



THE SENATE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 13th February, 2018

1. The Senate met at 10:52 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 7th February, 2018.
Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Announcement:**
Acknowledgment:
The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:
 - (i) Staff and Students of Samuel Bill International Academy Ltd. Utako, Abuja; and
 - (ii) Staff and Students of Lordsbridge Academy, Lugbe, Abuja.
4. **Personal Explanation:**
Rising on Rule 43, Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah (*Kebbi South*) drew the attention of the Senate to two (2) issues:
 - (i) the Kanu Nwankwo Heart Foundation founded by Nigerian legend footballer, Mr. Kanu Nwankwo with the sole aim of catering for less privilege with heart related problems is funded with proceed from a hotel built for that purpose. However, the Management of the hotel secured a bank facility without the consent of the proprietor, Mr. Kanu Nwankwo, which is crippling the operations of the Foundation, leading to its taking over by Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON). He urged the Senate to mandate the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to intervene for the sake of the less privilege.
By leave of the Senate, Chairman, Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions is mandated to intervene to rescue the Foundation.
 - (ii) He further observed the persistent boat accidents in his Constituency, where recently 20 persons loss their lives. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.
By leave of the Senate, the Ad hoc Committee on the Review of Security Infrastructure of Nigeria is mandated to examine the situation in Kebbi State for permanent solution.

5. Privileges:

Rising on Rule 14, Senator Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) drew the attention of the Senate to the news on Sahara Reporters and The Nation Newspaper on Sunday, 11th February, 2018, that the Federal Government has taken him to court over misinformation on alleged assassination attempt on 14th and 15th April, 2017. He informed the Senate that the suspected masterminds of the assassination attempt, Mr. Taofiq, Chairman, Ijumu Local Government Area was arrested and paraded by the Nigeria Police while the case was charged in High Court at Lokoja, Kogi State. Various exhibits of the case are currently with the High Court where the case is pending. He wondered why he is now being accused of misleading the Federal Government on the assassination when the case is yet to be decided by the High Court. He further informed the Senate that he is being witch hunted by the Federal Government for his belief and stand against injustice in the country and urged the Senate to look into the curious case.

By leave of the Senate, information is noted, hoping that the Nigerian Police and Attorney-General of Federation shall review their stand on this matter.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Jeremiah T. Useni (*Plateau South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Senator John Shagaya which sad event took place on Sunday, 11th February, 2018 as a result of ghastly motor accident. 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. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Kabiru G. Marafa (*Zamfara Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the invitation extended to him by the All Progressives Congress (APC) Zamfara Chapter which he brought before the Senate on Wednesday, 31st January, 2018. He informed the Senate that he honoured the invitation in Gusau, Zamfara State Capital on Saturday, 10th February, 2018 and also honoured a similar invitation by the Zamfara State Council of Chiefs and Emirs in Kaduna where in both cases the matter was brought up. He stood by his earlier statement on the floor of the Senate which was further elaborated by the Chairman, Council of Chiefs and Emirs in his speech.

The Senate mandated the Ad hoc Committee on the Review of Security Infrastructure of Nigeria to intervene via Security Agencies.

8. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) National Agricultural Seeds Council Bill, 2018 (HB. 472) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Nigerian Aeronautical Search and Rescue Bill, 2018 (HB. 139) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport of Nigeria Bill, 2018 (HB. 973) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Chartered Institute of Shipping of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB. 622) — *Read the First Time.*

9. Motions:**(a) Demise of Senator Professor Sunday Osarumwense Iyehen:**

Motion made: That the Senate recalls that Senator Professor Sunday Osarumwense Iyehen was born on October 3, 1937 in Benin City;

recalls further that he began his educational pursuits at St. Matthew's C.M.S., and St. Peter's C.M.S., both in Benin City from 1944 -1951. He proceeded to the prestigious Edo College Benin City and Government College Ibadan from 1952 -1958;

recounts that for further educational pursuits, he:

