Nigeria doing to support the global climate efforts at fighting and reducing global warming? The danger has been enumerated by the Sponsor of the Bill and if we refuse to do anything about it, then we will not be contributing to humanity. More than ever before, we need to educate, inform and warn Nigerians on the negative effects of the global warming and its attendant consequences.

I therefore call on the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, National Orientation Agency and Ministry of Agriculture to redouble their efforts at concertizing Nigerians and educating Nigerians on the danger therein.

The House of Representatives in 2007 foresaw the importance of this challenge and created specifically a Committee on Global Warming in the House of Representatives, and we in the Senate must push this Bill so that on the issue of global warming, Nigeria will be on the same page with other continents across the globe.

Industrial safety must be emphasised and sold to Nigerians so that we can begin to work towards building a new technology and adopting same to reduce the emission of carbon and other toxics that contribute to global warming.

Finally, as people and government, we must become desirous of everything that is good. During the former President Obasanjo's administration, there was a terminal date for gas flaring in 2007. As a result of the lackadaisical approach to this issue of gas flaring, the date shifted to 2009, at a time they said gas flaring should stop by 2012. We are in 2016 and we are still flaring gas. Government must demonstrate capacity and seriousness towards the stoppage of gas flaring that is a major contributor to the global warming in the world. The Bill is very productive, so it is an important Bill. I therefore support it.

Senator Mallam Ali Wakili (Bauchi South): Mr. President, I lend my voice and support the Bill as proposed by Senator Hamman. Outside the issue of greener emission and outside ozone layer depletion as amplified by Senator Dino Melaye and the issue of forceful migration as amplified by Senator Aliyu, other questions of the global warming is the issue of desertification, deforestation, shortage of our Rivers, streams and receded underground water. That is very serious, most especially as it will affect the Northern part of Nigeria.

The Bill is very explicit, and what we need to do is to refer it to the relevant committee to conduct further investigation into the Bill, and look into the issues that have been raised, and would be raised further.

Senator Olanrewaju Adeyemi Tejuoso (Ogun Central): Mr. President, I support this very important Bill. My Colleagues have already elaborated on the salient issues but let us realise the security implication of this Bill for us to know its importance. For instance, in the Northerner part of the country is a major contributor to the cattle herdsmen problem we are having. This is because all the trees and leaves that the cattle need in the North is nowhere to be found.

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We need to emphasise the importance of growing trees, because the importance of trees in this issue of climate change cannot be over emphasised. The oxygen the human beings breathe is important and it is tree that is responsible for giving us oxygen and the carbon dioxide as we breathe out. We need to emphasise the growing of trees to ensure that this circle of survival of human beings is attained and sustained.

I support this and I want to encourage every one of us to ensure that this Bill has the support it deserves.

Senator Abdullahi Abubakar Gumel (Jigawa North-West): Mr. President, I want to talk on one aspect of this Bill which some of my colleagues touched on, which is desertification. From Sokoto to Maiduguri, we know that it is United Nation Project of the Great Green World, which needs a counter funding of Nigeria for that project to take off. Unfortunately, the previous government of Nigeria did not think it wise to invite counter funding. Now, in this era of the present Change government, I am employing the government to quickly provide the counter-funding so that the Great Green World can start in earnest in which most of these States which I call *lateral States*, from Sokoto to Borno, Jigawa inclusive can be under this scheme.

Senator Mustapha Bukar (Katsina North): I would like to give my support also to this Bill, which affects most of the frontline, and indeed, the entire Nigeria. My Colleagues have touched on the issue of desertification. Yesterday, some of us watched the number of containers containing woods being exported from Nigeria to other countries. I think it looks like we are trying to make sure that the effect of climate change is with us much faster than it supposed to be; unless and until we give this issues a serious look.

There is also the issue of the sale of charcoal. In particular, Senator Gumel mentioned the issue of Great Green World (GGW) but in contrast, we have now seen the issue of charcoal that is being sold, we have also seen clearly, as being demonstrated on our televisions, especially the NTA. The amount of charcoal that is being sold, and the rate at which this sale of charcoal is increasing is alarming. I therefore wish to say that the Ministry of Environment should actually extend the ban or at least the regulation like they issued for the sale or the export of our food products.

In addition, Nigeria is the highest gas flare in the world, this has been mentioned in the Bill and all the penalties that are supposed to be paid by the oil companies are not being paid or at least the amount is negligible.

If we can as a nation harness that gas, we can improve our power supply. In fact, the penalty alone will ensure that the companies actually change from gas flare to gas utilisation. This is because we do need the gas, if not for anything, to provide us with alternative source of fire for our domestic use. The domestic gas supply is really very low. So it is a contradiction that in a country where it is almost gas region ends up flaring the gas when our industries and domestic utilisation of gas are actually very small.

