SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 26th October, 2016

1. The Senate met at 10:35 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 25th October, 2016.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Message from Mr. President:**
The Deputy Senate President announced that he had received a letter from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

External Borrowing (Rolling) Plan 2016 - 2018:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

20th October, 2016

Distinguished Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki
President of the Senate,
Senate Chamber,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 2016-2018 EXTERNAL BORROWING (ROLLING) PLAN

I wish to refer to the above subject and to submit the attached draft of Federal Government 2016-2018 External Borrowing (Rolling) Plan for consideration and early approval by the National Assembly to ensure prompt implementation of the projects. The projects cut across all sectors with special emphasis on Infrastructure, Agriculture, Health, Education, Water Supply, Growth and Employment Generation Poverty Reduction through Social Safety Net programmes and Governance and Financial Management Reforms among others. The total cost of the projects and programmes under the Borrowing (Rolling) Plan is $29.960billion made up of Proposed Projects and

Programmes loan of $11.274billion Special National Infrastructure Projects $10.686billion Euro Bonds of $4.5billion and Federal Government Budget Support of $3.5billion.

I would like to underscore the fact that the projects and programmes in the Borrowing Plan were selected based on positive technical economic evaluations as well as the contribution they would make to the socio-economic development of the country including employment generation and poverty reduction and protection of the most vulnerable and very poor segment of the Nigerian society. The projects and programmes will be implemented in all the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory.

Considering the huge infrastructure deficit currently being experienced in the Country and the enormous financial resources required to fill the gap in the face of dwindling resources and the inability of our annual budgetary provisions to bridge the infrastructure deficit, it has become necessary to resort to prudent external borrowing to bridge the financing gap which will largely be applied to key infrastructure projects namely: power, railway and roads projects among others. I wish to assure Distinguished Senators that, the projects/programmes will be implemented in a financially sustainable manner to ensure that, the country is able to service its external debt as and when due, taking into consideration debt service to revenues.

However, I wish to draw your attention to some emergency projects in the borrowing plan which need immediate and urgent approval to avert long term damage. The recent outbreak of polio in the North East is a matter of concern, especially following the recent delisting of Nigeria from the list of polio endemic countries. This therefore calls for urgent and immediate action to stem the tide of the outbreak.

The World Bank has provided a loan in the sum of $125million to the FGN to procure vaccines and other ancillary facilities urgently required to effectively embark on the campaign to stop and eventually eliminate the outbreak.

Distinguished Senators may also wish to know that with the current relative peace and stability in the North East, it has become extremely urgent to start reconstruction and rehabilitation of the region in order to create jobs for the people and rehabilitate the schools to get the children off the streets and into schools. The World Bank has also provided a sum of $450million to assist the FGN in this reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

Accordingly, the entire projects earmarked for the North East are as follows:-

i.	*Polio Eradication support and routine immunization Project:*	*$125million;*
ii.	*Community and Social Development Project:*	*$75million;*
iii.	*Nigeria States Health Programme Investment Project:*	*$125million;*
iv.	*State Education Programme Investment Project:*	*$100million;*
v.	*Nigeria Youth Employment and Social Support Project:*	*$100million;*
vi.	*Fadama III Project:*	*$50million;*
	Total	***$575million***

Given the emergency nature of these facilities and the need to consolidate the peace and return the region to normalcy and considering the time it will take to get National Assembly's approvals, it has become inevitable to request for the NASS leadership approval pending the consideration and approval of the 2016-2018 borrowing plan by the National Assembly to enable us disburse these funds immediately.

Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours Sincerely
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

4. **Announcement:**

(a) ***Invitation; 7th National Prayer Breakfast:***
The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade (*Benue North-East*) inviting Senators to the 7th National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, 27th October, 2016 at International Conference Centre, Herbert Macaulay Way, Abuja, Time, 7:00 a.m. prompt.

(b) ***Acknowledgment:***
The Deputy Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

(*i*) Members of Law Students' Society Representative Council, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State;

(*ii*) Staff and Students of St. Michael's Anglican Diocesan College, Bida Road, Kaduna, Kaduna State; and

(*iii*) Staff and Students of the New Christian Power Centre International Schools, Dawaki Extension, Abuja.

5. **Committee on Communications:**
Report on the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) 2016 Budget:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Communications on the 2016 Budget of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) (*Senator Gilbert E. Nnaji — Enugu East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

6. **Committee on Communications:**
Report on the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) 2016 Budget
Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Communications on the 2016 Budget of the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) (*Senator Gilbert E. Nnaji — Enugu East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

7. **National Payment Systems Bill, 2016 (SB.005):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. **National Payment Systems Bill, 2016 (SB.268):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for Effective and Transparent Administration, Management and Control of Payment, Clearing and Settlement Processes in Nigeria and for Related Matters, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator John O. Enoh — Cross River Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Finance to report within Four (4) weeks.

9. **Consumer Protection Act (Repeal) and to Establish Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission Bill, 2016 (SB. 257):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Consumer Protection Act and Establish Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission and Other Related Matters, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator Andy E. Uba — Anambra South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Trade and Investment to report within Four (4) weeks.

10. **Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (Establishment, Etc.) Act 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB.89):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (Establishment, Etc.) Act 2010, to reduce from 30 percent to 10 percent charge deductible from electricity generation companies, electricity distribution companies and for other matters connected therewith, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator David Umaru — Niger East*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Power, Steel Development and Metallurgy to report within Four (4) weeks.

11. **Prisons Act CAP P29 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 125):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal and Re-enact the Prisons Act CAP P29 LFN 2004 Bill, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator Shaaba M. Lafiagi — Kwara North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Interior; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to report within Four (4) weeks.

12. **Prisons Act CAP P29 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 288):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal and Re-enact the Prisons Act CAP P29 LFN 2004 Bill, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator Babajide C. Omoworare — Osun East*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Interior; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to report within Four (4) weeks.

13. **Prisons Act CAP P29 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 191):**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Prisons Act CAP P29 LFN 2004 Bill, 2016 be read the Second Time (*Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu — Lagos Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Interior; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to report within Four (4) weeks.

14. **Dietitians Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB.205):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

15. **National Sports Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB.155):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. **Employee's Compensation Act, 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB. 170):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. **Institute of Chartered Biochemist and Molecular Biologist (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB.283):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

18. **National Commission for Peace, Reconciliation (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (SB.74):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

19. **Energy Commission Act CAP E10 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (SB.196):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

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

Adjourned accordingly at 1:00 *p.m.*

Ike Ekweremadu, CFR
Deputy Senate President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.