- Studied Mathematics at the University College, Ibadan and came out with a first class degree thus becoming the prize winner in 1963;

- Proceeded to the University of Glasgow, Scotland and then the University of Keele, England and graduated as Doctor of Mathematics in 1967; and
- For his research publications, he got a Doctor of Science degree from the University of Keele in 1987;

recounts further that Senator Professor Sunday Osarumwense Iyahan was inducted into the following professional bodies:

- African Mathematical Union (A.M.U) 1976;
- Nigerian Mathematical Society, Member of Council 1984 - 1988;
- Nigerian Academy of Science (N.A.S) in 1981 and became the body's Vice President from 2000 - 2001; and
- Fellow of the Mathematical Association of Nigeria (F.M.A.N) 1992;

aware that from 1986 to 1992, he was Editor-in-Chief of the Afrika Mathematical Journal of the African Mathematical Union;

aware further that he worked as an Assistant Statistical Officer at the Federal Office of Statistics, Lagos in 1959;

mindful that his contributions to academic empowerment of Nigerians and non-Nigerians alike included:

- Teaching Mathematics at both the University of Ibadan and the University of Benin, Benin City from 1967 -1981;
- Being appointed Professor of Mathematics in 1976 rising to Head of Department and later Dean of the Faculty of Science alternately from 1976 -1981;
- Being appointed Coordinator of Mathematics Program at the National Mathematical Centre, Abuja from 1998 to 2004 where he rose to become Acting Director and Chief Executive of the Centre;
- Made Professor of Mathematics and pioneer Head of Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Benson Idahosa University, Benin City and Pioneer Dean of School of Postgraduate Studies of the same institution from 2010 - 2012;
- Being Visiting/Guest Lecturer at various European and African Universities Department of Mathematics including the University of Cambridge, England 1967, 1975; University of Liege, Belgium 1972; University of Sterling, Scotland 1975; Trinity College, Dublin 1975; Maerer University, Uganda 1976; University of Nairobi, Kenya 1981; University of Zimbabwe 1976 and University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana 1991; and
- He retired from the academia in 1981, went into National Service and only served on contract as Professor of Mathematics at the University of Benin, Benin City from 1984 to 1992;

mindful further that to serve his fatherland in other capacities, Senator Professor Sunday Osarumwense Iyahan was:

- Appointed by the Federal Government of Nigeria as a Member of the National Population Commission and later became the Resident Commissioner for Bendel State and helped to establish the Bendel State Office of the Commission;
- Appointed by the Federal Government of Nigeria as Member, Governing Council, University of Maiduguri 1986 - 1992.
- Appointed by the Federal Government of Nigeria as Member, Governing Board, National Universities Commission 1993 - 1994;
- Appointed by the Rivers State Government as Chairman, Visitation Panel to the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt 1989;
- Appointed by the Federal Government of Nigeria as Chairman, Governing Council, Federal Polytechnic, Idah, Kogi State 2005 - 2009;

- Elected Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to a first tenure by the then Bendel State between October and December 1983 and he chaired the Senate Committee on Information and Public Relations; and
- Elected Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to a second tenure by the then Bendel State between October 1992 and November 1993 and he Chaired the Senate Committee on National Planning; and

contends that late Senator Professor Sunday Osarumwense Iyahan was indeed a great man who served Nigeria with everything he had. He gave his all both in his youth and old age to the service of Nigeria and thus deserves to be accorded the utmost national respect even in death.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in his honor;
- (ii) send a delegation of this hallowed chamber to pay a condolence visit on his wife, children, family members, the people and government of Edo State; and
- (iii) accord his burial all the official rites due such a national figure who served with diligence (*Senator Matthew A. Urhohide — Edo South*).