In essence, I would like to give my support to this very important Bill that affects the entire nation and in particular, those of us that come from the front line States as mentioned by my other colleagues.

Senator Ben Murray-Bruce: Mr President, let me first of all congratulate Senator Misau; for such a troublesome man to come up with such a beautiful Bill is amazing.

This issue of global warming faces us on daily basis, what amazes me is that all governments look at it and do nothing about it. Whether it is the refrigerator that we use at home that should be junked in the Western world that is important to Nigeria, whether it is the cars we drive, especially the SUVs which makes no sense in terms of the environment. We are destroying the environment when we drive such vehicles.

The way we live, we are all guilty of global warming; those of us here are all guilty except me, because I drive in electric cars. People say why am I driving electric cars? Since we have been having gas shortages, I have not bought one litre of petrol, because my car does 120 miles run by solar energy which I charge in my house. So I do not buy gas and I do not destroy the environment. My car cost \$30,000:00.

In the rest of the world, governments give up to \$7,000:00 rebate if you buy an electric car. The government gives you a tax break of \$7,000:00 to encourage you to move away from combusted engine. Take for example the automobile policy of Nigeria, the automobile policy of Nigeria basically guarantees that the Western world will bring into Nigeria obsolete factories, building a factory in Nigeria that is 100 years old. All the cars made in Nigeria by these foreign companies are using engines that are 100 years old. My car is driven by a battery; it is just a car and a battery, there is nothing else in the car and we do not destroy the environment.

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I can power it with solar energy, my house and building is with solar energy. The gas flaring in Nigeria, there are laws after laws for it to be stopped. I think that the Minister of Petroleum should be summoned here to the National Assembly to explain why we have not stopped gas flaring. This is a very serious issue and I know we laugh about it, but we are all very guilty. The Minister of Environment should come here and explain what she is doing about the environment and what she is doing to stop importation of junks into our economy and destroying our environment.

The problem we are having in the North that is very serious is deforestation. The herdsmen we have accused of destroying agricultural farm land is because they cannot look after their cows in the North. This is a serious national issue, and it is a serious national issue which we must think very seriously about and it must be addressed.

This Bill is probably the most important Bill ever presented in the National Assembly. I urge my colleagues not only to pass the Bill, but to urge the Executives to come to terms with the reality of the world. The way we live, the way we import goods into economy is counterproductive and detrimental to our environment. We live in a dreamland with false promises. The way we need to live is a simple one, where we need to go back to nature. We need to stop the importation of refrigeration that should not be used, air conditioning that destroys the environment, automobiles that destroys the environment and gets five miles to a gallon and so on and so forth.

I support this Bill and I urge my Colleagues to now call the Executive to order and bring them here and explain what they are doing specifically to implement it.

Senator Shehu Sani (Kaduna Central): Mr. President, I stand to identify myself with the Bill of Senator Misau. Green House is global emergency that requires a global attention. There are three key words in that Bill, which is target reduction of Green House and then the need for us having a sort of an administrative policy of monitoring Green House. There is also the need to fully observe the Kyoto Protocol. I think what we need to take very seriously is the need to utilise the opportunity of renewable energy.

No matter how and what we say here and what we do, the zero point is that we must take the issue of renewable energy very seriously. I can say this in clear terms that this is an opportunity for Nigeria to reconsider its own area of interest in terms of investing on nuclear energy. This is because nuclear energy is not renewable energy.

I believe that this Bill will be of use but what I observe within this Bill is that it is not robust enough. There is need for a lot of information because someone says that Nigeria is the highest Green House emitter but it is not, it is China. What I can say on this is we should as a matter of national policy take this Bill very seriously. We must set a target to end Green House emission, we must move towards adoption and domesticating the Kyoto Protocol and we must also take seriously the need to use renewable energy.

The President: Thank you distinguished Colleagues. I guess there is nobody who is speaking against this Bill. I want to thank those who have contributed and put the Question on the Second Reading.

Question put and agreed to.

(Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Ecology and Climate Change to report back within four weeks.)

I want to join others to commend Senator Misau for this very good Bill and the timing of it. This Bill is long overdue. As we all know, a lot of us have attended a lot of these international conferences and we tend to find out that many countries have done a lot to domesticate some of the agreements that Governments entered into locally. This Bill will go a long way particularly with Cop 21, which just finished in Paris by the end of last year, where Nigeria made a lot of commitments but some of these are not backed by any law. It is very timely that this is coming now and will go a long way in helping us to play our role globally in addressing climatic change.

