SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 26th April, 2016

1. The Senate met at 11:05 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 21st April, 2016.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

(a) ***Northern Senators Forum:***
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Abdullahi Adamu (*Nasarawa West*) as follows:

SENATOR (DR.) ABDULLAHI ADAMU, CON
SARKIN YAKIN KEFFI
Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development
Nasarawa West Senatorial District

The Senate President
National Assembly
Abuja

Your Excellency,

REMINDER

This is to remind all Northern Senators that there will be a meeting of Northern Senators Forum today, Tuesday, 26th April, 2016 immediately after the Senate Sitting.

Venue: Senate Hearing Room 022, Senate New Wing.

Please ensure you attend as very important matters will be discussed.

(Signed)
CHAIRMAN
Sen. (Dr.) Abdullahi Adamu, CON

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(b) ***G77 Meeting:***

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) as follows:

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a meeting of the G77 Senators immediately after Sitting in Hearing Room One (1). We thank Members for good attendance of yesterday's meeting.

(Signed)
Senator Dino Melaye

(c) ***Submission of Sessional Reports:***

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Babajide C. Omoworare (*Osun East*) as follows:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND BUSINESS
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX

26th April, 2016

To: President of the Senate

From: The Chairman, Senate Committee on Rules and Business

Subject: ***ANNOUNCEMENT***

SUBMISSION OF SESSIONAL REPORTS FOR THE FIRST SESSION (JUNE, 2015 TO JUNE, 2016) BY COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE.

This is to inform Chairmen and Clerks of the Committees of the Senate to prepare their Sessional Reports for the First Session (June, 2015 to June, 2016) for presentation from 2nd June, 2015 to 2nd July, 2016 in accordance with Rule 102(d) of the Senate Standing Order.

2. The Committees are also requested to submit the electronic and hard copy of their reports to the Senate Rules and Business Committee.

3. The schedule for submission is being circulated for the guidance of Senate Committees.

(Signed)
Senator Babajide Omoworare
Chairman, Senate Committee on Rules and Business

(d) ***Demise of Obi Francis Nwaoboshi:***
The Senate President read a letter from Senator Peter O. Nwaoboshi (*Delta North*) as follows:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX

ANNOUNCEMENT

With gratitude to God for a life well spent, I announce the death of my father Obi Francis Nwaoboshi on the 16th of April, 2016.

He will be buried on the 30th of April, 2016 at his home town Ibusa, Delta State.

Distinguished Senators are all invited.

(Signed)
Senator Peter O. Nwaoboshi

(e) ***Acknowledgement:***
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Students of Centagon International School, Maitama, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

4. Personal Explanation:
Rising on Rule 43, Senator Ike Ekweremadu *(Enugu West)* drew the attention of the Senate to the Senate Resolution of 3rd March, 2016 *(S/Res/107/01/16)*, on Tackling the Perennial Conflicts between Farmers and Cattle Herdsmen. One of the Resolutions mandated the Committees on Agriculture and Rural Development; and National Security and Intelligence to conduct a Public Hearing, with a view to articulating a lasting solution to the problem. On the 25th April, 2016 over 50 persons were killed, scores injured and buildings were razed down by the herdsmen in Uzouwani community, Enugu State. He urged the Committee to expedite action on the Public Hearing, for lasting solution to the perennial conflicts.

5. Petitions:
(*i*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Dino Melaye *(Kogi West)* drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Mr. Effiong E. Effiong and Mr. John Ikong over unlawful termination of their appointments by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP). He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

(*ii*) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Bassey A. Akpan (*Akwa Ibom North-East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Police Constable Celestine Williams for reinstatement to the Nigerian Police Force. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

6. **Joint Committee on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence:**
Report on the Motion on the unfortunate recurrence of kidnapping and hostage-taking in Nigeria:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence in respect of a Motion on the unfortunate recurrence of kidnapping and hostage-taking in Nigeria- A National Wake-up Call (*Senator Abu Ibrahim — Katsina South*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. **Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:**
Report on the Frivolous Petition Bill, 2016 (SB.143):
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters on Frivolous Petition Bill, 2016 (*Senator David Umaru — Niger East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

8. **Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:**
Report on the Motion on the Differences in the Content of Section 18 of the Armed Forces Act Cap. A20 LFN 2004 and 2010 respectively:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters in respect of a Motion on the Differences in the Content of Section 18 of the Armed Forces Act Cap. A20 LFN 2004 and 2010 respectively (*Senator David Umaru — Niger East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. **Petroleum Industry Governance Bill, 2016 (SB. 237):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the Governance and Institutional framework for the Petroleum Industry and for other matters connected therewith, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator Donald O. Alasoadura — Ondo Central*).

Debate:

Further consideration of Bill, deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. **National Inland Waterways Authority Act CAP, N47, LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (SB.240):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. **Motions:**

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

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(b) ***Outbreak of gastroenteritis epidemic in Ohafia and some parts of Umunneochi Local Government Areas of Abia North:***
Motion made: That the Senate is eager to improve access and the health conditions of Nigerians, including those in the rural areas - through the provision of adequate basic health care facilities and maintenance of robust preventive primary health care policies, as provided in the 2014 National Health Act;

notes with serious concern, a thickening health time-bomb, in the epidemic of gastroenteritis now spreading across Ohafia communities of Elu, Ebem and Amaekpu; as well as in some parts of Umunneochi Local Government Area, especially surrounding the Hausa communities of Lopanta, Lopaukwu and Leru, all arising from the deplorable and inhuman sanitary conditions, open toilet defecations and the growing avalanche of overflowing and unmanaged human waste which rapidly produce bacterial toxins and viral infections that affect our citizens;

