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**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Wednesday, 18th May, 2016

The Senate met at 11: 03 a.m.

PRAYER

(The Deputy President in the Chair)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Plenary Session suspended: 11: 06 a.m.

Plenary Session resumed: 11: 40 a. m.

The Deputy President: Distinguished Colleagues, the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on a Nationwide Strike by organised labour and the ways of resolving the issues to avoid untold hardship to Nigerians.

We also mandated the Committee on Labour, under the Chairmanship of Senator Mohammed Nazif, to continue to interface with both the government and labour on early resolution of all the matters.

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

Several distinguished Senators: Yes!

Senator Dino Melaye (Kogi West): Also, that we should not be misquoted again!

The Deputy President: All right. So we should not be misquoted again.

Several distinguished Senators: Yes.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Deputy President: Dear Colleagues, we have the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 17th May, 2016 before us for approval. We will start considerations from pages 713 to 716.

Senator Shehu Sani (Kaduna North): Mr President, I move that the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 17th May, 2016 be adopted.

Senator Dino Melaye: Mr President, I second the Motion as moved by my brother in the struggle, Comrade Shehu Sani for the adoption of the Votes and Proceedings.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 17th May, 2016 be adopted.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submission of Bill at Plenary for Consideration

The Deputy President: This is from the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business and it reads:

To: All Committee Chairmen,

All Committee that have Bills submitted at Plenary for consideration should endeavour to expedite action with a view to turning in the Committee Reports next week.

(Signed)

Senator Babajide Christopher Omoworare
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Rules and Business

**Assumption of Office by the Acting Clerk to the
National Assembly**

His Excellency,
President of the Senate,
National Assembly,
Abuja.

Assumption of Office

Sequel to my appointment as Acting Clerk to the National Assembly as conveyed in National Assembly Commission's letter Ref No. NASS/SS/PF/15, dated 20th April, 2016 and the commencement of the terminal leave of the Clerk to the National Assembly, Dr Salisu Abubakar Maikasuwa as contained in the circular Ref No. NASS/CNA/46/Vol. 1/97 dated 12th May, 2016. I write to humbly inform you that I assumed duty as Acting Clerk to the National Assembly with effect from 14th May, 2016.

Your Excellency is kindly requested to take note and accordingly bring it to the attention of distinguished Senators.

Please, accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my esteemed respect and kind regards.

(Signed)

M.A. Sani-Omolori
Ag. Clerk, National Assembly

Visitors at the Gallery

I wish to acknowledge the presence of members of National Association of political Science Students, Department of Political Science, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State.

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Also, we have staff and students of Redeemers Private Secondary School, Lugbe, Abuja.

They are all here to observe Senate Proceedings of today.

(Visitors stood for recognition.)

You are most welcome, you can sit down.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Non-Inclusion of Senator Haruna Garba in the Federal Pension and the Non-Payment of Arrears

Senator Bayero Usman Nafada (Gombe North): Mr. President, I have a petition from Senator Haruna Garba, a member of my constituents who was once a Senator, a former Ambassador, and a former Accountant-General of Gombe State on the non-inclusion in the federal pension and the non-payment of arrears.

He has asked me to present his petition before this Senate so that this Senate can help to effect the payment of his arrears and his inclusion in the Pension Scheme.

The Deputy President: Is the pension in Gombe State or here?

Senator Bayero Usman Nafada: He is requesting from the Federal Government

The Deputy President: All right. Lay the petition.

(Petition laid.)

Non-Payment of Scholarship Grants by Federal Government and Prolonged Casualization

Senator Ben Murray Bruce (Bayelsa East): Mr. President, I have two petitions; one is against the Federal Government by a student sent abroad on scholarship and has been abandoned in America because funds are not being paid.

The second petition is about many Nigerians who are temporary staff, casual staff in government agencies for 10 years. For 10 years that they have been casual staff, they have not been confirmed. Other people get employed every day, younger ones get confirmed but this group is suffering and they want me to bring this to the attention of the Senate.

The Deputy President: All right, you can lay it as well.

(Petitions laid.)

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Non-Payment of Salaries and Other Entitlements and Benefits to Yusuf A. Saidu by BPE

Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi (Niger North): Mr. President, I have a petition from one of my constituents by name, Yusuf A. Saidu. The petition centered on non-payment of his salaries and other entitlements and benefits by the BPE. He was a former staff of PHCN and this petition has no court case on it.

The Deputy President: All right, you can lay it as well.

(Petition laid)

Wrongful Dismissal of Camal Haruna from Service of the Nigerian Police Force

Senator Barau I. Jibrin (Kano North): Mr. President, I have a petition from Camal Haruna, he was with the NPF before he was dismissed from the service of the force without recourse to the rules and regulation guiding the operation of the Police Force. Because he was dismissed by mere radio announcement, he was not given the right to defend himself in respect to the offence he was alleged to have committed.

He wants this Senate to intervene in the matter so that justice will prevail in that matter so that he can be reinstated back to his job, because he felt he was not given the right to defend himself.

Mr. President, may I therefore lay the petition on the Table?

(Petition laid.)

Excision of Orile Ogun Community and its Merger with Obafemi-Owode Local Government

Senator Olanrewaju Adeyemi Tejuoso (Ogun Central): Mr. President, I have a petition from a community in my local government, Orile Ogun. They are writing in support of the excision of that community from the local government and its merger with Obafemi-Owode Local Government in Ogun State.

It is a long standing petition and I have been asked to represent it to this Senate.

(Petition laid.)