Once again, I commend Senator Misau and all those who have contributed to this debate. Thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Senator Abdullahi Adamu (Nasarawa West): Point of Order!

The President: Yes, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, what is your Point of Order?

Senator Abdullahi Adamu: Thank you Mr President. I want to come under Order 43.

The President: Go ahead and read.

Senator Abdullahi Adamu: Order 43 reads:

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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.

The President: Distinguished Senator, I will have to refer you to Order 39 - Order of Business.

Unless the Senate otherwise directs, the business of each Sitting day shall be transacted in the following order:

- (1) Formal entry of the President of the Senate;*
- (2) Prayers;*
- (3) Approval of Votes and Proceedings;*
- (4) Oath/Affirmation of Allegiance and the Oath/Affirmation of Membership of new Senators-elect;*
- (5) Message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;*
- (6) Other announcement by the President of the Senate;*
- (7) Petitions;*
- (8) Matters of urgent public importance;*
- (9) Personal Explanation; and*
- (10) Order of the day.*

You have to bring this tomorrow because under Order 39, Personal Explanation must come before Order of the Day. Definitely, I will take it tomorrow; that I can assure you before we start the Order of the Day.

Food Security Bill, 2016 (SB. 71)

A Bill for an Act to make provision for freedom from hunger and the right to adequate food of acceptable quality, right of every child to basic nutrition and for connected purposes –

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Order for Second Reading.

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Mr. President and my distinguished Colleagues, the second Order of the Day is the Second Reading of the Food Security Bill, 2016.

Distinguished Senators will recall that the Bill was read the first time in this Chamber on Thursday, 8th October, 2015. Mr President, you may wish to invite distinguished Senator Theodore Orji to move that the Bill be read the Second Time.

The President: Distinguished Colleagues, I have just a slight correction. The Bill earlier considered is referred to the Committee on Environment and Ecology and Climate Change to report back within four weeks.

Question proposed.

Senator Theodore Orji (Abia Central): Mr. President, it is a pleasure for me to lead debate on this Bill.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, recall that this Bill was read for the First Time on the Floor of the Senate on Thursday the 8th of October, 2015.

The Bill seeks to make provision for freedom from hunger, create basic right to food of acceptable quality and the right of every child to basic nutrition. The right to food is a basic human right which protects the right of all human beings to be free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

Food and its production are the most bases of human concerns and at the foundation of civilisation. Despite the tremendous progress achieved by humanity, we continue to struggle to meet these basic needs of mankind.

It is important to point out that food security means far more than having sufficient food to meet human needs on a national basis. Other very important factors include access to safe drinking water, primary health care and environmental hygiene.

Mr President, distinguished Colleagues, after the World Food Crisis in 2008, developing countries have been enacting laws aimed at food security. Mauritius for example, enacted a Food Security Fund to enhance local production of food by tackling all the problems militating against it.

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The importance of this Bill to our growing economy can easily be seen in the objectives and purposes of the Bill contained in section 3 of the Bill. They include:

- (a) To provide a framework that promotes this realisation of the right to freedom from hunger and access to food of acceptable quality as a fundamental human right.
- (b) To provide a framework that promotes the elimination and prevention of discrimination of marginalised groups in the access and distribution of food
- (c) To provide a framework that promotes food production, self-sustenance and food security in relation to all persons in Nigeria.
- (d) To provide a framework and mechanism for the co-ordinated implementation of the national policy programmes and plans on food security by State Governments.
- (e) To provide mechanism for ensuring that poor persons access food at all times in adequate quantities and quality through the implementation of state sponsored programmes.
- (f) To provide the framework for the planning, budgeting and implementation of the National Policy on Food Security and Nutrition, using a right approach and to ensure the participation of rights holders and the accountability of duty holders.
- (g) To guarantee the integration of the needs of vulnerable persons in food and nutrition strategies;
- (h) To ensure that food is treated as a national strategic resource;
- (i) To ensure that emergency situations that threatens mass access to food are anticipated, mitigated and addressed with equity and speed; and
- (j) To provide for a cross-sectional networking platform comprising all relevant Ministries, Agencies and actors concerned with the production, storage and sales of food for purposes connected to ensuring access to food by all Nigerians at all times.

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Whereas Section 4 of the Bill has heaped obligations, guides and principles on all persons that get involved with food security, under Section 5 and 6 both Federal and State Governments are obliged to carry out certain functions that relate to availability, acceptability, adaptability and accessibility of food to all in Nigeria.

In the same vein by the provisions of Section 8 of the Bill, Federal and State Government shall to the extent of their mandate under the Constitution guarantee and promote child nutrition, and by Section 9, every woman has the right to adequate food during pregnancy and lactation.

