# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 20th March, 2014

**1.** The Senate met at 10:58 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read prayers.

**2.** **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 19th March, 2014.

*Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.*

**3.** **Announcement:**
***Acknowledgment:***
The Deputy Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

(*a*) Staff and Students of Hope of Glory International School, Mararaba, Nasarawa State;

(*b*) Staff and Students of New Era Pilot Science School, Mararaba, Nasarawa State; and

(*c*) Staff and Students of Africa International College, Kaura District, Abuja.

**4.** **Confirmation of Nomination:**
*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for the confirmation of Mr. Shettima Umar Abba Gana (*Borno State*) for appointment as a Member of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to report within two(2) weeks.*

**5.** **Confirmation of Nomination:**
***Confirmation of Honourable Justice Zainab A. Bulkachuwa for appointment as President of the Court of Appeal:***

*Request deferred to another Legislative Day.*

***PRINTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESS, ABUJA***

**6. Motion:**

***Recent Attacks and Killings in Plateau, Benue, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi and Other Parts of the Central Nigerian Area:***

*Motion made:* That the Senate notes with dismay how human life has become increasingly very cheap and impunity has become the norm in Nigeria, particularly in the case of the North Central and North Eastern Geo-political Zones where the danger has become very real indeed and the attacks have become not only incessant but the gory details of the daily massacres are becoming more daring and horrific, reflecting casualty of mostly innocent and unsuspecting children, women and the elderly;

*worried* that, in a confusion of daily headlines, the situation is further degenerating to a point in which we can clearly say that we are in the middle of a civil war with multiple ill defined fronts and worse still the perpetrators are often presented as faceless "unknown gunmen", "Boko Haram" or in some instances, "Fulani herdsmen" in 'conflict' with "farmers" and victims on the Plateau, in Benue, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Borno, Adamawa, Yobe States and other parts of Nigeria;

*aware* that in this war-like situation, the Central Nigerian Area in particular is strategically where the factors of ethnicity and religion interact and where the symbolism of Muslim-Christian cooperation and conflict has enormous implications for the whole country. And that, it is where the constitutional issues of Federal and State relations including the role of the Federal Police and the Military are at a critical point;

*concerned* that while there is no immunity for anyone, this kind of war has become highly contagious, while the social and economic cost remains almost incalculable as these increased hostilities continue to reinforce the option of over reliance on the military which is the nation's last line of defense to undertake conventional first line police duties. Consequently the military has been outside the barracks providing internal security since 1999, longer than they were during the Nigerian Civil War without any exit plan that will culminate into the restoration of police duties devoid of Military-Police command challenges that can guarantee thorough investigative activities based on the nation's evidential rules of proof that can clearly draw the distinguishing lines between individual criminal conduct, communal conflicts and insurgency;

*alarmed* that, in tracking such incidents within the Central Nigerian area the attacks have not only resulted into enormous loss of lives and property, but have also caused thousands to flee their homes and abandon their farmlands sometimes at the peak of the farming season;

*notes* that in Plateau State, between May 29, 2011 and January 31, 2012 alone there were 1,131 deaths reported. The relative peace and calm that had returned to the State for several months based on the collective resolve of the people to sustain the peace was sadly interrupted on Tuesday, 26th of November, 2013, by simultaneous multiple attacks on four communities and villages of Tatu, Rawuru, Bok and Dorang, leaving 45 people dead including a family of seven (7) -Father, Mother and five (5) children, apart from the fact that most of the poor victims are infants, children and women;

*aware* that these well planned and organized simultaneous attacks professionally unleashed on vulnerable villages came less than 48 hours after the Governor of Plateau State, Dr. Jonah David Jang publicly raised an alarm over the plot to attack the State beginning with the 2013 Christmas season and as a result these incidents cannot really be said to be as a result of total intelligence failure;

*further aware* that these serial attacks have persisted in the last two months covering parts of Riyom, Barkin Ladi, Jos South, Mangu, Bokkos, Wase and Shendam Local Government Areas of Plateau State with massive destruction of lives on an average five persons per day and properties worth hundreds of billions of Naira comparable to the civil war years;

*notes* that between the 21st of May, 2013 - 6th of March, 2014, villages such as Kuka, Magama, Karkashi, Bua, Baracks, Riwam Doka, Timshab and Yamu in Plateau South Senatorial Constituency came under vicious attacks with massive destruction of lives and property worth billions of Naira;

*deeply* disturbed that these attacks also took place on 5th of January, 2014 at Shonong Village of Bachi District, the same area where Senator Dalyop Gyang Dantong lost his live in Riyom Local Government Area, 34 persons reportedly lost their lives and 13 injured;

