SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Thursday 6th August, 2015

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. 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 in 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;

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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 Government Management Agencies to provide palliative measures to the victims pending when the Federal Government comes up with its intervention.

2. The Ban on Nigeria Agricultural Exports Products by European Union (EU)
Senator Francis Alimikhena *(Edo North)*

The Senate,

Notes with serious concern of the state of Nigerian Economy which at the moment is going through a turbulent period due to reduction in oil income;

Observes that the economy is set for a further slide as a result of the ban on agricultural exports products from Nigeria by European Union;

Notes that the products banned by the EU till June, 2016 are beans, Sesame seeds, Melon seeds, dried Fish, dried meat, peanuts chips and palm oil;

Observes that the rejected beans for instance were found to contain between 0.03mg kilograms to 4.6mg/kg of dichlorvos contrary to acceptable limits;

Notes that the embargo is a reflection of our inability to adhere to global standards and this has come to haunt us at the international level;

Notes further, that overturning the ban requires a firm approach to enforcing standards at all times;

Aware that for some time now the EU has been warning Nigeria that these products constitute danger to human health, as they contain high levels of pesticides as a result of which fifty (50) notifications were issued on the matter and nothing significant was done to reverse the situation. For instance, in 2013, twenty four (24) agro-products of Nigerian origin exported to the UK were rejected while the figure increased to forty two (42) in 2014;

Observes that the EU ban on Nigerian agro-product raises questions on the way and manner we preserve our agricultural products;

Concerned that the EU ban is a setback for a nation that is desperate to expand its export basket to boost domestic agricultural activities, increase forex earnings and create jobs;

Concerned further that the EUs action suggests that our unfavourable balance of trade position with European countries will worsen as we shall be exporting few agricultural products;

Accordingly resolves to:

i. Urge the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control to be alive in its regulatory oversights over food and agricultural products as they are doing with Drugs, to ensure their global acceptance;

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ii. Urge the Ministry of Health, NAFDAC, the Standards Organization of Nigeria and the newly inaugurated National Food Safety Management Committee to see the EU ban as a wake-up call to sanitize food and agricultural products import into Nigeria;

iii. Mandate the Committee on Health when constituted to look into the matter with a view to overturning the EU ban on Nigerian agricultural products.

iv. Urge the Federal and State Government to invest more in the production of agricultural produce for export particularly, cash crops such as cocoa, oil palm, groundnuts, rubber trees, etc which are veritable and historical foreign exchange earners.

3. Land and Water Resources Crisis and the Menace of Typha Grass in Hadejia – Jama'are – Komadugu – Yobe Basin.
Sen. Muhammed U. Shitu *(Jigawa North East)*

Co-Sponsors

Sen. Muhammad Sabo Nakudu
Sen. Ibrahim Abdullahi Gobir
Sen. Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko
Sen. Ahamad Sani Yerima
Sen. Ali Ndume
Sen. Abdul'aziz M. Nyako
Sen. Hussaini S. Tgye
Sen. Shehu Sani
Sen. Godswill Akpabio
Sen. Sonny Ogbuoji
Sen. Athan Achonu
Sen. Joshua Dariye
Sen. Muhammad Shaba Lafiagi
Sen. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso
Sen. Muhammad Wakili
Sen. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi
Sen. Osinakachuku Ideozu
Sen. S. Hunkuyi
Sen. Jeremiah Useni
Sen. Omotayo Alasoadura
Sen. Abdullahi Gumel
Sen. Ibrahim A. Danbaba
Sen. Muhammad A. Aleiro
Sen. David Umaru
Sen. Abubakar Kyari
Sen. Rafiu Adedayo Ibrahim
Sen. Francis A. Alidukhena
Sen. Kabiru Gaya
Sen. Dr. Yahaya Abdullahi
Sen. Barau Jibrin
Sen. Biodun Olajimi
Sen. Andy Uba
Sen. Salihu H. Egye
Sen. Ohiare
Sen. Abdullahi Adamu
Sen. Sen. Ben Murray
Sen. Ahmad Abubakar
Sen. Nwaoboshi Peter
Sen. Abu Ibrahim
Sen. Rilwan Adasoji Akanbi
Sen. Ahmad Lawal
Sen. Mustapha Bukar
Sen. Bala Ibn Na Allah
Sen. Danjuma Goje
Sen. Binta Masi Garba
Sen. Dino Melaye
Sen. Yele Omogunwa
Sen. Prince Ola Tejaoso
Sen. Tijjani T. Kaura
Sen. Dr. Sam Ogu
Sen. Mathew Urhoghide
Sen. Joshua Lidani
Sen. Marafa B. Abba
Sen. Bukar A. Ibrahim
Sen. Isah Hamma Misau
Sen. Mao Ohuabunwa
Sen. Cliford A Orda
Sen. Abdul Abubakar
Sen. Barnabas Gemade
Sen. Mohammed Hassan

