



# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 28th February, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:26 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**  
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 22nd February, 2017.

*Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.*

3. **Announcement:**

- (a) **Confirmation Hearing of Chief Justice of the Federation:**

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Abubakar Olubukola Saraki (*Kwara Central*) as follows:



**SENATOR ABUBAKAR OLUBUKOLA SARAKI**  
KWARA CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

*This is to inform the Distinguished Senators of the Confirmation Hearing of Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Walter Onnoghen, on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2017, at 11.00 am in Plenary.*

*Endeavour to be punctual, please*

*(Signed)*

*Sen. Abubakar Bukola Saraki*  
*President of the Senate*

- (b) **Submission and defence of Reports on the 2017 Appropriation Bill:**

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Mohammed D. Goje (*Gombe Central*) as follows:



**THE SENATE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX  
P. M. B 141, GARKI, ABUJA NIGERIA**

28th February, 2017

*His Excellency,  
The President of the Senate,  
Sen. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, CON,  
Senate Chamber.*

*Your Excellency,*

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

*Sub-Committees of Appropriations are hereby informed that the submission and defence of their reports on the 2017 Appropriation Bill is now scheduled to take place from Wednesday, 1st - Friday, 3rd; and Monday, 6th - Wednesday, 8th March, 2017, at 10.00 a.m daily in Meeting Room 224, Senate Building.*

*Please endeavour to conclude your reports and submit same within the scheduled dates.*

*(Signed)*

*Sen. Mohammed Danjuma Goje  
Chairman*

**(c) Acknowledgment:**

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

- (i) Students of the Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, Adamawa State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Cedar International Secondary School, Kubwa, Abuja; and
- (iii) Staff and Students of Stargate International Academy, Kubwa, Abuja.

**4. Petitions:**

- (i) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Suleiman A. Adokwe (*Nasarawa South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Adamu El-Sabo, over wrongful retirement from the Service of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). 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 Matthew A. Urhoghide (*Edo South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, ACP Joseph I. Ogbeide, over denial of resumption to work after reinstatement by the Police Service Commission. 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.*

**5. Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Chukwuka G. Utazi (*Enugu North*) drew the attention of the Senate to two different versions of the 1999 Constitution (As Amended) currently in use by the Senate. He urged the Senate to confirm the authentic Constitution.

**6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) drew the attention of the Senate to the monumental corruption prevailing in the Oil Industry despite the effort by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, Muhammadu Buhari, and the Anti-graft Agencies to arrest corruption in the country. He observed that some Nigerians engage in blatant corrupt tendencies in the areas of lifting, refining and subsidy of oil products. 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. Report on the Auditor General for the Federation:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do receive the Report of the Auditor General for the Federation on the Accounts of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December, 2015 Part 1 (*Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Laid and referred to the Public Accounts Committee to report within four (4) weeks.*

**8. Committee on Establishment and Public Services:**

*Report on the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.236):*

*Motion made:* That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (*Senator Emmanuel I. Paulker — Bayelsa Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Laid.*

**9. Committee on Establishment and Public Services:**

*Report on the Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 88):*

*Motion made:* That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (*Senator Emmanuel I. Paulker — Bayelsa Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Laid.*

**10. Committee on Trade and Investment:**

*Report on the Consumer Protection Act (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2017 (SB. 257):*

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**11. Committee on Works:**

*Report on the National Road Funds (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 218):*

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**12. Committee on Works:**

*Report on the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2017 (SB.219):*

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**13. Confirmation of Nomination:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, on the nomination of Mr. Adeyinka Asekun from Ogun State as Non-Career Ambassador for Confirmation as Ambassador Designate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs to report within one (1) week.*

**14. Motions:**

(a) *The urgent need for the Federal Government to redeem Local Contractors Debts:*

*Motion made:* That the Senate notes that the Nigerian economy is experiencing difficult times caused by a slump in oil prices, with the result that a negative GDP (it shrank by 0.36% in the first quarter, 2.06% in the second quarter, and 2.24% in the third quarter) was recorded in three consecutive quarters of 2016. As a result there has been an increase in the rate of unemployment and increase in prices of goods;

*further notes* with interest, the CBN's report on the Federal Government's indebtedness to the local economy and its effects in protracting the current economic situation;

*disturbed that* further delay in servicing these debts may adversely affect business organisations. Owing to the fact that many businesses are indebted to banks, further delay may subsequently affect financial organisations;

*further notes* that a publication contained in the guardian newspaper of Tuesday, 10th January, 2017 alleges that banks are being owed over ₦465 billion by oil importers alone;

*disturbed* because it is also alleged that the mounting debts owed to the banks is as a result of failure of the Federal Government to pay outstanding subsidy arrears before entering into the new oil pricing regime;

*further disturbed* because a publication contained in the Nation Newspaper of Wednesday, 26th January, 2017 put Banks' bad loan at ₦856.9b; with the upstream oil and gas, general commerce, manufacturing and power sectors accounting for a significant portion;