*worried* that similar attacks were carried around 1:00 am on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at Rapyem Village of Barkin Ladi Local Government Area in which 13 people were killed, including nine children and on Friday, 21 at Rakok, Razat and no fewer than 29 people were also killed by gunmen on 22nd February, 2014 on border villages of Rakong near Kafi Abu between Barkin Ladi and Bokkos Local Governments. 16 people including a 70 year old, women and children were also brutally killed and 91 houses razed down in Wereng-Rim Village of Riyom Local Government Area at about 5 pm on the 4th of March, 2014;

*equally worried* that in Kaduna State, it has been rough for the people of Maroa and Attakad communities of Kaura Local Government Area and bordering Plateau State, as no less than 40 people were killed in two separate raids in which a soldier and a police man were also slained. The daring raid of 3rd of February, 2014, brought the total number of such invasions to 11 with about 100 deaths, at least five villages in Mayit, Kirim, Danti, Zangang razed down and over 10,000 people displaced. At least not less than 114 villagers were killed in the night of Friday, March 14, 2014; when heavily armed men entered three villages of Ugwar Sankwai, Ugwan Gata and Chenshyi of Kaduna State gunning down residents burning down all the houses in sight;

*notes* that, survivors and eye witnesses testimonies repeatedly raise allegations of duplicity or dereliction of duty by bad eggs within the security circles and doubts as to the capacity of the agencies to provide the much needed security by guaranteeing the right to protection and defending the defenseless regardless of religion or ethnicity, resulting into the gradual return of mutual suspicion amongst peace loving communities across ethnic and religious divides;

*further observes* that in Benue State such incessant attacks were carried out on communities in Guma, Gwer West, Makurdi, Agatu, Kwande, Logo and Katsina Ala Local Government Areas;

*notes* that in Ndzorov Ward of Guma Local Government Area, 21 reported deaths and ₦3bn worth of property were destroyed in villages such as Ahor Akuroko, Tse Akaahena, Tse Ormeagh, Tse Jija, Tse Bako, Tse Iorhon;

*notes also* that in Mbagwa and Nyiev wards, 44 people were killed and over ₦5bn worth of property destroyed in Tse Kyuer, Tse Agbe, Yogbo, Tse Kulayemen, Tse Ama, Kpanye, Agela, Uhembe Ikpev, Agahar, Gbor Gyo Ubii, Hule Zem, Shan Avungu, Bern Walu Shange, Akor, Gbayange, Chenge and Ahoile;

*alarmed* that even more ferocious attacks were launched in the following villages in Gwer West Local Government; Sengev, Gbenda, Tongov, Tyouhater, Injaha, Nyamshi, with a death toll of 88 people and over ₦1bn worth of property destroyed. The most recent attacks in Gwer West and Guma Local Government Areas also occurred on February 20th and 21st, 2014 and left over 30 people dead including a 70 year old woman and an estimated 100,000 people sacked and displaced while the personal house of paramount ruler of the Tiv nation, Dr Akawe Torkwula was burnt down at Tse Torkwula;

*further observes* that in Agatu Local Government invasion, dozens were also killed and thousands displaced in the following villages, Okoloko, Ocholonya, Inminyi, Adana, Olejeje, Inoli, Olegoga, Olegada, Pate, Olegigeni, Ochelefu Icho, Igagishu, Olegodege, Okpanchenyi Ekwo, Warri, Ikpele, Ogwumogbo, Ogbai, Okpokpolo, and Olegadakele wherein 83 people were killed and over ₦500 million property destroyed;

*notes also* that the same was replicated in Makurdi Local Government where seventy people were killed and thousands displaced from their homes with the following villages affected: Tye Gido, Tye Takyi, Tye Cha, Tye Tongu, Tye Anjua, Tye Azongu, Tye Ayele, Tye Ayagwa, Tye Akordam, Tye Kyase, Tye Agan, Tye Mue, Tye Kyev, Tye Tingiv, Tye Mzo, Tye Jime, Tse Adinya, Tse Akenabo, Tse Akaa, Tse Tatyongh, Tse Ajahar, Tse Madugu, Tse Nyon, Tse Kudi, Tse Akaa, Tse Adai, Kwande and Katsina Ala villages and over ₦2bn worth of property destroyed. Also Tyobibi-Gbetim, Anybe-Azge, Genyi, Dwem, Awashua, Tse-Nyaki and Anyiin in Logo Local Government Area, Jato Aka, Yaase, Waya and Inyamate in Kwande Local Government Area as well as Sai, and other communities in Yooyo Ward of Katsina Ala Local Government Area;

