SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Tuesday, 11th August, 2015

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

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation Act (Amendment) Bill 2015 (SB. 33) -*First Reading*
   Sen. Babajide Omoworare *(Osun East)*

2. Chartered Institute of Entrepreneurs (Establishment, etc) Bill 2015. (SB. 7) -*First Reading.*
   Sen. Gobir Ibrahim *(Sokoto East)*

3. National Centre for Cancer Research and Treatment Bill 2015 (SB. 10) -*First Reading*
   Sen. Mao Ohuabunwa *(Abia North)*

4. Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (Establishment, etc) Bill 2015 (SB. 14)-*First Reading.*
   Sen. Uche Ekwunife *(Anambra Central)*

5. Electronic Transaction Bill 2015 (SB. 15)-*First Reading.*
   Sen. Hope Uzodinma (OON) *(Imo West)*

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1. Confirmation of Nomination:
   Senator Ali Ndume *(Senate Leader)*
   "That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-In-Chief, for the Confirmation of Mr. Abdullahi Kaugama as a Resident Electoral Commissioner *(Jigawa State)* in the Independent National Electoral Commission in accordance with Section 143 of the Third Schedule of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as Amended.

MOTIONS

1. 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;

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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 to:

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

ii. *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.

2. Unfair Trade Practices of Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs) in Nigeria:
Sen. Sam Egwu (Ebonyi North)
Co-sponsor: Sen. David Umaru *(Niger East)*

The Senate:

NOTES that the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) was established to among others to license and regulate persons engaged in the generation, transmission, system operation distribution and trading of electricity.

NOTES also that the same Commission was empowered by section 32 (1) (*d*) of its enabling legal regime to ensure that the prices charged by licensees are fair to costumers and are sufficient to allow the licensees to finance their activities and allow for reasonable earnings for efficient operation.

AWARE that the Commission in exercising its powers, under section 32 (2) (d) of the Power Sector Reform Act NERC licensed a number of Companies as Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs) in the Nigerian Electricity Industry;

AWARE also that the Distribution companies since the takeoff of their operation has been ripping off consumers through fixed charges and bulk metering across the country;

NOTE FURTHER that some areas in the Country are still billed through the estimated billing system, which doesn't make provision for payment of only electricity that is consumed, even though bills are dished out without commensurate services being offered by the distribution companies.

CONCERNED that despite all efforts by the government however, there has been constant level of arbitrariness, whereby electricity consumers are charged extortionate rates, fixed rate, based on the use of the billed meters installed by the then Power Holding Company of Nigeria.

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CONCERNED FURTHER that with the present economic situation in Nigeria, a lot of Nigerians (particularly the down trodden) would not be able to access one of the very basic needs of life (electricity). This billing system is also capable of ruining the economic power of most small-scale business that requires electricity to function.

ALSO CONCERNED that even those (Nigerians) that have this prepaid meters are being billed a fixed rate of about 700naira per month on this meters (whether or not they consume electricity. What is the purpose of this fixed rate? Why is this so? What is the rationale behind it?

DISTURBED by the avalanche of complaints by electricity consumers about the unwholesome practices of the DISCOs which fall short of standards established by the National Electricity Regulatory Commission and do not also meet up to global best practices, thereby failing in the discharge of their contractual obligations to the Nigerian public;

Accordingly Resolves to:

(i) *URGE* the National Electricity Regulatory Commission to inquire into numerous complaints before it by consumers in line with the provision of section 74 subsection (1) (b) of the Power Sector Reform Act

(ii) *URGE* the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to immediately enforce the abolishment of fixed charges being collected from electricity consumers across the nation;

(*iii*) *URGE* to direct the Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs) to discontinue the practice of compulsory bulk metering of villages and communities in the rural areas as a consumer should have the right to elect to be part of bulk metering scheme or not;

(*iv*) *CALL* on National Electricity Regulatory Commission to sensitize electricity consumers on the remedies available to them in the event of inefficient services by the Distribution Companies;

(*v*) *DIRECT* NERC to make a regulation to mandate the DISCOs to discontinue the practice of making consumers pay for meters, poles and transformers which by law, are properties of the DISCOs; but where the consumers purchase those items, they should give notice of the purchase to the DISCOs and should be entitled to recover their expenses from subsequent consumption of electricity;

