SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 19th April, 2016

1. The Senate met at 10:51 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 14th April, 2016.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**
(a) Briefing by the Service Chiefs:
The Senate President announced that the briefing by the Service Chiefs will take place at 1:00 pm, on Wednesday, 20th April, 2016 sequel to the Senate Resolution of Thursday, 14th April, 2016.

(b) Man of the Year Awards 2015 of SILVERBIRD Group:
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Ben Murray-Bruce (*Bayelsa East*) as follows:

SENATOR BEN MURRAY-BRUCE, OON
BAYELSA EAST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN SENATE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATIZATION

ANNOUNCEMENT

Good Morning

His Excellency, the Senate President, Dr. Bukola Saraki, (CON),
Fellow Distinguished Senators of this 8th session of the National Assembly.

On behalf of my family, associates and employees of SILVERBIRD GROUP, I, Distinguished Senator Ben Murray-Bruce cordially invite you to the Man of the Year Awards 2015 of SILVERBIRD GROUP on:

DATE: *Sunday, April 24,*

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TIME: *5:00pm*

VENUE: *Convention Centre, Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.*

Accept the assurances of my highest esteem.

(Signed)
Sen. Ben Murray-Bruce (OON)
Bayelsa East Senatorial District

(*c*) ***Acknowledgement:***
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

(*i*) Members of the Association of Statistics Students of Nigeria, University of Abuja Chapter, Gwagwalada, Abuja; and

(*ii*) Members of the National Association of Ondo State Students, Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun, Delta State.

4. Petition:
Rising on Rule 41, Senator Aliyu M. Wamakko *(Sokoto North)* drew the attention of the Senate to two petitions from;

(*i*) Womem Abu, over wrongful dismissal by the Nigerian Navy; and

(*ii*) Sule Mode, on re-instatement by the Nigerian Army.

He urged the Senate to look into the matters.

Petitions laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)].

5. Personal Explanation:
Rising on Rule 43, Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe *(Abia South)* drew the attention of the Senate to numerous phone calls received from his constituents informing him of a Bill for an Act to establish National Grazing Commission, whereas, to the best of his knowledge, there is no such Bill before the Senate.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:
Rising on Rule 42, Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa (*Abia North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the outbreak of epidemic of Gastroenteritis in Ohafia and some parts of Umunneochi Local Government Areas of Abia North. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Rule 42(2)].

7. Presentation of Bill:
1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (SB. 253) — *Read the First Time.*

8. Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun Bill, 2016 (SB. 226):
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to establish the Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun and for other related matters, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator Ovie Omo-Agege — Delta Central*).

two (2) weeks.

9. **Public Officers Protection Act CAP P41 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB.156):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. **Nigeria Postal Services Act CAP N127 LFN, 2004, (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (SB.106):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. **Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:**
Report on the petition from Association of Resident Doctors of Nigeria, Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Kaduna:
Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of a petition from Association of Resident Doctors of Nigeria, Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Kaduna against the Hospital Management over the non-implementation of the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) and "skipping" Allowance (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Kaduna should implement the said circular from the Federal Ministry of Health in full and commence the immediate payment of the "skipping" allowance to its doctors as soon as the 2016 budget is signed and funds released to enable them earn the same salary with their counterparts in other Federal Government hospitals — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate Committee on Health be mandated to ensure compliance with the Senate Resolution — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

(*i*) That the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Kaduna should implement the said circular from the Federal Ministry of Health in full and commence the immediate payment of the "skipping" allowance to its doctors as soon as the 2016 budget is signed and funds released to enable them earn the same salary with their counterparts in other Federal Government hospitals;

(*ii*) That the Senate Committee on Health be mandated to ensure compliance with the Senate Resolution ***(S/Res/132/01/16)***.

12. Motions:

(a) ***The use of substandard or used tyres on Nigerian roads:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes with grave concern the incessant road accidents that occur in Nigeria associated with tyres as a result of the use of substandard tyres or second-hand tyres popularly called "tokunbo";

aware that the Standards Organisation of Nigeria is saddled with the responsibility of ensuring standards and quality control in Nigeria;

alarmed at the rate and frequency of the occurrence of the accidents, lives and properties lost as a result of these accidents;

worried that from 2010 to date, statistics have shown that 5000 precious lives have been lost on Nigerian roads as a result of tyre burst due to low quality or over-use. Used tyres popularly called "tokunbo" are notorious for bursting on roads largely because they have been corroded by rain and sea spray during long trips from Europe or over-stay at ports;

more worried that substandard or "tokunbo" tyres have over-flooded Nigerian markets due to the activities of unpatriotic tyre manufacturers and importers. Tyre manufacturers have largely engaged in buying old and fairly used tyres to recap or regrade them and sell to innocent Nigerians; and

determined to change these unwholesome practices and ensure a relatively low tyre accident-free country.

Accordingly resolves to;

(i) urge the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to immediately and strictly enforce the provisions of Section 17 of the SON Act for violating the Mandatory Industrial Standards Order;

(ii) urge the Standards Organisation of Nigeria to partner with the Nigeria Customs Service to intensify borders and ports checks where the substandard tyres are brought into the country and ensure speedy clearance of imported tyres from the ports; and

(iii) urge the Federal Roads Safety Commission and Vehicle Inspection Offices to conduct a quick check on all tyres in use in Nigeria *(Senator Shehu Sani — Kaduna Central).*

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to immediately and strictly enforce the provisions of Section 17 of the SON Act for violating the Mandatory Industrial Standards Order — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Standards Organisation of Nigeria to partner with the Nigeria Customs Service to intensify borders and ports checks where the substandard tyres are brought into the country and ensure speedy clearance of imported tyres from the ports — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Roads Safety Commission and Vehicle Inspection Offices to conduct a quick check on all tyres in use in Nigeria — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

(*i*) urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment to encourage re-establishment of tyre industry in Nigeria (*Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa — Abia North)*.

