



# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 3rd October, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:44 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**  
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th September, 2017.

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

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



**THE SENATE**  
**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**  
Joint Committee on Finance & Appropriations

*3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017.*

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

*Your Excellency,*

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

*This is to remind all Members of the Joint Committee on Finance and Appropriations that the meeting with the Honourable Ministers for Finance; and Budget and National Planning on the 2017 Budget Performance will hold as scheduled below:*

*Date: Tuesday, 3rd October, 2017,*

*Time: 2.00pm*

Venue: Meeting Room 301, Senate Building

(Signed)

Sen. Mohammed Danjuma Goje

Chairman, Committee on Appropriations

(b) **Acknowledgment:**

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Students of Regent School, Mabushi, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

**4. Petition:**

Rising on Rule 41, Senator Bala Ibn Na' Allah (*Kebbi South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Private Hussaini Umar, over unlawful dismissal by the Nigerian Army. 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. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Bukar Mustapha (*Katsina North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Senator Mohammed Kanti Bello on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. 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)].*

**6. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of :

- a. Mr. Eddy Edumoh, against the Nigeria Police for alleged wrongful dismissal from the Nigeria Police Service (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report presented.*

*Debate:*

**Proposed Resolution (i):**

*Question:* That the Senate do commend the Nigeria Police for compassionately commuting the dismissal of Mr. Eddy Edumoh to compulsory retirement in accordance with the officer's plea — *Agreed to.*

**Proposed Resolution (ii):**

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Nigeria Police to pay Mr. Eddy Edumoh his retirement benefits — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

- (i) That the Senate do commend the Nigeria Police for compassionately commuting the dismissal of Mr. Eddy Edumoh to compulsory retirement in accordance with the officer's plea; and
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Nigeria Police to pay Mr. Eddy Edumoh his retirement benefits (*S/Res/037/03/17*).

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- b. L.A. Idu Esq. on behalf of Mr. Abdulrahman Lamina, against Commodore Abimbola O. Ayuba for using Military might to resist vacating a private property (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report presented.*

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution (i):***

*Question:* That Mr. Abdulrahman Lamina be allowed to take possession of his house at No. 5, Child Avenue, G.R.A., Apapa, Lagos because he followed due process in purchasing the property from the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (ii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Navy to peacefully handover the said property to Mr. Abdulrahman Lamina without any further delay — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

- (i) That Mr. Abdulrahman Lamina be allowed to take possession of his house at No. 5, Child Avenue, G.R.A., Apapa, Lagos because he followed due process in purchasing the property from the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA); and
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Navy to peacefully handover the said property to Mr. Abdulrahman Lamina without any further delay (*S/Res/038/03/17*).

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- c. Mr. Collins Iwe and Six (6) others, against the Management of Pipeline and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) for alleged wrongful termination of their appointments by the Company (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report presented.*

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

*Question:* That the petitioners' appointments be converted to retirement with all their entitlements fully paid from the date of the termination of their appointments to 31st December, 2006 since the House of Representatives' Committee of the Whole in plenary was convinced beyond reasonable doubt and had resolved in the affirmative — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the petitioners' appointments be converted to retirement with all their entitlements fully paid from the date of the termination of their appointments to 31st December, 2006 since the House of Representatives' Committee of the Whole in plenary was convinced beyond reasonable doubt and had resolved in the affirmative (*S/Res/039/03/17*).

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- d. Mr. Charles Uwaeche, against Conoil Nigeria Plc for Non-payment of his entitlements after a forced resignation (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report presented.*

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

*Question:* That the Senate do appreciate Conoil Nigeria Plc for paying the petitioner via an agreement executed outside the Committee thereby bringing the case to a close — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do appreciate Conoil Nigeria Plc for paying the petitioner via an agreement executed outside the Committee thereby bringing the case to a close (*S/Res/040/03/17*).

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- e. Barrister Owette Emmanuel Chukwudi, against the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for his compulsory retirement and non-payment of his entitlements (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report presented.*

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

*Question:* That the Senate do commend the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for its timely compliance with the ruling of the National Industrial Court of Nigeria by reinstating Barr. Owette Emmanuel Chukwudi in the service of the Commission — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved.*

That the Senate do commend the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for its timely compliance with the ruling of the National Industrial Court of Nigeria by reinstating Barr. Owette Emmanuel Chukwudi in the service of the Commission (*S/Res/041/03/17*).

