



**SENATE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER**

Tuesday, 20th March, 2018

1. Prayers
2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
3. Oaths
4. Announcements (if any)
5. Petitions

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB. 644) - *First Reading*
Sen. Monsurat J. Sunmonu (*Oyo Central*).
2. Animal Disease Control Bill, 2018 (SB. 643) - *First Reading*
Sen. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi (*Niger North*).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

1. The urgent need to include the Eastern Rail Lines in the Nigerian Railway Development Project.

Sponsor: Sen. Victor C. Umeh (*Anambra Central*)

The Senate:

Notes that inclusiveness is the essence of governance in a *democracy* which is further buttressed by the provisions of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) which categorically states in Section 15 Sub-sections 3(a) and 4:

“(3) For the purpose of promoting national integration, it shall be the duty of the state to -

(a) Provide adequate facilities for and encourage free mobility of people, goods and services throughout the Federation; ...

(4) The state shall foster a feeling of belonging and of involvement among the various people of the Federation, to the end that loyalty to the nation shall override sectional loyalties”;

Notes that the Eastern Narrow Rail Lines of the Nigerian Railways (originating from Port-Harcourt going through South-East to the Northern parts of Nigeria) are now in a deplorable condition notwithstanding the Federal Government's rekindled determination to resuscitate the nation's Rail Transport System;

Notes Further that presently the Eastern Rail Lines are not in use and trains no longer ply these routes in moving people and goods in and out of the old Eastern Region leading to decline in economic activities;

Observes that the deplorable condition of the Eastern Rail Lines of the Nigerian Railways has increased the cost of transportation, commodities and job creation in Nigeria, bearing in mind that modern rail transport system is one of the fastest, safest and easiest means of transporting people and commodities from one destination to another, as well as offering employment to many of the citizens of the country;

Further Observes that in the past livestock and other farm produce were transported easily from the Northern parts of Nigeria to the Eastern parts by train. With the closure of the Eastern Rail Lines, the cost of transporting people, goods and services by road has risen astronomically;

Worried that in the process of developing a modern Rail Transport System that will enhance economic growth and development in Nigeria, the Federal Government's current Railway Modernization Project has excluded the Eastern Rail Lines;

Further worried by the non-inclusion of the Eastern Rail Lines which connects the Eastern parts of the country to the Northern parts of the country in the 2018 Budget proposal and recent approved \$6.8 Billion Dollar foreign loan dedicated to this Programme;

Convinced that the people of the South-East and South-South of Nigeria will continue to feel neglected if the Eastern Rail Lines' outdated narrow gauge rails are not converted to standard gauge Rails;

Further Convinced that the Senate's intervention in reviving the Eastern Railways will foster sustainable socioeconomic relationship with the people of the South-East, South-South and other parts of Nigeria, promote national integration, ultimately boost the Nigerian economy and give a sense of belonging to users of the Eastern Rail Lines,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Call* on the Federal Government to restore Services on the Eastern Rail Lines which is currently out of use;
- ii. *Call* on the Federal Government to include the Eastern Rail Lines in its on-going Railway Standardization Programme and reflect same in 2018 Appropriation Bill; and
- iii. *Urge* the Federal Government to include the Eastern Rail Lines of the Nigerian Railways as one of the beneficiaries of the \$6.8 Billion Dollars loan approved towards the Standardization and Modernization of the Nigerian Railways.

No.	Committee	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters	Tuesday, 20 th March, 2018 (Public Hearing)	12.00noon	Conference Room 231 Senate New Building
2.	Trade and Investment	Tuesday, 20 th March, 2018	2.00pm	Committee Room 224 Senate New Building
3.	Joint Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)	Tuesday, 20 th March, 2018	2.30pm	Committee Room 327 Senate New Building
4.	Primary Healthcare and Communicable Diseases	Tuesday, 20 th March, 2018	2.00pm	Committee Room 328 Senate New Building
5.	Nigerian Air Force	Tuesday, 20 th March, 2018		Condolence visit to Sen. Wakili Family