THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 26th April, 2012

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

1. Deteriorating Services by Global System for Mobile Telecommunications (GSM) Providers: Senator Gbenga B. Ashafa *(Lagos East)*

Sen. James Manager	Sen. George Akume	Sen. Chris Ngige	Sen. Dahiru A. Kuta
Sen. Ganiyu Solomon	Sen. Enyinnaya Abaribe	Sen. Bukkar A.Ibrahim	Sen. Gilbert Nnaji
Sen. Smart Adeyemi, CON	Sen. Abubakar O. Saraki	Sen. Nkechi Nwaogu	
Sen. Oluremi Tinubu	Sen. Aisha J. Alhassan	Sen. Pius Ewherido	Sen. Marafa K. Garba
Sen. Domingo Obende	Sen. Jide Omoworare	Sen. Boluwaji Kunlere	Sen. Akin Odunsi
Sen. Olusola Adeyeye	Sen. Gbenga Obadara	Sen. Ehigie Uzamere	Sen. Babafemi Ojudu
Sen. Benedict Ayade	Sen. Anthony Adeniyi	Sen. Alkali A. Jajere	Sen. Yusuf Nagogo
Sen. Hope Uzodinma	Sen. Ibrahim Musa	Sen. Hayatu B. Gwarzo	Sen. Abu Ibrahim
Sen. Uche Chukwumerije	Sen. Mudashiru Hussein	Sen. Ayogu Eze	Sen. Chris Anyanwu
Sen. Heineken Lokpobiri	Sen. Suleiman Adokwe	Sen. Bello Tukur	Sen. Victor Lar
Sen. Olubunmi Adetumbi			

THE SENATE

CONFIRMS that advancements in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) constitute the baston of globalized 21st Century economy;

ATTESTS that the emergence of the Global System of Mobile Telecommunications (GSM) in Nigeria within the last ten years brought a revolution of sorts not only in the employment of the youths but also ushered in veritable multiplier effects into the business and financial life of the country;

NOTES that the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) in order to improve telephony density and telecoms value added services issued both Digital Mobile (GSM) Licenses and Unified Access Services Licences to the following currently operating companies; MTN Nigeria Communications Limited (2001), Celtel Limited (Now Airtel) - (2001) and Mobile Telecommunications Limited (Formerly NITEL) and Glo Mobile Limited (Globacom) - (2002), Emerging Markets Telecommunication Services (Etisalat, 2007), Visafone Communications Limited (2007), Reliance Telecommunications Limited (ZOOM, 1st August, 2007), Starcomms Limited (2006) and Multi-links Telecom Limited (2006);

OBSERVES that despite all the licenses issued, subscribers are extremely disgruntled over the poor quality of Services being provided by these GSM/Telecom operators. The complaints include persistent drop calls and resultant loss to the users that were billed for calls not utilised. Also, inter-
connectivity problems arising from congestion and poor quality network. Calls between networks are hardly audible and sometimes distorted;

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CONCERNED that despite the poor quality of service, operators are still flooding the market with promotions of all kinds in order to boost their revenues but failing to ensure customer satisfaction. Also, the burgeoning clientele of the GSM revolution has not been matched with equal re-investment by the service providers;

FURTHER NOTES that due to the consistent out cries by the public, the NCC have made efforts to monitor Network performances based on certain Key Performance Indicators (KPI) which includes Call Set up Rate, Call Completion Rate, Stand Alone Dedicated Control Channel, Handover Success Rate and Transmission Rate. It has been reported that the average performance is still below 65%. This is unacceptable;

DISTURBED that subscribers are being defrauded by these operators due to the poor quality of service. It can be seen from the rewards of their promotions and advertisement drives that they are smiling to the bank while the subscribers feels short changed. The Subscribers should enjoy good services that is commensurate with their money.

Accordingly resolves to:

i. ***MANDATE*** its Committee on Communications to investigate the effectiveness of the services provided by operators in the Country;

ii ***URGE*** the service providers to apologise to Nigerians on the abysmal crash of their services throughout the Country and their plans to urgently arrest the slide;

iii. ***URGE*** the service providers to provide facts and figures on what investment plans they have to match their geometrically increasing clientele;

iv. ***URGE*** the service providers to work out a module for refunding callers for drop calls and poor quality voice and data services;

v. ***URGE*** the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) to provide evidences of sanctions against service providers who cheat Nigerians of their hard earned money with poor quality voice and data services.