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- f. Sir Godfrey Ohuabunwa (KSC) on behalf of the association of Licensed Set Top Box (STB) Manufacturers of Nigeria, against the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) for alleged non-payment of the Set Top Boxes manufactured and delivered (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report presented.*

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

*Question:* That the matter had been meticulously handled by the House of Representatives *Ad hoc* Committee on the Process of Digital (Broadcast) Switch Over in Nigeria to the satisfaction of the parties, the Senate do accept and commend the House Committee for the amicable resolution of the petition — *Agreed to.*

***Resolved:***

That the matter had been meticulously handled by the House of Representatives *Ad hoc* Committee on the Process of Digital (Broadcast) Switch Over in Nigeria to the satisfaction of the parties, the Senate do accept and commend the House Committee for the amicable resolution of the petition (S/Res/042/03/17).

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- g. Opiatoha K'Idoma, against the Federal Character Commission and the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi for an alleged abuse of the principles of federal character in the appointment of Principal Officers of the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report presented.*

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Character Commission to ensure that the next appointment of principal officers of the University is done in compliance with the Federal Character Principle — *Agreed to.*

***Resolved:***

That the Senate do urge the Federal Character Commission to ensure that the next appointment of principal officers of the University is done in compliance with the Federal Character Principle (S/Res/043/03/17).

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- h. Lt. Col. Thomas Edirin Arigbe, against the Nigerian Army for wrongful retirement from the Army (Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report presented.*

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

*Question:* That the petition from Lt. Col. Thomas E. Arigbe, against the Nigerian Army be struck out for his lack of interest to continue with the matter — *Agreed to.*

***Resolved:***

That the petition from Lt. Col. Thomas E. Arigbe, against the Nigerian Army be struck out for his lack of interest to continue with the matter (S/Res/044/03/17).

**7. Motions:****(a) *The Need to construct Captive Dams in all Communities across the country:***

*Motion made:* That the Senate observes that the level of drilling boreholes for ground water has increased tremendously in the last 10 years especially since the introduction of constituency intervention projects and the advent of the United Nations (UN) programme of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) now Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

*notes* that the increased exploitation of aquifers has the effect of drastically lowering the level of water table in many areas of the nation;

*notes* that this has the effect of also contributing to the dryness of alleuvia layers of the land thereby affecting the survival of vegetation during dry seasons which is also contributing to desertification;

*notes also* that the free running of streams, tributaries and rivers is also causing top soil erosion and degradation of the land;

*further notes* that the erosion of these streams, tributaries and river banks is carrying with it large volumes of silt that is clogging the channels of these rivers and causing excessive flooding of lands along these rivers;

*observes* that the phenomenon of building captive dams has been extensively used in other countries to recharge aquifers and to maintain good levels of ground water table even where extensive irrigation from boreholes is adapted. Examples are Mexico, India and China; and

*further observes* that there are many other advantages of captive dams when constructed viz:

- (a) Increasing the amount of fresh water available for human and animal use rather than letting all fresh water run to the oceans to become salt water which is expensive to process for these uses;
- (b) Improving on water supply sources to our villages;
- (c) Encouraging irrigation and promoting the production of fresh water fish.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) encourage the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to construct small captive dams in all communities and locations at the rate of about 4000 small dams per year;
- (ii) urge the Federal of Ministry Power, Works and Housing to do all river crossing of the highways with capacity to capture some water without jeopardizing the road structure itself. This will allow the money spent to serve dual purposes;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to carry out investigation of ground water situation in all River Basins and monitor its deployment; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, Works, Agriculture and Environment to develop implementation guidelines for captive dam development programme (*Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

*Debate:*

**Proposed Resolution(i):**

*Question:* That the Senate do encourage the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to construct small captive dams in all communities and locations at the rate of about 4000 small dams per year — *Agreed to.*

**Proposed Resolution(ii):**

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to do all river crossing of the highways with capacity to capture some water without jeopardizing the road structure itself. This will allow the money spent to serve dual purposes — *Agreed to.*

**Proposed Resolution(iii):**

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to carry out investigation of ground water situation in all River Basins and monitor its deployment — *Agreed to.*

**Proposed Resolution(iv):**

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Water Resources; Works; Agriculture and Rural Development; and Environment to develop implementation guidelines for captive dam development programme — *Agreed to.*

**Additional Proposed Resolutions:**

*Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:*

- (i) “That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to effectively and fully utilise the existing dams for the purposes they were constructed” (*Senator Rabi M. Musa — Kano Central*).