*worried* that this could spell doom for the banking and the financial services sector;

*concerned* that inability to repay subsisting bank loans may affect the purchasing power of these Petroleum marketers, thus creating scarcity of Petroleum products;

*further concerned* about the alleged failure to pay debts owed to Pharmaceutical Companies and the impact this may have on the health sector. This is contained in a publication by the Nation Newspaper on Monday, 6th February, 2017;

*disturbed that* data released by the Debt Management office put Nigeria's domestic debt as at June 30, 2016 at over 10 trillion Naira. Local contractors debt is estimated to amount to an additional N2 trillion;

*opines that* settling these local debts will ensure that affected businesses stay afloat through increase in the circulation of money in order to bring the current economic recession to an end; and

*conscious* and determined to ensure that Nigeria's economy recovers from this recession and is nursed back to prosperity in the shortest possible time.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to appraise its indebtedness to the local contractors; and
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to propose a framework/repayment plan for servicing of these debts (*Senator Oluremi Tinubu — Lagos Central*)

*Debate:*

*Propose Resolution (i):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to appraise its indebtedness to the local contractors — *Agreed to.*

*Propose Resolution (ii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to propose a framework/repayment plan for servicing of these debts. — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to appraise its indebtedness to the local contractors; and
  - (ii) urge the Federal Government to propose a framework/repayment plan for servicing of these debts (*S/Res/086/02/17*).
- (b) *Urgent need to stem the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Nigeria:*  
*Motion made:* That the Senate notes that the peace and security of the country is threatened with the influx of illegal Small Arms and Light Weapons into Nigeria;

*aware* that in the Nigeria Fire Arms Act, the law clearly provides that no person shall have in his possession or under his control any firearm or ammunition except such person has a license from the President or from the Inspector General of Police and also anyone who has in their possession unlicensed firearms, who imports or exports firearms or ammunition other than through prescribed Ports or who manufactures, assembles or repair firearms and ammunition unlawfully shall be liable to a minimum sentence of ten years imprisonment;

*worried* that of the about 1500 identified land border crossings into Nigeria, only 114, covering about 4,000 square kilometers have approved control posts manned by immigration officials and other security agencies which means there are over 1400 illegal routes unmanned, signalling grave security implications for the country;

*further worried* by the revelation of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Development report in August, 2016 in Abuja which stated that Nigeria has about 350 million or 70% of 500 million illegal arms;

*disturbed* that most firearms used in the Libyan war and the Arab Spring found their way into Nigeria through most of these our porous borders;

*aware* that on January 27, 2017, the Nigerian Customs Service in Lagos seized a truck load containing 661 sophisticated rifles illegally imported into the country from China, packed in 49 boxes and concealed with steel doors and other merchandized goods in a 40ft container;

*alarmed* by the confirmation from the Service that the 40ft container with the 661 Pump Action Rifles were cleared at the Lagos Port by some Custom officers and had in fact left the Port before it was intercepted at Mile 2 area of Lagos;

*concerned* that incidents of illegal importation of Arms appear to be in the ascendancy not only through Land Borders but through the Ports as exemplified in the reported cases of December 2016, when the Nigerian Customs Service, Tin Can Island Command, intercepted a cache of Arms, Ammunition and Military Gadgets smuggled into the Country from United States of America as well as several other incidents of interception of ammunitions in concealed Containers at different ports, including a recent shocking discovery of large quantity of ammunition abandoned at the Nigerian Aviation Handling Company Ltd (NAHCO), Lagos; and

*worried* that if this ugly trend of illegal importation of small arms and light weapons into the country is not checked there won't be an end to the menace of armed robbery, cultism, cattle rustling, kidnapping and even the deadly Boko Haram disturbing the peace of the country.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) mandate the Committees on Customs and Excise; and Interior to examine all the processes involved in importation of goods and ascertain also who does what and how, in the said process, including Cargo Inspection, the model and the status of scanning equipment used by the Service, with a view to determine whether the process and its operators are effective, efficient and of required standards;
- (ii) investigate the recent incident of illegal Importation of 661 sophisticated weapons into the country, the December 2016, the NAHCO incident and any other recent incident relating to illegal importation of Arms into the country and identify the importers and their collaborators no matter how highly placed; and
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to promote inter agency synergy between Security Agencies in order to intensify safety in our land borders (*Senator Hope O. Uzodinma — Imo West*).