(Deputy Senate President in Chair)

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in his honor — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do send a delegation of this hallowed chamber to pay a condolence visit on his wife, children, family members, the people and government of Edo State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do accord his burial all the official rites due such a national figure who served with diligence — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate:

- (i) observe a minute silence in his honor;
- (ii) send a delegation of this hallowed chamber to pay a condolence visit on his wife, children, family members, the people and government of Edo State; and
- (iii) accord his burial all the official rites due such a national figure who served with diligence (*S/Res/181/03/18*).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

(b) *Urgent Need to Halt the Importation of Palm Oil and its Allied Products to Protect the Palm Oil/kernel Industry in Nigeria:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes with serious concern the unbridled importation of palm kernel and allied palm products into Nigeria which is threatening the Federal Government's campaign for the diversification of the economy through increased agricultural production and exports;

notes that since 2017, that Nigeria has imported 450,000 tons of palm oil to the tune of ₦116.3billion, is as grim a reality as it is worrisome. With an ever increasing population, a steady decline in palm oil production, and a proliferation of the uses of various products from palm oil, it is an economic fact that there is high demand for palm oil in Nigeria;

aware that Nigeria was the world leading producer of palm oil at independence but unfortunately, Indonesia and Malaysia have overtaken Nigeria and we now import palm oil;

saddened that Malaysia, which is widely believed to have collected its first palm seedlings from Nigeria some decades ago, is now exporting palm oil products to us. The government must reverse this trend with copious investments in the local palm industry and the protection of local producers from unnecessary imports. We have the land and the manpower to become a formidable force in oil palm production. Our objective should be to go back to our pre-independence status in oil palm production. We have no business importing palm kernel or any oil palm product from any country;

aware that at independence, agriculture was the mainstay of Nigeria's economy. More than 70 per cent of the population was engaged in agriculture. Apart from various food crops produced in the country, Nigeria was a major producer of palm oil/kernel, cocoa, groundnut and rubber, among others. But, following the discovery of crude oil in commercial quantity in the 1970s, agriculture was neglected while attention was shifted to unbridled importation of agricultural products, including palm oil/palm kernel oil;

worried that despite the calls for the diversification of the economy through agriculture, Nigeria still imports palm oil and even palm kernel from Malaysia and Indonesia for our soap and health industries. While Nigeria produces 40 per cent of its palm oil requirements, it imports about 60 per cent. The demand for palm kernel oil for commercial and industrial use has increased tremendously, hence its huge importation;

aware that developing the oil palm industry is one of the ways that Nigeria can reduce poverty and create mass employment. The government should, therefore, encourage the development of this important cash crop, which significantly contributed to the economy of the defunct Eastern Region of Nigeria during the First Republic. For the country to attain the desirable status of the world's largest producer of palm oil and its derivative product, palm kernel oil, it is necessary to mechanize its production, embrace high yielding varieties and support massive development of oil palm plantations across the country's oil palm belt;

aware that importation of the product is harming the local palm industry and depleting our foreign reserve. They are also threatening the viability of the industry into which many Nigerians have sunk huge sums of money in support of the government's export promotion drive;

observes that the time has come for government to protect this industry by checking unnecessary imports. The way to go is to support the local palm industry as it has the capacity to meet the country's requirement for palm products, especially palm kernel for the local soap industry. The earlier our palm producers are encouraged and we start producing enough palm oil/palm kernel oil for our domestic needs and exports, the better for the economy;

delighted that oil palm value chain activities are going on in some of the country's palm oil producing States. Some of these states include Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Rivers, Bayelsa, Imo and Anambra. Others are Ebonyi, Enugu, Delta, Edo, Ondo and Ogun; and

