



THE SENATE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 16th January, 2018

1. The Senate met at 10:35 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**

Closed Session — 10:45 a.m.

Open Session — 11:40 a.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on issues especially the security situation in the country, the workings of the Senate and the National Assembly in general.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 21st December, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Remarks by the Senate President:**



President of the Senate
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

WELCOME BACK SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, HIS EXCELLENCY (DR.) ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAHI, CON TO SENATORS OF THE 8TH SENATE ON RESUMPTION FROM THE 2017 END OF YEAR RECESS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018.

PROTOCOL.

1. *Distinguished colleagues, it is a privilege and an honour to welcome you all back to work as we embark on the legislative endeavour that will define our country in the year 2018.*

2. *Let me take this opportunity to wish you - my Distinguished Colleagues, your families and all Nigerians - a happy new year. I am not unmindful of the sobering fact that the new year has met many citizens in a reflective mood. Many were on the queue for petrol; many households are grief-stricken. This mood of reflection is also one from which no lawmaker is immune; what affects one, affects all. When one part of the body is hurting, the whole body hurts, and this holds true for the entire nation.*

3. *We have all been witnesses to the hardships with which many Nigerians saw in the new year, stuck on fuel queues tailing from petrol stations in many of our cities. It has been disheartening to see, especially during the festive period when Nigerians should have been enjoying carefree time with their loved ones, with enough petrol in their tanks to make that cherished journey to the various hometowns.*
4. *We, as representatives of the people, feel the pain of the people. Things being the way they were, we could not but respond to the crisis. I therefore had to direct Members of the Senate Investigative Panel on Fuel Scarcity cut short their recess to commence hearings into the lingering problem; and that work is ongoing. I commend the committee for their prompt response and the work carried out.*
5. *We seek the cooperation and understanding of Nigerians as we try to get to the bottom of this issue. My own estimation of the fuel scarcity phenomenon is that it is man-made. We thought we had left the problem of fuel queues firmly in the past in this country, but sadly, that appears not to be the case. In any event, there is a problem, and it must be solved. We await the findings of the Investigative Panel on Fuel Scarcity, firm in our resolve that whoever is responsible must pay the price for visiting this needless hardship upon our people.*
6. *Distinguished colleagues, you will agree with me that even more sober reflection attends the killings in some parts of the country, particularly recent tragic events in Benue State. We condemn these killings in the strongest terms, and we declare that mindless bloodletting has no place in our society. I offer our sincerest condolences to the people of Benue, and indeed to all who have suffered the loss of their loved ones as a result of these wanton acts.*
7. *Human life is sacred. We state without equivocation that Nigerian life must become sacred. When we fail in our duty to protect Nigerian lives, it is a tragedy and an indictment on us all. We as the 8th Senate stand ready to help find solutions to assuage the hurt to affected parts, to bring the perpetrators to justice and to enthrone peace in all four corners of this country.*
8. *Let me state that the 8th Senate is disturbed by these unfortunate incidents, and we have been for sometime. We were concerned enough to have inaugurated the Ad hoc Committee on Security in November of last year. And so it was that, with the shocking reports from Benue, Rivers and other places, the Security Committee Members also cut short their recess to resume sitting, with a view to fast-tracking their investigations, in order to present an interim report for the Senate's consideration immediately on resumption. I really must commend the Committee for their swift action in this regard; and I am happy to note that the Interim Report is ready for the consideration of this Chamber.*
9. *We are a people-oriented Senate, and I believe I speak for us all when I pledge that we shall continue to demonstrate similar dedication to our duties this year, as worthy representatives of the people who voted us into office.*
10. *Distinguished colleagues, the 8th Senate has continued its historic run, because by the end of 2017, we had passed 140 Bills over a period of 30 months. The landmark Economic Bills we passed, helped to propel the country's emergence from recession, powering us upwards in the Ease of Doing Business Report. While the legislative feats of the year gone by shall go down in the annals of lawmaking in this country, what is also true is that we cannot lose momentum, nor can we afford to rest on our oars.*
11. *Going into the new year, I can only wish each and every one of us the best as we prepare for the task ahead. It is a crucial year. As you all know, this, in all probability, will be the last productive year before we go into the 2019 electioneering period. Not only is there a need to up the ante in terms of productivity, it is important we keep our eyes on the big picture. Let us not be caught in the political fray before due season. To each and every thing under the sun, its own time. This is Nigeria's time. Let us devote ourselves to her service.*

It is therefore imperative that we speed up consideration on the various Bills on which legislative work remains outstanding - particularly economic bills. Calling for similar attention are the other parts of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) related bills still to be passed, namely: the Petroleum Industry Fiscal Bill and the Petroleum Host Community Bill.