*Debate:*

*Proposed Resolution (i):*

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Customs and Excise; and Interior to examine all the processes involved in importation of goods and ascertain also who does what and how, in the said process, including Cargo Inspection, the model and the status of scanning equipment used by the Service; with a view to determine whether the process and its operators are effective, efficient and of required standards — *Agreed to.*

**Proposed Resolution (ii):**

**Question:** That the Senate do investigate the recent incident of illegal Importation of 661 sophisticated weapons into the country, the December 2016, the NAHCO incident and any other recent incident relating to illegal importation of Arms into the country and identify the importers and their collaborators no matter how highly placed — *Agreed to.*

**Proposed Resolution (iii):**

**Question:** That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to promote inter agency synergy between Security Agencies in order to intensify safety in our land borders — *Agreed to.*

**Resolved:**

That the Senate do:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Customs and Excise; and Interior to examine all the processes involved in importation of goods and ascertain also who does what and how, in the said process, including Cargo Inspection, the model and the status of scanning equipment used by the Service, with a view to determine whether the process and its operators are effective, efficient and of required standards;
- (ii) investigate the recent incident of illegal Importation of 661 sophisticated weapons into the country, the December 2016, the NAHCO incident and any other recent incident relating to illegal importation of Arms into the country and identify the importers and their collaborators no matter how highly placed; and
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to promote inter agency synergy between Security Agencies in order to intensify safety in our land borders (*S/Res/087/02/17*).

(c) **Unidentifiable Sooty Particulate dropping in Rivers State and its Environs:**

**Motion made:** The Senate do notes that there is in recent times droppings of unidentifiable sooty particulate in Rivers State, which is suspected to be after-effects of Oil and Gas Exploration and Exploitation activities in the State;

*aware* that Oil and Gas Exploration and Exploitation activities started in Rivers State and its environs since the discovery of Hydrocarbons in the Niger Delta region in 1957;

*aware also* that the environment; including land, water and air has already been grievously polluted through the activities of the Multi-national Companies;

*further aware* that an environmental audit due to the degradation of the environment has never been carried out since the commencement of the exploration and exploitation activities in the area which has lasted for over 60 years, meaning that the contaminated environment remains without the hope of remediation;

*worried* that the sooty particulate substances dropping in the state is becoming too visible that one cannot stay outdoors without receiving drops of them on one's body. It has become more worrisome that they are seen on bedspreads in bedrooms, worktops in kitchens, chairs and other materials in houses, meaning that they are entering through every available crevice into inner spaces of buildings as the wind directs them;

*concerned* that residents of Rivers State have noticed logs of these sooty particulate settling in their nasal tracts which has occasioned cleaning of their nostril several times in the day;

*further concerned* that the amount of these particulate that have been inhaled by Nigerians resident in the State cannot be estimated just as the after-effects of their inhalation have not been determined;

*disturbed* that the sooty particulates are dropping on water bodies, farmlands and whatever is left under the sky, which may be detrimental to human health, as residents in the area are exposed to consumption of harvests from both the seas and the lands as well as drinking water from the water bodies;

*further worried* that these particulates which are suspected to be by-products of hydrocarbons or crude oil that did not go through proper refining processes (incomplete combustion) may contain some chemicals that can pose some health hazards to the people;

*knows* that air pollution has no boundary or limit within which it could be contained as means of containment of air pollution has not been discovered, therefore the possibility of spread of these sooty particulates to other neighbouring States to Rivers State and indeed the entire nation cannot be doubted;

*observes* that recent outbreak of difficulty in breathing caused by congestion of nasal tracts of many residents in Rivers State could be linked to this epidemic;

*further observes* that this may also be the cause of the many recent cases of deaths without noticeable ailments in many towns of Rivers State;

*knows further* that it might become a national emergency if not handled appropriately from its root cause, hence the urgent need to carry out a comprehensive investigation of the causes of their occurrence, their chemical composition and likely side effects, as a stitch in time saves nine;

*understands* that Rivers State Government has since commenced investigation of the likely causes of the droppings of these sooty particulates with a view to possibly addressing same;

*aware* that the issue of clean environment is one of the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy of the Nigerian State as provided in Section 20 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), which states inter alia:

*"The State shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria";*

*also aware* that the 1999 Constitution, within the context of its Social Order in Section 17(2)(d) has admonished that exploitation of natural resources to the detriment of the human person shall be prevented as shown below;

*"Exploitation of human or natural resources in any form whatsoever for reasons, other than the good of the community, shall be prevented";*

*recalls* that in anticipation to forestall this type of emergency or occurrence and other hazardous pollution that may occur due to the Oil and Gas exploitation activities, the Federal Government set up the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) in 2006 with the following three cardinal objectives among others as provided in Section 5(a), (b) and (c) in its enabling Act:

*"The objectives of the Agency shall be to co-ordinate and implement the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Nigeria (in this Act referred to as "the Plan") as follows:*

- (a) Safe, timely, effective and appropriate response to major or disastrous oil pollution;*
- (b) Identify high risk area as well as priority areas for protection and clean up;*



- (c) *Establish the mechanism to monitor and assist or where expedient direct the response, including the capability to mobilize the necessary resources to save lives, protect threatened environment, and clean up to the best practical extent of the impacted site etc.*”;