Petitions against Wrongfully Dismissal of Mrs. Talatu Jabadi and Complaint of Extra-Judicial Killing

Senator David Umaru (Niger East): Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, I have two petitions; one by a Mrs. Talatu Jabadi who alleges to have been wrongfully dismissed by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB). She has not sought any legal remedy.

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The Second one is from the National Union of Road Transport Workers, Jos Branch and they are complaining against the Nigerian Customs Service, Ogun State Command, for causing grievous bodily harms, extra-judicial killing against one of their members. They have also not sought any judicial remedy.

The Deputy Senate President: You may lay the petition.

(Petition laid.)

Appeal for Re-instatement into the Nigerian Police

Senator Joseph Gbolahan Dada (Ogun West): Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, I have a petition here from a Policeman who was injured and wants to be re-instated back to the Police Force. He had first appealed to the Police Force but they did not answer him.

He came into the Police Force in 2001 from the Nigerian Command, Abuja, trained in Kaduna and later moved to Sokoto. Later he was moved back to the Police Force and later demobilised to the Mobile Police Force.

He has appealed for re-instated back into the Nigeria Police.

(Petition laid.)

(Petitions accordingly referred to the Committing on Public Petitions to report back in two weeks)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Death of Senator Emmanuel Onyatipo Elayo

Senator Suleimon Adokwe (Nasarawa South): Mr. President, I rise on Order 43; Personal Explanation. With your permission, I may read.

The Deputy Senate President: Go ahead.

Senator Suleimon Adokwe: Order 43 reads:

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.

I had approached you earlier on to make a Personal Explanation about the demise of our Colleague from my constituency, one Senator Emmanuel Onyatipo Elayo who died two weeks ago.

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He was a Senator of the Federal Republic on the platform of the Social Democratic Party. In 2003 he became the Osana of Kyana Chiefdom, Nasarawa State, a First Class status.

He was born sometime in 1932 and was educated variously up to obtaining a Diploma in Public Administration in Canada. He served as a Personnel Manager with the Northern Nigerian Southern Factory and rose to be a Group Administrative Manager to the NASCO group of companies. His working experience also spanned into political attainments such as a Counselor, a Commissioner in the service of Plateau and a Commission for Finance for that matter; he was a Commissioner in the Boundary Commission.

More importantly, late Senator Elayo had a political activity that spanned over a century. He was very active in the First Republic where he collaborated with the foremost likes of Chief Obafemi Awolowo of the Action Group, Chief J.S. Tarka of the Middle Belt Congress as well as Alhaji Aminu Kano, all with the view to leading the various ethnic nationalities in the North Central part of this country.

He was also very active in the Second Republic where he collaborated with the likes of Solomon Lar and Chief Nnamdi Azikwe in the NPP party where they came out with the famous emancipation programme. He also participated actively in the Third Republic where he was elected as a Senator on the platform of the Social Democratic party and served as a Senator of the Federal Republic.

In the Fourth Republic, he was a founding member of the People's Democratic Party and as my Colleague and former Governor, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, can testify, he was an irrepressible Director General of his Campaign Team, and worked very assiduously to keep the PDP flag flying.

The Deputy Senate President: Senator Adokwe, can you round up please.

Senator Suleimon Adokwe: I came under Order 43 believing that the matter of death is not controversial, and so I bring information of the death of this very eminent Colleague to the notice of this Distinguished Senate, and I pray that this Distinguished Senate do rise for a minute silence in honour of late Senator Emmanuel Onyachiko Elayo; and to crave the indulgence of this Senate, if possible, to send a delegation to condole with the government and people of Nasarawa State.

The Deputy Senate President: The late Elayo was our Colleague, so we will send our condolences to his family. We will formally send a delegation but meanwhile, we should rise and observe one minute silence in his honour as it is our tradition.

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A minute silence accordingly observed.

The Deputy Senate President: May the soul of His Royal Majesty, Senator Emmanuel Eyetipo Elayo OON rest in perfect peace.

Several Distinguished Senators: Amen!

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

National Institute of Credit Administrators (Establishment) Bill, 2016

National Institute of Credit Administrators (Est., etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 153) – presented by Senator Ben Bruce Murray (Bayelsa East); *read the First Time.*

Chartered Institute of Finance and Control (Establishment) Bill, 2016

Chartered Institute of Finance and Control (Est., etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB. 172) – presented by Senator David Umaru (Niger East); *read the First Time.*

Insurance Act 2003 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Insurance Act 2003 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 275) – presented by Senator Umaru Ibrahim Kurfi (Katsina Central); *read the First Time.*

National Health Insurance Act CAP 2003 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016

National Health Insurance Act CAP 2003 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 278) – presented by Senator Olanrewaju Tejuoso (Ogun Central); *read the First Time.*

Engineering (Registration etc.) Council Act CAP E II LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Engineering (Registration etc.) Council Act CAP E II LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 284) – presented by Senator Ibrahim Gobir (Sokoto East) and Sen. Barnabas Gemade (Benue North East); *read the First Time.*

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Report on the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment

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Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, the sixth Business of the Day is the presentation of Report of the Committee on the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (Establishment), etc. Bill 2016. You may wish to invite Senator Olanrewaju Tejuoso, Chairman of the Committee to move the Motion for the Senate to receive the report.

Senator Olanrewaju Adeyemi Tejuoso: Mr. President, I move that the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Health on the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (Establishment), etc. Bill, 2016 (SB. 10).

Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako (Sokoto North): Mr. President, I second that the Report of this Committee be presented as proposed by the mover.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

The Deputy Senate President: The Senate Committee on Rules and Business will schedule a date for the consideration of the Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, the first Order of the Day is the Second Reading of the Federal University of Wukari (Establishment etc.) Bill, 2016.