worried about the imminent spread of the epidemic of gastroenteritis into many other areas and the increasing loss of lives in the already affected areas; and conscious that these areas are heavily populated settlements, at the crossroads of highly mobile human and vehicular traffics that transverse the entire South-South and South-East regions, and are gateways to other areas of the nation, so that an epidemic incubated in these affected areas can easily become dangerous health time-bombs, capable of spreading far and beyond other areas of the nation;

fully aware that an epidemic of gastroenteritis such as we have in the affected areas come with strangulating vomiting, nausea and diarrhea which pose serious health hazards and threaten the lives of all citizens, especially our vulnerable children who are prone to developing the deadly gastric reflux diseases. All these conditions retard the pursuit of stable economic well-being of ordinary citizens in the rural areas; and

conscious that all the negative impacts of the epidemic of gastroenteritis and its other associated ailments are now fast spreading in Elu, Ebem and Amaekpu communities of Ohafia, as well as throughout the Hausa communities of Lopanta, Lopaukwu and Leru in Umunneochi Local Government Area of Abia State.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) call on the Center for Disease Control, and the Primary Health Care Development Agency to urgently provide the necessary health care facilities to ameliorate the spread of the epidemic, as well as provide better public toilet facilities for all;

(*ii*) urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to as a matter of urgency, provide relief materials to the incapacitated citizens of the affected areas; and

(*iii*) direct the Committee on Primary Health Care and Communicable Diseases to embark on on -the- spot- assessment of the affected communities and report back to the Senate (*Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa — Abia North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do call on the Center for Disease Control, and the Primary Health Care Development Agency to urgently provide the necessary health care facilities to ameliorate the spread of the epidemic, as well as provide better public toilet facilities for all — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to as a matter of urgency, provide relief materials to the incapacitated citizens of the affected areas — *Agreed to*.

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do direct the Committee on Primary Health Care and Communicable Diseases to embark on on -the- spot- assessment of the affected communities and report back to the Senate — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:
Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:
"Urge the Abia State Government and the Local Government involved to take immediate steps to ameliorate the situation" (*Senator Joshua M. Lidani — Gombe South).*

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

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(*i*) call on the Center for Disease Control, and the Primary Health Care Development Agency to urgently provide the necessary health care facilities to ameliorate the spread of the epidemic, as well as provide better public toilet facilities for all;

(*ii*) urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to as a matter of urgency, provide relief materials to the incapacitated citizens of the affected areas;

(*iii*) direct the Committee on Primary Health Care and Communicable Diseases to embark on on -the- spot- assessment of the affected communities and report back to the Senate; and

(*iv*) urge the Abia State Government and the Local Government involved to take immediate steps to ameliorate the situation ***(S/Res/135/01/16)***.

(c) The Need to Prosecute Building Laws Violators:
Motion made: That the Senate notes with great concern, the recurring problem of building collapse in this country, due to lack of strict enforcement of building codes by the authorities;

worried that corruption and low rate of prosecution of offenders are some of the causes of this menace;

concerned that from available records, between 1974 and 2010, 401 lives were reportedly lost from over 60 collapsed buildings in this country, while more lives were lost but were not recorded;

further concerned that victims of building collapse do not normally get compensated; and

deeply worried that although there is provision for summary trial of violators and offenders of building code in our laws, there is no record of persons prosecuted or sanctioned for incidence of building collapse either by the Ministry of Justice, the Nigeria Police or other law organs of government.

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) call on the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, set up a special court to prosecute building code offenders;

(*ii*) call on the Federal Government to make it mandatory for owners of private/commercial buildings to obtain a comprehensive home owners' insurance on their property to protect the building against fire, collapse and other unforeseen acts of destruction;

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Housing, to invite all agencies saddled with the responsibility of enforcing building codes compliance to brief it on the state of investigations into building collapse in the country and actions taken within the past five years;

(*iv*) urge the Federal Government to prosecute corrupt building regulation officials found to be culpable in any building collapse;

(*v*) urge the Federal Government to direct professional bodies to withdraw licences of their counterparts who are culpable in any building collapse; and

(*vi*) urge this eighth Senate to enact a law that will compel owners and/or developers of the offending property, in conjunction with the regulatory agency, if found to have connived with the builders or failed in its duty, to pay adequate compensation to the victims and their dependants (*Senator Nelson A. Efiong — Akwa Ibom South*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do call on the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, set up a special court to prosecute building code offenders — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do call on the Federal Government to make it mandatory for owners of private/commercial buildings to obtain a comprehensive home owners' insurance on their property to protect the building against fire, collapse and other unforeseen acts of destruction — *Negatived.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Housing, to invite all agencies saddled with the responsibility of enforcing building codes compliance to brief it on the state of investigations into building collapse in the country and actions taken within the past five years — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to prosecute corrupt building regulation officials found to be culpable in any building collapse — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to direct professional bodies to withdraw licences of their counterparts who are culpable in any building collapse — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vi):
Question: That the Senate do urge this eighth Senate to enact a law that will compel owners and/or developers of the offending property, in conjunction with the regulatory agency, if found to have connived with the builders or failed in its duty, to pay adequate compensation to the victims and their dependants — *Negatived.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(*i*) mandate the Committee on Housing, to invite all agencies saddled with the responsibility of enforcing building codes compliance to brief it on the state of investigations into building collapse in the country and actions taken within the past five years;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to prosecute corrupt building regulation officials found to be culpable in any building collapse; and

(*iii*) urge the Federal Government to direct professional bodies to withdraw licences of their counterparts who are culpable in any building collapse ***(S/Res/136/01/16).***

12. Adjournment:
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 27th April, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:29 *p.m.*

Abubakar Olubukola Saraki, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.