12. *Distinguished colleagues, it is my appeal to each and every one of us, that our legislative duty to Nigeria and her people, must be uppermost in our minds. We must not allow the upcoming 2019 elections to overshadow our work for the people that elected us - or distract us from that which we are mandated to do by the constitution and the trust reposed in us by the people.*
13. *This is my appeal: it is too early for 2019 politicking to override the legislative agenda and the larger work of governance. We have begun a good thing with the economic core of our agenda; let us see it to its proper conclusion. It would be most insensitive to the needs of the people of this country if we were to do otherwise. I am directing this appeal not only to us in the Chamber but to the National Assembly as a whole, as well as to the Executive and indeed all political actors.*
14. *Distinguished colleagues, let me opine that 2018 will be defined by the collaboration between the two Chambers of the 8th National Assembly as regards the number of items due for concurrence. We must work to build on the very cordial relationship between the two chambers as witnessed so far, and elevate the level of cooperation, for the benefit of the people. To this end, I urge you all to reach out to our counterparts in the House, so that we can fulfil the lawmaking function in the most expeditious manner. This will help streamline the process - and clear the way for the passing of various legislations - making for improved synergy and joined-up working between the two chambers.*
15. *Currently, Distinguished colleagues, there are two major ongoing issues before us - namely the Constitutional Amendment process and the 2018 Appropriation Bill. It is encouraging to see that the Assemblies in the States have already started work on the Constitutional Amendment; I urge us all to keep a keen eye on developments on that front. With regard to the 2018 Budget, let me take this opportunity to give a word of encouragement to the Committee as they work to ensure the proper conduct of the process.*
16. *Once more, my Distinguished colleagues, we are a people-oriented Senate. Nigerians already have a measure of who we are, particularly through our interventions and engagement in areas such as Job Creation and Youth Empowerment, the Welfare of Nigerian Students Overseas, and the Drug Abuse Epidemic ravaging through Nigerian Communities. We will not relent in our efforts in these areas.*
17. *In conclusion, it bears reiterating that we cannot waste a moment of this year that rolls its boundless opportunities out for us. As the legislative arm of government, we must do everything we can to transform the developmental firmament of this country, to bring succour to the masses, and to leave our prints in the sands of time. There is really no other choice. The work is upon us. We can get it done.*
18. *I wish the entire Members of this Chamber - and indeed every one of our countrymen and women - a most productive and prosperous 2018.*

(Signed)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

5. Announcement:***Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Caucus Meeting:***

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Godswill O. Akpabio (*Akwa Ibom North-West*) as follows:



SENATE MINORITY LEADER

16th January, 2018

*The President of the Senate,
National Assembly,
Abuja.*

Your Excellency,

There will be meeting of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Caucus with the new National Working Committee at 2:00 pm at PDP National Headquarters, Wadata House, Abuja on Tuesday, 16th January, 2018.

All Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senators are pleased requested to attend after Plenary.

(Signed)

*Senator Godswill O. Akpabio
Minority Leader*

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Philip T. Aduda (FCT) drew the attention of the Senate to Federal Capital Territory Statutory Act 2017 which was assented to by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on 30th December, 2017 only a day to end of 2017 financial year. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Rule 42(2)].

7. Presentation of Bills:

(i) Digital Right and Freedom Bill, 2018 (HB. 490) — *Read the First Time.*

(ii) National Security Agencies Protection of Officers' Identity Bill, 2018 (HB. 830) — *Read the First Time.*

8. Ad hoc Committee on the review of Security Infrastructure in Nigeria:

Report on the review of Security Infrastructure of Nigeria on the emergency visit to Benue State:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the *Ad hoc* Committee on the review of Security Infrastructure of Nigeria on the emergency visit to Benue State (*Senator Ahmad I. Lawan — Yobe North*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid and presented.