You will recall that the Bill was read the First Time in this Chamber on Wednesday, 4th May, 2016.

The Deputy President: Senate Leader, please liaise with your Order Paper because they do not understand what you are saying.

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, point of Order!

The Deputy President: Senator Ndume, what Order?

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Order 28 (1), and (2) (a); with your kind permission, can I read.

His function shall be to lead the business of the Senate.

The Deputy President: They want to know which part of the Order Paper you are taking now. Can you refer them to the prayer you are reading?

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Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, we reordered the Order Paper in order for us to consider the Bill. This is a Bill of a University that is already established and we need to fast-track the process because the university is already in operation. It is the Second Reading of the Federal University Wukari (Establishment etc.) Bill 2016.

You would recall that the Bill was read the First Time in this Chambers on Wednesday 4th May, 2016. You may wish to invite Senator Emmanuel Bwacha to move the Motion for the Bill to be read the Second Time.

The Deputy President: Senator Bwacha, you can proceed to lead the debate for the Second Reading.

Question proposed.

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha (Taraba South): Mr. President, on behalf of the very great people of Taraba South, I want to extend the assurances of their best esteem regards to this hallowed Chamber for this privilege to lead this debate. Like the Leader said, this Bill was actually passed in the 7th Senate and for reasons that are still shrouded in misery, we cannot actually find out why the Bill was not assented to in the last Presidency.

The Bill, you will recall, was passed in the 7th Senate and read for the First Time as a follow up on Wednesday, 4th May, 2016. The Bill seeks to make comprehensive provisions for the due management and administration of the University, the Federal University Wukari, Taraba State. It is among the six universities that were established in the six geopolitical zones.

The establishment of this institution is informed by the imperatives to create more access to university education in view of the large numbers of qualified candidates who are annually stranded in their failed attempt at gaining admission into university education.

The objectives for which the University is established *inter-alia* are to:

- (a) Encourage the advancement of learning and hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex or political conviction the opportunity of acquiring higher and liberal education.
- (b) Provide courses of instruction and other facilities for the pursuit of learning in all its branches, and to make those facilities available on proper terms.
- (c) Encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research in restricted fields of learning and human endeavour.

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(d) Relate its activities to the social, cultural and economic needs of the people of Nigeria.

(e) Undertake other activities appropriate for a university of highest standard.

The Nigerian University Commission (NUC) had already accredited this University for the award of degrees to students, and already appointed for the institution Vice Chancellor and other academic and non-academic staff. The passage into law of this Bill will legalise the existence of this institution.

This Bill, amongst others, is designed to enable the University achieve the following:

- (i) Establishment of such campuses, colleges, facilities institutes, schools extramural departments and other teachings and research units within the university.
- (ii) Institute professorship, readership and associate professorship, lectureship and other posts and offices and make appointments into the respective offices.
- (iii) Institute and award fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries, medals, prizes and other titles, distinctions, awards and forms of assistance.
- (iv) Hold examination and award degrees, diplomas, certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the universities.
- (v) Make provision for the establishment and constitution of the universities and their constituent Bodies e.g. the Governing Council of the University.

The enactment of this Bill into law will help in balancing the numbers of Federal Universities in Nigeria and also transform the educational fortunes of Nigerians and give new university the necessary legal backing.

In line with our Order 77(3) the financial implications of the establishment of this university is provided for in the 2016 Appropriations or Appropriation Act recently passed and signed into law by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

I urge you all to support these Bills for Second Reading.

Senator Enyinnaya Harcourt Abaribe (Abia South): Mr. President, this Bill is very straightforward and I have no hesitation to support it in its entirety and urge my Colleagues to do the same.

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I was a Member of the 7th Senate and I know that we have passed this particular Bill, but as had been clearly stated this morning, it was omitted when Bills were sent to the President for his assent and it is just because of that act of omission that we have to bring this Bill back to the 8th Senate. I urge the 8th Senate to do justice to this.

In fact, as a Member of the Tertiary Committee in Education, yesterday, we also considered in a Public Hearing another university, the University in Effurun that is also operating but does not have law backing it, which is the same case here. I will want us to fast-track this Bill and make sure that we bring this university in line with other universities whose laws have already been enacted and they are assented to.

The Deputy President: Distinguished Colleagues, I think this is very straightforward. I would like to crave your indulgence that we simply take the Second Reading.

Question put and agreed to

(Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Education to report back in two weeks)

MOTIONS

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The Demise of six Prominent Medical Doctors and their Driver

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, the next Order of the Day is a Motion on the Demise of six (6) Prominent Medical Doctors and their Driver from Ekiti in a Ghastly Motor Accident along Abuja-Kaduna road. You may wish to invite Senator Duro Faseyi to move the Motion.

Senator Duro Faseyi (Ekiti North): Mr. President, this Motion was raised under Order 42 of our Rules, Matter of Urgent Public Importance, but it has been floating for the past three weeks despite the importance and urgency that it requires. The Motion is the demise of six prominent medical Doctors and their driver from Ekiti State in a ghastly motor accident along Abuja – Kaduna road.

