



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 13th June, 2017

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

2. **Closed Session:**

Closed Session — 11:20 a.m.

Open Session — 12:05 p.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on issues bordering on the workings of the Senate in particular and the National Assembly in general.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Friday, 9th June, 2017.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Announcements:**

(a) **Confirmation of Appointment:**

The Senate President read a letter from Muhammad Bello (FCT Minister) as follows:



FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION

Office Of The Minister

FCDA Secretariat, Kapital Road, Area 11, P.M.B.24 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria.

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Ref. FCTA/HMO/ADM/119/Vol. 111/323

24th April, 2016

Sen. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, CON
President of the Senate
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

**REQUEST FOR THE APPROVAL OF ABDULLAHI OTEH ATTAH AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY INTERNAL
REVENUE SERVICE BOARD**

I have the honour to inform you that Mr. President has approved the nomination of Mr. Abdullahi Oteah Attah as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCT-IRS) Board. See copy of approval attached as Appendix I.

2. Mr. Attah is an experienced Tax Administrator with a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors of Nigeria. A copy of his profile and Curriculum Vitae are hereby attached as Appendix II for your kind reference.

3. In fulfilment of the requirements specified under Section 3(2)(a) of the FCT-IRS Act 2015 (See copy of relevant sections attached as Appendix III), I hereby seek for the kind consideration of the National Assembly for Mr. Abdullahi Oteah Attah to be confirmed as Chairman of the Board of FCT-IRS.

4. While thanking you, please accept the assurances of my best regards and highest esteem.

(Signed)

MUHAMMAD M. BELLO

Minister

(b) Postponement of Meeting:

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



SENATOR ABDULLAHI ADAMU

Nasarawa West Senatorial District

13th June, 2017

The meeting of the Northern Senators Forum scheduled for today has been postponed. A new date shall be announced in due course.

(Signed)

Senator Abdullahi Adamu

(c) Acknowledgment:

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

- (i) Members of National Association of Banking and Finance Students, Imo State University, Owerri, Imo State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Capital Gate International School and College, Mararaba, Nasarawa State; and
- (iii) Staff and Students of Premiere Academy, Lugbe, Abuja.

5. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Rose O. Oko (Cross River North) drew the attention of the Senate to the dastardly act committed on her Constituent, a 19 year old 200 level undergraduate student of Mass Communication of Cross River State University of Technology (CRUTECH), Miss Joy Odama by a known philanthropist, Alhaji Usman Adamu of Ibro Quarters, Karimo, Abuja; on

18th December, 2016. The lady was alleged to have been mysteriously murdered by the philanthropist through massive cocaine poisoning as revealed by the autopsy carried out by National Hospital, Abuja. She stated that the Nigeria Police could not provide an acceptable explanation to the family of the deceased who had lodged complain against Alhaji Usman Adamu. She urged the Senate to condemn the act, and direct its Committee on Police Affairs to investigate the circumstances surrounding her demise.

The Senate mandated the Committee on Police Affairs to investigate the matter.

(Deputy Senate President in Chair)

6. Privileges:

Rising on Rule 14, Senator Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) drew the attention of the Senate to sponsored attack and assassination attempt against him when he went to sensitised his constituents over the planned recall exercise being orchestrated on him by the Governor of Kogi State. He informed the Senate that on Monday, 12th June, 2017 in Lokoja, another attempt to assassinate him was executed in the presence of various security operatives. His cars were riddled with bullets by hoodlums and in the process two of them were gunned down by security operatives. He debunked media report that the dead hoodlums were students. Currently the cars are with the Police as exhibits. He urged the Senate to allow him bring a Motion on declaration of State Emergency in Kogi State, since the State is no longer safe.

The Senate condemned the attack in it entirety.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Danjuma Laah (*Kaduna South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the recent rampant kidnapping incidents along Abuja-Jere-Kaduna road, which has disrupted free movement of people and goods and services along that routes. 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)].

8. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Federal Polytechnic Kaltungo, Gombe State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 471) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Federal Polytechnic Adikpo, Benue State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 494) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Electricity Theft (Prohibition and Prevention) Bill, 2017 (SB. 496) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Federal University of Health Sciences Otukpo, Benue State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 504) — *Read the First Time.*

9. Committee on Federal Capital Territory:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Reports of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory on the following House Bills for Concurrence:

- (i) Federal Capital Territory Transport Authority (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (HB. 91);
- (ii) Federal Capital Territory Hospitals Management Board (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (HB. 441);
- (iii) Federal Capital Territory Civil Service Commission Bill, 2017 (HBs. 167 & 310);
- (iv) Federal Capital Territory Water Board (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (HB.318) (*Senator Dino Melaye — Kogi West*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

10. Committee on Housing and Urban Development:

Report on the Need to Prosecute Building Law Violators in Nigeria:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development on the need to prosecute Building Law Violators in Nigeria (*Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

11. Motions:

(a) *Need to Ensure affordable and Accessible Mental Health Care for Nigerians:*

Motion made: That the Senate is worried about the rising spate of suicides and suicide attempts in Nigeria;

notes that Nigeria was ranked 78th happiest nation in the world and 4th in Africa in the 2015 world happiness report;

notes further that the report published in March 2017 rates Nigeria as 95th happiest nation out of 155 Countries;

concerned that suicide and its attendant causes namely: depression, social and economic problems, low self-esteem, traumatic experiences, physical and emotional abuse, substance abuse, bullying etc. are not alien to Nigerians;

further concerned that societal ills, economic difficulty, crime rate etc. which are prevalent in Nigeria are sufficient to send anyone over the edge;

saddened that in spite of the dominant presence of these suicide catalysts, Nigeria's mental health support system is barely existent;

further saddened that access to mental health specialists is expensive and almost nearly out of reach of the poor and middle class citizens. The effect is that where pressure becomes overbearing for these persons, they attack people around them or attempt to take their own lives;

concerned that the incidences of these suicides are made worse by lack of attention, and the belief that depression and other personality and mental disorders are the white man's sickness and thus, does not affect Nigerians;

saddened to remember the case of Ariyo Taiwo who posted on Facebook, indicating that he had a few hours left to live. Instead of his post being seen as a plea for help, comments in response mocked and encouraged him. He was said to have taken his life a few hours later;

reminded that the wellbeing of citizens is the primary duty of government; and

mindful that accessibility of mental health care will also ensure that the teeming number of psychology and psychiatry graduates across the country can put their knowledge to use and be gainfully employed.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Health at Federal and State levels to embark on mental health sensitization and awareness campaign;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Health at all levels to set up free and accessible mental health stations in all Government owned Hospitals and clinics across Nigeria; and
- (iii) urge the citizenry to look out for possible symptoms of unhappiness, depression etc. and to seek professional help where necessary (*Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu — Lagos Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Health at Federal and State levels to embark on mental health sensitization and awareness campaign — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Health at all levels to set up free and accessible mental health stations in all Government owned Hospitals and clinics across Nigeria — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the citizenry to look out for possible symptoms of unhappiness, depression etc. and to seek professional help where necessary — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Health at Federal and State levels to embark on mental health sensitization and awareness campaign;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Health at all levels to set up free and accessible mental health stations in all Government owned Hospitals and clinics across Nigeria; and
- (iii) urge the citizenry to look out for possible symptoms of unhappiness, depression etc. and to seek professional help where necessary (*S/Res/001/03/17*).