(*vi*) *EQUALLY CALL* on NERC to bring an end to the monopoly of DISCOs on the sales of energy meters to enable consumers purchase them either from the DISCOs or from any other supplier, subject to the regulation and specification of the NERC; and to also account for all monies that has been so far collected on fixed charges across the country.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Railway Corporation Act, Cap N129, Law of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Enact the Nigerian Railway Act, to Provide for the Regulation of the Railway Sector, and for Related Matters 2015 (SB. 1) – *Second Reading*
Sen. Andy Uba, MFR *(Anambra South)*

2. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the design, development installation and management of a robust Crime and Criminal Tracking system for the Nigeria Police to enhance National Security through automation of Criminal records with biometric identification information for background security checks, crime investigation, and prosecution, and counter-terrorism and for Related Matters 2015 (SB. 3) – *Second Reading*
Sen. Hope Uzodimma *(Imo West)*

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THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NOTICE PAPER

Tuesday 11th August 2015

Wednesday 12th August, 2015

1. Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda for the Senate
Sen. Ali Ndume *(Senate Leader)*
"That the Senate do receive the Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda for the Senate"
(To be laid)

2. *Briefing by the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria*
Sen. Ali Ndume, *(Senate Leader)*
"That the Senate do receive the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Dr. Godwin Emefiele for briefing on the naira depreciation and the State of the Economy"

3. Motion: Disconnection of Maiduguri from the National Grid and the General Power Degeneration in Nigeria
Sen. Ali Ndume *(Senate Leader)*

The Senate:

NOTES with serious concern the disconnection of Maiduguri from the National grid and the general power degeneration across the country;

NOTES with sadness the hardship and sufferings of the people occasioned by the lack of electricity supply. This includes but not limited to –

i. Loss of lives in the hospital and clinics without alternative sources of power;

ii. Loss of means of livelihood by workers whose business are solely dependent on constant electricity supply;

iii. High cost of production by industries relying on alternative sources of power;

iv. Threat to national security due to inability to operate installed surveillance equipment.

OBSERVES that the disconnection of Maiduguri from the National grid and the general degeneration of power supply across the country have led to the collapse of several industries which is impacting negatively on the national economy;

OBSERVES that the Federal Government has since spent several billions of Dollars from 1999 to date on power generation with nothing to show for it;

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CONCERNED that in spite of this huge sum of money, Nigeria a country with a population of over one hundred and eighty (180) million people produces only three thousand (3, 000) mega watts amounting to one (1) kilo watt to forty five (45) people while South Africa with a population of about forty (40) million people produces forty thousand (40, 000) mega watts with additional eleven thousand (11, 000) mega watts to come on stream;

WORRIED that with an installed power generation potential of about five thousand (5, 000) mega watts, the output today is a mere one thousand, nine hundred and fifty (1, 950) mega watts of energy while countries like Iran with a population of seventy million (70, 000) generates about forty two thousand (42, 000) mega watts and South Korea with a population of about thirty five million (35) generates about sixty thousand (60, 000) mega watts of electricity.

NOTES the need for the Nation to have alternative sources of power as there are limitations in over-dependence on thermal power with incessant vandalization of Gas pipelines;

NOTES the abundant coal deposits in Enugu, Kogi and Benue States which can be explored, and sustain the revival of Oji River Power Station and Construction of new Power Stations;

NOTES that wind and solar powered energy can be successfully harnessed in our environment to add to the pool of energy sources;

NOTES the need to ensure that the existing Power Stations, Egbim, Afam, Kainji etc are maintained and functioning to their full capacities;

DETERMINED to ensure that this steady decline into total darkness is reversed and our people made to enjoy one of the basic necessities of modern life;

CONCERNED that the Agency responsible for provision of electricity in Nigeria, the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) has proved incapable of discharging its duties.

Accordingly resolves,

i. Direct Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to immediately reconnect Maiduguri back to the National grid;

ii. Set up an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate without delay the management of the funds appropriated for the power sector since 1999;

iii. Strongly deplore the inability of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to provide continuous and uninterrupted power supply to all parts of the country;

iv. Direct its Committee on Power to investigate the reasons for this inability of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to provide continuous uninterrupted power supply and report back to the Senate

4. Motion: The Worrisome and Unstable Position of Nigeria Aviation Industry
Sen. Bala Ibn Na'Allah (Kebbi South)

The Senate:

NOTES with serious concern the almost near crisis in the aviation sector with domestic airlines requesting for bailout off recent.