The Senate:

Notes with grief, the demise of six medical Doctors and their driver, from Ekiti State, in a ghastly motor accident on Sunday, 24th April, 2016 on their way 54th Annual Conference of Nigerian Medical Association in Sokoto State;

The six Doctors who lost their lives in active service to mankind were:

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Dr. Aladesemi of the Federal medical centre (FMC), Ido Ekiti;

Dr. Ojo Taiwo of Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital (EKSUTH);

Dr. Akinyele Lexy, Secretary, NMA;

Dr. Ogunseye of Ekiti State Health Management Board (HMB);

Dr. Olajide, President, EKSUTH) Association of Resident Doctors (ARD);

Dr. Adeniyi James of Federal Medical centre (FMC) Ido Ekiti; and

Mr. Ajibola, their driver.

Disturbed that road accident remains the leading cause of death in Nigeria year in year out;

Further disturbed that this unfortunate incident involving a 13 seater passenger bus but happened almost at the same spot where the late Mr. James Ochoi (SAN), a serving Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria died alongside his wife, son and driver recently in a motor accident. This is indeed one loss too many;

Worried that lack of proper emergency response facilities for critical trauma cases and the non-availability of Medical Doctors on hand at Doka general Hospital, where they were rushed to, resulted in the regrettable and pre-matured death of these Doctors; and

Alarmed that this incident has further cast a huge shadow over the entire health sector in the country, as this incident happened at the time when all medical facilities in the country were short of well trained personnel, bearing in mind that the deceased Doctors were all experts in different field of medical practice.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) Observe one minute silence in honour of the departed Medical Doctors and their driver;
- (ii) Condole with the families of the departed, the government and people of Ekiti State, Nigerian medical Association and also prays for the quick recovery for the survivors;
- (iii) Urge the Federal Government and relevant government agencies to set up ambulance services along our major highways;
- (iv) Urge the Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC) to step public enlightenment campaign on the use of the highway codes and safe motoring; and

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Mandate the Ministry of Works and FERMA to ensure that a renewed vigour is directed to the maintenance and reconstruction of all portions of our roads that have become more or less a death trap to the motoring public. I thereby move.

Senator Theodore Ahamefule Orji (Abia Central): Mr. President, first of all, let me sympathize with my Colleague who brought this Motion and the entire people of Ekiti State and Nigeria in general for this great loss that we have had through accident. It is unfortunate that this type of thing can happen right now. These are young Doctors that have been serving us and were ready to continue serving us, but their lives had been cut very short because of accident. What worries me is that this accident happened at the same point where the SAN who was a Minister died. Therefore, there must be something wrong in that place; it is either because of the structure of the road or any other circumstances that are beyond our imagination. We should not allow this to happen because if we do not look into it, maybe another accident will come at that particular spot and claim people.

We should say something and do something to correct the mistake. I will call on FERMA and the Federal Ministry of Works to go and take a survey of that particular spot where these series of accidents have been happening and killing people, not that accident happens and people go free, when the accident happens, every person will die.

Therefore, Ministry of Works should go and have a review of that place and find out if there is any amendment they will make to the road to prevent future occurrences. This also goes to expose our deficiency in terms of health care. That these Doctors died because treatment was not given to them at the appropriate time is ridiculous and this should not be happening. Our hospitals should be equipped at least to the extent that we can manage the first aid to people who are in dire need.

Therefore, I stand to support the request in this Motion; this Motion is very pathetic and is straightforward. On that note, FERMA and Federal Ministry of Works should be mandated or invite them here to come and explain why that accident should be happening at that particular spot.

Senator Mallam Ali Wakili (Bauchi South): Mr. President, let us start by condoling with the people and government of Ekiti State; my dear Colleague the Chairman of my Committee, Nigerian Medical Association and Nigerians, on the demise of these medical Doctors and other Nigerians.

We should recall that seven weeks ago I did present a Motion here on prevalence of road accidents within Nigeria. We agreed on certain prayers part of which is the issue of maintenance of our roads.

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Every day, we will wake up to say that we are going to mandate FERMA and the Federal Ministry of Works to do certain things, we do not need to mandate them because that is their statutory responsibilities, what we need to do is to ginger them. We have spoken about the issue of finance. Senator Lekan from Lagos brought the issue that the PPRA Act has provisions that certain percentage of that money on petroleum pricing should go to FERMA, we did mandate the Committee on Works to go and investigate and come back with a Report. This is the right time to ginger the Committee to go and look at the issue of how much that fund has accumulated, and then FERMA should be able to excise its responsibility.

Secondly, the issue is bringing to us as legislators to be up and doing on the issue of oversight function.

The budget has just been signed, the 2015 budget has just lapsed, how many times have we gone out after the Special Committees had gone around to catalogue the problems of Nigeria Roads to see where funding that was allocated was utilised or what happened to it. Therefore, this is a good time for us to be up and doing to ensure that this money goes to the right place and the issue of maintenance is adequately taken care of.

On a lighter note, Senator Orji has raised an issue that either something is wrong with that place. I think we are going to ask the Chief Priest of the Senate; Senator Nwaboshi as appointed by Sahara Reporters to go and look at that place to exorcise the Demons that are there.

Thank you Sir.

Senator Olanrewaju Adeyemi Tejuoso (Ogun Central): Mr. President, just to add to what my colleagues have said, I condole the good people of Ekiti State and also to add that our God has a very good sense of humour, he also tries to ensure that we put or make important what we need to do as a people.

We have a loss in the earth family of Nigeria having that kind of number of Doctors going just in a few minutes. Despite the fact that we have the problem of having enough Doctors in our Health Institutions, we have five or six Doctors being removed from the system just by an accident that we can avoid if we have a very good facility in terms of our Roads.