convinced that if the oil palm industry is fully developed, it will guarantee mass employment and boost our foreign exchange earnings.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to urgently place a ban on the importation of palm oil and its allied products and also to inject needed funds to aid farmers to produce, process as well as export palm oil as it will be a major foreign exchange earner;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to take appropriate steps that will make the palm oil industry realize its full potentials;
- (iii) urge the private sector to partner State Governments to embark on revolutionary transformation of palm oil production and creation of allied industries through backward integration; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to invite the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) on why it has failed to deliver on its mandate (*Senator Francis A. Alimikhena — Edo North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to urgently place a ban on the importation of palm oil and its allied products and also to inject needed funds to aid farmers to produce, process as well as export palm oil as it will be a major foreign exchange earner — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to take appropriate steps that will make the palm oil industry realize its full potentials — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the private sector to partner State Governments to embark on revolutionary transformation of palm oil production and creation of allied industries through backward integration — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to invite the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) on why it has failed to deliver on its mandate — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to encourage the production of other cash crops like cotton, groundnut, tomatoes, cocoa etc. and ban their importation to Nigeria at the appropriate time (*Senator Rabiu M. Musa — Kano Central*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to urgently place a ban on the importation of palm oil and its allied products and also to inject needed funds to aid farmers to produce, process as well as export palm oil as it will be a major foreign exchange earner;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to take appropriate steps that will make the palm oil industry realize its full potentials;

- (iii) urge the private sector to partner State Governments to embark on revolutionary transformation of palm oil production and creation of allied industries through backward integration;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to invite the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) on why it has failed to deliver on its mandate; and
- (v) urge the Federal Government to encourage the production of other cash crops like cotton, groundnut tomatoes, cocoa etc. and ban their importation to Nigeria at the appropriate time (S/Res/182/03/18).

(c) ***Scarcity of Lower Denomination Currency Notes:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes with serious concern, protracted scarcity of lower Naira denominations;

concerned that scarcity of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 Naira notes poses a severe threat to the economy of the nation, which is just recovering from recession, as it is worsening inflationary trends, with attendant consequences;

notes that the nation's currency is highly essential and critical in national development and if mismanaged, the economy is doomed with adverse effect on the people and the nation;

worried that banks in Nigeria no longer dispense lower Naira denominations with the excuse that they hardly receive them from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN);

worried also that reports in the media over the issue is not cheering at all. For instance, in the Vanguard News online report of December, 29, 2017, it was reported that: "The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has not printed the small naira denominations for about a year, causing the scarcity of the notes in the economy. Sources at the CBN hinted that for a year now, the apex bank did not award contract for the printing of notes such as ₦5, ₦10, ₦20 and ₦50 usually done abroad";

worried also that this was further echoed in the editorial of Daily Trust of Monday, January 15, 2018 captioned "Scarcity of lower Naira note". It was stated that "Citing high cost of printing and production of currency notes, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) suspended the printing of small denomination notes ...". It went further to state that: "The failure of the apex bank to deliver currency notes to the Nigerian public therefore created significant scarcity and pains for the majority of Nigerians who transact business mostly in the affected lower denominations";

disturbed that the lower denominations are printed and procured outside the country with the attendant economic and security implications. The above quoted Daily Trust Newspaper further confirmed that "It is significant that the denominations that were skipped are those printed on polymer paper by printers outside the country's shores, even when there are no marked differences between the polymer paper and the traditional currency paper";

further disturbed that in the same write up it was further emphasized that: "In the light of the present reality of runaway cost of printing the polymer notes, CBN may consider a return to the normal currency paper for the lower denominations, if that will be cost effective. In the same context CBN may need to brace up to the ultimate option of introducing coins for the lower denominations as a more sustainable measure since they have a longer shelf life than currency notes;

whereas all developed countries operate with coins, a developing country like Nigeria does not, even when there are glaring disadvantages from the absence of coins for routine transactions in the country"; and

notes further that if the situation is not remedied urgently, it may lead to total collapse of the economy.

Accordingly resolves to:

mandate the Committees on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions; and Finance to investigate with a view to proffering lasting solution and report within two (2) weeks (*Senator Peter O. Nwaoboshi — Delta North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions; and Finance to investigate with a view to proffering lasting solution and report within two (2) weeks — *Agreed to:*

Resolved:

That the Senate mandate the Committees on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions; and Finance to investigate with a view to proffering lasting solution and report within two (2) weeks (S/Res/183/03/18).