(b) *Smuggling - A threat to Nigeria's quest to Self-Sufficiency in Rice Production:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes with serious concern the threat posed by Rice Smugglers to Nigeria's quest for self-sufficiency in rice production in order to save foreign exchange earnings;

notes also that smugglers smuggled rice through our land borders, seaports trade free zones and bounded terminals thereby avoiding the duties and levies placed on them;

worried that the ongoing rice revolution undertaken by many State Governments, and strategic interventions by Federal Government Agencies will amount to nothing if urgent steps are not taken to curtail this worrisome trend;

worried also that continuous waste of scarce forex on a commodity that can be produced locally makes no economic sense, most especially at a period we are grappling with economic recession;

concerned that smuggling severely harms the economy of a country in multidimensional ways, undermines its local industry, discourages legal imports and reduces the volume of revenues collected from duties and levies;

concerned also that markets and shops across the country are flooded with smuggled goods of any and all descriptions. Smuggled items through the Seme, Idiroko, Katsina and Yobe States borders form a major part of the informal economy volume which ranges between 100 per cent or more of the formal economy;

aware that major proportion of the revenue to be collected by the Federal Government is being lost, over and above the adverse impact that smuggled items caused local industry. Obviously this cannot be done without connivance of corrupt officials;

regrets that thousands of industrial units in the country have been rendered sick, due to the availability of smuggled goods in open markets. Smuggling has now become a routine part of all economic activities in Nigeria which hardly raises any eye brows nor stirs the slightest fear of the law. Nigeria is facing the challenge of measuring and countering enormous revenue leakages, its size estimated to be three times the regular economy; and

worried that in spite of the Comprehensive Import Supervision Scheme (CISS) under the Technical Committee, cases of smuggling are still on the increase.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to intensify border patrol to check the activities of these smugglers;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to engage our neighbouring countries where these smuggled rice are discharged by ships and transported to the country; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Customs, Excise and Tariff to carry out a holistic investigation on the operation of Comprehensive Import Supervision Scheme (CISS), and identify those behind the smuggling of rice and other items into Nigeria with a view to bringing them to book (*Senator Hope O. Uzodinma — Imo West*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to intensify border patrol to check the activities of these smugglers — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to engage our neighbouring countries where these smuggled rice are discharged by ships and transported to the country — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Customs, Excise and Tariff to carry out a holistic investigation on the operation of Comprehensive Import Supervision Scheme (CISS), and identify those behind the smuggling of rice and other items into Nigeria with a view to bringing them to book — *Agreed to.*

Addition proposed Resolution:

Insert Addition proposed Resolution as follows:

“That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to work out a comprehensive import regime and provide sufficient incentive to farmers and local processors of rice in Nigeria” (*Senator Bala Ibn Na’Allah — Kebbi South*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to intensify border patrol to check the activities of these smugglers;
 - (ii) urge the Federal Government to engage our neighbouring countries where these smuggled rice are discharged by ships and transported to the country;
 - (iii) mandate the Committee on Customs, Excise and Tariff to carry out a holistic investigation on the operation of Comprehensive Import Supervision Scheme (CISS), and identify those behind the smuggling of rice and other items into Nigeria with a view to bringing them to book; and
 - (iv) urge the Federal Government to work out a comprehensive import regime and provide sufficient incentive to farmers and local processors of rice in Nigeria (S/Res/002/03/17).
- (c) *The Urgent Need to adopt Labour Export Strategy in order to reduce the rate of Youth Unemployment and Crime in Nigeria:*

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

- (d) *The Need to maintain Nigeria's resolve to tackle Climate Change:*

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

- (e) *The urgent need to save the 215 Megawatt (MW) Kaduna Power Plant:*

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. **Committee on Establishment and Public Service:**

Report on the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) Act Amendment Bill, 2017 (SB.359):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. **Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:**

Report on the Federal University of Maritime Studies, Oron Bill, 2017 (SB. 309):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. **Committee on Environment:**

Report on the Erosion Control and Prevention Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.32):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

15. **Animal Health and Husbandry Technologies (Registration, etc.) Bill, 2017 (HB. 320) - Concurrence:**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. **Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HBs.99 & 118) - Concurrence:**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. Compulsory Treatment and Care of Victims of Gunshots Bill, 2017 (HB. 119) - Concurrence:

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

18. Corporate Manslaughter Bill, 2017 (HB. 273) - Concurrence:

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

19. National Child Protection and Enforcement Agency Bill, 2017 (HB. 127) - Concurrence:

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

20. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 14th June, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
(*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:53 p.m.

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