2. **Economic Growth and Worsening Inequality in Nigeria: A Call for New Approaches to Poverty Reduction:**
Sen. Olubunmi Adetunmbi *(Ekiti North)*

Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba, SAN, OFR
Sen. Olusola Adeyeye
Sen. Smart Adeyemi, CON
Sen. Dalyop U. Dantong
Sen. Chris Anyanwu
Sen. Hoses A. Agboola
Sen. Atiku Bagudu
Sen. Boluwaji Kunlere
Sen. Olufemi Lanlehin
Sen. Abdulmumin Hassan
Sen. Nurudeen Abatemi-Usman
Sen. Ganiyu Solomon
Sen. Abdul Ningi
Sen. Oluremi Tinubu
Sen. James E. Manager
Sen. Lokpobi Heineken
Sen Anthony Adeniyi
Sen. Abdulaziz Usman
Sen Ahmad I. Lawan
Sen. Marafa K. Garba
Sen. Ehigie Uzamere
Sen. Ayo Akinyelure
Sen. Hadi A. Sirika
Sen. Ayo Adeseun
Sen. Bello H. Gwarzo
Sen. Babafemi Ojudu
Sen. George T. Sekibo
Sen. Wilson A. Ake
Sen. Akin Odunsi
Sen. Ahmed M. Makarfi
Sen. Adegbenga S. Kaka
Sen. Pius Ewherido
Sen. Mudashiru Hussain
Sen. Domingo Obende
Sen. Ayogu Eze
Sen. Sola Adeyeye

THE SENATE

NOTES that the 2011 Human Development report was released by the UNDP in November 2011. The report contains Human Development Index (HDI) that has become globally accepted as a broader definition of well-being and provides a composite measure of three basic dimensions of human development namely health, education and income;

WORRIED that Nigeria's HDI is 0.459, which gives the country a rank of 156 out of 187 countries The average HDI of Sub-Saharan Africa region increased from 0.365 in 1980 to 0.463 today, placing Nigeria below the African regional average. Nigeria was displaced by 14 countries from its 142nd in 2010;

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NOTES that Nigeria's HDI is the lowest among oil producing countries and occupies the unenviable status of low human development category with Angola slightly ahead of Nigeria in GDP/capita, adult literacy, primary school enrolment and health adjusted life expectancy. Some other countries in this low category include Haiti (0.454); Zimbabwe (0.376); Sudan (0.408); Eritrea (0.349), Sierra Leone (0.336) and Liberia (0.329);

NOTES the impressive annual real GDP growth rate averaged 9.2% between 2009 and 2010. Correspondingly over the same period, absolute poverty incidence has remained high, rising from 42.7% in 1992 to 65.6% in 1996. Although it declined and averaged 54.7% in 2004, it recently shot up to 60.9% in 2010 according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).This is indicative of a "jobless growth" that has not impacted the socio-economic conditions of majority of Nigerians;

NOTES that for Nigeria and indeed Africa to meet their Millennium Development Goals target, Nigeria would need to achieve a poverty incidence of 21.4% from the 64.% by 2015. At the current pace of performance Africa is at the risk of a drag down by Nigeria in meeting MDG's continental targets;

NOTES that the 2011 Index of Governance ranks Nigeria 41st out of 53 African countries; and places it in the 13th position of the 16 countries of the West African sub-region. Most of the indicators considered by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation are similar to the UNDP Human Development Index which includes access to potable water, sanitation, completion of primary education, student-teacher ratio, immunization and maternal mortality;

NOTES that on the global competitiveness index, which provides a holistic overview factors that are critical to driving productivity, competitiveness and confidence that are of vital importance to human capital development, Nigeria declined from 99 in 2009 to 127 in 2011 in a survey of 142 countries. This trend threatens Nigeria's quest to attain the goal of emerging as one of the top twenty economies in the world by the year 2020;