(d) *The need for the establishment of a National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archives:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes the urgent need of the establishment of a Parliamentary Museum and archive for the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

recalls that the Legislature serves as the only key symbol of democracy particularly in the Presidential System of Government;

notes that section 47 of the 1999 Constitution as amended states that the National Assembly for the Federation shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives;

worried that much has not been documented about the history of Nigerian Legislature due to long years of military rule;

agreed that the few years of the existence of democracy in the country has been eventful for the Legislature in the areas of Executive and Legislative relationship and the challenges of the oversight performance by the Legislature without adequate documentation for the use of incoming generation;

further worried that the efforts of the 7th National Assembly should be recognized, sustained and be improved upon by the 8th National Assembly in order to ensure continuity and preservation of our Legislative heritage in Nigeria;

further notes that section 60 of the same Constitution empowers the Senate and House of Representatives to regulate their own procedure;

observes that the establishment of a National Assembly Joint Committee would create a revenue base for the Legislature in Nigeria as is the case of other Parliamentary Museum in India, US Congress, amongst others; and

convinced that a National Assembly Joint Committee would facilitate the implementation of this unique initiative as an indelible legacy that the 8th National Assembly could bequeath the legislature and the Country at large.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Senate in collaboration with the House of Representatives to establish a Joint Committee of Culture and Tourism on National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archives;

- (ii) mandate the Joint Committee on Culture and Tourism on National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archive to study the resolutions of the 7th Senate and House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the report of the *Ad hoc* Committee on Immortalization for implementation and continuity to enrich the achievements of the National Assembly for the sake of posterity;
- (iii) mandate the Joint Committee on Culture and Tourism to harmonize the position of the Senate, House of Representatives and the Management of the National Assembly on the National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archives in order to ensure efficient and effective take off as well as to generate revenue for the Legislature; and
- (iv) urge the President of the Senate to collaborate with the Speaker, House of Representatives by supporting the establishment of a Joint Committee of Culture and Tourism on National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archive (*Senator Matthew A. Urhoghide — Edo South*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Senate in collaboration with the House of Representatives to establish a Joint Committee of Culture and Tourism on National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archives — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Joint Committee on Culture and Tourism on National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archive to study the resolutions of the 7th Senate and House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the report of the *Ad hoc* Committee on Immortalization for implementation and continuity to enrich the achievements of the National Assembly for the sake of posterity — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Joint Committee on Culture and Tourism to harmonize the position of the Senate, House of Representatives and the Management of the National Assembly on the National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archives in order to ensure efficient and effective take off as well as to generate revenue for the Legislature — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the President of the Senate to collaborate with the Speaker, House of Representatives by supporting the establishment of a Joint Committee of Culture and Tourism on National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archive — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate:

- (i) urge the Senate in collaboration with the House of Representatives to establish a Joint Committee of Culture and Tourism on National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archives;
- (ii) mandate the Joint Committee on Culture and Tourism on National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archive to study the resolutions of the 7th Senate and House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the report of the *Ad hoc* Committee on Immortalization for implementation and continuity to enrich the achievements of the National Assembly for the sake of posterity;

- (iii) mandate the Joint Committee on Culture and Tourism to harmonize the position of the Senate, House of Representatives and the Management of the National Assembly on the National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archives in order to ensure efficient and effective take off as well as to generate revenue for the Legislature; and
- (iv) urge the President of the Senate to collaborate with the Speaker, House of Representatives by supporting the establishment of a Joint Committee of Culture and Tourism on National Assembly Legislative Museum and Archive (S/Res/184/03/18).

10. Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:

Report on the Federal Polytechnics Act and for Other Related Matters 2018 (SB. 241):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 14th February, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
(Senate Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:33 p.m.

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