AWARE that there has been previous intervention by past governments to grant the same bailout to some domestic airlines which were greatly misused and has failed to yield commencing operations.

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The Senate do hereby resolve to undertake a holistic investigation of the circumstances and reasons militating against the healthy growth of the aviation industry in Nigeria and make recommendation there in.

2. *To* look into desirability or otherwise of granting bailout to the existing airlines and make recommendations.

3. *To* make holistic overview of the industry and to make recommendations for repositioning of the industry to meet and to compete favourably internationally

5. *Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Review of the Finance of the Senate*
Sen. James E. Manager *(Delta South)*
"That the Senate do consider the report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the Finance of the Senate".

Thursday, 13th August, 2015

1. *Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda for the Senate*
Sen. Ali Ndume *(Senate Leader)*
"That the Senate do consider the Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda for the Senate".

2. Motion: The Need for the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation to Substantially Increase the Allocation of Refined and Imported Petroleum Products to Warri, Port-Harcourt and Calabar Depots *(Senator Chukwuka Utazi, Enugu North)*

The Senate:

AWARE that the Downstream Sector of the Petroleum Industry is concerned with the supply and distribution of petroleum products to Government and Private Depots and Tank Farms from which the products are trucked to filling stations across the country for sale to the consuming public.

NOTES that following a high incidence of vandalism of petroleum products pipelines under the supervisory custody of the Petroleum Products Marketing Company (PPMC), a subsidiary of NNPC, across the country, especially those pipelines under System 2e comprised of Depots in Port-Harcourt, Aba, Calabar, Enugu and Makurdi, PPMC made some operational adjustments which entailed the use of Government and Privately-owned Coastal Depots and Tank Farms for the storage and distribution of petroleum products to Major and Independent marketers across the country for retail to final consumers in the supply and demand chain.

OBSERVES that NNPC via PPMC has mostly used coastal Depots in Lagos and environs for storage and distribution of petroleum products across the country triggering a situation where private operators in the Downstream Sector jostle for spaces in the Apapa – Lagos axis for the erection of Tank Farms to enable them have access to the products with the attendant congestion and traffic upheavals.

OBSERVES that as a consequence of NNPC's preference of Lagos as their distribution hub, almost all major and Independent Marketers now troop to Apapa/Lagos to lift petroleum products resulting in the recurring damages to roads, innumerable road crashes caused by the movement of heavy tankers and the attendant loss of countless lives and property, perennial waste of man-hours caused by vehicular gridlocks on the highways and within the cities where these vehicles operate.

INFORMED that Major and Independent petroleum products Marketers from the North East, North West, North Central, South East and parts of the South South zones of the country who, were they offered an option, may have calculated the logistics of distance and may have preferred lifting from the Coastal depots and Tank Farms in Port Harcourt, Calabar and Warri are left with no option but to embark on the long distances to Lagos and environs for these products.

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RECOGNISING that a determined repair of the vandalised petroleum products pipelines under System 2e that links Aba, Enugu and Makurdi Depots would diversify the economic choices of downstream operators who may wish to make use of the facilities

WORRIED that NNPC has not shown sufficient enthusiasm in the repair of those pipelines as it has shown in the consistent repair of vandalised pipelines in other parts of the country.

COGNISANT of the danger posed to the environment, the populace and the economic life of Lagos with the recurring tanker accidents as a result of congestion and gridlocks as attested to by many stakeholders and has been a subject of a motion on the floor of this Senate and therefore recognising the need to obviate this source of danger to our people.

AWARE that increasing the supply of petroleum products to other lifting points across all the coastal lines of this country is not only an economic issue but of security importance as well.

Accordingly resolves to:

i. URGE the NNPC to, as a matter of urgent public importance, increase the allocation of refined and imported petroleum products to Depots and Tank Farms in Warri, Port-Harcourt and Calabar Depots to about 70% of national consumption need.

ii. URGE the NNPC to prioritise the repair and renovation of vandalised pipelines from Port-Harcourt linking Aba, Enugu and Makurdi Depots for immediate resumption of operations in these facilities.

iii. CALL on the Security Services to step up security surveillance of petroleum products pipelines throughout the country.

iv. URGE the Federal Government to adequately fund the NNPC to enable it replace the outdated pipelines currently in use with modern pipes with in-built wave-lengths for ease of surveillance.

