SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 15th October, 2015

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

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. National Library Act (Amendment) Bill 2015 (SB. 46) – First *Reading.*
   Sen. Biodun Olujimi

2. Employment Services Bill 2015 (SB. 60) – First *Reading.*
   Sen. Tijani Y. Kaura

3. Local Industry Patronage Bill 2015 (SB. 67) – First *Reading.*
   Sen. Mohammed S. Lafiagi

4. National Planning Process Bill 2015 (SB. 73) – *First Reading.*
   Sen. Theodore A. Orji

5. National Commission for Peace reconciliation and Mediation Bill, 2015 (SB. 74) – First Reading.
   Sen. Shehu Sani

6. Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc) Bill 2015 (SB. 88) *First Reading.*
   Sen. Francis Alimikhena

7. Economic and Financial Crime Commission Act 2010 (Amendment) Bill 2015 (SB. 94) – *First Reading.*
   Sen. Dino Melaye

8. Nigerian Political Debate Commission (Establishment, etc) Bill 2015 (SB. 101) – *First Reading.*
   Sen. Buhari Abdulfatai

9. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 Alteration Bill 2015 (SB. 104) – *First Reading.*
   Sen. Uche Ekwunife

10. Delegated Legislation Bill 2015 (SB. 105) – *First Reading.*
    Sen. Andy Uba

ORDERS OF THE DAY
MOTIONS

1. The Dangers Posed by the Removal of Rice from Import Restriction List and the Re-Introduction of Import Duty Payment at Land Borders.

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Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero - (Kebbi Central)

Co-sponsors;

Senator Abdullahi Adamu
Senator Bassey Albert Akpan
Senator Aliyu Wammakko
Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah
Senator Isa Hamma Misau
Senator Ahmed Rufai Sani
Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi
Senator Tijjani Yahaya Kaura
Senator Abdullahi Gumel
Senator George Akume
Senator Barnabas Gemade
Senator Donald O. Alasoadura
Senator Olugbenga Ashafa
Senator Gershom O. Bassey
Senator Rafiu A. Ibrahim
Senator Sabo Mohammed
Senator Danjuma Laah
Senator Samuel O. Egwu
Senator Stella A. Oduah
Senator Danladi S. Abubakar
Senator Robert .A. Boroffice, OON
Senator Muhammad U. Shitu
Senator David Umaru
Senator Binta M. Garba
Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso
Senator Usman Bayero Nafada
Senator Mohammed Ohiare
Senator Owan J. Enoh

The Senate;

Notes that since 2011, rice importation was restricted to the seaports because the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) lacked the capacity and machinery to effectively monitor and control the importation of rice through our country's porous and extensive land borders; coupled with the fact that the NPA has all the requisite facilities for discharge and control of bulk cargo like rice;

Notes that Nigeria is presently the largest importer of rice in the world, and that the Ministry of Agriculture has projected that the demand for rice will continue to rise from the current level of **five million metric** tons (MT) to **36 mt** tons by 2050;

Notes that it is in the light of this scary data that the Federal Government of Nigeria has put in place various measures meant to encourage private sector investment in rice production, processing and milling;

Notes that one of such measures of the Federal Government is the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN's) Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme for the promotion of commercial agriculture through which it gives soft concessionary loans to private investors in agriculture at single digit interest rate and over **N300 billion** had been disbursed;

Notes that the measures have yielded desirable and positive result in rice production to the extent that it has reduced the supply gap to about 1.5 metric tons;

Considers that between 2010 and 2015, over 15 new mills have been established across the country by private investors and has provided employment to millions of Nigerians;

Reflects that the large-scale commercial farming has the potential of absorbing and taking care of a large percentage of our country's teeming population of unemployed youths and preserves the scarce foreign exchange of our country that would have been used to import rice;

Informed that the ban on rice imports through the land borders has reduced cross-border Smuggling;

Aware that the Nigeria Customs Service is still lacking the capacity to effectively monitor and control importation of rice through our borders;

Concerned that the decision by the Comptroller-General of Customs to liberalize the importation of rice to the extent of lifting the ban on land importation of rice will seriously escalate rice smuggling;

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Recalls that the number of private investors and small scale farmers who took to rice farming in the last five years and who have engendered the rice revolution took to rice farming because of the conducive environment and protective Federal Government's Measures, and policy;

Worried that the unilateral and unexpected decision of the Comptroller- General to reopen the country's land borders to rice importation will reverse the tremendous gains recorded in rice production in the country, as it will not only halt the rice revolution, but will also discourage further investment in rice farming and agro-allied industries;

To ensure that the agriculture sector –which, by means and standards, is the dependable lifeline of this country- is not harmed beyond immediate repair by the policy inconsistency or somersault decision of the Comptroller-General of Customs to reopen and lift the ban on importation of rice through our land borders;

Accordingly resolved;

(i) That the Comptroller-General of Customs be directed to suspend forthwith the lifting of ban on rice importation through the country's land borders;

(ii) That the Comptroller-General of Customs be directed to intensify efforts at establishing effective and functional ways and means of curbing smuggling of rice through the country's land borders; and

(iii) All importers of rice should bring their cargo through the Nigeria ports and clear such cargo after paying appropriate import duty as prescribed by the Federal Government.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. **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 Uzodinma *(Imo West)*

2. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, No. 16 of 1979 CAP B2 Laws of Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-Enact. The Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act to make Provision for Corporate and Individual Insolvency to Provide for the Rehabilitation of the Insolvent Debtor and to create the office of the Supervisor of Insolvency; and for other matters therewith. (SB.09) -*Second Reading.***
Sen. Barnabas Gemade *(Benue North East)*

COMMITTEE MEETING

	Committee	*Date*	*Time*	*Venue*
1.	Rules and Business	Thursday, 15th October, 2015	2.00pm	Committee Room 328 Senate New Building
2.	Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions	Thur. 15th October, 2015	2.00pm	Committee Room 120 Senate New Building
3.	Ad-Hoc Committee on Power	Monday, 19th October, 2015	2.00pm	Committee Room 221 Senate New Building
4.	Ad-Hoc Committee on Power	20th – 21st October, 2015 (Public Hearing)	10.00am	Conference Room 231 Senate New Building
5.	Ad-Hoc Committee on Import Duty Waivers	Monday, 19th Oct, 2015	12.00 noon	Comm. Room 211 Senate New Bui

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