



THE SENATE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 6th March, 2018

1. The Senate met at 10:49 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 1st March, 2018.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

(a) **Postponement of Meeting:**

The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Aliyu M. Wamakko (*Sokoto North*) as follows:



AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION AGAINST THE NNPC TRADING LIMITED

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX,
Three-Arms Zone, P.M.B 141 Garki - Abuja, Nigeria.

06 March, 2018

His Excellency
Senator Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, CON
President of the senate
National Assembly
Abuja

ANNOUNCEMENT

The meetings of the Ad hoc Committee on the Investigation of Allegations of Corruption Against the NNPC Trading Limited earlier scheduled for this week have been postponed. The Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources and the Group Managing Director of the NNPC who were to appear before the Committee are both out of the country.

A new date would be communicated.

(Signed)
Senator Aliyu M. Wamakko
Chairman

(b) **Acknowledgment:**

The Deputy Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

- (i) Staff and Students of International Model Science Academy, Kwali, Abuja;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Evangel First Global School, Kubwa, Abuja;
- (iii) Staff and Students of Crest International School, Mararaba, Nasarawa State; and
- (iv) Staff and Students of Babcecil Schools, New Karu, Nasarawa State.

4. **Petitions:**

- (i) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ibrahim A. Gobir (*Sokoto East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Julex Associates on behalf of African Arts and Cultural Heritage Association, against the National Council for Arts and Culture, over inferno at the Art and Crafts Village Abuja. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within four (4) weeks.

- (ii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Obinna J. Ogba (*Ebonyi Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from J. M. Jai & Co. on behalf of Acute Tac Services, against the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), over contractual services. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within four (4) weeks.

- (iii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ahmed S. Ogembe (*Kogi Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Mr. M. J. Sal-Fache on behalf of Ebira Peoples' Human Rights Defence, against the National Population Commission (NPC), over non implementation of the Census Tribunal Judgement. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within four (4) weeks.

5. **Presentation of a Bill:**

Energy Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 72 & 446) — *Read the First Time.*

6. **Conference Committee:**

Report on the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB. 535):
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Conference Committee on Nigerian Financial Intelligence Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (*Senator Chukwuka G. Utazi — Enugu North*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. **Motions:**

- (a) ***The need to minimize the possibility of Air Mishaps and Near Fatalities in Nigeria:***

Motion made: That the Senate observes that on the 20th of February, 2018 the story of a near fatal incident involving Dana Airlines with number 9J0363 hit the news waves: It was reported that the aircraft overshot the runway upon landing at the Port Harcourt Airport, on a flight from Abuja. This incident was attributed to the wet surface of the runway;

recalls that just a few weeks before the afore stated event, there was also panic on Wednesday, 7th of February, 2018, when the emergency door of an aircraft conveying passengers to Abuja fell off upon landing at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja;

aware that while the said aircraft was cleared to return to service on the same day by the relevant authorities, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), an experienced Pilot interviewed by Thisday Newspaper of Thursday, 8th February, 2018 was of the opinion that the aircraft might have experienced a component failure. In his words as quoted by Thisday Newspaper: "What happened is likely to be a component failure due to a hard landing. It couldn't have fallen-off when the aircraft was airborne because the aircraft cabin is pressurised. It is very difficult for that to happen but it could fall off when the aircraft is on the ground";

concerned that these recent occurrences might be a sign of a sequence of human errors, caused by the failure of officials and staff of the agencies saddled with the responsibility of guaranteeing safety to carry out their due diligence before issuing clearance for aircrafts to operate within the Nigerian airspace;

recalls with sadness that Nigeria has experienced a significant number of air catastrophes that cost the lives of hundreds of Nigerians, due to a range of causes including human and technical errors;

notes that a chronicle of air mishaps caused by human error as published by Premium Times online newspaper of 21st February, 2018 in an article titled: Human errors, dereliction of duty are major causes of plane crashes in Nigeria, stated as follows: "Avoidable human errors and dereliction of duty by public officials working in the aviation sector have been major reasons for the loss of hundreds of lives in air crashes in Nigeria, reports by the Aviation Investigation Bureau (AIB) have shown";

notes that the said article states further that: "Some of the human errors identified by AIB as causes of the plane crashes include non-lightening of runways and airfields, poorly constructed drainage culverts, inaccurate information by the control tower, lack of proper certification of radio operators and poor supervision of aircraft imported into the country"; and

