



THE SENATE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 26th April, 2018

1. The Senate met at 10:49 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 25th April, 2018.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

(a) **Conference Committee:**

The Senate President named the following Senators as Conferees on Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Act CAP 17 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2018:

(i)	Senator Mohammed Sabo	—	Chairman
(ii)	Senator Robert A. Boroffice	—	Member
(iii)	Senator Nelson A. Efiang	—	Member
(iv)	Senator Suleiman O. Hunkuyi	—	Member
(v)	Senator Shuaibu I. Lau	—	Member
(vi)	Senator Victor C. Umeh	—	Member

(b) **Acknowledgment:**

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Students of Brookstone International Foundation School, Mabushi, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

4. **Presentation of a Bill:**

Federal Polytechnic Ikom, Cross River State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB. 672) — *Read the First Time.*

5. **Executive Communication:**

Inclusion of USD496,374,470 (Equivalent of ₦151,394,494,335.00) in the year 2018 Appropriation Bill, 2018:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on the inclusion of USD496,374,470 (Equivalent of ₦151,394,494,335.00) only in the year 2018 Appropriation Bill for the purchase of Super Tucano Aircraft from the US Government (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Rising on Rules 15, 42 and 52, Senator Matthew A. Urhoghide (*Edo South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Executive Communication on the purchase of Super Tucano Aircraft from the United States Government amounting to US\$496,374,470.00. He informed the Senate that the Aircrafts had been paid for by the Government without the National Assembly's approval.

He further informed that such payment before the approval of the National Assembly is anticipatory and it violates Section 80 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended). He urged the Senate to invoke Section 143 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) for such violation of the Constitution.

Debate:

By leave of the Senate, the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matter was mandated to examine the matter and report to the Senate on Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018.

6. Motion:

Continued Killings in Benue State:

Motion made: That the Senate notes with dismay, the continued killings, maiming and wanton destruction of lives and property in Benue State, particularly Benue North West Senatorial District which comprises of (7) Seven Local Governments; Logo and Kwande Local Governments in Benue North East Senatorial District, Agatu and Okpokwu Local Governments in Benue South Senatorial District;

notes that these killings have continued unabated since January 2018;

aware that as a consequence, the Federal Government through the Nigerian Army, embarked on a military exercise code named Ayem A' Kpatuma, or cat race;

notes that this exercise was intended to curb and curtail these killings and destruction in Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba and Kogi States;

dismayed that despite the military presence, there is no end to the wanton killings;

acknowledges the role of the Senate in containing these crises by sending an *Ad hoc* Committee to the State to ascertain the true picture of the situation;

notes that just recently in Abian, Headquarters of Sengey Council Ward near Naka town in Gwer West Local Government Area there was an invasion by well-armed gunmen where 18 people were killed in addition to burning of houses, destruction of food stuff and other properties estimated at hundreds of millions of Naira in Mbawaa Saghev in Guma Local Government Area;

further notes that on the morning of Tuesday, 24th April, 2018, while some Christian faithfuls were gathered at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Ayar town in Gwer East LGA for their routine morning mass and burial ceremony, they were ambushed by armed gunmen who opened fire indiscriminately on the worshippers, resulting in the deaths of two Reverend Fathers, namely Rev. Fr. Joseph Gor, and Rev. Fr. Felix Tyolaha, a Catechist, John Ibor and 17 others;

worried that this latest attack on a worship center which is unprecedented, has very grave implications for the security and unity of our dear nation; and

also notes the monumental refugee situation now estimated at over 200,000 which is being faced by the entire State particularly Benue North West Senatorial District where all the 7 Local Governments of the District are affected by these invasions and killings.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the dead;
- (ii) condemn in the strongest possible terms, these wanton killings and destruction confronting the State;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to adopt special and proactive measures to bring an end to this carnage;

- (iv) urge Security Agencies to identify, apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of this heinous act;
- (v) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide more relief materials to the growing number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) displaced by this invasion;
- (vi) urge the Federal Government to holistically evaluate the entire security architecture of the country; and
- (vii) urge the Federal Government to ensure the immediate and early return of these IDPs to their ancestral homes and establish a relief and resettlement fund for them (*Senator George Akume — Benue North West*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of the dead — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do condemn in the strongest possible terms, these wanton killings and destruction confronting the State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to adopt special and proactive measures to bring an end to this carnage — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge Security Agencies to identify, apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of this heinous act — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(v):

Question: That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide more relief materials to the growing number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) displaced by this invasion — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(vi):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to holistically evaluate the entire security architecture of the country — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(vii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to ensure the immediate and early return of these IDPs to their ancestral homes and establish a relief and resettlement fund for them — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- “(i) That the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation do address the Senate and House of Representatives in a joint session on the security situation in the country (*Senator Obinna J. Ogbu — Ebonyi Central*).