Part III of the Bill establishes the Food Security Agency, some of the functions of the agency in the Bill include:

- (a) To formulate strategies, plans and programmes to facilitate the realisation of the rights to food, taking it to cognizance the right of vulnerable and marginalised persons;
- (b) To monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies, plans and strategies on food security and nutrition in Nigeria by the Food Security Committee;
- (c) Appraise and review the levels of access to food by all Nigerians in terms of quantity and quality and liaise with the State Food Security Committee and relevant agencies to ensure optimal access;
- (d) To collaborate with relevant Agencies and stakeholders in the establishment of appropriate mechanism to ensure access to food by poor persons to adequate food in both quality and quantity;
- (e) To promote measures to improve security and access to land and water resources and the optimum and sustainable utilization of these resources;
- (f) Monitor the issuance and administration of the food eligibility card to eligible Nigerians by the State Food Security Committee to ensure that poor persons access food with ease and in a timely manner;
- (g) Monitor the implementation of the food distribution programme and the food subsidy programme by the State Food Security Committee;

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- (h) Monitor and evaluate the implementation policies, plans and strategies on food security and nutrition in Nigeria and provide feedback to relevant ministries, agencies and actors concerned with food production, storage and sales for their further action.

Section 10 of the Bill prohibits discrimination by Government against any person or persons and makes provision for remedy of past discrimination in relation to rights to food.

The Management of the Agency is vested in a Board established under Section 14 of the Bill. There are, of course, provisions for Chairmanship, membership of the Board, tenure of office, and powers of the Board etc.

By the provisions of Sections 32, of the Bill, there shall be established in each States of the Federation a State Food Security Committee whose functions shall include:

- (a) To implement the food security policy and programmes in the States.
- (b) Advise the agency on technical issues relating to the implementation of different programmes on food security within the State.
- (c) Provide early warning mechanism on impending food insecurity situations within the States and advice on mitigation measures.
- (d) To initiate, undertake and participate in the collection, preparation, production and the dissemination of data and information on food security and nutrition in the State.
- (e) To ensure proper identification of food insecure areas, appropriate programmes and eligible beneficiaries in relation to food security.
- (f) To ensure that food and nutrition scarcity issues are incorporated in the programmes of the State and monitor the performance of each State in the implementation of the policies, programmes and plans on food and nutrition security issues.
- (g) Determine the essential food stuffs and commodities within the State for the purpose of implementing food distribution programmes and food subsidy programmes.

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- (h) Spearhead the formation and operationalisation of food and nutrition Committees at Community levels and in schools and health centres.

Section 35, Part VII of the Bill establishes a Food Insecurity and Information Mapping System, making it mandatory for the Agency to work in collaboration with Ministries of Finance, Disaster Management, Planning and National Security to provide the information needed to develop and strengthen the capacity to respond to food emergencies. Provision is also made in the Bill on food impact assessment.

Under Section 37, the President, has power to declare a food emergency if in his opinion there is a major shortfall in the domestic production or availability of a designated agricultural commodity. When the President declares a food emergency, the powers of the Agency abate and vest in the Minister. Ample provisions have also been made in the Bill in relation to funds of the Agency, investment of funds, annual estimates, accounts and audit of accounts of the Agency.

Part X, Sections 44-49 is miscellaneous provisions which enact offences and penalties in relation to food security.

With the phenomenal population growth in Nigeria, Agricultural production can no longer be self-regulated. With new food and water borne diseases springing up every day, with the phenomenon of climate change having drastic effect on food production, Government at all levels must rise up and ensure that the whole populations have access to daily requirement of adequate food of acceptable quality and quantity. Governments must be committed to creating and sustaining the enabling political, social and economic environment which are essential foundation to give priority to food security and poverty eradication. These are what the Bill is all about.

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

I therefore, wish all my distinguished Colleagues to give their support to this Bill, which is important and which will free us from hunger.

Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke (Osun West): Mr. President, in the 2015 global hunger index, Nigeria is ranked 14th with a percentage of 32.8. Nigerians are hungry. It is a common saying that a hungry man is an angry man. The Bill is timely and important, we should act fast and pass this Bill but we must monitor the implementation.

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Senator Jonah David Jang (Plateau North): Mr. President, I support this highly thought and well-presented Bill for Second Reading. I believe that as a country, we have not taken food security seriously, particularly when we know that this country has survived on agriculture in the past. When Oil came in, everyone went for Oil money and abandoned agriculture and as a result, we end up spending the rare foreign exchange in importing food that should have been produced in our country. There is no kind of food that cannot be produced in this country.

However, the policies of government both at the national and state levels have not helped agriculture at all. A lot of money is budgeted for agriculture, particularly at the federal level, but the farmers that need this money are in the Local Government Areas and not at the national level. Yet, we continue to bring all kinds of policies that do not benefit the farmers at all and they do not benefit from the moneys that are spent.