*recalls also* that as provided in Section 6 of its establishing Act NOSDRA is also saddled with the responsibility to carry out surveillance, co-ordinate issues on oil spillage and associated pollution as well as implement such plan as may be issued by the Federal Government;

*dismayed* that NOSDRA with this huge responsibility of preparedness, detection, and response to oil spillages (pollution due to oil refining activities) in the country has not lived up to its mandate of surveillance and monitoring and has therefore not informed the nation of this occurring national epidemics, while Nigerian citizens are suffocating due to this epidemic;

*disturbed* that undue delay in identifying these sooty particulates and proffering the necessary solution to eradicate them may affect not only the lives of the residents of Rivers State but also that of its immediate neighbouring States of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Abia, Imo and beyond,

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to note that there is an impending environmental danger that is occurring in Rivers State and its environs due to unidentifiable sooty particulates dropping in the State;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and its Agency, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to immediately carry out a holistic investigation of the sooty particulates that are dropping in Rivers State and its environs and take steps to eliminate their occurrence;
- (iii) invite the Minister of Environment and the Director General of NOSDRA to brief the Senate after preliminary assessment of the situation in Rivers State within 2 weeks; and
- (iv) direct its Committees on Environment; Petroleum Upstream; and Petroleum Downstream to visit Port Harcourt, the Rivers State Capital and carry out observatory assessment of the level of these sooty particulate substances dropping in Rivers State and its environs and report back to Senate within 2 weeks (*Senator George Thompson Sekibo — Rivers East*).

*Debate:*

*Propose Resolution (i):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to note that there is an impending environmental danger that is occurring in Rivers State and its environs due to unidentifiable sooty particulates dropping in the State — *Agreed to.*

*Propose Resolution (ii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and its Agency, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to immediately carry out a holistic investigation of the sooty particulates that are dropping in Rivers State and its environs and take steps to eliminate their occurrence — *Agreed to.*

**Propose Resolution (iii):**

**Question:** That the Senate do invite the Minister of Environment and the Director General of NOSDRA to brief the Senate after preliminary assessment of the situation in Rivers State within 2 weeks — *Agreed to.*

**Propose Resolution (iv):**

**Question:** That the Senate do direct its Committees on Environment; Petroleum Upstream; and Petroleum Downstream to visit Port Harcourt, the Rivers State Capital and carryout observatory assessment of the level of these sooty particulate substances dropping in Rivers State and its environs and report back to Senate within 2 weeks — *Agreed to.*

**Resolved:**

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to note that there is an impending environmental danger that is occurring in Rivers State and its environs due to unidentifiable sooty particulates dropping in the State;
  - (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and its Agency, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to immediately carry out a holistic investigation of the sooty particulates that are dropping in Rivers State and its environs and take steps to eliminate their occurrence;
  - (iii) invite the Minister of Environment and the Director General of NOSDRA to brief the Senate after preliminary assessment of the situation in Rivers State within 2 weeks; and
  - (iv) direct its Committees on Environment; Petroleum Upstream; and Petroleum Downstream to visit Port Harcourt, the Rivers State Capital and carryout observatory assessment of the level of these sooty particulate substances dropping in Rivers State and its environs and report back to Senate within 2 weeks (*S/Res/088/02/17*).
- (d) ***Befittingly renaming the Federal Airport, Benin City after the Late Omo N'Oba N'Edo, Uku Akpolokpolo, Oba Erediauwa, CFR, Oba of Benin Kingdom:***  
***Motion made:*** The Senate do recognizes the selfless service of the late Oba Erediauwa, CFR, Oba of Benin to our great nation, Nigeria at a time when the services were most important to its existence;

recounts those very important national duties as:

- a. in 1952, Late Oba Erediauwa, as young Prince Solomon Akenzua, joined the Colonial Civil Service upon completion of a law degree from the Cambridge University. He worked extensively in the then Eastern Region as an Assistant District Officer serving as a judge in land cases as well as an administrator in the district which duties he discharged creditably;
- b. in 1965, he transferred to the Federal Civil Service, Lagos and rose to the rank of Permanent Secretary a position he also performed in meritoriously;
- c. in 1968, he became the substantive Federal Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Power and Steel which he helped immensely to stabilize to perform and operate optimally;
- d. in his capacity as a Federal Officer, he worked closely and tirelessly with the former military Heads of State, General Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi and General Yakubu Gowon;