We need to put more emphasis on what we do with our infrastructure because it is not a co-incidence that this accident is happening at the same place where our revered SAN lost his life few weeks ago. Therefore, I want us to take this very serious and let the Ministry of Works know that the importance of maintenance of our road is a major aspect that must be taken into consideration and we implement very seriously.

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Secondly, the issue of the welfare of our Medical Doctors to attract our Doctors that have gone all over the world to come back and serve Nigerians, we need to look into the welfare of the Doctors, I believe God is putting us on notice that we need to have our Doctors to get more interest in working in Nigeria. We thank God for what happened and we would continue to do our best to make sure that Nigeria becomes a better place.

Senator Shehu Sani (Kaduna Central): Mr. President, I must first of all condole the government and the people of Ekiti State for this unfortunate incidence and the loss of these prominent Nigerians. I must say that this accident happened within my Senatorial District and it has been a scene of accident in the last twenty to twenty-five years. We lost the late Elder statesman, Chief Sunday Awoni, the late Minister Ocholi and now these Six Medical Doctors on that road. I happened to be one of those who first visited the scene of the accident, I also visited the injured at the Hospital in St. Jeras in Kaduna but I can assure Ochedu Global that there are no evil spirits along that route; I think the spirit is in us, you do what is right.

Every day, hundreds of Nigerians lose their lives as a result of road accident and then we talk about it, write about it, make proposal and make inciting in the budget on the issues of our roads and nothing changed. But this is an opportunity for us to fully fund the Federal Road Safety Corps and also take considerations to Hospitals along major routes to see how they can be assisted by the Federal Ministry of Health.

However, I believe that despite the fact that there is a failure of lack of first aid provision for these Medical Doctors but I can assure you the Kaduna State Government is doing everything to avert situation in the future.

Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa (Abia North): Mr. President, this is a pathetic Motion and I want to use this opportunity to console and condole the families and indeed the people and government of Ekiti State because it is unfortunate that these professionals are cut in their prime at the time their services, I believe, we need more than ever before.

Like my brother said, we have discussed the absence and inadequate of Doctors in our Hospitals and for us to lose six at a time is something that we really need to think about, it calls for a serious reflection.

I want to use this opportunity to call us back on the Bill that established FERMA. At the establishment of FERMA, it was modelled toward the former PWD (Publish Works Department), FERMA was never modelled in the way that it would come to Abuja bundle with bureaucracy where they begin to award contract for 100 billion and million.

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The idea was to set up an Agency that would respond promptly to pot-holes, gullies, *etcetera* so that we restrict them either to the Local Government or the State levels, at the worst case, to the Geo-political zones. We found out that we need at this time, with what is happening, to review the FERMA Act. If FERMA was up to their functions, every pot-hole in this country must be dealt with not only leaving it until it becomes a gully and I believe that is what is happening.

Therefore, we need to use this opportunity to call the Committee on Works to look at the Act that sets up FERMA so that we can look at ways to review FERMA Act so that they would be active to their functions and not just sitting there doing the same functions as the Ministry itself because it is like we are having two Ministries. FERMA should restrict itself to maintenance, their job is maintenance of roads but the roads are left unattended to because they do not maintain the roads, they sit there and wait for contract to be award in hundreds of millions.

Therefore, this is opportunity for us not to come here every day bemoan about death. We do not know what is even happening today or what would happen tomorrow but we should use this opportunity to review that Act and bring it to function in line with the original intendment.

On this note, I support this Motion.

Senator Biodun Olujimi (Ekiti South): Mr. President, Sunday, 24th April was a sad day on the annals of history of Ekiti State. It was a day we lost six illustrious sons and one other. We did not just lose them; they were Medical Doctors in a situation where we had a real dearth of Doctors.

Right now their death has caused a major vacuum in the running of the two big Medical Institutions in Ekiti State, all six very important members died at the same spot at which the Former Minister died which means we have learnt nothing. It means that when the Minister died, nothing was done; that was to look at what happened and make amends. This has happened again, we are praying that somebody will take charge and ensure that this does not happen ever again.

Let me also say that most of the doctors did not die on the spot, but there was no fuel in most of the vehicles that got there. Also, when they got to the hospitals that were far away from the scene of the accident, there were no attendants that could minister to them and so they have to be taken from one hospital to another until they lost their lives. It is a sad commentary of the situation of our country Nigeria because health services should be provided on the highways like has been said by one of the Senators and more than anything else, there should be ambulance services on our roads.

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This accident happened in the dry season, the rains are here and now all the pot holes are filled with water and make them more dangerous. We need to do something immediately and urgently to ensure that our roads are safe. We need to look at the FERMA Act and see how we can amend it to ensure that they are responsive to the problems of Nigerians.

I want to seize this opportunity to thank all Senators that have commiserated with our State, Ekiti State, and with the Nigerian Medical Association.

The Deputy President: All right. Thank you distinguished Colleagues, we would have taken this Motion earlier than now but for some other reasons, it was not possible but I am happy that we have finally taken this Motion. It is important to emphasise that we send our sympathy to the Nigerian Medical Association and to Ekiti people. But the fundamental thing here is the exposure of our emergency response mechanism in this country and the state of our roads which have been aptly captured by your contributions and I just do hope that we will do something to halt the situation.

Obviously, there are so many people who have lost their lives not only on that road but many other roads who are not doctors or ministers but they are all our constituents and our people. We must also ensure that something is done so that this kind of carnage will stop. I believe that while we are trying to fix our roads, the issue of the speed limits must be enforced by the relevant agencies and the government must, of necessity, emphasise road development in Nigeria in order to save the lives of our people and develop economic corridors for our various Constituents.