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

- (ii) “That the Senate do urge Federal Ministry of Water Resources to conduct environment impact assessment of the communities before embarking on construction of dams” (*Senator Aidoko A. Atai — Kogi East*).

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

**Resolved:**

That the Senate do:

- (i) encourage the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to construct small captive dams in all communities and locations at the rate of about 4000 small dams per year;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to do all river crossing of the highways with capacity to capture some water without jeopardizing the road structure itself. This will allow the money spent to serve dual purposes;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to carry out investigation of ground water situation in all River Basins and monitor its deployment;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Water Resources; Works; Agriculture and Rural Development; and Environment to develop implementation guidelines for captive dam development programme;
- (v) urge the Federal Government to effectively and fully utilise the existing dams for the purposes they were constructed; and
- (vi) urge Federal Ministry of Water Resources to conduct environment impact assessment of the communities before embarking on construction of dams (*S/Res/045/03/17*).

(b) *Urgent need to control the indiscriminate erection of speed bumps on Federal Roads Nationwide:*

*Motion made:* That the Senate notes with dismay the thousands of speed bumps recently erected on almost all Federal Highways nationwide ostensibly to control speed of motor vehicles plying the roads;

*observes* that these bumps are indiscriminately erected in several communities, villages, hamlets, petrol filling stations, markets, road side bukas and even individual homes by who ever wanted vehicles to agonize their locations;

*aware* that there is need for speed control on our highways to avoid over speeding by motorists especially around hospitals and schools, however the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has introduced a speed control device to be installed in commercial vehicles which took effect two months ago;

*believes* that Federal highways are meant for smooth traffic flow and there should be no constraints restricting the free flow of traffic;

*aware* that these speed bumps now constitute a nuisance source other than serve any useful purpose whatsoever: Some of the hazards to vehicle owners are accelerated wear and tear of the vehicles, loss of many hours in billions when quantified nationwide, damage to vehicle suspension systems as most of these bumps are not professionally designed;

*aware* that bumps are used strictly on city streets to control crossing intersections without slowing down and not on free traffic highways that are not crossing any other roads, while roads that cross Federal Highways should have the bumps and not the highway itself;

*recalls* that even in the city of Abuja when these bumps were indiscriminately applied on city streets there was an outcry and they were removed and approved only at very necessary points;

*observes* that the Department of Highways in the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing is not controlling the development of structures along Federal Highways allowing illegal fixed structures to be erected less than the prescribed 45m off the roads (in some villages, shops and even houses are erected less than 2 metres from the roads); and

*observes also* that planning authority in the States and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are not enforcing these regulations governing location of filling stations, markets and places of worship resulting to total closure of the highways when these places are in use.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to remove all the speed bumps indiscriminately erected off Federal Highways nationwide;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to cause owners of petrol filling stations to build a service lane of not less than 50m on both sides of the stations to avoid customers turning directly to and from the Highways;
- (iii) urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to enforce set back regulations for fixed structures along Highways; and
- (iv) urge Planning Authority to enforce regulations for motor parks, markets and places of worship (*Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution(i):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to remove all the speed bumps indiscriminately erected off Federal Highways nationwide.

***Amendment Proposed:***

Immediately after the word “nationwide” in line 2, *insert* the following words “and regulate and standardise the erection of speed bumps” (*Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa — Abia North*).

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

***Proposed Resolution(ii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to cause owners of petrol filling stations to build a service lane of not less than 50m on both sides of the stations to avoid customers turning directly to and from the Highways — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution(iii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to enforce set-back regulations for fixed structures along Highways — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution(iv):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge Planning Authority to enforce regulations for motor parks, markets and places of worship — *Agreed to.*

***Additional Proposed Resolution:***

*Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:*

“That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to enforce the inclusion and observation of road signages in road construction” (*Senator Mao A. Ohuabunwa — Abia North*).