- e. in 1966, he was appointed by the then Head of State to serve on the Board of Inquiry in the crisis of the same year as Secretary. His success in that role is public knowledge;
- f. as Permanent Secretary (Cabinet Office) he accompanied the then Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon to the Aburi Conference in Ghana and served as the Conference's Secretary. The beneficiaries of his services in that Conference are eternally grateful for his efforts;
- g. he served as Permanent Secretary 1 in the Ministry of Health immediately after the civil war ended and helped in formulating the health policies which were second to none at the time;
- h. in early 1970, Papua New Guinea which was on the verge of gaining independence from Australia, requested for a seasoned administrator to be sent to present a series of lectures and tutorials at conferences for the country's civil servants. Oba Erediauwa was the administrator sent by Nigeria for the job. To this day Oba Erediauwa's efforts in that appointment form a part of that nation's independence history;
- i. after retirement in 1973, Oba Erediauwa worked as Regional Representative of Gulf Oil until 1975;
- j. he took up appointment as Commissioner of Finance in the then Bendel State and also helped formulate financial policies which ensured the development of the state;
- k. upon the demise of his father, Late Oba Akenzua II resigned from that appointment and in 1979 was crowned the Oba of one of the oldest, most traditional, most cultural, most revered and most consistent monarch in the world- the Great Benin Kingdom;
- l. between 1986 and 1994, Oba Erediauwa was the Chancellor of Nigeria's Premier University, the University of Ibadan in present day Oyo State;
- m. as Oba of Benin, he acted as unofficial adviser to successive Presidents in Nigeria;
- n. in recognition of his immense contributions to nation building, he was awarded the prestigious national honor of Commander of the Federal Republic, CFR;
- o. he was Chairman of the movement that ensured the creation of the present day Edo State from the then Bendel State in 1991;

*latches* especially onto, amongst other achievements of this great Nigerian son, his role in the creation of Edo State from the then Bendel State, a role which necessarily made him the Father of Edo State;

*believes* that Late Oba Erediauwa's memory is worth immortalizing when his achievements, numerous selfless services and contributions to Nigeria's development of this outstanding Monarch which are worthy of emulation and commendation are taken into consideration;

*believes further* that having served in federal capacities as enumerated above and in keeping with the tradition of immortalizing distinguished Nigerians by naming federal structures after them that the Benin Airport be named after Late Oba Erediauwa;

aware that the Edo State Government House, Benin City, is located within the Kingdom of the Late Oba Erediauwa as several other Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Government;

*mindful* of the added argument that the Kingdom of Late Oba Erediauwa is host to the Benin Airport and in a State that the late revered Monarch worked hard to help create; and

*mindful further* that the Benin Airport is only one and a half kilometers from the Palace of the Oba of Benin in the heart of Benin City, Edo State.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) immortalize this great Nigerian, by renaming the federal airport presently known and referred to as the 'Benin Airport' as 'Oba Erediauwa Airport';
- (ii) urge the relevant Ministry, Department or Agencies vested with the duty of effecting the resolution of this motion to so do; and
- (iii) treat the resolution of this motion with dispatch in order to ensure that the change is effected in the earliest possible time (*Senator Matthew A. Urhohide — Edo South*).

*Debate:*

*Propose Resolution (i):*

*Question:* That the Senate do immortalize this great Nigerian, by renaming the federal airport presently known and referred to as the 'Benin Airport' as 'Oba Erediauwa Airport' — *Agreed to.*

*Propose Resolution (ii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the relevant Ministry, Department or Agencies vested with the duty of effecting the resolution of this motion to so do — *Agreed to.*

*Propose Resolution (iii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do treat the resolution of this motion with dispatch in order to ensure that the change is effected in the earliest possible time — *Negated.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) immortalize this great Nigerian, by renaming the federal airport presently known and referred to as the 'Benin Airport' as 'Oba Erediauwa Airport'; and
- (ii) urge the relevant Ministry, Department or Agencies vested with the duty of effecting the resolution of this motion to so do (*S/Res/089/02/17*).

(e) *The inability of Airlines to operate in Nigerias Airspace, and Airports during the Harmattan period:*

*Motion made:* That the Senate notes the operational challenges that confront both Local and Foreign Airlines to operate successfully in Nigeria's airspace and land unhindered at the nation's Airports during the harmattan season;

*worried* that whereas Aircrafts land and take off under zero visibility conditions in other less endowed countries than Nigeria, the same feat cannot be achieved in Nigeria at less than 800 meters range of visibility because of the lack of the appropriate navigational facilities in our Airports;

*observes* that such challenges are clearly as a result of the absence of vital and functional operational facilities at the nation's Airports resulting in the creation of grave difficulties for Airlines every year;

*saddened* that aside from the consequences posed to the safety of passengers, the situation has become an albatross and a grim threat to the continued operational viability of Airlines and a threat to its potential as a sub-sector for employment to Nigerians;

*further notes* that the situation does not portray Nigeria in good light due to non-functional and decrepit aviation facilities, foreign and local airlines are constrained in their operations in Nigeria during harmattan period, and thus impacting negatively on the nation's economy; and

*concerned* that more often than not, airplanes are diverted to smaller neighbouring countries with state - of - the - art navigational facilities where such airplanes pay various sums of money as dues for the use of such Airports thus depriving Nigeria of earning such revenues.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) mandate the Committee on Aviation to conduct an immediate inventory/audit of facilities in all the nation's Airports with a view to ascertaining a clear understanding of the true state of affairs at our Airports;
- (ii) call on the Ministry of Aviation to take urgent steps to remediate all operational challenges that threaten the landing and take - off of Aircrafts at our Airports at all seasons of the year especially during the harmattan period; and
- (iii) caution Airlines that they must at all times be conscious of the grave consequences of operational complacency that threatens aviation safety, and the contribution of the sub-sector to the revenue net of the country (*Senator Barau I. Jibrin —Kano North*).