DISTURBED that the unabating aggregate poverty in the country, is further exacerbated by a worsening inequality. Measured by the Gini coefficient, inequality has been rising since 1985, except for slight decline in 1992; Despite its vast resources, Nigeria ranks among the most unequal countries in the world. It manifests in highly unequal income distribution, differential access to basic infrastructure, education, job opportunities. Other sources of inequality include growing inequality between and within rural and urban areas and widening gaps between the economies of the federating states;

WORRIED that if unchecked, the grinding poverty, underemployment, job loss and unemployment, growing inequality and widening gap between the rich and the poor could further worsen social and political unrests in Nigeria.

Accordingly resolves to:
DIRECT its committee on National Planning and Economic Development to investigate the effectiveness of poverty reduction interventions in Nigeria and come up with appropriate recommendations.

3. **Denial of funds to National Institute for Nigerian Languages by Federal Ministry of Education:**
Sen. Enyinnaya Abaribe ***(Abia South)***

THE SENATE
NOTES that the national Institute of Nigerian Languages (NINLAN) was established by Law vide (Act 1993 Cap 117) for the purpose of teaching and research into Nigerian Languages and it has been functioning accordingly;

FURTHER Notes that in 2007 an attempt was made to illegally transfer the institution to be a department under the University of Nigeria Nsukka by the Federal Ministry of Education.

AWARE the Law (Act 1993 cap 1993 Cap No. 117) establishment NINLAN was never repealed therefore the institute still exists in the eye of the law;

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FURTHER aware that the Arabic School in Kano, French Language School in Lagos are being funded and totally independent in their functions as institutions for the teaching & research of foreign languages.

NOTES that the institution established to teach our indigenous Nigerian Languages has been in limbo since 2007 due to the deliberate starvation of funds by the Federal Ministry of Education despite appropriations made by the National Assembly;

AWARE that this institution is charged with the responsibility of teaching, researching and improving Nigerian Languages, the Senate accordingly resolves to;

Accordingly resolves to:

(i) *CONDENM* the attempt to transfer NINLAN to the University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nsukka for management illegally and without due process by the Federal Ministry of Education;

(ii) *RESTORE* NINLAN to its constitutional responsibilities as originally intended by the Law (Act 1993 cap 1993 No. 117) and fund it accordingly;

(iii) *MANDATE* the Senate Committee on Education to investigate NINLAN and its current status to arrest the current neglect of the institution and thus improve the teaching and research into Nigerian Languages;

(iv) *COMPEL* the Federal Ministry of Education to provide appropriation for the institution in the 2012 budget, or any supplementary or subsequent appropriation.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Companies Income Tax Act CAP. C21 LFN 20004 and for Matters Connected Therewith 2011 (SB. 56)** – *Second Reading*
Sen. Andy Uba *(Anambra South)*

2. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Advisory Council on Religious Affairs Act Cap A8 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and Enact the National Peace Council to Promote Peace and Religious Harmony in the Country and to provide for related Purposes (SB. 93)** - *Second Reading*
Sen. Joshua Dariye *(Plateau Central)*

3. **A Bill for an Act to Ensure full integration of Persons with disabilities into the Society and Establish a National Commission for Persons with Disabilities and vest it with the Responsibilities for their Education, Health Care and the Protection of their Social, Economic, Civil Rights and for Other Related Matters 2012 (SB. 102)** – *Second Reading*
Sen. Nurudeen Abatemi-Usman *(Kogi Central)*

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	Committee	*Date*	*Time*	*Venue*
1.	Rules & Business	Thursday, 26th April, 2012	2.00pm	Committee Room 107 Senate New Building
2.	Ethics, Code of Conduct & Public Petitions	Thursday, 26th April, 2012	2.00pm	Committee Room 120 Senate New Building
3.	Joint Committee: National Security and Intelligence, Defence and Army and Foreign Affairs	Thursday, 26th April, 2012	2.00pm	Meeting Room 221 Senate New Building
4.	States & Local Government Administration	Thursday, 26th April, 2012	2.00pm	Committee Room 438 Senate New Building

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