states with concern that it is against this backdrop that it has now become imperative to move with speed and alacrity in order to ensure that all relevant agencies in the Aviation industry do their work with excellence and minimal human error in order to prevent avoidable loss of human lives.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Aviation to immediately summon the Honourable Minister of State for Transportation (Aviation); heads of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA); Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN); Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB) and every other relevant agency in the aviation industry to give a full briefing on the steps that have been taken to minimise human errors and avoid preventable air crashes; and
- (ii) urge the Honourable Minister of State for Transportation (Aviation) to immediately direct all relevant agencies in the Aviation Industry to immediately conduct a maintenance and airworthiness audit on all commercial aircraft operating within the Nigerian Airspace as well as the training of personnel operating within the industry (*Senator Bareehu O. Ashafa — Lagos East*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Aviation to immediately summon the Honourable Minister of State for Transportation (Aviation); heads of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA); Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN); Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB) and every other relevant agency in the aviation industry to give a full briefing on the steps that have been taken to minimise human errors and avoid preventable air crashes.

Amendment Proposed:

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

“That the Senate do invite the Minister of State for Aviation to appear before the Senate in Plenary to explain steps taken to minimise human errors, avoid preventable air crashes and availability of landing instruments in Nigeria” (*Senator Chukwuka G. Utazi — Enugu North*).

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

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Honourable Minister of State for Transportation (Aviation) to immediately direct all relevant agencies in the Aviation Industry to immediately conduct a maintenance and airworthiness audit on all commercial aircraft operating within the Nigerian Airspace as well as the training of personnel operating within the industry — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) invite the Minister of State for Aviation to appear before the Senate in Plenary to explain steps taken to minimise human errors, avoid preventable air crashes and availability of landing instruments in Nigeria; and
- (ii) urge the Honourable Minister of State for Transportation (Aviation) to immediately direct all relevant agencies in the Aviation Industry to immediately conduct a maintenance and airworthiness audit on all commercial aircraft operating within the Nigerian Airspace as well as the training of personnel operating within the industry (S/Res/193/03/18).

(b) The need for sustainable Tourism Policy in Nigeria:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(c) Urgent Need to repair and Rehabilitate Inter-State roads in Nigeria:

Motion made: That the Senate is aware that Nigeria has the second longest network of roads in Africa, after South Africa, with over 200,000 kilometers of roads in the country;

believes that roads are important for communications, social integration, economic development and defence access, as roads in Nigeria account for more than 95% of the movement of people, goods and services;

aware that road as a major infrastructure signposts the performance of a government in terms of provision of facilities to improve the quality of life of the citizenry and it is one of the instruments to bolster economic growth because building roads has many associated activities that spin into other facets of life;

concerned that decaying road infrastructure, with poor maintenance culture, is one of the major developmental challenges Nigeria is facing;

saddened that the poor maintenance of roads has led to loss of precious man-hours, vehicular disrepair, high accident rates and high fatalities, ambushes by criminals and rapists, and other socio-economic frustrations;

believes that an improved maintenance of Nigerian roads would lead to more social and economic interaction, facilitate integration, encourage commercial activities, provide a means for the evacuation of agricultural produce that abound in the hinterlands but which rot for lack of access to markets, improve demographic relations and raise the quality of lives of the people, and that interstate roads, particularly, encourage cooperation and communication among the various parts of the country;

informed that the Idah-Odolu-Nsukka-Adani-Otuocho-Onitsha road, which traverses the three States of Kogi, Enugu and Anambra, and which is in total disrepair is a commercial, cultural and social link between the peoples of the area through which the road passes;

saddened that the road has been awarded to various contractors and huge funds released to them by the Federal Government without any appreciable job done on the road, with many sections of the road impassable;

convinced that an injection of funds for the repair and rehabilitation of the road either by Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) or the Ministry of Works, Power and Housing and other roads of that characteristic across the country, would have a serious impact on the developmental ambitions of the country and improve cross-country relations;

