1. Nigerias involvement in Global Drugs Trade.
   Sen. Gbenga B. Ashafa (Lagos East)

The Senate:

Notes with serious concern the engagement of some Nigerians in smuggling Hard Drugs into Southeast Asian Countries and other parts of the world;

Notes that the Malaysian authorities have again issued a dire warning that 40 percent of the foreigners being arrested for drug offences are from Nigeria. So far, 30 out of 80 foreign students arrested in 2015 are Nigerians. In a country where drug trafficking attracts the supreme retribution;

Observe that in their desperation, these Nigerians are disguising as "University Students", colluding with drug syndicates there to undermine the visa system and gain entrance into Malaysia. On getting there, they abandon the pretence of going for education and get busy with their illicit and illegal business activities, trading in opiates, cocaine, heroin, cannabis and amphetamines. The colleges have been told to keep a lookout for those who sign up for courses and don't turn up.

Worried that the involvement of Nigerians in this dangerous enterprise is tarnishing the image of the country. Our Nationals are viewed with suspicion and subjected to demeaning treatment at airports across the world as a result. This should prompt the authorities into a strategic action to curb the menace of drug couriers and their sponsors.

Aware that the NDLEA is doing its best within its powers as presently constituted.

Aware that in April 2015, Indonesia, another Southeast Asian Country that imposes the death sentence on drug traffickers, executed four Nigerians despite pleas for leniency by Nigeria, the United Nations and Amnesty International. The four were among the 11 Nigerians facing execution for drug offences. In spite of this, some desperate Nigerians are not deterred. According to newspaper reports, the case for leniency was rendered impotent because, at that point, seven fresh cases of drug trafficking involving Nigerians had just emerged in Indonesia.

Aware also that apart from the cases in Malaysia and Indonesia, at least one Nigerian is on the death row in Singapore for drug-related offences. But the situation in China, which also punishes drug trafficking with death penalty, is alarming. Two Nigerians were executed in China in April, but 120 other Nigerians are still on the death row for drug-related offenses, with 74 of them being held in Guandong and Guanxi provinces. Harm Reduction International, a United Kingdom based NGO, said 33 countries impose the death penalty for drug related offenses.
OBSERVES further that the failed sections of the Highway at Adedje Community, Okuovo Community and Adagbrasna Junction have become spots of terrible ghastly vehicular accidents due largely to falling heavy duty trucks, which said accidents regularly terminate human lives and create huge loss of property, especially industrial goods and refined petroleum products from the Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Company in Ekpan, Delta State.

CONDEMNS the conduct of FERMA and the Ministry of Works in totally abandoning, grossly neglecting and/or wholly shirking their statutory duty to maintain the Highway even when the strategic significance of the road to the national economy and the continuing needless loss of human lives and property are notorious matters of public knowledge.

REGRETS that many Nigerian families have been thrown into mourning, sorrow, and pain even as losses arising from destruction of property are increasing daily due to the horrific vehicular accidents and deaths arising from the condemnable and condemned failure of both FERMA and the Federal Ministry of Works to maintain the Highway.

CONCLUDES that the negligent inaction of FERMA and the Ministry of Works on the deplorable Benin-Warri Highway contravenes the laws of our Federal Republic, the fundamental Principles of State Policy enshrined in Part II of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), the guiding principles of the Legislative Agenda of this 8th Senate and the Spirit of the National Assembly as a representative body of the Nigerian People.

RESOLVES therefore that/to:

i. FERMA and the Federal Ministry of Works should, without delay, rehabilitate the failed sections of the Benin-Warri Highway at Adedje Community, Okuovo Community, and Adagbrasna Junction,

ii. MANDATE the Senate Committee on Works to invite the Chairman, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency, the Honourable Minister in charge of the Federal Ministry of Works and concerned Nigerian Public who use or do business on the Benin-Warri Highway to appear before it,

iii. MANDATE the Senate Committee on Works to investigate the conduct of FERMA and the Ministry of Works on the state of the Benin-Warri Highway with respect to the laws of the land and report to the Senate in four (4) weeks.