3. Motion: The Outbreak of Cholera in Nigeria and Resurgence of Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia and Threat to the Sub Region
Sen. Sonni Ogbuoji *(Ebonyi South)*

The Senate;

NOTES, with serious concern the recent outbreak of Cholera in some states of the country such as Ebonyi, Plateau, Rivers, Bayelsa, etc. The outbreak as at July, 2015 had claimed more than 135 lives in the affected states.

NOTES also, a recent World Health Organisation's warning that the threat of a cholera outbreak is a major public concern in Nigeria and some developing countries due largely to insecurity and internal displacement.

AWARE that lack of portable drinking water and toilet facilities is a precondition for the outbreak of cholera and other preventable diseases.

AWARE Also, that IDP camps especially Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Abuja and many other communities in the country lack good drinking water and functional toilet facilities, hence making the inhabitants vulnerable to the outbreak of epidemic diseases.

CONCERNED about the resurgence of Ebola Haemorrhegic fever, commonly known as Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in some African countries, especially Liberia after about two months the country was certified Ebola free by the World Health Organisation.

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FURTHER CONCERNED, that Ebola Virus Disease is an epidemic with an average fatality rate of about 50% whose rate varied between 25% to 90% in the past, according to the World Health Organisation.

WORRIED that WHO July 29th, 2015 Ebola report update shows that over 2000 contact persons are quarantined and monitored in three West African countries of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

MOSTLY WORRIED, that the Nigerian public do not imbibe standard personal hygiene practices such as regular hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, and other preventive practices.

Accordingly resolves to:

(i) *CALL* on relevant Federal and State ministries and agencies to as a matter of urgency provide portable drinking water and toilet facilities to various IDP camps and cholera ravaged communities across the country;

(ii) *URGE* the Federal Government to strengthen surveillance operations across entry points, IDP camps and communities in Nigeria to prevent possible re-occurrence of cholera and Ebola epidemics;

(iii) *CALL* on relevant government agencies to step up public enlightenment campaigns on personal hygiene, prevention and treatment of Cholera, Ebola virus, and other preventable diseases.;

(iv) *URGE* the Federal and State governments to equip health and treatment centers in Nigeria and strengthen the capacity of health workers for outbreak investigation, risk assessment, contact tracing and clinical care.

4. Motion: Worrisome State of Rent in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)
Sen. Nazif Suleiman *(Bauchi North)*

The Senate,

Worried of the high cost of rent in the FCT despite the various measures introduced by the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) to combat the situation;

Observes that resident of the FCT have on many occasion drawn the attention of government to the activities of the private developers soliciting for pragmatic approaches to high rent rate and other sundry issues bothering on accommodation in the FCT;

Notes that the same private developers connive with key government staff of the FCDA to drain residents of their meager resources by incestuously creating strategies of sky-rocketing the cost of houses in the FCT;

Observes that the preoccupation of the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory Administration is land business ranging from selling of land, land swapping and demolition of houses in the name of providing decent accommodation for residents at affordable rate;

Observes also that the land meant for Nigerians residing in the FCT and those who intend to live in the FCT at affordable rate to build and own houses have been converted into a precious business;

Observes that more than 60% of FCT residents resides in satellite towns, suburbs and villages where they are subjected to all forms of hardship from exorbitant rents without anything close to decent or reasonably affordable houses while the numbers of completed, tastefully furnished state of the art Structures are steadily on the increase in the FCT;

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Aware that housing is one of the basic needs of life, good and affordable houses should be the responsibility of a government that cares for the needs of its Citizens.

Accordingly resolves,

i. Mandate the FCT Administration to as a matter of urgency review its acquisition policy and property ownership rights with a view to including property tax on all unoccupied buildings in the FCT to stem the tide of people keeping buildings they ought to have rented out;

ii. Urge the Federal Government to urgently set up a Committee to verify and audit landed property in the FCT with a view to proposing a framework for the establishment of a landed property bank in the FCT;

iii. Set up an Ad-hoc Committee to look into the high cost of rent in the FCT;

iv. Invite the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Federal Capital Administration to brief the Senate on the way out of the high rent rate in the FCT;

v. To urge the Federal Government to mandate properties Owners in the FCT to accept one year rent instead of a two years advance rent.

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