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to ensure the rehabilitation and repair of inter-state roads in Nigeria in the 2018 fiscal year;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to investigate the award and execution of the Idah-Odolu-Nsukka-Adani-Otuocho-Onitsha Federal road which has been in a state of total disrepair; and
- (iii) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to, as an interim measure, begin immediate repair of the bad portions of the Idah-Odolu-Nsukka-Adani-Otuocho-Onitsha Federal road to make it motorable pending when full rehabilitation works can commence (*Senator Chukwuka G. Utazi — Enugu North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to ensure the rehabilitation and repair of inter-State roads in Nigeria in the 2018 fiscal year — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Works to investigate the award and execution of the Idah-Odolu- Nsukka-Adani-Otuocho-Onitsha federal road which has been in a state of total disrepair — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), to as an interim measure, begin immediate repair of the bad portions of the Idah-Odolu-Nsukka-Adani-Otuocho-Onitsha Federal road to make it motorable pending when full rehabilitation works can commence — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to ensure the rehabilitation and repair of inter-state roads in Nigeria in the 2018 fiscal year;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to investigate the award and execution of the Idah-Odolu- Nsukka-Adani-Otuocha-Onitsha federal road which has been in a state of total disrepair; and
- (iii) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), to as an interim measure, begin immediate repair of the bad portions of the Idah-Odolu-Nsukka-Adani-Otuocha-Onitsha Federal road to make it motorable pending when full rehabilitation works can commence (S/Res/194/03/18).

(d) ***Alarming Maternal and Infant Mortality Rate in Nigeria:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes with concern, the alarming rate of maternal and infant mortality in Nigeria;

further notes that statistics have shown that, every single day, Nigeria loses about 2,300 under-five year olds and 145 women of childbearing age;

concerned that Nigeria is the second largest contributor to the under-five and maternal mortality rate in the world;

further concerned that research have shown that essential interventions reaching women and babies on time is capable of averting most of these deaths;

aware that preventable or treatable infectious diseases such as Malaria, Pneumonia, Diarrhea, Measles and HIV/AIDS account for more than 70% of these deaths;

further aware that malnutrition is the underlying cause of morbidity and mortality of a large proportion of pregnant women, newborn and children under five in Nigeria;

worried that the deaths of newborn babies in Nigeria represent a quarter of the total number of deaths of children under-five and majority of these deaths occur within the first week of life;

further worried that a woman's chance of dying from complications during pregnancy and delivery in Nigeria is 1 in 10 births. Although many of these deaths are preventable, the coverage and quality of health care services in Nigeria have continued to fail women and children;

knows that less than 20% of health facilities in Nigeria offer emergency obstetric care and only 30% of deliveries are attended by skilled birth attendants;

recognizes that under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Health, the Integrated Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (IMNCH) Strategy was put together to revitalize Primary healthcare in every Local Government and considerably extend coverage of key maternal and child health interventions;

further recognizes that also under the Federal Ministry of Health, there is the National Strategic Plan of Action on Nutrition (NSPAN, 2014-2019); and

alarmed that these programmes have contributed very little to reduce the maternal, newborn and infant mortality rate in Nigeria.

Accordingly resolves to:

mandate the Committees on Women Affairs; and Health (Secondary and Tertiary) to liaise with the Federal Ministries of Women Affairs; and Health on ways to curb Maternal, Newborn and Infant mortality in Nigeria and report to the Senate (*Senator Ahmed S. Ogembe — Kogi Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Women Affairs; and Health (Secondary and Tertiary) to liaise with the Federal Ministries of Women Affairs; and Health on ways to curb Maternal, Newborn and Infant mortality in Nigeria and report to the Senate — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate mandate the Committees on Women Affairs; and Health (Secondary and Tertiary) to liaise with the Federal Ministries of Women Affairs; and Health on ways to curb Maternal, Newborn and Infant mortality in Nigeria and report to the Senate (S/Res/195/03/18).

- (e) ***Urgent need for the declaration of Emergency in the Public Health Sector over the decay of infrastructure:***

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

- (f) ***Urgent need to stop the Increasing Rate of Child Labour, Molestation and Abuse in Nigeria:***
Motion made: That the Senate is aware that children are gifts from God Almighty and as such should be loved, provided for and protected;

also aware that this chamber passed the Child Rights Act and also committed itself to work with the International Labour Organisation(ILO) to combat child labour in Nigeria;

concerned that there is a sudden and disturbing rise in the rate of child labour, molestation and abuse in Nigeria;

alarmed that the recent data published by the National Bureau of Statistics showed that 50.8% of Nigerian children; aged between Five (5) and Seventeen (17) are engaged in child labour;

aware that child labour entails work that are mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to the children and ultimately deprive them the opportunity to good education;

concerned that often child domestic helps are forced to do work that is way beyond their tender bodies, and this eventually stunt the general development of the child;

also concerned that children who depend on the care of the adult are often molested and maltreated in ways that are outrightly inhuman;

notes with concern the recent case in Lagos, reported in Vanguard Newspaper of 14th November, 2017, where a woman threw her 15 year old maid from the balcony of a two (2) storey building on the accusation that she stole her jewellery;