It is my candid opinion that we should take another look at people who are interested in big time farming, because the subsistence farmers cannot feed this nation. We need to go into agricultural business where loans, with not more than one digit interest can be given to people who have interest and are willing to produce food. Such loans should be monitored properly to ensure that they are used for the purpose they are given.

If we do not take very serious action now, particularly with the oil problem that we are having, then agriculture would go down and by the time million Nigerians move to Cotonou or to Benin Republic, the whole of West Africa would be in trouble because we must be able to feed our country.

Agriculture should not be looked at as producing only grains, animal husbandry is very important because it forms part of the food that we need to eat. We are also having the problem of the cattle rearers now getting into agriculture to spoil the farms; yet we are playing politics of how to handle this animal husbandry which is part of farming.

I want to believe that this politics of grazing lands and so on should be looked into seriously. We do not need grazing lands but we need to create Ranches where we can keep, feed and treat these animals properly so that the production can be multiplied within the shortest possible time for us to be able to feed this country with meat and other requirements.

Therefore we should look at this programme and support it, by the time the Bill is sent to the Committee on Agriculture, they should look at the details of the Bill. There should be more input into it than just what Senator Theodore Orji has just read. I believe very sincerely that both the Federal Government and the States should act and the time is now because people must be provided with modern implements, not hoes that we used to farm in our old days.

I would recommend that the Committee on Agriculture should visit Plateau State and see what has been done about agriculture there, which is something that can be copied in many States of the Federation.

Senator Abdullahi Adamu (Nasarawa West): Mr. President, I support wholeheartedly this Bill by Senator Orji. In supporting the Bill, however, I want to draw attention of this hallowed Chamber to the fact that there is a Bill similar in all material to the one that is before us on the issue of right to adequate food.

I would therefore suggest that when the Bill would have received sufficient and fair hearing, this Bill be merged with the one that has already been taken and is being scheduled for Second Reading here. Everything about the Bill is the same with the one that is already before us and has already been considered and scheduled for Second Reading.

Senator Samuel Ominyi Egwu (Ebonyi North): Mr. President, I wish to wholeheartedly support Senator Orji who has graciously sponsored this very important Bill on food security. Mr. President has given this Bill the necessary attention by making sure that we contribute adequately to this Bill.

The Bill is so important because we cannot be talking about feeding Nigerians without talking of food security. The crisis we are facing in the country, especially with the Boko Haram in the North, has heightened the issue of food security more. The prices of food items in the country have skyrocketed and if adequate measure is not taken that issue will actually be beyond our management.

As has been argued before, food security goes beyond subsistence agriculture; it is an issue that affects every person in this country because we all take food one way or the other. I want to say that as we are talking now, a lot of food items are still imported into this country.

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If you go to Shoprite, most of the fruits and vegetables that you see in their shops are all from South-Africa; they do not even need our foreign exchange to bring them in because they have their own money, and as such, it is a very important issue.

I want to look at this Bill from the angle of what was put down by the Sponsor that if we do not create adequate fund to go beyond subsistence agriculture, we will continue to import food into this country. But more disheartening is that many people that ventured into agriculture with their resources and sometimes with government funding are left when they are faced with calamities.

A typical example is the bird flu that is currently devastating poultry industry in Nigeria. I am a member of the Poultry Association of Nigeria and currently, a lot of poultry farms in this country have been wiped out by this infection, but the annoying part is that NAIC, Nigerian Insurance Company that has to do with agricultural insurance have paid deaf ears to compensating agriculturists, and farmers that have lost their flock. I am talking because I am an insider; some farms have been devastated and wiped out. And billions of Naira was put into these venture, but NAIC have not reacted by paying adequate compensation to the farmers that insured their farms.

I will therefore want that, in considering this Bill, this Senate should ask the Ministry of Agriculture or NAIC specifically to come and explain to us why they have left our farmers who have invested billions of Naira into this sector without adequate compensation.

I thank you and I want to wholeheartedly support this Bill. However, I feel that we should go beyond rhetoric and go into practical aspect of food security.

Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero (Kebbi Central): Mr President, I rise to support this very important Bill. The pride of any nation is to feed itself, a nation that cannot feed itself cannot be proud.

Unfortunately, Nigeria is now in the unfortunate situation that we find ourselves today. We are importing so much food when we have all it takes to produce enough, feed ourselves and even export. We have in the past embarked on so many policies; I could remember in the eighties we had the *Green Revolution* that was meant to make food available to every person in Nigeria.

