The Senate
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NOTICE PAPER

Wednesday, 7th October, 2015

Thursday, 8th October, 2015

1. The Need to Urgently Seek the Resuscitation of Collapsed and Ailing Industries as Well as the Establishment of New ones to Rejuvenate The Economy.

Sen. Barau I. Jibrin

Co-Sponsors:
Sen. Mohammed M. Kwankwaso R.  
Sen. Adeleke Isiaka Adetunji  
Sen. Olamilekan Adeola S.  
Sen. Jang Jonah David  
Sen. Sani Shehu  
Sen. Kyari Abubakar  
Sen. Orji Theodore A.  
Ordia Clifford A.  
Sen. Oduah Stella Adaeba  
Sen. Ideozu Osinakachukwu  
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Sen. Manager James Ebiowou  
Sen. Nwaboshi Peter  
Sen. Akpan Bassey Albert  
Sen. Kaura Tijjani Yahaya  
Sen. Hussain Salihu Egye  
Sen. Mohammed U. Shittu  
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Sen. Dariye Joshua Chibi  
Sen. Hunkuyi Sulaiman O.  
Sen. Ndume Mohammed Ali  
Sen. Abaribe Enynnaya H.  
Sen. Alimikhe A Francis A.  
Sen. Uba Andy E.  
Sen. Sekibo George T.  
Sen. Akanbi Rilwan Adesoji  
Sen. Sunmonu Monsurat J.A.  
Sen. Amori Ighoyota  
Sen. Godswill Akpabio  
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Sen. Useni Jeremiah T.  
Sen. La'ah Danjuma  
Sen. Ahmed Lawan  
Sen. Ekwunife Uche Lillian Sen.  
Sen. Abdulfatai Buhari  
Sen. Melaye Dino  
Sen. Ohiaere Abdul Salami  
Sen Abu Ibrahim  
Sen. Marafa Kabir Garba  
Sen. Oko Rose Okoji  
Sen. Enoh John owan  
Sen. Bukar Mustapha  
Sen. Dada Joseph G.  
Sen. Abdullahi Ibrahim  
Sen. Laiyagbe Mohammed S.  
Sen. Efiogben Nelson Asuquo

The Senate,

Notes that the premise on which the present administration was elected was the irrevocable pledge that the country will be positively changed in order to bring succour to millions of impoverished Nigerians,

Believes that the change being referred to cannot be achieved unless there is a deliberate state policy backed with action, to change our economy from being dependent solely on oil export to the one that is industrialized,

Sad that the real sector of the economy is nearly dead due mainly to the closure of the greatest number of the nation's manufacturing concerns,

Convinced that in order to achieve a very sound economy, it is important and necessary that the nation's closed and/or ailing manufacturing entities in Kano, Lagos, Kaduna, Aba Abia State, Nnewi Anambra State, Ibadan Oyo State, Asaba Delta State, Onitsha Anambra State, Gusau Zamfara State, Calabar Cross-River State, Ota Ogun, Ilorin Kwara State, Katsina, Oshogbo Osun State, Jos Plateau State, Maiduguri Borno State, Benin City Edo State, Port-Harcourt Rivers State, Ikot Abasi Akwa-Ibom, Ajaokuta Kogi State, Aladja Delta State, etc must be revived and sustained,
Further Convinced that the government should approach and educate Nigerian Importers who have the financial wherewithal to invest their resources in the establishment of industries that shall produce the products they usually import into the country in order to strengthen our economy.

Persuaded that there is now an urgent need to formulate a work-plan to woo foreign manufacturers whose finished goods are being imported into Nigeria by the Nigerian importers to come and establish their factories in Nigeria.

Notes that it is also important that there is an urgent need to continue to sensitize and encourage our graduate youths and others to establish micro or cottage manufacturing outfits to produce items like toothpicks, toiletries, handkerchiefs etc in order to boost the economy and further create jobs, etc.

Accordingly Resolves to;

i. Mandate the Senate Committees on Industries, Privatization and National Planning, when constituted, or an Ad-hoc committee to undertake an immediate inventory of all closed industries, establish why they collapsed, and proffer solutions on how to revive them and report back within a reasonable period of time as may be prescribed by the senate,

ii. Urge the legislative and executive arms of government to set up a joint consultative committee with a mandate to contact and woo foreign manufacturers to establish Nigeria branches of their factories,

iii. Call on the federal government to device ways and means by which it can persuade our high net-worth Nigerians to establish industries rather than to continue with their dependence on importation of foreign goods, and

iv. Plead on the government to create an enabling policy that would entice our unemployed youths to embrace and set up cottage industries through the help and encouragement of the government.

2. Urgent Need to Curb the Soaring Rate of Unemployment in Nigeria

Sen. Bassey Albert Akpan (Akwa Ibom North-East)

The Senate;

Worried by the soaring unemployment situation in Nigeria which was once again brought to public consciousness with the latest figures from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBC);

Notes that the figures from the National Bureau of Statistics reveal that unemployment rate in Nigeria increased to 8.2 percent in the second quarter of 2015 from 7.5 percent in the first quarter of 2015 and from 6.4 percent in the last quarter of 2014;

Disturbed that the latest statistics as released by the Bureau reveals that economically active population or working age comprising Nigerians within the age range of 15 to 64, is now 103.5 million increasing from 102.8 million in the first quarter of 2015 while the unemployed labour force now stands at 74 million Nigerian youths. This is truly a calamity.