*Debate:*

*Propose Resolution (i):*

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Aviation to conduct an immediate inventory/audit of facilities in all the nation's Airports with a view to ascertaining a clear understanding of the true state of affairs at our Airports — *Agreed to.*

*Propose Resolution (ii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do call on the Ministry of Aviation to take urgent steps to remediate all operational challenges that threaten the landing and take - off of Aircrafts at our Airports at all seasons of the year especially during the harmattan period — *Agreed to.*

*Propose Resolution (iii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do caution Airlines that they must at all times be conscious of the grave consequences of operational complacency that threatens aviation safety, and the contribution of the sub-sector to the revenue net of the country — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Aviation to conduct an immediate inventory/audit of facilities in all the nation's Airports with a view to ascertaining a clear understanding of the true state of affairs at our Airports;

- (ii) call on the Ministry of Aviation to take urgent steps to remediate all operational challenges that threaten the landing and take - off of Aircrafts at our Airports at all seasons of the year especially during the harmattan period; and
- (iii) caution Airlines that they must at all times be conscious of the grave consequences of operational complacency that threatens aviation safety, and the contribution of the sub-sector to the revenue net of the country(S/Res/090/02/17).

(f) ***Deplorable State of the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos:***

*Motion made:* The Senate do notes that many years ago, after football ceased to be a mere novelty exercise in Nigeria the Federal Government decided to build a National Stadium in Lagos. The goal principally, was to help improve the standard of the game and peradventure stimulate private participation in the sponsorship of football matches and other sporting events in the long run as it is done worldwide to achieve the aforesaid goals. Therefore, when the stadium was built in 1972, to among other things, host the All African Games in 1973, it had a capacity of 55,000, which was then reduced to 45,000 in 1999. It recorded the highest attendance of 85,000 during the final match of the African Cup of Nations in 1980 between Nigeria and Algeria, which Nigeria won and it was the first time ever that the country won the African Cup of Nations;

*notes also* that the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos was at a time in this country, a national monument and a symbol of national pride, which has played host to several national, continental and international competitions, including the All African Games in 1973, Africa Cup of Nations in 1980, the FIFA Under-20 World Youth Championship in 1999 and the 2000 Africa Cup of Nations co-hosted by Nigeria and Ghana, etc;

*worried* that this once iconic stadium and pride of the nation has become a shadow of itself where you can only see dead electronic scoreboards, non-functioning floodlights and a totally dis-repaired pitch. The last major competition that was held there was the final of the 2000 Africa Cup of Nations, jointly hosted by Nigeria and Ghana, where the rusty billboard advertising a television station as the host broadcaster of the tournament is still seen in the premises of the stadium as a testament of this state of neglect;

*worried also* that the stadium now serves as a parking lot for the smaller Teslim Balogun Stadium, which is located opposite it. At nights, under the cover of darkness, without functioning floodlights, it becomes home to shady characters and miscreants who loiter around its premises to carry out nefarious activities. Other indoor sporting facilities in the stadium are not any better; from the dirty-algae-infested swimming pool which has not been used for years and the worn-out tartan tracks, to the boxing gym all in need of urgent renovation and rehabilitation;

*observes* that if all the national stadia along with all their facilities are maintained and updated with state of the art equipment, Nigeria will not be wasting colossal amount of money on overseas' training for our sportsmen and women. Also, it will afford the country the opportunity of not expending huge sums of money for the purpose of maintenance or construction of new stadia when the country is to host continental or international sporting events in the future;

*further observes* that the National Stadium Abuja is also in terrible state of disrepair due to the inability of the Federal Government to meet up its financial obligations to Julius Berger, the company hitherto responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the stadium,

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency, renovate and rehabilitate the national stadium Surulere, Lagos with a view to revamping it to meet international standard for effective and efficient use so that such a monument that huge amount of money was spent to put together, will not be lying waste;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to empower the Federal Ministry of Youths and Sports through its department on Stadia and Facilities Management with adequate budgetary provisions for regular, routine and turnaround maintenance, refurbishment and rehabilitation of all national stadia in the country;
- (iii) direct the Committee on Sports and Youth Development to, from time to time and as part of their mandate, embark on inspection/tour of all national stadia across the country as part of its legislative oversight responsibilities to ensure that the stadia are adequately maintained and rehabilitated by the relevant authority; and
- (iv) urge the Federal Government to as a matter of National interest hand over the management and maintenance of the stadium back to Julius Berger (*Senator Obinna Ogba — Ebonyi Central*).