I will like once more to thank you for your contribution and sympathy to the bereaved families and to the people of Ekiti. Our hope and prayer is that this will re-activate sufficient response that will make it difficult and impossible for this kind of situation to arise again by taking care of our emergency response mechanism and also putting emphasis on road development so that we can have the type of roads we will be proud of and then avoid these accidents.

Having said this, dear Colleagues, I will now go to the Prayers.

(1) *Observe one minute silence in honour of the departed medical doctors and their driver*
—

Question put and agreed to.

(2) *Condole with the families of the departed, the government and people of Ekiti State, Nigerian Medical Association and also pray for the quick recovery of the survivors —*

Question put and agreed to.

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(3) *Urge the federal government and relevant government agencies to set up ambulance services along our major highways —*

Question put and agreed to.

(4) *Urge the Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC) to set up public enlightenment campaign on the use of the highway codes and safe motoring —*

Question put and agreed to.

(5) *Mandate the Ministry of Works and FERMA to ensure that a renewed vigour is directed to the maintenance and reconstruction of all portions of our roads that have become more or less a death trap to the motoring public —*

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do:

- (1) Observe one minute silence in honour of the departed doctors and their driver.
- (2) Condole with the families of the departed, the Government and people of Ekiti State, Nigerian Medical Association and also spray for the quick recovery for the survivors.
- (3) Urge the Federal Government and relevant Government Agencies to set up ambulance services along our major highways.
- (4) Urge the Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC) to step up public enlightenment campaign on the rules of the Highway Codes and safe motoring.
- (5) Urge the Ministry of Works, Power and Housing; and FERMA to ensure that a renewed vigour is directed to the maintenance and reconstruction of all portions of our roads that have become more or less a death trap to the motoring public.

(One minute silence observed accordingly.)

**Demise of His Royal Majesty Oba Eradiauwa, CFR,
the Oba of Benin**

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, the next Order of the Day is a Motion standing in the name of distinguished Senator Mathew Urhoghide and two others on the demise of His Royal Majesty, Omo N'oba N'edo Uku Akpolokpolo, Oba Eradiauwa, CFR; the Oba of Benin.

You may wish to invite distinguished Senator Mathew Urhoghide to move the Motion.

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Senator Mathew Urhoghide (Edo South): Mr. President, let me thank you very immensely for this privilege. The entire length and breadth of my Senatorial district which is the Ancient Benin Kingdom is in the mourning mood. All the people of the Benin nation both at home and abroad are in this same mood. All lovers and well-wishers of the Benin people of the Benin nation are in this same mood also. This distinguished hallowed Chamber, being a very prominent national Institution that is responsible for all the issues that concern different segment of this country has deemed it extremely necessary to inundate this gather on this sad event.

The Senate,

Notes with grief, the passing of His Royal Majesty, Omo N'Oba N'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo, Oba Erediauwu, CFR, Oba of Benin to the great beyond to be with his Ancestors as announced by the Iyase of Benin Kingdom, Chief Sam Igbe MFR, on Friday, 29th April, 2016; The late Oba reigned for 37 years;

Aware that the Oba of Benin had his Primary School Education in the famous Government Primary School, Benin City from where he proceeded to the prestigious Edo College, Benin City in 1937 as one of the pioneer students of the Institution and later transferred to the prestigious Government College Ibadan. After his graduation from Government College Ibadan, he went to Yaba College in Lagos for his higher Post-Secondary education which was the highest post-secondary school in Nigeria, as at then;

Notes further that in 1948, he proceeded to the Cambridge University, United Kingdom where he graduated with a degree in Law and Administration. He was a member of the Cambridge University Soccer team in the early 1950s;

Observes that young Prince Solomon Akenzua returned to Nigeria in 1952 and joined the Colonial Civil Service where he worked extensively in the Eastern Region of Nigeria as an Assistant District Officer serving as a Judge in land cases as well as in the administration of the district;

Observes further that in 1965, Prince Solomon Akenzua decided to transfer to the Federal Civil Service in Lagos where he rose to the rank of Permanent Secretary. In 1968 he was the substantive Federal Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Power and Steel. During his Federal Civil Service career, he worked closely with the former Nigeria Military Head of State, General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi and General Yakubu Gowon respectively;

Aware that following the events of 15th January, 1966 he was appointed by the then Head of State to serve as the Secretary of the Board of Enquiry in the crisis of 1966;

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Notes that crown Prince Solomon Akenzua as Permanent Secretary (Cabinet Office) accompanied the then Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon to the Aburi Conference in Ghana where he served as Secretary;

Notes further that after the Nigerian Civil War, Prince Solomon Akenzua as super Permanent Secretary moved to the Ministry of Health before retiring from the Federal Civil Service in 1973;

Notes further that in the early 1970 when Papua New Guinea was about to gain independence from Australia, she requested for Nigeria to send a seasoned administrator whose career spanned the colonial pre-independence to post independence period. Prince Solomon Akenzua was sent to Papua New Guinea to present series of lectures and tutorials at Conferences for the civil servants of that country;

Observes that after crown Prince Akenzua's retirement in 1973, he worked as the Regional Representative of Gulf Oil until 1975 when he left to take up appointment as Commissioner of Finance in the then Bendel State. He resigned as Commissioner of Finance, Bendel State in 1977 and was crowned the Oba of Benin on 23rd March, 1979 as the Omo N'Oba N'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo, Oba Erediauwu the Oba of Benin;

Observes that Oba Erediauwu upon ascending the throne quickly established himself as a wise manager of human affairs in the huge Benin Kingdom and his astuteness earned him respect and admiration of virtually every segment of his vast domain and beyond;