Deeply worried that the rate of job creation in Nigeria is grossly inadequate to keep pace with the expanding working age and labour force population;

Concerned that in the last five years, about Two Trillion naira has been expended on Intervention funds by the Federal Government to boost the productivity of various sectors of the economy without any commensurate impact on employment generation;

Further concerned that with a projected population growth of 200 million by 2020, we project an unemployed population of about 100 million Nigerians or more. Where lies the economic future of this country;
**Strongly believes** that if the unemployed youths of this country are effectively engaged in gainful employment, Terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery and other socio-economic and cultural vices will be drastically reduced as the saying goes, ‘*an idle mind is the devil's workshop*’;

**Notes** that the tousling unemployment rate which was practically demonstrated in the trampling of graduate job seekers to death at the last Immigration Service recruitment exercise, requires a more pragmatic step by both the public and private sectors to ameliorate the situation;

**Believes** that the Nation’s quest to be among the top 20 economies in the world by 2020 is a mirage if urgent attention is not focus on employment generation and poverty reduction activities by all concerned.

**Accordingly resolves to:**

i. Call on the Federal Government and sub-national governments to intensify their effort on employment generation activities in line with their various campaign promises;

ii. Strongly condemn the high rate of unemployment in the country considering the huge bailout intervention funds expended by government in various sectors of the economy over the years to boost domestic production capacity;

iii. Call for an urgent audit into the effective release, utilization and performance of the various intervention funds to the various sectors of the economy by the relevant government agencies;

iv. Urge the Federal government to take steps to boost entrepreneurial developments and employment capabilities of our economy.

v. Urge the Federal government to integrate entrepreneurship, savings and investment culture and education into the educational curriculum at appropriate levels.

3. Illegal mining of the nation’s solid minerals

Sen. Duro Faseyi, *(Ekiti North)*

**The Senate;**

NOTES, with serious concern the unlawful plundering of the nation’s solid minerals by local and foreign miners which was further confirmed a few days ago by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, Alhaji Baba Umar Farouk while briefing Mr. President on the state of his ministry;

WORRIED, that the illegal mining has resulted in the nation’s loss of ₦8trillion every two years and thus impacting too adversely on the nation’s deteriorating economy;

WORRIED further, that the illegal mining would jeopardize the urgent need to diversifying the economy from oil to solid minerals sector, necessitated by the steady dwindling price of oil at the international market;

AWARE, that the illegal mining has resulted in the devastation and pollution of the environment leading to the death of hundreds of Nigerians with several thousands of others infested with various ailments especially in the Northern rural areas.

OBSERVES, that the government appears helpless without concrete strategy in place to tackle this monumental economic sabotage;
Accordingly resolves to;

(i) condemn in the strongest terms the mindless and unlawful plundering of our solid minerals.

(ii) invite the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development and heads of other relevant agencies for explanations and clarifications as a measure towards grappling with this economic sabotage

(iii) set up an ad hoc committee on Illegal Mining to look into the matter with a view to finding lasting solutions to the problem

(iv) direct the law enforcement agencies especially the Inspector-General of Police to be alive to the responsibility of bringing the illegal miners to book as urgently as possible

(v) urge the executive to take concrete steps towards ending the illegal mining

4.

The unfortunate recurrence of kidnapping and hostage-taking in Nigeria – a national wake up call!
Sen. Emmanuel Andy Uba, MFR (Anambra South)

The Senate,

Notes with displeasure the seeming prevalence of the crime of kidnapping in Nigeria. The incidents of kidnapping have assumed dangerous dimensions, and like a cancer, its spread seems to be permeating all States in Nigeria;

Notes also that by virtue of the provisions of Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government.

Concerned, that the general rate on insecurity in the country is worrisome, thereby taking away some merits from the successes that we have so far recorded in Nigeria’s Counter-Terrorism war against insurgents in its North Eastern Region. The situation is now such that while the North battles with insurgency, the south suffers from incessant episodes of armed robbery, kidnapping and assassinations;

Aware of the contribution of the Nigerian Police and other security apparattus of Government in their various attempts at securing the freedom of hostages. However, there is still room for improvement.

Observe that, these vices are beginning to assume the toga of legitimate business for unemployed youths, politically aggrieved persons and other equally greedy individuals. The payment of ransom to these criminally-minded persons has emboldened the practice of hostage-taking, as it is now fancied by many, as lucrative business;

Observe further that, there is the need for the Nigerian Police to rise to the occasion and see Kidnapping as akin to terrorism. We however reckon with the expediency of equipping the various security agencies, particularly the Nigeria Police with effective tools of security and modern policing, respectively;

Worried that calculated policies, targeted at ensuring job creation, employment; entrepreneurial development and empowerment for the youth population in Nigeria seem elusive.

Concludes that as leaders at such a time in Nigeria’s history, we must all strive towards the attainment of a just society, with equal opportunities for all.

Accordingly Resolves to;

(i) Condemn Kidnapping in its entirety and commiserate with the family of those who have lost their loved ones to the perpetrators of this vice;
(ii) Urge Traditional Institutions, Religious Authorities and indeed all Nigerians to be more vigilant and to participate more actively in the security of Nigeria;

(iii) Urge this Senate to make frantic efforts at reviewing the extant laws on kidnapping, with a view to imposing stiffer penalties on the crime;

(iv) Invite the Inspector-General of Police to brief the Senate, through the relevant Committee(s) on its activities, targeted at the resolution of this security challenge; and

(v) Invite the Ministry of Labour & Productivity; Ministry of National Planning; the National Directorate of Employment and any other relevant Agencies of Government to brief the Senate on “deliberate and actionable plans” of government in reducing the current employment deficit in Nigeria.

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