SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 3rd March, 2016

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. Tackling the Perenial Conflicts between Farmers and Cattle Herdsmen
Sen. Chukwuka Utazi *(Enugu North)*

The Senate:

Notes that conflict between farmers in various parts of the country and nomadic cattle herdsmen is posing grave danger to national security, harmonious communal life and national unity;

Notes also that perennial reports of one form of conflict or the other every day between these two economic groups across the country from the East, to the West, to the Middle Belt and to the Northern parts of the country;

Concerned that herdsmen with little sensitivity to the economic and cultural interests of settled farm owners, lead their cattle to graze across the farms and lands indiscriminately, leaving in their trail devastations of high proportions and high economic wastages;

Worried that tales of herdsmen being heavily armed with modern firearms concealed among the grazing cattle and the resultant criminal activities of some elements among the herdsmen bespeak of colossal security breach and a ticking time bomb waiting to explode;

Worried also by the increasing reported cases of armed robbery, human savagery, rampant rape, maiming and kidnapping of their victims who are mostly land or settled farm owners who try to stop the devastations of their farms;

Notes that nomadic cattle grazing is an economic activity and the owners of the cattle and the rearers should not deposit the economic interests of other farmers as they pursue theirs as this may take political and ethnic colouration with the attendant crises that may follow;

Observes that President Muhammadu Buhari had in July of 2015 directed the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to initiate strategies for ending the incessant farmers and herdsmen clashes across the country and the Federal Government is said to be considering creating grazing routes for the movement of the cattle;

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Observes also that this approach would result, on the one hand for the nomads, in accepting nomadic life as norm and the implication is a denial of the benefits of settled human civilization, including the rights to own homes and land, and the rights to have their wards properly educated;

Observes further that creating routes for grazing would encourage the violation of the rights of settled land owners and farmers whose crops and communities bear the adverse brunt of nomadic cattle grazing and expose citizens living along the routes to health dangers as cattle tend to be repositories and carriers of certain diseases harmful to human population;

Persuaded that a consideration of strategies for settled cattle farming, as being proposed by various stake holders, would be a better approach in addressing the issues associated with the rather out-dated nomadic cattle rearing system of agriculture as it would confer dignity of labour to the rearers, allow them to own decent accommodation, make the animals healthier for human consumption and create a settled system of schooling for the wards of the owners and rearers of these cattle;

Further persuaded that adopting the settled system of cattle grazing will encourage the emergence of the ancillary industries within and around the communities where cattle reserve, large farms and ranches are located as is obtained in all countries that have adopted modern modes of agricultural production.

Accordingly resolves to:

i. *Condemn* the criminal activities of some elements among cattle herdsmen who use the cover of their trade to perpetrate harrowing despoliation of people's farms and engage in other sundry criminal activities.

ii. *Urge* cattle owners to ensure that the grazing of their cattle does not infringe on the rights of farming communities and other farmers who engage in settled agricultural production.

iii. *Urge* the Federal Government to urgently establish ranches and grazing reserves across the country, and adopt other strategies to enable nomadic cattle handlers settle to modern system of livestock keeping.

2. Need to Revive and Resuscitate River Basin Development Authorities (RBDAs)
Sen. John Owan Enoh (*Cross River Central)*

Co-Sponsors:

Sen. Orji Theodore A.
Sen. Nwaboshi Peter
Sen. Dariye Joshua Chibi
Sen. Sunmonu Monsurat J.A
Sen. Ibrahim Adebayo Rafiu
Sen. Oko Rose Okoji
Sen. Oduah Stella Adaeze
Sen. Akpan Bassey Albert
Sen. Ovie Omo-Agege
Sen. Bassey Gershom
Sen. Kurfi Umar Ibrahim
Sen. Effiong Nelson Asuquo
Sen. Sabo Nakudu
Sen. Kashamu Prince Buruji
Sen. Usman Bayero
Sen. La'ah Danjuma
Sen. Useni Jeremiah T.

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;

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 performance 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.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. *Report of the Conference Committee on 2015 FCT Appropriation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 225).*
Sen. Dino Melaye *(Kogi West)*
"That the Senate do receive and approve the Report of the Conference Committee on 2015 FCT Appropriation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 225).

2. Report of the Conference Committee on MTEF
2016, 2017 and 2018 Medium-Term Expenditure *Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP).*
Sen. John Owan Enoh *(Cross River Central).*
"That the Senate do receive and approve the Report of the Conference Committee on 2016, 2017 and 2018 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP)".

3. *Report of the Joint Committee on Health and Agriculture and Rural Development*
Sen. Olanrewaju Tejuoso *(Ogun Central)* Sen. Abdullahi Adamu *(Nasarawa West)*
"That the Senate do consider the Report of the Joint Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and Health in respect of the motion on the Ban on Nigerian Agricultural Products by the European Union".

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. A Bill for an Act to make Provision for Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between Nigeria and other Foreign States and for related Matters, 2016 (SB. 224) – *Second Reading.*
Sen. Ali Ndume *(Senate Leader).*

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2. [illegible] for an Act to amend the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (Est. etc.) Act 2011 to align it with the [illegible] 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, 2016 (SB. 38) – *Second Reading*
Sen. Rose Oko (*Cross River North*)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee	*Date*	*Time*	*Venue*
1. Finance	Thursday, 3rd March, 2016	2.00pm	Committee Room 204 Senate New Building
2. Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare	Thursday, 3rd March, 2016	10.00am	Committee Room 107 Senate New Building
3. Power, Steel Development and Metallurgy and Privatization	Thursday, 3rd March, 2016	12.00noon	Committee Room 211 Senate New Building
4. Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Rights	Monday, 7th March, 2016	10.00am	Committee Room 022 Senate New Building
5. Marine Transport	Tuesday, 8th March, 2016	2.00pm	Committee Room 221 Senate New Building

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