further notes another case in Lagos reported in Punch Newspaper of 6th January, 2018, where a woman was arrested for locking up her 11 year old housemaid in a poorly ventilated house with food, and travelled for the Christmas;

worried that a 2014 survey by Nigeria Population Commission, shows that six (6) out of every ten (10) children have experienced some form of violence and 50% of all Nigerian children have experienced physical violence and that between 2014 and now, the situation has not improved;

disturbed that child sexual abuse is beginning to rear up its ugly head in Nigeria and recently it was reported that in Lagos a school supervisor was accused of sexually molesting a two year old child;

aware of the case in Kano reported on 4th May, 2017, where a man in connivance with his wife, raped a 6 months old baby following an advice of a native doctor;

also aware that in a case reported in March, 2017, a 55 year old man in Kastina, was accused of raping a seven (7) months old child, who is also his stepchild;

observes that now is the time to declare a state of emergency against all forms of child abuse in Nigeria; and

aware that Section 14 subsection 2(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) states that: "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government".

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Women Affairs to take measures that would arrest this war against the right of children; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development to investigate the viral trend and report to the Senate within two (2) weeks (*Senator Benjamin C. Uwajumogu — Imo North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Women Affairs to take measures that would arrest this war against the right of children.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the words "Ministry of Women Affairs" *insert* the words "Ministry of Women Affairs and Security Agencies" (*Senator Gershom O. H. Bassey — Cross River South*).

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

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development to investigate the viral trend and report to the Senate within two (2) weeks.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the words "Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development" and *insert* the words "Committees on Women Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters" (*Senator Aliyu S. Abdullahi — Niger North*).

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

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“That the Senate do urge the Federal, States and Local Governments to provide good quality and affordable education and employment opportunities in Nigeria” (*Senator Rabi'u M. Musa — Kano Central*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Women Affairs and Security Agencies to take measures that would arrest this war against the right of children;
 - (ii) mandate the Committees on Women Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to investigate the viral trend and report to the Senate within two (2) weeks; and
 - (iii) urge the Federal, States and Local Governments to provide good quality and affordable education and employment opportunities in Nigeria (S/Res/196/03/18).
- (g) ***Urgent need to initiate proceedings for the release of Certificates and mobilization of graduates of the Federal College of Education, Pankshin, Plateau State to participate in the National Youth Service Corps Programme:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the Federal College of Education- Pankshin, Plateau State is one of the numerous Colleges of Education established by the Federal Government;

notes also that the Federal College of Education, Pankshin in addition to other programmes started to run degree programmes in affiliation to the University of Jos in the year 2008;

notes further that as a result of the approval granted by the National Universities Commission (NUC), the Federal College of Education, Pankshin commenced academic programme in Bachelor of Education Degrees in 23 departments of the college and produced its first graduates in 2011 (UTME) with many more subsequently;

concerned that the Federal College of Education, Pankshin has failed: or neglected to issue Certificates to her graduates and to mobilize them for the mandatory National Youth Service Corps programme as and when due;

worried that the graduates are always never sure of when to get their Certificates and when to be mobilized for their mandatory National Youth Service Corps Programme;

worried also that the graduates of the college have suffered this delay ranging from two to three years before release of their Certificates and mobilization for National Youth Service Corps programme;

worried further that the sets currently awaiting release of their Certificates and mobilization for National Youth Service Corps programme graduated in the years 2016 and 2017 respectively, while another set will be graduating in the next three months;

concerned that as a result of these delays, the students have suffered untold hardships considering the lack of Certificates and lack of the mandatory National Youth Service Corps programme, the effects on them can be better imagined than experienced; and

perturbed that since the primary purpose of the College is to prepare and graduate students to participate in National development, delaying their certificates and not mobilizing them for National Youth Service Corps programme for periods up to two or three years in some instance is both morally and legally wrong.

Accordingly resolves to:

mandate the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to investigate this matter and report to the Senate within two (2) weeks (*Senator Jonah D. Jang — Plateau North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to investigate this matter and report to the Senate within two (2) weeks — *Agreed to*.

Resolved:

That the Senate mandate the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to investigate this matter and report to the Senate within two (2) weeks (S/Res/197/03/18).

8. Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 364 & 656) - Concurrence:

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:

Report on the Federal University Gashua (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018 (SB. 459)

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 7th March, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:27 p.m.

Ike Ekweremadu, CFR
*Deputy Senate President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*