Debate:

Extension of Time:

Motion made: That the Senate do sit this day beyond the time appointed for the termination of the Sitting of the Senate (Rule 13) (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate condemns in the strongest possible terms the wanton criminal attacks that claimed the lives of more than 73 innocent citizen in Guma and Logo Local Government Areas of Benue State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate urges the Security and Intelligence Agencies to leave no stone unturned in apprehending the perpetrators and the sponsors of these heinous crimes and similar crimes in Zamfara, Kaduna, Plateau, Taraba, Adamawa, Edo, Enugu and elsewhere, so that they are brought before the law to answer for their crimes. The days of indifference complacency, negligence and impunity must come to an end.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Proposed Resolution (ii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

“That the Senate do urge the Inspector-General of Police to within fourteen (14) days arrest and investigate the perpetrators of this act” (*Senator Kabiru I. Gaya — Kano South*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Federal Government should re-examine, revamp and re-invent the nation's security architecture and infrastructure in order to ensure that no community or entity is left unsecured and unsafe — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate should convene as a matter of utmost urgency a national security summit to examine the recurring violence and mayhem visited on our rural communities before they become an existential threat to the our national cohesion and national survival — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Federal Government should examine the deployment of security personnel in our rural communities and borders to ensure that no one gets in or out of the country without proper documentation and regular surveillance — *Negated.*

Proposed Resolution (vi):

Question: The Federal Government should ensure full compliance with the letter and spirit of the ECOWAS protocol on free movement of persons, cattle and goods with a view to ensuring that it is administered strictly to preserve the interests, safety and security of Nigeria and its people — *Negated.*

Proposed Resolution (vii):

Question: That in view of the emergence of several failed States and conflict zone around our borders and in the West African sub region, the Federal Government should sponsor and convene an international conference on the proliferation of weapons in Nigeria. The ways and means of stopping the proliferation, and ridding our communities of existing arms should also be proffered — *Negative.*

Proposed Resolution (viii):

Question: That the Federal Government should immediately re-examine the current deployment of security forces, particularly the Nigeria Police, Directorate of State Services (DSS) and National Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC), etc. in order to strengthen their presence in the rural areas, starting from the most conflict prone areas around Niger, Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba, Adamawa axis, Zamfara, Kaduna and in the entire North Central Zone — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ix):

Question: That the Federal Government should beef up and re-strategize its deployment of security intelligence capabilities with a view to obtaining actionable intelligence about impending attacks and plots in order to forestall and prevent the recurrence of rural violence and inter-ethnic conflagrations — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (x):

Question: That the Federal and Benue State Governments should ensure that all those living in IDP camps are properly catered for and the burnt infrastructure in their communities are properly rebuilt to enable the people return and resume their normal lives — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (xi):

Question: That the Federal Government through the Ministry of Agriculture should as a matter of urgency convene a special National Council on Agriculture meeting to deliberate on the development and modernization of Nigeria's livestock and dairy industry — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- “(i) That the Senate President do meet with Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on these Resolutions for immediate implementation by the Executive to douse tension in the country (*Senator Philip T. Aduda — FCT*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to urgently provide facilities and empower its officers to enforce documentation protocol and quarantine of cattle and other livestock at the International Control Post of Nigerian borders (*Senator Aliyu S. Abdullahi — Niger North*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (iii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to reconsider the creation of State Police and or Community Police in order to strengthen security in Nigeria. This should be undertaken by the Senate *Ad hoc* Committee on the review of Security Infrastructure in Nigeria and to report to Senate (*Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah — Kebbi South*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (iv) call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to constitute a joint Police-Military operation to ensure that this carnage is brought to an end; and establish a military base in the area to prevent such action in future (*Senator Barnabas A.I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (v) urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to large numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in camps in Logo and Guma Local Government Areas (*Senator Barnabas A.I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (vi) urge the Federal Government to support Benue State Government to take care of the security personnel deployed (*Senator Barnabas A.I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word “deployed” in line 2, *insert* the words “and refund other States of Zamfara, Niger, Kaduna and Taraba that committed State’s fund to maintain security in their respective States” (*Senator Kabiru I. Gaya — Kano South*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (vii) urge the Federal Government to pay adequate compensation to families that lost loved ones and properties in this wanton destruction (*Senator Barnabas A.I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

- (viii) urge the Federal Government to establish a North Central Development Fund to facilitate the development of infrastructure in this region, training and empowerment of youths and alleviate poverty (*Senator Barnabas A.I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

Question put and negatived.