*Debate:*

***Propose Resolution (i):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency, renovate and rehabilitate the national stadium Surulere, Lagos with a view to revamping it to meet international standard for effective and efficient use so that such a monument that huge amount of money was spent to put together, will not be lying waste — *Negatived.*

***Propose Resolution (ii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to empower the Federal Ministry of Youths and Sports through its department on Stadia and Facilities Management with adequate budgetary provisions for regular, routine and turnaround maintenance, refurbishment and rehabilitation of all national stadia in the country — *Negatived.*

***Propose Resolution (iii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do direct the Committee on Sports and Youth Development to, from time to time and as part of their mandate, embark on inspection/tour of all national stadia across the country as part of its legislative oversight responsibilities to ensure that the stadia are adequately maintained and rehabilitated by the relevant authority — *Negatived.*

***Propose Resolution (iv):***

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Federal Government to as a matter of National interest hand over the management and maintenance of the stadium back to Julius Berger — *Negatived.*

**Additional Proposed Resolution:**

*insert* Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“Urge the Federal Government to initiate step to privatise/commercialise all Stadia in the country”  
(*Senator Joshua M. Lidani — Gombe South*).

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

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do Urge the Federal Government to initiate step to privatise/commercialise all Stadia in the country (S/Res/091/02/17).

(g) *Resurgence of Xenophobic Attacks and Extra-judicial Killings of Nigerians in South Africa:*

*Motion made:* That the Senate notes with serious concern and worry, the return of xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa; as well as extra-judicial killings. In the early hours of Saturday, 18th February, 2017 South Africans reportedly attacked and looted businesses owned by Nigerians in Pretoria as confirmed by Ikechukwu Anyene, President of the Nigeria Union in South Africa and reported by the media. Also one Tochukwu Nnadi was on 29th December, 2016 killed in an extra-judicial manner through strangulation by the South African police;

*observes* that these incidents violate Article 5 of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights; Article 4 and 7 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights; and Sections 11 and 35 of the 1996 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa;

*further observes* that Article 5 of the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights holds that "No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment"; Article 4 of the African Charter provides that "every human being shall be entitled to respect for his life and the integrity of his person and that no one may be arbitrarily deprived of this right" while Section 35 of the South African Constitution provides that "everyone arrested for allegedly committing an offence has the right to be brought before a court as soon as reasonably possible but not later than 48 hours after arrest";

*notes* that as a signatory to the UN Charter on Human Rights and African Charter on Human and People's Rights, it is mandatory on South Africa to "respect, promote and observe" international laws on human rights;

*alarmed* that in 2016, Twenty (20) Nigerians in South Africa were killed in extra-judicial manner over allegations of drug trafficking without recourse to legal process and fair hearing as prescribed by the international laws and the South African laws. While in the last two (2) years about 116 Nigerians have been killed in these attacks;

*further alarmed* that xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa in the last 10 years have occurred several times resulting in lootings, wanton destruction of properties and death;

*concerned* that the recent xenophobic attack in Pretoria West in South Africa which started at 4am on the 18th, of February, 2017 resulted in the looting and burning of five (5) Nigerian businesses, one of which was a mechanic workshop with twenty-eight cars which were under repairs;

*further concerned* that the Nigerian Union had received the information of attacks against foreign nationals on the 22nd - 23rd February, 2017 and had communicated same to the South African Police;

*alarmed* that notwithstanding this notification, the scale of attack was still huge;

*aware* that the Federal Government has consistently engaged the South African government on ensuring an end to the extra-judicial killings and xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa;



worried that the trend has continued to be on the increase in spite of these efforts as well as the excellent diplomatic and economic ties between Nigeria and South Africa and the MOU signed by former President Goodluck Jonathan and the South African leader, Mr. Jacob Zuma in the wake of the xenophobic violence in 2013 at Cape Town;

notes that South Africa has over 120 companies that are thriving in Nigeria; and that the MOU signed in 2013 between Nigeria and South Africa was aimed at finding lasting solutions to the xenophobic attacks and to reinforce the two countries diplomatic cooperation in legal field, oil and gas sector, power sector development, environment, defence, women development and empowerment, as well as child development;

worried that these xenophobic attacks and extra-judicial killings have perpetuated despite Nigeria's remarkable contributions to the liberation of South Africa from the clutches of apartheid; and

further worried that the extra-judicial killings and xenophobic attacks are not only against the principle and intent of the MOU and all known statutes, international, regional and state, but is also capable of weakening the good diplomatic ties between the two nations, if urgent steps are not taken to address the ugly trend.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) condemn in strong terms the return of the xenophobic attacks and extra-judicial killings of Nigerians by the South African police, and South Africans;
- (ii) invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs to provide insight into government's plans towards engaging the South African Government to effectively end the xenophobic attacks that just resurfaced and the growing incidence of extra-judicial killings of Nigerians; and
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to reconsider Nigeria's diplomatic ties with South Africa if the ugly incidents of xenophobic attacks and extra-judicial killings of Nigerians in South Africa are not urgently halted by the South African Government (*Senator Rose O. Oko — Cross River North*).