3. A Bill for an Act to amend the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (Est. etc.) Act 2011 to align it with the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, restore the Sovereignty of Naira as the national Currency, ensure transparency of its Funding and entrench parliamentary accountability and for other related matters connected therewith, 2015 (SB. 38) - Second Reading

Sen. Rose Oko (Cross River North)
Informed that the Federal Department of Fisheries (FDF), was established in 1976 to collaborate with the RBDAs to promote fishery development by providing financial and technical assistance to small, medium and large-scale fish-farmers to reduce dependence on imported fish products, but Nigeria still expends billions of dollars in importing several millions of tons of fish annually as a result of lack of progress in this regard.

Further Notes that several factors that have contributed to the non-fulfillment of the objectives of the RBDAs and FDF include policy discontinuities, changes in government, inadequate funding due to the Federal Government’s dwindling revenue and lack of diligence and understanding in handling agricultural matters, especially the utter neglect of small and medium-scale farmers, and displacement of communities;

Worried of the facts that several States located within the river basins had made concerted efforts to partner with their respective river basins in joint ventures that would add value to their respective agricultural programmes, grow their Agricultural Sectors and contribute to the completion of certain irrigation and dam projects, and that most of such efforts failed to materialize,

Accordingly resolves to:

i. Urge the Minister of Water Resources and senior officials charged with responsibility for water resources in the Federation to focus critically on the factors militating against the performances of the RBDAs, and proffer critical insight into how government can harness the transformative capacity of RBDAs to fulfill the objectives for which they were created.

ii. Mandate the Senate Committee on Water Resources to carry out physical inspection and assessment of the state of affairs of the eleven (11) River Basin Development Authorities, and report its observations, findings and recommendations to the Senate not later than 8 weeks from the date of this Resolution.

2. Urgent Rehabilitation of the failed sections of Benin-Warri Federal Highway
Sen. Ovie A. Omo-Agege

The Senate;

NOTES that the Benin-Warri Highway ("the Highway") is a part of the Major North-Southerly Routes designated as a Federal Trunk A road under the Federal Highways (Declaration) Order made pursuant to the Federal Highways Act, 1971.

NOTES further that the Highway is a major Federal road infrastructure of strategic national economic importance and a key gateway for the Nation's petroleum production, oil refining, seaport business, industrial, and general economic activities in and around Warri City and the Western Niger-Delta as a whole - an area protected by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended),

NOTES also that the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) is an Agency of the Federal Ministry of Works created pursuant to the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (Establishment, etc) Act, 2002 (as amended) to maintain Federal Trunk roads to which the Highway belongs.

NOTES furthermore that FERMA's statutory duty to maintain Federal roads is meant to prevent loss of human lives and property and this duty derives from the bounden and sacrosanct constitutional duty of the Federal Government of Nigeria to protect human lives and property of Nigerians and anyone who is lawfully in Nigeria, as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution.

OBSERVES that FERMA and the Ministry of Works have since March 2015 totally abandoned, grossly neglected and/or wholly shirked their duty to maintain the Highway and this has led to severe failure of sections of this road at Adedje Community, Okuovo Community and Adagbrasa Junction - all in Okpe Local Government Area part of the road in Delta State,
NOTES that according to the notice of investigation, Consumer Protection Council (CPC) observed that "These complaints in effect allege that the DSTV service does not conform with international best practice and is specifically designed to exploit Nigerian consumers who have suffered losses by not being able to fully enjoy or receive the benefit or actualize the full purpose for which they purchased or subscribed to the service;";

AWARE that the previous intervention by the 7th House of Representatives did not achieve the desired result as the company continues to operate in a manner that seems above the law;

NOTES that it is imperative for this hallowed chambers to intervene with a view to addressing the perceived high headedness of the pay TV company; while also making sure that the regulatory agencies of government are made to be alive to their responsibilities;

Accordingly resolves to:

i. Direct the Senate Committee on Information to investigate and consider summoning the Nigeria Broadcasting Commission (NBC) and the Consumer Protection Council (CPC).

ii. Mandate the Committee on Information to organise a public hearing for all stakeholders including relevant civil societies to foster a way forward.

