SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER

Wednesday, 24th June, 2015

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

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Crime and Criminal Tracking System Bill, 2015 (SB. 3) -*First Reading.*
   Sen. Hope Uzodinma *(Imo West)*

2. Infrastructure Development Bill, 2015 (SB. 4) -*First Reading.*
   Sen. Barnabas Gemade, OFR *(Benue North East).*

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. Managing the Challenges of the Rainy Season.
   Sen. Andy Uba, MFR *(Anambra South)*

   The Senate;

   Notes with serious concern the seasonal rainfall prediction (SRP) of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) for 2015 which is quite high;

   Observes that the Hydrological Services Agency, Ministries of Water Resources, Aviation, Environment, the Nigeria Inland Waterways Authority and the National Emergency Management Agency are all aware of this prediction but do not appear to be prepared or co-ordinated to tackle the impending challenges;

   Aware that, one of the most critical problems associated with the rains is that of floods, which place the lives and properties of people in many parts of the country at risk;

   Observes that in many states of the South-East and South -South geo-political zones, the perennial erosion problems are worsened by the rains, leaving the local communities counting their losses and increasing high numbers of internally displaced people in Nigeria;

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Aware that heavy rainfall are the direct cause of heavy ocean surge in the coastal states like Lagos;

Aware that in 2012 we experienced one of the most devastating floods in the history of this country which affected about 27 states of the Federation, resulting in loss of hundreds of lives, displacement of millions of people from their homes and extensive damage to infrastructure;

Observes that with the early signals coming from the Seasonal Rainfall prediction (SRP) by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), unless concerted effort is made by the Federal and State governments, and the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies Statutorily charged with the responsibility of planning for and mitigating the effects of national disasters such as clearing of obstruction along water routes and mapping out areas prone to flood disaster, there may be a repeat of the 2012 flooding;

Accordingly resolves to:

(i) *Commend* the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), for the timely release of this year's Rainfall prediction;

(ii) *Set* up an ad-hoc Committee to establish the level of preparedness of government and its Agencies to contain the predicted flooding and to report within 2 weeks.

2. Fuel Tanker Tragedies on Nigeria's highways.
Sen. Gbenga Ashafa *(Lagos East)*

The Senate;

Notes with serious concern the spate of fuel tanker explosions on our highways which is getting curious by the day and once again raising the questions about what has become of the rail-line projects of past administrations as an alternative route to Nigerian highways;

Observes that within the space of one week, four fuel tankers accident occurred in Nigeria's two major cities claiming lives and destroying properties; the first incident was at Onitsha which claimed over 70 lives at Upper Iweka in Onitsha, the commercial nerve centre of Anambra State and while the inferno ranged, men of the fire service in their typical nature arrived late at the scene to extinguisher the fire;

Notes also that as condolence messages were still expresses to the victims and their family members, another accident occurred in Lagos. Here, another tanker conveying 33,000 litres of Petrol exploded at Iyana Ipana, Lagos and injured no fewer than 14 persons, gutting about 21 vehicles and razing 44 shops;

Notes further that as Nigerians were still lamenting the tragedy at Iyan-Ipaja, another occurred at Idimu in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos, the incident destroyed property worth millions of naira and no fewer than 34 buildings, 70 shops, one tricycle, one truck and other property were consumed by the fire ignited by the fallen petrol-laden taker;

Observes that all the fuel tankers lifting fuel from the tank farms along Apapa-Oshodi Express way have done tremendous damage to the highways, causing death, pains and gridlocks on the highway,
Concerned that time has come for government to seek permanent solution instead of temporal palliatives as fuel tankers from all states in the North, the South-East and the South-South states come to Lagos to lift fuel and besiege the highways causing the type of tragedy we have recorded recently at Onitsha and Lagos;

Observes that if our refineries were functional, all the tankers in Nigeria would not have business coming to Lagos to lift fuel as refineries in Port-Harcourt, Warri and Kaduna would have taken care of that;

Aware that the current road networks around Nigeria are grossly inadequate for the operations of trucks, tankers and the likes;

Convinced that whatever would nail the menace in the nation highways must consider the volume of tankers lifting fuel from tank farms along Apapa Ports which have crowded the roads in and around Lagos and extended to other cities in Nigeria;

Convinced also that if the rail were operating, fewer trailers would jam Nigeria roads and other cities

Accordingly resolves to:

i. *Observe* a minute silence in honour of the victims of the Fuel Tanker tragedies in Lagos and Onitsha respectively;

ii. *Call* on the present Administration to continue the process of revamping the rail system to ease off the pressure on the Nigeria roads;

iii. *Call* on the Federal Government to revamp the existing refineries and make them functional.

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