Aware that the greatest characteristics of the late Oba were the friendship he cultivated across religion, ethnic and tribal divide throughout his reign. The period witnessed phenomenal changes in the economic, socio-political and educational infrastructure of the Benin Kingdom;

Notes that it is the dignity and wisdom that the late Oba Erediauwu brought to bear in the administration of Benin kingdom that invested his reign with much respect and admiration and a grateful nation bestowed on him the national honour of the Commander of the Federal Republic of Nigeria(CFR);

Observes that as the 38th Oba of Benin Kingdom, Oba Erediauwu CFR was a great patriot and peace maker of all times. He held many prominent positions amongst which were Chairman, Bendel Traditional Council, Chairman Edo State Traditional Council, the Chancellor of Nigeria Premier University, University of Ibadan between 1986 and 1994. He was the Chairman of the movement for the creation of Edo State in 1991;

Notes also that Oba Erediauwa, CFR was a recipient of other several academic, national and international honours and awards, such as Honorary Doctor of Laws Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria;

Notes also that the late Oba Erediauwa will no doubt be fondly remembered for having kept faith as custodian of the rich cultural and traditional heritage of the Binis and the preserver of the kingdom as an ancient and historic city; and

Observes that his demise is a monumental loss. He will not only be missed by his family, people and kingdom of Benin, but Nigeria as a whole.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) Observe one minute silence in honour of the late Royal Majesty Oba Erediauwa CFR, the Oba of Benin; and
- (ii) Send a delegation of this Distinguished Chamber to commiserate and condole with the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness the Edaiken of Uslu, Prince Eheneden Erediauwa, the Benin Royal Family, the good people of Benin Kingdom, and the Government of Edo State.

Senator Francis Asekhome Alimikhena (Edo North): Mr. President, I rise to support this Motion ably moved by my friend which I am also the co-sponsor.

The Oba Erediauwa of Benin Kingdom, CFR, was a peaceful, jovial and great monarch. He brought his experience as a seasoned technocrat to bear on the throne of Benin Kingdom. He was a rare King who was not carried away with mere political jingoism.

I salute his unquantifiable contribution to the culture, unity and peaceful co-existence of Benin people and indeed Nigeria as a nation. Omo N'Oba was a defender, preservation and adherence of Benin customs and tradition. He was an embodiment of cultural splendour. The Benin people and Edo people will miss this great monarch and may his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Several distinguished Senators: Amen.

Senator Clifford A. M. Ordia (Edo Central): Mr. President, I rise to support this Motion that has been moved by my able Colleague and brother, distinguished Senator Matthew Urhoghide. The Omo N'Oba N'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo, Oba Erediauwa, the Oba of Benin was a detribalized traditional ruler because during his reign, he accommodated all Nigerian and even those that are from other countries in his Kingdom, irrespective of their political, religion or traditional affiliation.

Like you must have heard my dear colleagues, Omo N'Oba N'Edo was a very peaceful traditional ruler. He was very much involved in settling all political disputes amongst politicians in Edo State and indeed in Nigeria. That was why there was a peaceful co-existence and this peace actually helped democracy in this country.

The Omo N'Oba N'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo was a classical and chronic traditional ruler whose words were few but lives in wisdom and power. He may have stepped down from the stage but His Royal Kingdom lives on; may the Soul of Omo N'Oba N'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo, the Oba of Benin rest in perfect peace (Amen).

Senator Jeremiah T. Useni (Plateau South): Mr. President, I support this Motion because it was in respect of Oba of Benin whom I respect very much. In case you do not know, I was the Military Governor of Bendel State before it was broken into Edo and Delta State. The Oba of Benin worked very closely with me and he gave me a lot of advice that I benefitted from and I found my job very easy and we became very good friends. Any time I go to Benin, I had the opportunity to see him because he never refused to see me. One day, when I went there and His boys said that I cannot see him because he was having a meeting but I said please just send a message that Gen. Useni was around but the man refused.

Then I went to Lagos and the following day, somebody came from Benin with a message from Oba of Benin, apologising for the action of that man and then said that he was going to remove him. I had to write him to forgive him; perhaps he did not know how close we were. He was somebody who was ready to settle all disputes within the State. I am happy that his Son is taking over from him because he behaves like him. I know the son very well because I used to give him contract as Minister of FCT and when I discussed him with Gen. Abacha, he said that we would make him an Ambassador. I am very close with the family. In fact, I should have been part of this Motion.

Senator Samuel Nnaemeka Anyanwu (Imo East): Mr. President, on behalf of Imo East and the entire Imo State, I want to commiserate with my Colleagues and the entire people of Edo State for the demise of the Oba of Benin.

I want to join my Colleagues who have said a lot of things about the Oba of Benin but one thing was very significant that when Oba was alive, he was able to reform the entire life style of Edo people from what we used to know about Benin. Today, he has been able to make Edo and Benin people to be real Christians because we heard a lot of horrible things about Edo and Benin people but today from what Oba of Benin has done, Edo is a safe state for every body and I want to appreciate his good work. I believe that the successor will be able to pick from what he has done so far.

Therefore, on behalf of Imo people, I commiserate with the people of Edo State.

Senator Ogola Foster (Bayelsa West): Mr. President, the Late Oba of Benin Kingdom, Omo N'Oba N'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo, we grew up to see him and he peacefully ascended the throne. I know him as a bit brilliant peace maker, a man who brought additional dignity to his throne. Perhaps, that was the function of his educational background.

