SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER

Thursday 30th July, 2015

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. Collapse of Road Infrastructure in Nigeria
   Sen. Dino Melaye
   Co- Sponsors:

Sen. Andy Uba *MFR*
Sen. Philip T. Aduda *MFR*
Sen. Biodun Olujimi
Sen. Yele Omoghnwa
Sen. Marafa Bashir Abba
Sen. Gershom Bassey
Sen. Binta Masi Garba
Sen. Dr. Jonah D. Jang
Sen. Clifford A. Ordia
Sen. Nelson Effiong
Sen. Nwaboshi Peter
Sen. Jeremiah T. Useni
Sen. George Sekibo
Sen. Emmanuel Paulker
Sen. Joshua Dariye
Sen. Isah Hamma Misau
Sen. Kabiru I. Gaya
Sen. Suleiman Nazif
Sen. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso
Sen. Dr. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi
Sen. Abdulrahman Abubakar
Sen. Tijani Y. Kaura
Sen. Rilwan Adesoji Akanbi
Sen. Abubakar A. Gumel
Sen. Ahmadu Abubakar
Sen. Sabo Mohammed
Sen. Chukwuka Utazi
Sen. Joshua Lidani
Sen. Mao Ohuabunwa
Sen. Osinakachukwu Ideozu
Sen. Godwill Akpabio, *CON*
Sen. Ighoyota Amori
Sen. Rose Oko
Sen. Ben Murray-Bruce
Sen. Mohammed Hassan
Sen. Joseph Obinna Ogba
Sen. Philip A. Gyunka
Sen. Nneji Achonu
Sen. Matthew A. Urhoghide
Sen. Hope Uzodimma
Sen. James Manager
Sen. Olaka Nwogu
Sen. Abdullahi Adamu *CON*
Sen. Barnabas Gemade *OFR*
Sen. Kabiru Garba Marafa
Sen. Abubakar Kyari
Sen. Monsurat Sunmonu
Sen. Mustapha Bukar
Sen. Abdul-Aziz M. Nyako
Sen. Barau I. Jibrin
Sen. Rafiu Ibrahim
Sen. Aliyu M. Wamako
Sen. John Owan Enoh
Sen. Buruji Kashamu
Sen. Sam Anyanwu
Sen. Duro Faseyi
Sen. Shehu Sani
Sen. Bassey Albert Akpan
Sen. Abubakar Sani Danladi
Sen. Laáh Danjuma
Sen. Foster Ogola
Sen. Sam Egwu
Sen. Salihu Hussain Egye
Sen. Theodore A.Orji
Sen. Enyinnaya Abaribe
Sen. Emmanuel Bwacha *CON*
Sen. Suleiman O. Hunkuyi
Sen. Sunday Ogbuoji
Sen. Ahmad Lawan *CON*
Sen. Dr. Ibrahim Gobir
Sen. Isiaka A. Adeleke
Sen. Umaru Kurfi
Sen. Yahaya A. Abdullahi
Sen. Ibrahim A. Sambaba
Sen. Buhari Abdulfatai
Sen. Shehu Sani
Sen. Tayo Alasoadura
Sen. Olarenwaju Tejuoso
Sen. Uche Ekwunife

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The Senate;

Observes the near collapse of the entire road infrastructure in Nigeria;

Concerned that the following roads have collapsed and now pose a threat to the lives of people of Nigeria: Obajana - Kabba road, Kabba - Isanlu - Ilorin road, Iyah - Ayetoro - Kwi - Abuyi - Essan road, Igara - Iyamoye - Omo road, Aba - Ikot-Ekpene - Itu - Calabar highway, Zaria - Guzzau road, Tegina - Mokwa - Kotangora - Rijau - Rofia - Wawa - Kausima road, Sunmau - Oyo - Ogbomoso road, Damasak - Mallam Fatori - Cross Kauwa road, Maiduguri - Monguna - Marte - Dikwa road, Kukawa - Gudunbali - Damasak road, Kaduna Marabanjos - Pambeguwa Lere - Jos road, Zaria - Samaru - Funtua road, Conjestion of traffic on Aya - Nyanya - Mararaba road, Benin - Ore - Shagamu road, Zaria - Katsina - Kano road, Ninth Mile - Nsuka - Makurdi - Lokoja - Abuja road, Enugu - Port-Harcourt road, Enugu - Abakiliki - Calabar road, Enugu - Onitsha road, Onitsha - Owerri - Aba road, Bauchi - Kari - Maiduguri road, Warri - Patini - Yanegoa road, Jos - Makurdi - Oturkpo road, Argungu - Kangiwa - Kamba - Bunza - Kalgo road, Sokoto - Jega - Yawuri - Kontagora road, Lokoja - Okene - Benin road, Lagos - Shagamu - Ibadan Expressway, Hadeja - Nguru - Gashua - Bayamari road.

Observes that several trillions of naira have been spent on road construction and rehabilitation since democracy returned to Nigeria in 1999 with minimal or no impact on our roads;

Observes that the collapse of the road infrastructure has virtually cut off many parts of Nigeria, with its attendant negative impact on trade and commerce;

Observes that the collapse has led to a decline in agricultural activities, adversely affecting the movement of agricultural produce from rural areas to urban centres across the country, resulting in a slide in the country's agricultural output and economy especially now that the country needs to diversify its economy;

Notes with sadness the concomitant loss of lives as a result of the bad state of the roads, as evidenced by the chilling statistics reeled out by the Federal Road Safety Commission which is a price too high and too prohibitive to pay for the failure of governance.

