7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 55

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 14th February, 2013

1. The Senate met at 10:24 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 13th February, 2013.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement:**
Acknowledgment:
The Deputy Senate President acknowledged the presence of Staff and Students of Premier International School, Wuse II, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

4. **Petition:**
Rising on Rule 41, Senator Mohammed A. Ndume *(Borno South)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mr Hamza Nehemiah on his wrongful dismissal from the Nigeria Police Force. 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:**
Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2013 (SB. 254) — *Read the First Time.*

6. **Motions:**

(i) ***Killing of Health Workers in Kano and Borno States:***
Motion made: That the Senate notes that on Friday, February 8, 2013 a total of ten (10) persons (7 health personnel and 3 patients) were killed by unknown gunmen in the early hours of the day;

further notes that a similar incident had taken place in Muliye Ward of Dikwa LGA, Borno State on 2nd February, 2013 where two Vaccinators were killed by unknown gunmen;

informed that the killings in Kano took place at Shargalle Maternal and Child Health Center in Kauyen Alu ward of Tarauni LGA (where 3 health personnel died) and at Haye Clinic in Hotoro North ward of Nassarawa LGA (where 4 health personnel and 3 Clinic Clients, one of whom was a pregnant woman died);

further informed that four other health personnel sustained injuries at the Kano shootings and that the two health centers were also set ablaze by the unknown gunmen;

aware that the killings, with eerie echoes of attacks that killed eight (8) female Polio workers in Pakistan (December, 2012), represents another serious setback for the global effort to eradicate Polio;

concerned that Polio which once paralyzed millions of children is now endemic in only three Countries - Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan;

informed that the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) figures released for year 2012, listed Nigeria to have 121 new cases of Polio, while Pakistan and Afghanistan had 58 and 37 cases respectively;

concerned that huge resources are being spent by Nigeria and Development Partners in the fight against Polio and that Nigeria has committed to stop the transmission of Polio Virus by December, 2013;

aware that the health Community and all men of conscience are devastated by the killings and aching with throbbing pains, but yet not defeated or helpless;

notes that messages of condolence and solidarity have been received from Partner Agencies, Traditional Rulers, Religious Institutions and Civil Society Organizations by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and the Kano State Government; and

encouraged by the commitment of all health workers and technical partners in the frontline of activities dedicated to reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality (through vaccination), who have continued to discharge their responsibilities despite the security situation.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) observe one minute silence in honour of those slain workers;

(*ii*) send a message of condolence to the people and Government of Borno and Kano States;

(*iii*) further affirm its support in the fight against Polio;

(*iv*) commend President Goodluck Jonathan as head of the Polio Eradication Initiative team on the country's resolve to stop the transmission of Polio Virus by December, 2013 (*Senator Ifeanyi A. Okowa — Delta North).*

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of those slain workers — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do send a message of condolence to the people and Government of Borno and Kano States;

Amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the words "Government of" *insert* the words "South Korea," (*Senator Abdul A. Ningi — Bauchi Central).*

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

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do further affirm its support in the fight against Polio — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do commend President Goodluck Jonathan as head of the Polio Eradication Initiative team on the country's resolve to stop the transmission of Polio Virus by December, 2013 — *Negatived.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do:
(*i*) observe one minute silence in honour of those slain workers;

(*ii*) send a message of condolence to the people and Government of South Korea, Borno and Kano States; and

(*iii*) further affirm its support in the fight against Polio ***(S/Res/034/02/13)***.

One minute silence accordingly observed.

(*ii*) ***Urgent Funding of the Activities of Nigeria's extended continental Shelf Project:***
Motion made: That the Senate notes that Articles 76 of the United Nation's Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) allows Nigeria to extend its Continental Shelf of a littoral State up to a maximum distance of 350 nautical miles from the traditional 200 Nautical miles if it can prove through scientific data and arguments that the land below the sea at that distance is nautical prolongation of its own land;

notes also that Nigeria made a submission for an Extension of her continental shelf to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) under Article 76 of the UNLCLOS on 7th May, 2009;

notes further that the submission was aimed at claiming additional maritime territory of up to 140,000sq km for Nigeria which is potentially rich in hydrocarbons, hydrates, ferro-manganese crusts, and other natural resources; and when approved, will make a significant contribution to the development of Nigeria economically, politically and ensure security-wise after which the National Boundary Commission approved the posting of two Experts to New York and an Office opened for them as the Project Office to among other things;
(*a*) facilitate the enhancement of the submission;

(*b*) liaise with relevant United Nations bodies relating to UNCLOS on matters relating to the submission;

(*c*) serve as a preparatory ground for the question-and-answer sessions between the Sub-Commission examining the submission and the Nigerian Technical Team;

(*d*) serve as a venue for the establishment of important knowledge-sharing, as well as the venue for capacity building and support activities during the final preparation, presentation and examination processes.

aware that the National Boundary Commission embarked on the project in year 2000 steered by the Nigerian Technical Committee comprising officials from;

(*a*) Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

(*b*) Federal Ministry of Justice;

(*c*) Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Maritime Research;

(*d*) Department of Petroleum Resources; and

(*e*) Nigerian Navy.

observes that Nigeria has explored ways and means of enhancing the submission for easy passage and area increase but the enhancement has now become precarious based on the fact that;

(*a*) Nigeria's submission is based on the premise of "evidence to the contrary" because of the silt deposition in the Niger Delta;

(*b*) Precedents being set in the examination of other countries' submissions by the Commission on the limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) reveal that Nigeria needs to urgently review and, if possible, make adjustment to its submission;

(*c*) with the advancement or related scientific knowledge, there is a very big possibility that the review will increase Nigeria's area of claim with the use of a different foot of slope points;

(*d*) the Nigerian Technical Team (which has not had the opportunity to look at eight suitcase submission since 2009) needs to thoroughly familiarize itself with the submission in preparation for the question-and-answer sessions with the Sub-Commission. Since the establishment of the office, the two experts in the New York Office of the project got their June 2010 foreign Service Allowances just two months ago.

notes also that other countries like Ghana, Argentina and China have considered it important enough to establish new and independent organs free from government bureaucracies to handle the extension of their Continental Shelves;

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) urge the Federal Government to source for the funding of the project outside the normal budgetary allocation (as is done in many countries); and

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government in the alternative, to urgently establish an independent technical body to handle the extension of nation's Continental Shelf (*Senator Emmanuel G. Bwacha — Taraba South).*

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to source for the funding of the project outside the normal budgetary allocation (as is done in many countries) — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government in the alternative, to urgently establish an independent technical body to handle the extension of nation's Continental Shelf — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(*i*) urge the Federal Government to source for the funding of the project outside the normal budgetary allocation (as is done in many countries); and

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government in the alternative, to urgently establish an independent technical body to handle the extension of nation's Continental Shelf ***(S/Res/035/02/13)***.

7. Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund Act CAP N88, LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2013 (SB.221):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Alteration) Bill 2012 (SB.226):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Quarantine Act CAP Q2 LFN 2011 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2013 (SB.210):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 19th February, 2013 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:17 *p.m.*

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