*Debate:*

*Propose Resolution (i):*

*Question:* That the Senate do condemn in strong terms the return of the xenophobic attacks and extra-judicial killings of Nigerians by the South African police, and South Africans — *Agreed to.*

*Propose Resolution (ii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs to provide insight into government's plans towards engaging the South African Government to effectively end the xenophobic attacks that just resurfaced and the growing incidence of extra-judicial killings of Nigerians — *Negated.*

*Propose Resolution (iii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to reconsider Nigeria's diplomatic ties with South Africa if the ugly incidents of xenophobic attacks and extra-judicial killings of Nigerians in South Africa are not urgently halted by the South African Government — *Negated.*

**Additional Proposed Resolution:**

*Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:*

"That the Senate do send a strong Parliamentary delegation to South African Parliament to express its displeasure on the xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa" (*Senate Ike Ekweremadu — Enugu West*).

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

**Resolved:**

That the Senate do:

- (i) condemn in strong terms the return of the xenophobic attacks and extra-judicial killings of Nigerians by the South African police, and South Africans; and
- (ii) send a strong Parliamentary delegation to South African Parliament to express its displeasure on the xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa (*S/Res/092/02/17*).

**(h) A Call for the Proper Resettlement and Compensation of the Bakassi People:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate is aware that 14 years after the ICJ judgment, the Federal Government of Nigeria has failed to properly resettle and compensate the people of Bakassi;

*further aware* that the failure to resettle and compensate the people of Bakassi has made them become refugees in their homeland with no form of livelihood and hope for posterity;

*notes* that the inexplicable vacillation in resolving the lingering crisis in the area is building up another humanitarian crisis as citizens in the area have no country to lean on at the moment;

*further notes* that the looming humanitarian crisis and the danger of statelessness of the people of Bakassi is becoming too burdensome for Cross River State;

*observes* that the Republic of Cameroon unlike Nigeria, has properly resettled its indigenes in the peninsula and have commenced effective development of its part of the peninsula;

*further observes* that militancy along the peaceful waters of Calabar has risen dramatically because some Bakassi youths who were hitherto fishermen have lost their livelihood and are engaged in various vices;

*worried* that the loss of Bakassi has resulted in the loss of Nigeria's eastern access to the Atlantic because Nigerian naval ships no more move freely to southern Africa without informing Cameroon;

*further worried* that Bakassi's Oil wealth, natural gas, fisheries, palms and mangrove forest resources that have been ceded to Cameroon are worth several billion dollars;

*concerned* that the Federal Government's "First Aid Compensation" to Cross River State for the loss of Bakassi was not commensurate in any way to the loss; and

*disturbed* that the United Nations, Republic of Cameroon and particularly the Federal Government of Nigeria has devastated the Bakassi economy and the people, swelled the population of internally displaced persons and have ushered in a new dimension of poverty in Cross River State.

*Accordingly Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, properly resettle the Bakassi people through a participatory and properly negotiated Resettlement Program;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to urgently tackle the challenges of poverty, statelessness and deprivation arising from the continuous neglect of the Bakassi people;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to carry out a proper valuation of the loss of Bakassi and work out a just and perpetual compensation to Cross River State; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Special Duties; and Finance to invite the relevant Agencies of Government, Committees and Groups with a view to determining the extent of humanitarian crisis facing the Bakassi people (*Senator Gershom O. H. Bassey — Cross River South*).

*Debate:**Propose Resolution (i):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, properly resettle the Bakassi people through a participatory and properly negotiated Resettlement Program — *Agreed to.*

*Propose Resolution (ii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to urgently tackle the challenges of poverty, statelessness and deprivation arising from the continuous neglect of the Bakassi people — *Agreed to.*

*Propose Resolution (iii):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to carry out a proper valuation of the loss of Bakassi and work out a just and perpetual compensation to Cross River State — *Agreed to.*

*Propose Resolution (iv):*

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Special Duties; and Finance to invite the relevant Agencies of Government, Committees and Groups with a view to determining the extent of humanitarian crisis facing the Bakassi people — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, properly resettle the Bakassi people through a participatory and properly negotiated Resettlement Program;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to urgently tackle the challenges of poverty, statelessness and deprivation arising from the continuous neglect of the Bakassi people;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to carry out a proper valuation of the loss of Bakassi and work out a just and perpetual compensation to Cross River State; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Special Duties; and Finance to invite the relevant Agencies of Government, Committees and Groups with a view to determining the extent of humanitarian crisis facing the Bakassi people (*S/Res/093/02/17*).

**15. Adjournment:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 1st March, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.  
(Senate Leader).

*Adjourned accordingly at 1:15 p.m.*

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