The Senate,

NOTES with serious concern the devastating damages the typha grass an obnoxious invasive weed, which has done to most of the water ways and bodies in the Kano-Hadejia-Nguru irrigation schemes and floodplains;

OBSERVES that three out of the four channels on the River Hadejia system which wends its way through the Hadejia – Ngruru wetlands are currently blocked as a result of prolonged siltation and the spread of typha grass;

AWARE that the change in the pattern of river flow has a considerable impact on the Hadejia – Nguru Wetlands such that large swathes of the wetlands were transformed into arid wastelands while others have become inhospitable marshlands resulting in widespread losses in reproductivity and damage to homes, schools, roads, and electricity infrastructure;

FURTHER AWARE that over 60% of the productive Fadama land has been taken over by Typha grass in Jigawa State. The figure is as high as 80% around the Madachi area of Kirikasamma Local Government thereby shrinking the productivity in Fadama agriculture to only 4% of its former value;

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OBSERVES that the blockages of river channels have given rise to loss of water flow into the River Yobe and therefore the Lake Chad. This development is of great concern to the communities living in Yobe, Northern Borno, South Chad and the Baga irrigation scheme;

OBSERVES that the menace of typha grass in the Hadejia-Nguru wetlands has also affected fishing activities an area which has contributed 6% of Nigeria's inland fish sales has now been reduced to only 0.6% with most of the fish ponds having dried up, and the lush typha grass providing a convenient and hiding place to the remaining few;

FURTHER OBSERVES that much uncultivated land has also disappeared under increasing flooding arising from typha grass invasion, thereby depriving pastoralists and farmers of more and more lands for their respective occupations, giving rise to conflicts over depleting resource, which concomitantly resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives and billions naira worth of properties.

NOTES that the spread of typha grass did brought with it an increase in the population of quelea birds, which inflicts devastation over cereal and crops in addition to providing habitat for mosquitoes and snakes leading to increase in incidence of Malaria and bilarzia in the populace and the spread of liver flukes in their livestock,

AWARE that various attempts at tackling the menace by local community , affected states government and some international organization like the International Union for conservation of nature (IUCN), European Union (EU) and the Department for International Development (DFID) proved abortive;

Accordingly resolves to:

i. Urge the Federal Government to intervene with a view to providing a lasting solution to the typha grass challenges.

Call on the Federal Ministry of water resources to:

- Increase the capacity of the valves of Tiga Dam for improved storage and management of water releases to optimally provide for the water supply needs of Kano City while re-establishing the natural drying out cycle of river channels in the wetlands
- Protect Challawa Dam from early siltation by putting in place an effective catchments management plan to control erosion of its upstream areas
- Call on the Senate to direct the relevant committee to undertake an assessment of the current situation in the areas i.e Kano Jigawa and Yobe.
- Improve the efficiency of the intake structures of the Kano City Water Supply on the Kano River by building a weir across the river to raise the water level to that of the intake ponds.
- Dredge the Hadejia Barrage to improve its dead storage capacity, which has been considerably reduced by siltation and typha grass invasion
- Open up the existing blocked water channels in the HJKYB to increase flow rates and reduce flooding
- Take control measures on the river channels to ensure even flow and control of over flooding of farming areas
- Establish an interim programme of periodic cutting and burning of the typha grass in affected wetlands communities to curtail further invasion of farmlands and river channels.

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4. Danger posed to Rural Bank Customers by the Bank Verification Exercise.
Sen. Biodun Olujimi *(Ekiti South)*

The Senate;

Notes that the Central Bank of Nigeria Bank Verification Number (BVN) Solution is aimed at providing a central database for the Country's Bank Customers;

Appreciates that Bank Verification Number will help the bank system reduce situation where loan defaulters for instance, move from one bank to the other and the Banks extend new credit to them, without knowing their history, Banks would be able to track transactions across all banks in Nigeria with more ease.

Further aware: that BVN uses biometrics technology to register customer in the financial system, it records these physical feature which are unique to individuals - Finger Print and Face. The major objectives of the initiative are to protect bank customers, reduce fraud and strengthen the Nigeria Bank System.

Informed that Customers of Banks are required to enroll within a fixed period after which they shall no longer be able to operate their bank account.

Worried that the ongoing Biometric Verification Number (BVN) may deny rural banks customers access to banking activities

Concerned that the people in the rural areas are not carried along due to the inability to access print and electronic media e.t.c

Further Concerned: that the enlightenment /Campaign awareness of the exercise is only limited to the educated elite and those living in the cities and towns.

To ensure that the Campaign/Awareness and important of Bank Verification Number exercise is taken to the door steps of our rural areas.

Accordingly Resolves

i. To urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to carry out a vigorous campaign/awareness of the exercise in rural areas.

ii. To direct the committee on Banking and Currency when constituted to invite the CBN to explain the journey so far in the exercise and report back to the Senate.

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