Accordingly resolves to;

i. *Urge* the Federal Government to reorganize the Federal Ministry of Works and its Agencies especially the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) with a view to re-positioning them for the onerous task of rebuilding of the roads;

ii. *Urge* the Federal Government to undertake the immediate rehabilitation and the dualization of major highways and interstate roads across the country;

iii. *Direct* its Committee on Works, when constituted to embark on audit of all road projects across Nigeria with a view to producing raw data for further necessary legislative action;

iv. *Further directs* its Committee on Works when constituted to liaise with the appropriate government Agencies to ensure the rehabilitation or completion of all abandoned and on-going road projects across the country.

2. Indiscriminate Use and Abuse of Waivers for Rice Importation
Sen. Adebayo Rafiu Ibrahim *(Kwara South)*

The Senate,

NOTES, the Federal Government has a policy to encourage agriculture and agriculture business as a deliberate policy to diversify the economy.

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OBSERVES, that this policy especially relating to agriculture has become significantly eroded and gradually made nonsense of by the indiscriminate abusive grant of waivers, concessions and grants especially on rice importation.

OBSERVES, that the flagrant abuse of the waiver scheme has severely eroded the Federal Government's Rice Production Policy by importing huge quantities of the commodity in excess of their approved quota.

NOTES, that during the past recess and during an interactive session with the CBN, the CBN had revealed to the Senate how these importers have overshot their quota and now owe the Federal Government duties running into billions of naira.

OBSERVES, that these importers ordinarily should be paying in addition to the duty on the commodity, a fine of 70 per cent of duties and levies to the Federal Government, the government has failed to implement this directive and denied our people legitimate revenue into the FG coffers.

OBSERVES, that some of the defaulting companies had notwithstanding their default been awarded fresh waivers to import more within the last few days of the previous administration.

OBSERVES, that the Customs Service, which ought to be enforcing compliance to duty and other revenue at the borders, has failed to carry out its mandate and enforce compliance from these defaulters.

ACKNOWLEDGES, that the Federal Government loses annually, N71billion on duty waivers especially to importers of rice, palm oil, energy equipment, steel and vegetable oil.

OBSERVES that in 2011, government gave import duty waivers to 10 rice and palm oil importing companies alone amounting to N150 billion.

ALSO NOTES, that to lose this vast amount of revenue at a time when Nigeria's main source of revenue- oil, has plunged to record lows impacting on the fiscal stability of the country is reckless and does not show that we are serious about driving our economic revival.

OBSERVES that these tax incentives offered to encourage Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) into the country is now doing more harm than good to the economy as monies which could have been invested in public schools, hospitals, roads and other social infrastructure are lost mindlessly without consequences.

Accordingly Resolves:

1. To urge the Federal Government to stop all waivers on rice importation for now and mandate CBN Governor and the Comptroller General of Customs to ensure that all duty due to government is recovered.

2. Set up an ad-hoc committee of the Senate to look into this policy regime and carry out a holistic review to determine the full recovery of all government revenue related to this policy

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3. Invite the CG Customs and the CBN Governor to brief the Senate on this matter and their plan of action to recover all outstanding revenues of government.

4. Urge government to ensure that all defaulting and indicted importers pay back the determined import duty to government.

3. Flood and Erosion Disaster in Awka, Isuanaocha, Obosi and Other Communities of Anambra Central. Sen. Uche Ekwunife *(Anambra Central)*

The Senate,

Notes the serious damage caused by flood and erosion in Awka, Abatete, Isuanaocha, Obosi and other communities of Anambra Central as widely reported in both Electronic and Print media.

Further notes that the flood which was caused by torrential rainfall took lives of innocent Nigerians, leaving many families bereaved and homeless;

Aware that the rain of Tuesday, 28th July 2015 was more devastating as over 30 residential buildings were destroyed; many school buildings were brought down, farmlands were washed away, roads were cut off making it impossible for commuters to gain access to their homes; and market stalls containing valuable goods and properties worth millions of naira were destroyed;

Also aware that about ten communities of Anambra Central which include Ogidi, Abatete, Alor, Ideani, Enekwasumpu, Awada, Odume, Awka, Amawbia, Isuanaocha, Okpuno and others have been ravaged by erosion, landslide and flood within the last three weeks;

Further aware that the families of those that lost their lives in the said erosion, landslide and flood disasters mentioned above, are yet to get support from the Federal Government;

Worried that the many victims involved in the 2012 Nationwide flood and erosion disasters in Anambra State are yet to recover from the havoc caused by the menace;

Concerned that many families and communities displaced by the said disasters are now helpless while many have abandoned their homes for safety in other neighboring communities;

Resolves to:

i. *Urge the* Ad-hoc committee on Works to visit the affected communities and assess the extent of damages.

ii. *Mandate* the Ecological Fund office to immediately pay visits to the affected communities, raise Bill of Quantity and put up measures to remedy the most critical cases.

iii. *Call* on National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials and necessary support to the victims.

iv. *Urge* Anambra State and Local Governments Management Agencies to provide palliative measures to the victims pending when the Federal Government comes up with its intervention.

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