SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Thursday 13th August, 2015

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF A REPORT

1. Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Local and Foreign Debts on the Edo State Development Policy Operation II Credit Facility of USD 75 Million from the World Bank.
Sen. Kabiru Gaya *(Kano South)*
"That the Senate do consider the Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Local and Foreign Debts on the Edo State Development Policy Operation II Credit Facility of USD 75 Million from the World Bank".

MOTIONS

1. 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. Which includes but not limited to -

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

ii. Loss of means of livelihood by workers whose businesses 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 impacts negatively on the national economy;

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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;

CONCERNED that in spite of this huge sums of money, a country with a population of over one hundred and fifty (150) million people produces only 4,600 mega watts 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 distributed today is about 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 carry out a holistic investigation on the management of the funds appropriated for the power sector since 1999; and the unbundling of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN);

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

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2. 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.

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.

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

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

3. 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.
Sen. 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.

4. Worrisome State of Rent in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)
Sen. Suleiman Nazif *(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;

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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;

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 to,

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

5. Jambs' New Admission Policy
Sen. Joshua M. Lidani *(Gombe South)*

NOTES that the Joint Admission Matriculation Board (JAMB) was established to among other things to administer a centralized admission system for Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education in Nigeria;

NOTES also, that the same Board was empowered by its enabling legal regime by section 5 (1)(C) (iii) to among other things, conduct matriculation examinations for admission into all Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education and also include the placement of suitable qualified candidates in the tertiary Institutions having taken into account, the preferences expressed or otherwise indicated by candidates for certain tertiary Institutions and courses;

AWARE, that JAMB at its 2015 Combined Policy Meeting held on July 14, 2015 in Abuja, announced the adoption of a policy whereby candidates of Universities with surplus applicants for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examinations (UTME) are reassigned to other Universities with lower number of candidates than their capacities;

OBSERVES: that the benefits of the policy according to JAMB is that

a. It will be beneficial to needy Universities, that is Universities with lower number of candidates than their capacities as this will ensure that those Universities will have more candidates to admit.

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b. Candidates will have better chances for admission in the Universities they are re-assigned to contrary to situations where they would have to wait for admission in the Universities of their first choices which may not materialize and hence forfeit admission for that session.

CONCERNED, that following the announcement of the new policy, the Board was faced with series of massive protest by parents and candidates of and some Organizations like the Association of Tutorial School Operators of Nigeria over the JAMB new Admission Policy and numerous other stakeholders;

FURTHER CONCERNED, that the new policy runs contrary to the letters and spirit of section 5(1) (c) iii of the JAMB Act which requires that JAMB should take into account preferences of the candidates in their choices of Schools and the consequent confusion surrounding the directive that only candidates whose names are forwarded to the University by JAMB are eligible for Post UTME screening and others would have to go back to JAMB website to find out their new Institutions;

WORRIED, that although the Federal Ministry of Education has suspended the implementation of this policy, it is observed that JAMB is still going ahead with implementation thus creating more hardship for parents and uncertainty in the education sector;

FURTHER WORRIED, that some of the candidates are posted to private Universities whose fees are beyond the means of the student parents or guardians and in some cases students are posted to Universities located far away from their places of abode thus placing additional financial burden on their parents.

Accordingly resolves to:

i. *Urge* JAMB to revert to the status quo ante.

ii. *Urge* JAMB to consult widely with Parents Teacher Associations, ASUU and all others stakeholders in the education sector with a view to coming out with a friendlier holistic, comprehensive and sustainable admissions policy.

iii. *Direct* the Senate Committee on Education to inquire into circumstances surrounding the JAMB policy including all allegations of favoritism and generally, review the power of JAMB vis a vis admissions.

6. 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)*

Co-sponsors:

Sen. Kabir G. Marafa	Sen. Robert Boroffice, CON	Sen. Nwaoboshi Peter
Sen. Obinna Ogba	Sen. Joshua Lidani	Sen. Mau Ohuabunwa
Sen. Uche Ekwunife	Sen. Fatimat Ragi-Rasaki	Sen. Hope Uzodimma
Sen. Gilbert Nnaji	Sen. Andy Uba	Sen. Ahmad Rufai Sani, CON
Sen. Abdullahi Adamu, CON	Sen. Biodun Olujimi	Sen. Philip T. Aduda, MFR

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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.

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.

COMMITTEE MEETING

	Committee	*Date*	*Time*	*Venue*
1.	Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions	Thursday, 13th August, 2015	2.00pm	Committee Room 120 Senate New Building

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