Today, we missed him because a great Iroko has fallen in the Benin Kingdom; a great man by any standard, a man that attracted respect from his subject and commanded national respect. He was an institution, not just a leadership but in the tradition of his own people.

I missed him and on behalf of the people of Bayelsa West Senatorial District, I want to convey my heartfelt condolences to my Colleagues who have moved this Motion as attribute to his good character to the legacy he had left behind. My condolences also go to the people of Edo South Senatorial District and the entire Edo State. I pray that God will grant fortitude to the people and Government of Edo State to bear this irreparable loss.

On this note, I support this Motion which is a tribute to 8th Traditional Ruler, a Wise King; the Oba of Benin.

Senator Enyinnaya Harcourt Abaribe (Abia South): Mr. President, I would have felt very bad if I did not say anything about the demise of Omo N'Oba N'Edo Uku Akpolokpolo.

I was privileged to be a student of the University of Benin when he was crowned the Oba of Benin which meant that I was part of His coming into office and I was privileged that I can say one or two things during his demise.

During that time, there was a lot of trepidation concerning his coming into office because there was the feeling that tradition was not going to change and that there was not going to be anything that will come out and in fact, people were going to go backwards into tradition when he was going to be given the Staff of Office. As students then, we were all told not to leave the Campus, who knows what was going to happen but I can confirm that no student of the University of Benin at that time was ever looked for or not seen again because that was the fear at that time.

This Late Oba changed the way that we use to look at people from the Benin Kingdom, my very good friend Senator Matthew was also there at that time, I know that he was a Christian even though they have their own Church, I can confirm because we know. Well, there are several Churches now.

Let me also say that he was a trailblazer in the sense that most of the things that people used to see as fetish things concerning the Benin Kingdom; he changed all of them. I will say that he was a very progressive Monarch and somebody who looked beyond the tradition to blend it with the times as it were. We will miss a progressive man like him and I hope and do pray that his son having being an Ambassador and also having being exposed by his father to the progressive ideas will continue with this tradition of changing the palace rules into modernity.

On behalf of my people of the Abia South Senatorial District, I want to send my condolences to the people of Benin Kingdom and also thank them for having given me a great 10 years of my life inside Benin Kingdom. Part of what I am today was also being moulded by the culture and traditions that we saw, of course, embodied by the Late Oba.

The Deputy President: Thank you, distinguished colleagues. I also associate myself with all that have been said about the Late Oba of Benin. A day such as this give us the opportunity to reflect on our own lives and prepare ourselves for tomorrow so that when we are gone, we would be remembered and kind words like this would be said about us. I believe that it is heart-warming to know that the Late Oba earned the respect of not only his people but the entire Nigerians. Every day, every month, I am sure that we lose one traditional ruler or the other but it is not all the time that we have the opportunity of paying tribute to the departed royal father. Therefore, you must have earn the respect of not just your community but entire Nigerians for your death to be announce in this Senate and for you to be discussed and all these accolades paid to the Late Traditional Ruler. I believe I had run a good race and deserved all the accolades.

Our advice to all Communities is that in selecting their traditional rulers, they must also be cautious of all these attributes we are discussing today. Traditional rulers must be knowledgeable, peaceful and accommodating not just in the interest of their people but all those who live within their community. When we have such traditional rulers, conflicts will be less and the traditional institutions will earn a deserve respect. I join you to condole with the people of Benin and the entire Nigeria for the loss of this great man.

The Senate will send a delegation which will be announced shortly and we will also pay our respect by rising to observe one minute silence in his honour.

Resolved: That the Senate do:

- (i) Observe one minute silence in honour of the Royal Majesty, Oba Erediuwa, CFR, the Oba of Benin; and

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- (ii) Send a delegation of this Distinguished Chamber to commiserate and condole with the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness, the Ediken of Uselu, Prince Eheneden Erediauwa, the Benin and Royal Family, the good people of Benin Kingdom, and the Government of Edo State.

(One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the Late Oba of Benin)

Delegation to Edo State

The delegation will be led by the Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu, others that will accompany him will be the Senate Leader, Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume; the Deputy Chief Whip, Senator Francis Asekhome Alimikhena; his former Governor, Senator Jeremiah Useni; Senator Abdullahi Gobir and Senator Olugbenga Ashafa, every other Senator that will like to accompany us will also be accepted.

Suspension of all other items on the Order Paper

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, having observed the mood and the fact that there are some other Committees' work to do, the Committees need to hasten their job so that they will conclude before the end of the Session; I therefore move that we stand down other items on the Order Paper to another Legislative Day.

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha: Mr. President I rise to concur with the Motion ably moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

(With the leave of the Senate, all other items on the Order Paper stood down till the next Legislative Day)

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ADJOURNMENT

Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume: Mr. President, before I move for adjournment, I have just said that it is very important for us to round off all Committee works because we are getting to the end of the first Senate year, we will give the Committees tomorrow to conclude and by Tuesday, all Committees are supposed to bring back their report and then adjourn the Senate. Please, Chairmen should take note that by Tuesday, they are to bring all their reports so that we will conclude.

Having concluded the proceedings on the Order Paper, I move that we adjourn this Senate till Tuesday, 24th May, 2016 at 10.00 a. m. prompt.

Senator Emmanuel Bwacha: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 24th May, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

The Deputy President: Before I put the Question, let me emphasise on what the Senate Leader has said, it is important that all Committees meet tomorrow, especially, the Committees who have pending Bills for consideration so that by next week, they will bring in their Reports so that we will be able to take the Third Reading before we end this particular Session.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 24th May, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 1.20 p.m.