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

***Resolved:***

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to remove all the speed bumps indiscriminately erected off Federal Highways nationwide and regulate and standardise the erection of speed bumps;
  - (ii) urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to cause owners of petrol filling stations to build a service lane of not less than 50m on both sides of the stations to avoid customers turning directly to and from the Highways;
  - (iii) urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to enforce set-back regulations for fixed structures along Highways;
  - (iv) urge Planning Authority to enforce regulations for motor parks, markets and places of worship; and
  - (v) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to enforce the inclusion and observation of road signages in road construction (*S/Res/046/03/17*).
- (c) ***Boundary crisis arising from non-delineation of Nigerian internal boundaries:***  
*Motion made:* That the Senate do notes that Nigerian borders are afflicted by a multitude of boundary crisis that straddle villages and cause loss of lives and properties;

*further notes* that farmlands and the use of land mass as means of revenue allocation in Nigeria is a major factor contributing to boundary disputes;

*aware* that the core mandate of the National Boundary Commission is to define and delineate boundaries between States, Local Government Areas (LGA's) or communities in the Federation and between Nigeria and her neighbors in accordance with delimitation instruments or documents established for that purpose;

*worried* that despite the National Boundary Commission's mandate, close to 150 active border disputes resulting from non-delineation of boundaries exist within and between states across the country;

*further worried* that territorial disputes over possession and control of land between communities leading to loss of lives and property is on the increase in Nigeria;

*disturbed* that the National Boundary Commission's intervention in the settlement of boundary crisis in Nigeria, even after judgments of the Supreme Court, is always belated and comes after loss of human lives and properties; and

*recognizes* that a proactive and effective delineation of Nigerian internal boundaries by the National Boundary Commission will forestall incessant boundary disputes in Nigeria.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

urge the National Boundary Commission to take immediate steps to stop the many lingering boundary disputes by clearly delineating Nigerian internal boundaries (*Senator Gershom H. O. Bassey — Cross River South*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the National Boundary Commission to take immediate steps to stop the many lingering boundary disputes by clearly delineating Nigerian internal boundaries — *Agreed to*.

***Additional Proposed Resolution:***

*Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:*

"That the Senate do mandate the Committee on States and Local Governments to investigate the pending boundary issues across the country" (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

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

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the National Boundary Commission to take immediate steps to stop the many lingering boundary disputes by clearly delineating Nigerian internal boundaries; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on States and Local Governments to investigate the pending boundary issues across the country (*S/Res/047/03/17*).

(d) *The Need to review the privatization of Public Enterprises in Nigeria:*

*Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*

(e) *The Need to revisit the regulatory conflict between Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and Universities in offering admission in Nigeria:*

*Motion made:* That the Senate notes that the Joint Admission Matriculation Board (JAMB) was established in 1976 and saddled with the responsibility of streamlining and co-coordinating admission practice as well as determining who is admitted into universities and other tertiary educational institutions in Nigeria;

*further notes*, that the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) is the Federal umbrella organization which regulates and oversees the administration of University education in Nigeria, and prior to 2005, the only criteria needed for candidates seeking admission into tertiary institutions was for such candidate to have minimum admission requirement and possess a certain score at his or her JAMB examination;

*aware* that the laudable objectives of JAMB began to suffer progressive denudation shortly after its inception as some universities admitted students outside the list sent by JAMB, and rejecting candidates with admission letters from JAMB on the ground that they had to comply with their own internal quota and catchment calculation, coupled with the issue of malpractices that plagued JAMB examinations;

*further aware* that as scores of successful JAMB candidates turned out ill equipped for university education, the Federal Government, in 2005, under the leadership of President Olusegun Obasanjo, introduced the policy of Post-UME screening by Universities which made it compulsory for tertiary institutions to screen candidates after JAMB results and before offering admission;

*worried* that while this new development was aimed at addressing the problem of student quality, it re-introduced and entrenched many of the problems it sought to eliminate through JAMB;

*cognizance* that while the Executives introduced the Post-UME policy as a remedy to the decay in educational standard in higher institutions of learning, there have been public outcry of extortion from candidates despite the rigorous test they pass through at JAMB;