**Thursday, 28th January, 2016**

1. Need to Revive and Resuscitate River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs)

Sen. John Owan Enoh (Cross River Central)

Co-Sponsors:

Sen. Orji Theodore A.  
Sen. Nwogu Olaka Johnson  
Sen. Kashamu Prince Buruji  
Sen. Sunmonu Monsurat J.A  
Sen. Ibrahim Adedayo Rafiu  
Sen. Sabo Nakudu  
Sen. Oko Rose Okoji

Sen. Oduah Stella Adaeeze  
Sen. Nwaboshi Peter  
Sen. Dariye Joshua Chibi  
Sen. Amori Ighoyota  
Sen. Kurfi Umar Ibrahim  
Sen. Useni Jeremiaiah T.  
Sen. Effiong Nelson Asuquo

Sen. Ideozu Osinakachukwu  
Sen. Akpan Bassey Albert  
Sen. Sekibo George T.  
Sen. Bassey Gershom  
Sen. Usman Bayero  
Sen. La’ah Danjuma

The Senate;

Aware that Nigeria has vast arable lands, abundance of water and river basin resources to induce all-year-round farming activities, yet she is still entrapped in rain-fed agriculture, and one seasonal farming period that cannot satisfy the current food needs of her citizenry;

Further Aware of the historical fact that the Federal Government of Nigeria created eleven (11) River Basins Development Authorities (RBDAs) in 1976 to provide water for irrigation and domestic water supply, improvement of navigation, recreation facilities and fisheries project, which purposes, have not been realized or fulfilled after 39 years of their existence;

Further Informed, that other statutory mandates of the RBDAs aimed at stimulating the setting up of large plantations and industrial complexes capable of bringing the private and public sectors into joint business partnerships have been largely unattainable;

Notes that the intention of using River basin authorities as development modules to bridge the gap between rural and urban communities by taking development to the grassroots, and discouraging migration from the rural parts of Nigeria to the urban centres, has remained a mirage;
Notes that the implications of the drug trade are staggering. Drug syndicates are destroying the lives of others, UNODC reported that there were 183,000 drug-related deaths worldwide, with drug dependent users rising to about 39 million. Drug use is closely linked to violent crimes in many parts of the world, Nigeria inclusive;

Worried that the scenario in Nigeria is also unnerving, in a 2012 report, the International Narcotics Control Board said that Nigeria, was a transit point for cocaine from Latin America destined for Europe, topped the list with the highest trafficking and drug use in West Africa’s drug couriers arrested in Europe in 2011 were Nigerians.

Accordingly resolves to:

i. Urge the President C-in-C to restructure and reposition the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency to be able to meet the challenges of evasive drug traffickers using Nigerians to traffic drugs.

ii. Urge the Nigerian Immigration Service to do more in the area of profiling and properly scrutinizing Nigerians leaving the country to countries prone to the illicit drug trade in order to pro-actively prevent the incidence of Nigerians, particularly the young ones, from trafficking drugs.


Sen. Isah Hamma Misau (Bauchi Central)

The Senate;

NOTES that Multichoice Nigeria, a subsidiary of South African-based Multichoice Africa, owners of DSTV pay television, has been known to dominate the Nigerian satellite television market, thereby enabling it to engage in negative and unhealthy trade practices;

FURTHER NOTES that in the past few years, DSTV has constantly been in the news over one legal battle after another from aggrieved subscribers, who are dissatisfied with the programming service and unreasonable subscription hikes across their various bouquets which have led to growing public complains and petitions;

ACKNOWLEDGES that this motion is of public interest, as a lot of football loving Nigerians follow the English Premier League (EPL) on DSTV, with the company enjoying the monopoly of broadcast in the country;

CONCERNED that the complaints include arbitrary increase in the subscription charges, refusal to adopt the pay as you use model applicable in other climes where Multichoice operates, moving major games from low subscription bouquets (COMPACT) to high subscription bouquets (premium); poor service delivery and absence of toll free lines for customers’ complaints amongst other;

NOTES that many concerned Nigerians are aggrieved and in constant demand to stop DSTV’s arbitrary price hikes, noting that recent increase in DSTV subscription is outrageous and totally unacceptable;

AWARE that following the high number of complaints, the Consumer Protection Council (CPC), commenced investigation into the operations of the Digital Satellite Television (DSTV), operated by Multichoice Nigeria Limited, over alleged consumer rights violations, in line with its mandate to provide redress for consumer abuse;