*aware* that these late night guerrilla style attacks and daylight mass killings of people, sometimes not directly involved in any form of conflict, have become the hallmark of organized and specialized terror or killer groups with the resultant effect of destabilizing the States and stifling the people's determination to shun violence, embrace and trust one another towards ensuring sustainable peace and collective security;

*further observes* that anxiety fed by what are now incidences of serial night killings and daylight mass attacks bordering on war crimes is approaching a panic loss of confidence in the federal security regime and that the pattern of federalized policing under a unitary command, may have made sense under military regimes in the past, but it is hardly the best in the prevailing situation of insecurity with the increasing volume of grassroots crimes and attacks on the nation's defenseless rural communities;

*believes* that the increasing sense of disconnection with local communities needs to be overcome and reduced by a reconsideration of the current military strategy because identity politics of the civilian domain is growing more divisive as the military is constantly relied upon to use deadly force to deal with local crimes or uprisings and trans border attacks in most parts of Nigeria;

*realizing* that apart from providing necessary democratic essentials, meeting the security needs of the people remains the primary purpose of government as a result, if a State, Local Government, ward or village area under a federal system cannot be effectively protected by the federal police, federal army and other forces, the nation cannot afford to remain scared of trying tested solutions adopted by other federal systems of the world; and

*equally alarmed* at the prospects of potential famine if drastic steps are not taken to put a stop to these attacks and return the displaced persons to their homes so they can tend to their farmlands.

*The Senate accordingly resolves to:*

(*i*) condemn the incessant killings occasioned by the simultaneous multiple attacks on communities and villages;

(*ii*) observe a minute silence in memory of the deceased;

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence; Defense and Army; and Police Affairs to undertake a fact finding mission and report back to the Senate;

(*iv*) look into the allegations of complicity by the security agents as expressed by victims and survivors of these attacks;

(*v*) call on the Inspector General of Police and the Director-General of the State Security Service to jointly work and fish out the culprits behind these attacks so that they can be brought to book; and

(*vi*) call on the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed forces to set up a Presidential Committee to look into the root cause of the sudden widespread attack of the peace loving citizens of this country in the States of the Middle Belt Area as it was done in the case of the Niger Delta and the North East Zone (*Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade — Benue North East*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution (i):***
*Question:* That the Senate do condemn the incessant killings occasioned by the simultaneous multiple attacks on communities and villages — *Agreed to*.

***Proposed Resolution (ii):***
*Question:* That the Senate do observe a minute silence in memory of the deceased — *Agreed to*.

***Proposed Resolution (iii):***
*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence; Defense and Army; and Police Affairs to undertake a fact finding mission and report back to the Senate.

**Amendment Proposed:**
Immediately after the word "Army" in line 2, *insert* the word "Interior" (*Senator Atiku A. Bagudu — Kebbi Central*).

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

***Proposed Resolution (iv):***
*Question:* That the Senate do look into the allegations of complicity by the security agents as expressed by victims and survivors of these attacks — *Negatived.*

***Proposed Resolution (v):***
*Question:* That the Senate do call on the Inspector General of Police and the Director-General of the State Security Service to jointly work and fish out the culprits behind these attacks so that they can be brought to book — *Negatived.*

***Proposed Resolution (vi):***
*Question:* That the Senate do call on the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed forces to set up a Presidential Committee to look into the root cause of the sudden widespread attack of the peace loving citizens of this country in the states of the Middle Belt Area as it was done in the case of the Niger Delta and the North East Zone — *Negatived.*

*Resolved:*
That the Senate do:

(*i*) condemn the incessant killings occasioned by the simultaneous multiple attacks on communities and villages;

(*ii*) observe a minute silence in memory of the deceased; and

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence; Defense and Army; Interior; and Police Affairs to undertake a fact finding mission and report back to the Senate ***(S/Res/033/03/14)***.

*One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.*

**7. Committee on Establishment and Public Services:**
***Report on the Pension Reform Act CAP P4 LFN 2011 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2014 (SB. 288):***

*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**8. Committee on Trade:**
***Report on the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 20, LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2014 (SB. 185):***

*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**9. Committee on Capital Market:**
***Report on the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment Bill 2014 (SB. 06):***

*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**10. Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development:**
***Report on the Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists (Registration, etc) Bill 2014 (SB.161):***

*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**11. Nigerian Railway Corporation Act Cap R129 LFN 2011 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2014 (SB. 329):**

*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**12. Adjournment:**
*Motion made:* That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 25th March, 2014 at 10.00 a.m. *(Deputy Senate Leader)*.

*Adjourned accordingly at* 1:11 *p.m.*

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