Before *Green Revolution*, we had *Operation Feed the Nation* and under President Jonathan Administration, we had *Agriculture Transformation Agenda*. Now, under this regime we have Agriculture as the main priority of this Administration. This Bill is very apt, very timely and I rise to give my support to it.

I went through this Bill and I discovered that it clearly gives certain responsibilities to States and it also gives certain responsibilities to the Federal Government. I believe that if the provisions of this Bill are implemented, we would reach the Promised Land.

Presently, we have haphazard measures that cannot make us to be self-reliant in food production. We built so many strategic silos all over the country, but when you go you do not find anything, not a single grain can be found in those silos. Countries like India with their huge population of 1.3 billion have food that can last them for about 15 years. It is only when they have excess that they can export to Nigeria; even in China it is the same thing.

This Bill is very important and I urge all my Colleagues to support it. Food security is very important to all of us, there is no way we can be proud as a nation if we cannot feed ourselves. With this few words, I will urge all my Colleagues to support this important Bill.

Senator Oluremi Shade Tinubu (Lagos Central): Mr President, I will commend the presenter of this Bill, Governor Orji, and now Senator. At the same time, I want to commend all the Senators that are former Governors that have spoken on this Bill.

But looking at this Bill at this time in our country which is a trying time for us, I can say that these are the best of times and also the worst of times. We see that the government we have presently has only been in government about 11 months or thereabout. This month, it will be 12 months, which is a year, and all the former Governors that have spoken were in the other Party that have been in power for 16 good years. What I would have loved in this Bill is for Senator Orji to have given us an example of what has been done in his State, Abia State, because he was there for 8 years until recently.

I asked Senator Aliero before he spoke that, *what is happening to all the fishes you used to do in Argungu* and he used to bring us fish and I thank you. But one of the things also is; *is this fish being processed and transported to other parts of Nigerian?* That is one area.

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With due respect, Mr. President, I remember during your time as Governor of Kwara State, you were doing mechanised farming and a lot of things. I asked Senator Lafiagi: *Are you still practising your farming because I have not visited Kwara for a while.* Why I am bringing this up is that at this present time, this country is going through a lot of poverty, which the past administration led us into, because a lot of things would have been done properly in the past. This present administration has placed priority on agriculture. It is going to take time and it is going to take a lot of input from every one; we are going to encourage this present generation to be interested in agriculture.

There are many ways we can go about this Bill. I believe when it gets to the Committee, we are going to look at it critically. Lagos for, example, is a commercial centre and during the Administration of Governor Raji Fashola, Epe was noted for fish. It has aquatic splendour and we tapped into that. I got refrigerated vans to move meat from Abattoir to the market place and those are the areas what we can look at and that is what was missing from Senator Theodore Orji's Bill. As I said, I would have loved to know what is going on in Abia State.

We will support this Bill because this present administration has placed agriculture and food security as the first priority. In agriculture, it takes time for us to see the food. You will not see the food next month but we are promising Nigerians that this administration under President Buhari, we are ready to hit the ground running and plan to make sure that we can put food on the table for us.

Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe (Abia South): Mr. President, let me say that I whole heartedly support this Bill, even though Senator Remi Tinubu has mentioned few things and Senator Olujimi has told me that I have no choice than supporting my former Governor. I want to say that we are talking about something very serious and it is the stomach. I fully support what the former Governor of Osun State said here; that a hungry man is an angry man and today there are many problems all over the country. I think that part of the difficulties we are facing also has to do with lack of sustainable farming and therefore food security problem in Nigeria. This Bill seeks to do something about it and I will fully support anything that goes to help us to resolve this problem.

There is another aspect of this Bill that I will like to highlight. I think that the aspect was not brought out very well, the part within the Bill having an agency that is given the responsibility of doing a forecast of what could happen, when you do not have a sustained agriculture ongoing.

If we have done this, the problem that we are seeing at the North East today, and which is impacting on the rest of Nigerians, we will probably be much more proactive in making sure that we take care of that menace. There is absolutely nowhere in the North East where there is any farming going on except for the State that are much below the war zone; if people are attacking you there is nowhere you can farm.

I was reading an article yesterday by somebody who pointed out that the place that used to be the belt where tomatoes were produced in Nigeria is no more. Today, the cost of tomatoes is so high, people think that it is because of something else, not knowing there is reduced agricultural activities. Of course, it is impacting on the rest of the country with higher prices to pay since less and less is supplied.

This Bill is very critical and the only problem I have with this Bill is that the Bill seeks to create another agency to duplicate what the Ministry of Agriculture is doing. What are the different departments within the Ministry of Agriculture not doing that we need to put another bureaucratic agency on it? I think that when this Bill gets to the Committee, the Committee should look at how to see whether they could reintegrate this agency with the existing structure we have, which is the Ministry of Agriculture.