- (ix) observe a minute silence in memory of all killed as a result of the activities of these armed bandits (*Senator Barnabas A.I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate condemns in the strongest possible terms the wanton criminal attacks that claimed the lives of more than 73 innocent citizen in Guma and Logo Local Government Areas of Benue State;
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Inspector-General of Police to within fourteen (14) days arrest and investigate the perpetrators of this act;
- (iii) That the Federal Government should re-examine, revamp and re-invent the nation's security architecture and infrastructure in order to ensure that no community or entity is left unsecured and unsafe;
- (iv) That the Senate should convene as a matter of utmost urgency a national security summit to examine the recurring violence and mayhem visited on our rural communities before they become an existential threat to the our national cohesion and national survival;
- (v) That the Federal Government should immediately re-examine the current deployment of security forces, particularly the Nigeria Police, Directorate of State Services (DSS) and National Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC), etc. in order to strengthen their presence in the rural areas, starting from the most conflict prone areas around Niger, Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba, Adamawa axis, Zamfara, Kaduna and in the entire North Central Zone;
- (vi) That the Federal Government should beef up and re-strategize its deployment of security intelligence capabilities with a view to obtaining actionable intelligence about impending attacks and plots in order to forestall and prevent the recurrence of rural violence and inter-ethnic conflagrations;
- (vii) That the Federal and Benue State Governments should ensure that all those living in IDP camps are properly catered for and the burnt infrastructure in their communities are properly rebuilt to enable the people return and resume their normal lives;

- (viii) That the Federal Government through the Ministry of Agriculture should as a matter of urgency convene a special National Council on Agriculture meeting to deliberate on the development and modernization of Nigeria's livestock and dairy industry;
- (ix) That the Senate President do meet with Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on these Resolutions for immediate implementation by the Executive to douse tension in the country;
- (xii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to urgently provide facilities and empower its officers to enforce documentation protocol and quarantine of cattle and other livestock at the International Control Post of Nigerian borders;
- (xiii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to reconsider the creation of State Police and or Community Police in order to strengthen security in Nigeria. This should be undertaken by the Senate *Ad hoc* Committee on the review of Security Infrastructure in Nigeria and to report to Senate;
- (xiv) call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to constitute a joint Police-Military operation to ensure that this carnage is brought to an end; and establish a military base in the area to prevent such action in future;
- (xv) urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to large numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in camps in Logo and Guma Local Government Areas;
- (xvi) urge the Federal Government to support Benue State Government to take care of the security personnel deployed and refund other States of Zamfara, Niger, Kaduna and Taraba that committed State's fund to maintain security in their respective States;
- (xvii) urge the Federal Government to pay adequate compensation to families that lost loved ones and properties in this wanton destruction;
- (xviii) observe a minute silence in memory of all killed as a result of the activities of these armed bandits (S/Res/149/03/18).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

9. Committee on Works:

Report on the National Road Funds (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB. 218):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Conference Committee:

Report on the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB. 535):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Committee on Trade and Investment:

Report on the Oil and Gas Export Free Zone Act CAP D5 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2018 (SB. 06):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:***Reports of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:***

- a. Engr. Y.Y. Sani, against the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment for non-payment of outstanding monitoring fees of USD1,776,873.84 and ₦276,158.92 paid by International Oil and Gas Companies Exporting Crude Oil and Gas from Nigeria;
- b. Mr. Atiku Saleh and three others, against the Pension Transition Arrangement Directorate (PTAD) for unfair termination of appointment by the Directorate;
- c. TMDK Oil Traders Limited, against Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc (FMN) for non-payment of ₦2,500,000,000 for contract executed;
- d. ACP Joseph I. Ogbeide, against the Nigeria Police for not allowing him to resume duty after being reinstated by the Police Service Commission (PSC);
- e. Cpl. Ogunbuyide Adewale, against the Nigerian Army, for wrongful dismissal from the Army;
- f. Lt. Solomon Damina and Twelve (12) others, against the Nigerian Army for alleged unjust retirement from the Army;
- g. Major Kenneth David Chioma Obimuonso (rtd), against the Nigerian Army for his wrongful retirement from the Army on medical ground;
- h. Okoro Felicia, against the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) for alleged wrongful dismissal from the Corps.

Consideration of Reports deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. Adjournment:

And it being 4:11 p.m. the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 17th January, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 4:11 p.m.

Abubakar Olubukola Saraki, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.