*disturbed* that as the integrity of the post-UME examination is open to question as the pecuniary motive of the respective institutions comes so visibly to the fore that there is little pretence about maximizing the income flows through these internal examinations; and

*regrets* that the introduction of the post-UME examination has to a large extent failed to remedy the problems associated with the JAMB and as such, its continued existence has posed more challenges for the Nigeria educational system.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Education to direct JAMB to develop a strategy to ensure the efficiency and integrity in the conduct of JAMB examination;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Education to scrap the Post-UME exercise in its entirety; and
- (iii) urge the Senate to make further directives as deemed expedient in the circumstances (*Senator Umaru I. Kurfi — Katsina Central*).

*Debate:*

*Proposed Resolution (i):*

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Education to direct JAMB to develop a strategy to ensure the efficiency and integrity in the conduct of JAMB examination.

**Proposed Resolution (ii):**

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Education to scrap the Post-UME exercise in its entirety.

**Proposed Resolution (iii):**

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Senate to make further directives as deemed expedient in the circumstances.

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out* all the Proposed Resolutions and *insert* the following instead thereof :

"That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to invite the Federal Ministry of Education, Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) and other Stakeholders to address the issue of JAMB and Post-University Matriculation Examination (UME) and report to the Senate within four (4) weeks" (*Senator Umaru I. Kurfi — Katsina Central*)..

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

**Resolved:**

That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to invite the Federal Ministry of Education, Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) and other Stakeholders to address the issue of JAMB and Post-University Matriculation Examination (UME) and report to the Senate within four (4) weeks (*S/Res/048/03/17*).

**(f) The urgent need for the Federal Government of Nigeria to fund our Foreign Missions:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do notes that Nigerian diplomatic missions are facing several challenges, including their inability to pay home based officers allowances, local staff salaries, rent for residences, chanceries and other staff official quarters, in addition to the dire lack of funds for other sundry expenses such as; visits to Nigerians in jail and provision for other consular services;

*regrets* that there are threats by host countries to revoke building permits of some properties abroad belonging to Nigerian Missions, following their poor structural conditions, which constitute hazard to the communities where such buildings are situated, and lack of routine maintenance that will bring such structures in line with the building codes of host countries;

*further regrets* that the Ministry's budget envelope is grossly inadequate to meet its expenditure requirements even at headquarters and with this situational analysis, the ministry's approved 2017 budget would hardly provide the needed impetus required of the ministry towards achieving Nigeria's foreign policy goal and objectives in pursuance of our national interest;

*consequent* upon these myriad of issues and financial woes the collective and corporate image of Nigeria suffer; resulting in the loss of prestige and influence in the comity of nations; and

*worried* that some of these problems arise as a result of over staffing in our foreign missions; following our flagrant refusal to comply with the provisions of the presidential ceiling of the staff strength of individual missions based on the Ministry's grading.

**Accordingly resolves to:**

invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Minister of Finance; and the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria to brief the Senate on the urgent steps to be taken to ameliorate the situation which is causing a lot of embarrassment to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Senator Tijjani Y. Kaura — Zamfara North*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

*Question:* That the Senate do invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Minister of Finance; and the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria to brief the Senate on the urgent steps to be taken to ameliorate the situation which is causing a lot of embarrassment to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

***Amendment Proposed:***

*Leave out* the Proposed Resolutions and *insert* the following instead thereof :

“That the Senate do constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee to invite the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Ministers of Foreign Affairs, serving and former Ambassadors; and other Stakeholders to look into the situations in the Nigerian Missions abroad in order to factor the issues into the 2018 Budget and report to the Senate within four (4) weeks” (*Senator Tijjani Y. Kaura — Zamfara North*).

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

***Resolved:***

That the Senate do constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee to invite the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Ministers of Foreign Affairs, serving and former Ambassadors; and other Stakeholders to look into the situations in the Nigerian Missions abroad in order to factor the issues into the 2018 Budget and report to the Senate within four (4) weeks (*S/Res/049/03/17*).

**8. Adjournment:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 4th October, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

*Adjourned accordingly at 1:26 p.m.*

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