Furthermore, rather than the Agricultural Minister thinking about importing grass from Brazil, he should be thinking more of using his agency to deal with this problem of food insecurity and not dealing with insecurity of cows and what they will eat. We thank our former Governor, Senator Theodore Orji, for bringing this to the fore to alert the nation. There is an adage in Igbo proverb which says *Affo Di Mkpa* which means stomach is very important. And he is telling us now that the stomach infrastructure is the most of the basic infrastructures you will do first before any other infrastructure.

I whole heartedly support that this Bill should go to the Committee and I want to urge my Colleagues to please support this Bill so that we can do a fast-track on helping Nigerians to realise its potential in agriculture.

Senator Joshua .M. Lidani (Gombe South): Mr. President, I support the passage of this Bill but with some reservations. The Bill is titled: *a Bill for an Act to make provision for freedom from Hunger*. Having gone through the Bill, I think that the Bill is more of a policy document than actually a Bill.

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A Bill is supposed to contain provisions that relates to the establishment of a certain set of duties and responsibilities, but here they talked about lofty ideals that is expected to be attained in agricultural sector. I see it more of the policy document than a Bill.

Furthermore, the Bill seeks to make provisions for certain rights, there is right to food, a right to nutrition and there is a right to freedom from hunger and so on. The Bill did not provide how these rights will be enforced. There is a maxim in law which says that where there is right, there is remedy. The Bill provides for this rights but it does not provide for the remedies. If you are entitled to a right to food, the Bill should have gone on to say if you are denied that right, what you do. There is no such provision and that is why I said that this Bill is more of the policy document than a legal document.

Nevertheless, we are talking about a very important issue relating to agriculture and what has recently been described as stomach infrastructure, and therefore it deserves our attention notwithstanding its short comings. I support therefore that it should go for Second Reading.

In the course of Second Reading, it should be fine-tuned to make provision for the redemption of these rights and then to make adequate provisions for other things that will help in securing the food security for our country; and also look at the responsibilities of the State Governments *vis-a-vis* the responsibilities of the Federal Government. The State Governments have their own legal responsibilities and the Federal Government has its own. We cannot sit here and be legislating for the States in respect of matters for which the states are competent to do so.

Let the Bill go for Second Reading but we should take a very closer look at it, especially if the Committee on Judiciary is also involved.

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Mr. President, speaking about this Bill, I think it is important that we understand that it is practically possible to implement the contents of this Bill, if we take into consideration the history of the development of similar Bills in other civilised societies. We are all aware that in one day in this country, somebody woke up and gave a contract for the building of two offices each in all the 774 Local Governments as political party offices.

The history of government coming to rescue of the poor for the purpose of ensuring that they have minimum standard of living has a very simple approach.

I am absolutely sure that Nigeria, having been vested with the kind of population that we have, it is very easy to implement.

I will give you example, if today a fund is created by the Parliament through this Bill at a Committee level and a provision is made that for every ₦1,000 card you buy to make a telephone call, certain amount of money is going to be deposited into that fund. For every salary that somebody collects, certain amount is going to be deposited into that fund. The amount of money that the fund is going to generate is sufficient to stimulate agriculture.

How it is being done in civilized society is simple, the Bill has already defined who a poor person is. If this money is put in a pool and a system is put in such a way that it will reach all the 774 Local Governments in this country. What it means is that it will be strictly be used for stocking those offices with the basic foods that are obtainable in that area. For example, if it is Sokoto or Kebbi, it is expected that that store should have rice, beans, maize, and all the local foods there.

A card is generated from the fund and is given to the poor, and then, he gets to that store and presents that for at least for the minimum of what he should take out of that store. That is how it is being done in developed societies. I think that it is very important to take advantage of this Bill and ensure that, at the Committee level, it is thoroughly structured in such a way that we can get the necessary funds from what can best be referred to as either tax food or welfare tax or whatever, so that enough money is going to be generated.

We have a situation where a worker is receiving ₦100,000 and once he take that salary, he is taking care of two, three, four or even five people. If you now ask him from the ₦100,000 to give only ₦20,000 and take ₦80,000 he sees it as not comfortable. Meanwhile that ₦20,000 would have taken care of those other persons that he is taking care of. I think that if we structure this Bill and give it the consideration that it desires, I am telling you that this Bill is doable, it is practically possible and we require it at this moment of our history.

I therefore urge my Colleagues to support the Bill. In addition, let it be said that today, it has been established beyond doubt that the proper route to come to the Senate will be to go and become governor and then become a senator. So, if you decide to circumvent the process and come direct, you should be willing to take defeat.

