SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 6th August, 2015

1. The Senate met at 10:33 a.m. The Senate President read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 5th August, 2015.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**
(a) Demise of Senator Christopher Nshi:
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Samuel O. Egwu (*Ebonyi North*) as follows:

H.E. Senator Dr. Sam O. Egwu (CON)
Ebonyi North Senatorial District

NASS/8SEN/SE/NOTO1/6/8/15

August 6th, 2015
Sen (Dr) Bukola Saraki,
President of the Senate,
Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

NOTIFICATION OF THE DEMISE OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER NSHI

It is with heavy heart, but in total submission to the will of the Almighty God, I write to notify you and the entire Nigerian Senate of the demise of Distinguished Senator Christopher Nshi who passed unto glory on the 23rd July, 2015 at his country home Obulechi, Agbaja, Umuphu village in Izzi Umuphu community of Abakiliki Local Government Area of Ebonyi state after a protracted illness. He is survived by his wife and six children.

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Late Distinguished Senator Christopher Nshi represented the good people of Ebonyi North Senatorial District from 2003 - 2007 in the fifth Assembly and served as Chairman, Senate Committee on Aviation during this period.

Funeral arrangements will be communicated to the Senate as soon as the family avails me with the details please.

Accept the assurances of my warmest regard.

(Signed)
Senator (Dr) Sam Egwu, CON

(b) Request for Contributions:
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade (*Benue North East*) as follows:

SENATOR DR. BARNABAS A. I. GEMADE OFR, FNSE
(Nom Iyange U Tiv)
Benue North East Senatorial District

NASS/S/ACW/6 *5th August, 2015*

His Excellency,
The President of the Senate,
National Assembly,
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON WORKS: REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

This is to inform Distinguished Senators that the Ad-hoc Committee on Works has commenced work in respect of the mandate for which the Committee was constituted.

Consequently, Senators who are desirous of making contributions are please requested to do so in writing and submit to the office of the Clerk to the Committee in Room 4.7, 4th Floor, White House on or before Monday, 10th August, 2015,

Whilst counting on your timely response to facilitate the speedy completion of the tasks at hand, please accept the assurance of my esteemed Regards.

(Signed)
Sen. Barnabas Gemade
Chairman.

(c) Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senators Caucus Meeting:
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Godswill O. Akpabio (*Akwa Ibom North-West*) as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Minority Leader

6 August 2015

NOTICE OF MEETING

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senate Caucus shall meet at Hearing Room I, immediately after this sitting.

(Signed)
Senator G. Akpabio

4. Ad-Hoc Committee on Review of the Finance of the Senate:
Report on Review of the Finance of the Senate:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the report of the *ad-hoc* Committee on Review of the Finance of the Senate (*Senator James E. Manager — Delta South*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

5. Motions:

(a) ***Flood and Erosion Disaster in Awka, Isuanaocha, Obosi and Other Communities of Anambra Central:***
Motion made: That 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; and

concerned that many families and communities displaced by the said disasters are now helpless while many have abandoned their homes for safety in other neighbouring communities.

Resolves to:

(*i*) urge the *ad-hoc* Committee on Works to visit the affected communities and assess the extent of damage;

(*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; and

(*iv*) urge Anambra State and Local Government Emergency Management Agencies to provide palliative measures to the victims pending when the Federal Government comes up with its intervention (*Senator Uche L. Ekwunife — Anambra Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do urge the *ad-hoc* Committee on Works to visit the affected communities and assess the extent of damage — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do 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 — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do call on National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials and necessary support to the victims — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do urge Anambra State and Local Government Emergency Management Agencies to provide palliative measures to the victims pending when the Federal Government comes up with its intervention — *Negatived*.

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(*i*) urge the *ad-hoc* Committee on Works to visit the affected communities and assess the extent of damage;

(*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; and

(*iii*) call on National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials and necessary support to the victims ***(S/Res/012/01/15)***.

(b) The Ban on Nigeria Agricultural Exports Products by European Union (EU):
Motion made: That 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/kg 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; and

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 to its regulatory oversights over food and agricultural products as they are doing with Drugs, to ensure their global acceptance;

(*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; and

(*iv*) urge the Federal and State Governments 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 (*Senator Francis A. Alimikhena — Edo North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do urge the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control to be alive to its regulatory oversights over food and agricultural products as they are doing with drugs, to ensure their global acceptance — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do 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.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the Provision in Proposed Resolution (*ii*) and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"urge the Ministry of Health; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC); the Standards Organization of Nigeria: National Institute for Chemical Research, Zaria 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 and export into and out of Nigeria" (*Senator Muhammad U. Shitu — Jigawa North-East).*

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

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Health, when constituted, to look into the matter with a view to overturning the EU ban on Nigerian agricultural products.

Amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word "Health" in line 1, *insert* the words "and Agriculture and Rural Development" (*Senator Isiaka A. Adeleke — Osun West).*

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

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal and State Governments 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 — *Negatived.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:
Insert additional Proposed Resolution as follows:
"Urge the Extension Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to embark on massive education and enlightenment of our largely illiterate farmers on issues of safety and standards" (*Senator Duro A. Faseyi — Ekiti North).*

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

Resolved:
That the Senate do:
(*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;

(*ii*) urge the Ministry of Health; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC); the Standards Organization of Nigeria; National Institute for Chemical Research, Zaria 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 and export into and out of Nigeria;

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Health; and Agriculture and Rural Development, when constituted, to look into the matter with a view to overturning the EU ban on Nigerian agricultural products; and

(*iv*) urge the Extension Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to embark on massive education and enlightenment of our largely illiterate farmers on issues of safety and standards***(S/Res/013/01/15)***.

(c) Land and Water Resources Crisis and the Menace of Typha Grass in Hadejia - Jama'are - Komaciugu- Yobe Basin:

Motion made: That the Senate notes with serious concern the devastating damage 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 flood plains;

observes that three out of the four channels on the River Hadejia system which wends its way through the Hadejia-Nguru 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;

observes that the blockage 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 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 of 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; and

aware that various attempts at tackling the menace by local community, affected State Governments 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; and

(*ii*) call on the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to:

(*a*) 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;

(*b*) protect Challawa Dam from early siltation by putting in place an effective catchment management plan to control erosion of its upstream areas;

(*c*) 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;

(*d*) 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;

(*e*) dredge the Hadejia Barrage to improve its dead storage capacity, which has been considerably reduced by siltation and typha grass invasion;

(*f*) open up the existing blocked water channels in the HJKYB to increase flow rates and reduce flooding;

(*g*) take control measures on the river channels to ensure even flow and control of over flooding of farming areas; and

(*h*) establish an interim programme of periodic cutting and burning of the typha grass in affected wetland communities to curtail further invasion of farmlands and river channels (*Senator Muhammed U. Shitu — Jigawa North East*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to intervene with a view to providing a lasting solution to the typha grass challenges — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do call on the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to:

(*a*) 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;

(*b*) protect Challawa Dam from early siltation by putting in place an effective catchment management plan to control erosion of its upstream areas;

(*c*) 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;

Amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word "Yobe" in line 3, *insert* the word "Borno" (*Senator Samuel O. Egwu — Ebonyi North*).

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

(*d*) 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;

(*e*) dredge the Hadejia Barrage to improve its dead storage capacity, which has been considerably reduced by siltation and typha grass invasion;

(*f*) open up the existing blocked water channels in the HJKYB to increase flow rates and reduce flooding;

(*g*) take control measures on the river channels to ensure even flow and control of over flooding of farming areas; and

(*h*) establish an interim programme of periodic cutting and burning of the typha grass in affected wetland communities to curtail further invasion of farmlands and river channels.

Additional Proposed Resolution:
Insert additional Proposed Resolution as follows:
"Urge the Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority and the Lake Chad Basin to support the Federal Ministry of Water Resources in undertaking the said assignments" (*Senator Mustapha Bukar — Katsina North*).

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

Resolved:
That the Senate do:
(*i*) urge the Federal Government to intervene with a view to providing a lasting solution to the typha grass challenges; and

(*ii*) call on the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to:
(*a*) 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;

(*b*) protect Challawa Dam from early siltation by putting in place an effective catchment management plan to control erosion of its upstream areas;

(*c*) call on the Senate to direct the relevant Committee to undertake an assessment of the current situation in the areas i.e. Kano, Jigawa, Yobe and Borno;

(*d*) 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;

(*e*) dredge the Hadejia Barrage to improve its dead storage capacity, which has been considerably reduced by siltation and typha grass invasion;

(*f*) open up the existing blocked water channels in the HJKYB to increase flow rates and reduce flooding;

(*g*) take control measures on the river channels to ensure even flow and control of over flooding of farming areas; and

(*h*) establish an interim programme of periodic cutting and burning of the typha grass in affected wetland communities to curtail further invasion of farmlands and river channels; and

(iii) Urge the Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority and the Lake Chad Basin to support the Federal Ministry of Water Resources in undertaking the said assignments ***(S/Res/014/01/15)***.

(d) Danger posed to Rural Bank Customers by the Bank Verification Exercise:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

6. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 11th August, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:45 *p.m.*

Abubakar Olubukola Saraki, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.