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

- (ii) That the Senate do mandate the *Ad hoc* Committee on the review of Security Infrastructure in Nigeria to expedite action on the submission of its Report to the Senate for consideration (Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah — Kebbi South)."

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

Resolved.

That the Senate do:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the dead;
- (ii) condemn in the strongest possible terms, these wanton killings and destruction confronting the State;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to adopt special and proactive measures to bring an end to this carnage;
- (iv) urge Security Agencies to identify, apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of this heinous act;
- (v) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide more relief materials to the growing number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) displaced by this invasion;
- (vi) urge the Federal Government to holistically evaluate the entire security architecture of the country;
- (vii) urge the Federal Government to ensure the immediate and early return of these IDPs to their ancestral homes and establish a relief and resettlement fund for them; and
- (viii) That the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation do address the Senate and House of Representatives in a joint session on security situation in the country; and
- (x) mandate the *Ad hoc* Committee on the review of Security Infrastructure in Nigeria to expedite action on the submission of its Report to the Senate for consideration (S/Res/228/03/18).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

7. **Briefing by Inspector General of Police (IGP):** *The arrest of Distinguished Senator Dino Melaye and killings across the country:*
Motion made: That the Senate do receive briefing by the Inspector-General of Police on the arrest of Distinguished Senator Dino Melaye and killings across the country (Deputy Senate Leader).

Debate:

By leave of the Senate, the Inspector-General of Police was re-invited to appear on Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018, at 11:00 am to brief the Senate.

8. **Committee on Public Accounts:**
Report on the Investigation of all Subsidy Monies spent by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) without recourse to National Assembly:
Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the Investigation of all Subsidy Monies spent by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) without recourse to National Assembly (Senator Matthew A. Urhoghide — Edo South).

Question put and agreed to.

Report 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) (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) should stop the illegal payments without appropriation forthwith — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) through Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation should make a formal request to the National Assembly for 2018 appropriation for the illegal payments — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That there is need for the Federal Government to pay the oil marketers the outstanding arrears of subsidy owed them prior to 2017 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the local refineries should be given maximum attention to enable them function in full capacity — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- “(i) That the Senate do urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to refund the sum of ₦216 Billion being the illegal subsidy payment from the Consolidate Revenue Fund Account (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

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

- (ii) That the Senate do mandate the Auditor-General of the Federation to carry-out a specialised audit of the NNPC accounts in the last five (5) years (*Senator Solomon O. Adeola — Lagos West*).

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

- (iii) That the Senate do mandate the Public Accounts Committee to recommend appropriate sanctions on NNPC officials who engaged in the illegal payments for oil subsidy (*Senator George Akume — Benue North-West*).

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

Resolved:

- (i) That the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) should stop the illegal payments without appropriation forthwith;
- (ii) That the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) through Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation should make a formal request to the National Assembly for 2018 appropriation for the illegal payments;
- (iii) That there is need for the Federal Government to pay the oil marketers the outstanding arrears of subsidy owed them prior to 2017;

- (iv) That the local refineries should be given maximum attention to enable them function in full capacity;
- (v) urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to refund the sum of ₦216 Billion being the illegal subsidy payment from the Consolidate Revenue Fund Account;
- (vi) That the Senate do mandate the Auditor-General of the Federation to carry-out a specialised audit of the NNPC accounts in the last five (5) years;
- (vii) mandate the Public Accounts Committee to recommend appropriate sanctions on NNPC officials who engaged in the illegal payments for oil subsidy (S/Res/229/03/18).

9. Adjournment:

And it being 2:23 p.m. the Senate President adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 2th May, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 2:23 p.m.

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