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With due respect, I am calling on my Colleagues to support this Bill and allow it to go for Second Reading.

Senator Umaru Ibrahim Kurfi (Katsina Central): Mr. President, this Bill is very important because it touches the life of almost everybody. Nobody here is not a farmer; most of us here are farmers especially those from the North. So farming is a very crucial issue.

The most important thing that I would like to say is that there is need for us to have adequate food in terms of quality and quantity. Because food is a very essential thing, if we notice now, all children who are now schooling in the cities do much better than children who are in the villages. So, food security is a very essential thing and therefore there is need for us to all be farmers.

For this reason, I want my Colleagues to support this Bill because this is a very straight forward Bill, we do not need to drag so much on it.

Senator Buhari Abdulfatai (Oyo North): Mr. President, I thank Senator Orji for bringing this Bill, the Bill is here at the right time. The summary of the Bill is that it is telling Nigeria; shut your door to ostentatious goods. Arguably today, Talata Mafara in Zamfara State can farm rice that can feed the whole of this nation, but we ignore it. It is reminding us again that all the youths that are roaming the road, we can easily encourage them through the Bank of Agriculture, give them soft loan and also for everybody to go back to the farm if only we are serious in this country.

All of us travel in and out of this country, if you are travelling from a particular town to another town either in America, in Canada or in the U.K, when you are in the bus or even in a train, if you look at your left, you see more than 2 kilometre farm, on your right the same. They have shut their door; it is very rare before you see anybody trying to import other ostentatious goods from another country. Just like Senator Sam Egwu said, when you go to next, all what you see are imported goods.

If we do not change our orientation to face the reality that what we need in this country is that let us produce what we consume, let us produce what we eat, that is the only way we can go forward.

The second paragraph of the lead debate said, we need to take care of our pregnant women and the children. In the developed world, the moment you are pregnant from antenatal to the time you will give birth, the government takes over.

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The day you give birth to your child, up to six or twelve months, they will be bringing food to you every week. It depends on the one you signed for either weekly or bi-weekly.

If we believe that food is important just like as in Maslow hierarchy of need; the first and the basic thing is food. We need to be serious, let us shut our country and look inward to produce food and encourage our youths to go to the farm.

The President: I want to thank all the Senators that have contributed. I will now put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

(Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to report back within four weeks.)

The President: I want to join others too to thank Senator T. A. Orji and all those who have contributed to this very important Bill. What we are all saying here is that persistence of hunger and malnutrition is not acceptable in today's modern world. It is our responsibility as lawmakers to find legislation that will develop a long term national plan for combating food security and hunger. I hope that the Committee will do a good job and bring their report back as soon as possible.

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Mr President and my distinguished Colleagues, I apply that we stand down the third Order of the Day to the next legislative day.

Senator Biodun Olujimi: Mr President, I second the Motion that we stand down the third Order of the Day to the next legislative day.

Question put and agreed to

With the leave of the Senate, the third item on the Order Paper stood down.

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Mr President and my distinguished Colleagues, in view of the fact that there is going to be an urgent meeting by 1.00 p.m. and we just have eight minutes to 1.00 o'clock. It appears it is practically impossible to take any other Order of the Day. I am therefore applying that the fifth, sixth and seventh Order of the Day be also stood down to the next legislative day.

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Senator Biodun Olujimi: Mr President, I second the Motion moved by the leader.

Question put and negatived.

The President: Leader of the Senate, we will just take one item and then we look at the time.

MOTION

Financial Inclusion: A tool for Socio-Economic Development and Stability

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Thank you, Mr President. The fifth Order of the Day is a Motion standing in the name of distinguished Senator Mustapha Bukar on Financial Inclusion, a tool for Socio-Economic Development and Stability.

The President: Distinguished Senator Bukar Mustapha, do you want to take it with a bigger audience or do you want to take it now?

Senator Mustapha Bukar (Katsina North): Mr President, I will take it with a bigger audience.

The President: Senator Na'allah, you can come back with your Motion and let us try again.

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Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Mr President and my distinguished Colleagues, I stand by the earlier Motion that I moved that the fifth, sixth and seventh Order of the Day be stood down to the next legislative day.

Senator Biodun Olujimi: Mr President, I second the Motion as moved by the Deputy Senate Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

By the Leave of the Senate, the fifth, sixth and seventh items on the Order Paper stood down.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah: Mr President, distinguished Colleagues, having concluded today's Proceedings on the Order Paper, I hereby move that the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 4th May, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Prompt.

Senator Biodun Olujimi: Mr President, I second the Motion that the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 4th May, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. prompt.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do adjourn till Wednesday, 4th May, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. prompt.

The Senate accordingly adjourned at 12.56p.m.