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

(*ii*) call on the National Orientation Agency and Standards Organisation of Nigeria to carry out national sensitisation programme on the danger of the use of substandards tyres across all zones of the country (*Senator Dino Melaye — Kogi West)*.

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

(*iii*) urge the Federal Ministry of Transport to cause the establishment of Transport Test Stations and other periodic checks on all vehicles to be supervised by Federal Road Safety Commission and Vehicle Inspection Offices across the country (*Senator Godfrey C. Utazi — Enugu North)*.

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

(*i*) urge the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to immediately and strictly enforce the provisions of Section 17 of the SON Act for violating the Mandatory Industrial Standards Order;

(ii) urge the Standards Organisation of Nigeria to partner with the Nigeria Customs Service to intensify borders and ports checks where the substandard tyres are brought into the country and ensure speedy clearance of imported tyres from the ports;

(iii) urge the Federal Roads Safety Commission and Vehicle Inspection Offices to conduct a quick check on all tyres in use in Nigeria;

(*iv*) urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment to encourage re-establishment of tyre industry in Nigeria;

(*v*) call on the National Orientation Agency and Standards Organisation of Nigeria to carry out national sensitisation programme on the danger of the use of substandards tyres across all zones of the country;

(*vi*) urge the Federal Ministry of Transport to cause the establishment of Transport Test Stations and other periodic checks on all vehicles to be supervised by Federal Road Safety Commission and Vehicle Inspection Offices across the country ***(S/Res/133/01/16)***.

(b) Need for the establishment of Inland Ports at Onitsha, Enugu and other Landlock States:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

and social sector of the economy;

amazed that despite its national spread, strong asset base and regulatory powers, NIPOST has been burdened with paucity of funds, inadequate technical manpower, management challenges, demotivated staff, deficiency in modern skills and knowledge capital, resulting in the deterioration of its operations, dilapidation of its physical assets and under-utilization of capacity;

further amazed that due to absence of any clear vision or defining goals, strategies and drive, NIPOST has often been perceived by successive federal administrations in the last two decades and half as a drain on the budget of the Government, as an agency that has irredeemably lost its relevance;

aware that in spite of the multiple challenges characterized with inadequate organizational structure, colossal revenue loss due to operational inefficiency, non-performance of its operator and service provider role coupled with poor implementation of revenue generating mandate, NIPOST can still be revamped to take advantage of modern postal technologies developed by the Universal Postal Union (UPU);

cognizant that with estimated 1,700 active postal outlets out of a total of over 3,000, with over 200 uncompleted properties and about 20 bevelands, that is greater than 30% of the total number of landed outlets owned by all the Nigerian Banks in addition to its spread and distribution in semi-urban and rural areas, NIPOST can be primed to promote and support nationally, commerce (mart and shops, e-commerce, warehousing, co-location), logistics, clearing and cargo (air, land and sea) and agency services;

concerned that with fundamental changes in the world economy due to globalization, rapid technological advances and shifting demographics require strategic management of key national public infrastructure like NIPOST; and

regret that the foregoing challenges may constitute impediment towards realizing NIPOST's vision of becoming one of the top five non-oil revenue generating agencies with capacity to create 10,000 - 100,000 new jobs, provide a platform that pro-poor policies such as financial, postal, social and IT inclusion strategies would leverage to uplift about 20 million citizens out of the poverty index bracket, provide robust universal mail service through the national mail routes and become the largest national cargo carrier within ECOWAS sub-region.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) mandate the Committee on Communications to have interface with management of the Federal Ministry of Communication and NIPOST to ascertain the challenges and their consequences against national economic development, with a view to repositioning NIPOST for national growth;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee to look into Nigeria's membership of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) with a view to strengthen and maximize the benefit derived thereof; and

(*iii*) make appropriate and holistic recommendations that can help rejuvenate NIPOST to serve its dual role of Service Provider and Regulator in this era of Information and Communication Technology (*Senator Malam A. Wakili — Bauchi South*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Communications to have interface with management of the Federal Ministry of Communication and NIPOST to ascertain the challenges and their consequences against national economic development, with a view to repositioning NIPOST for national growth — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee to look into Nigeria's membership of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) with a view to strengthen and maximize the benefit derived thereof — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do make appropriate and holistic recommendations that can help rejuvenate NIPOST to serve its dual role of Service Provider and Regulator in this era of Information and Communication Technology — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:
Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:
"That electronic payment be included in the payment of NIPOST services in view of the cashless policy of the Federal Government" (*Senator Dino Melaye — Kogi West).*

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

(*i*) mandate the Committee on Communications to have interface with management of the Federal Ministry of Communication and NIPOST to ascertain the challenges and their consequences against national economic development, with a view to repositioning NIPOST for national growth;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee to look into Nigeria's membership of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) with a view to strengthen and maximize the benefit derived thereof;

(*iii*) make appropriate and holistic recommendations that can help rejuvenate NIPOST to serve its dual role of Service Provider and Regulator in this era of Information and Communication Technology; and

(*iv*) That electronic payment be included in the payment of NIPOST services in view of the cashless policy of the Federal Government ***(S/Res/134/01/16)***.

(d) The Dwindling State of the Nigerian Commodity Exchange:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.