



# THE SENATE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 12th July, 2018

1. The Senate met at 11:09 a.m. The Deputy Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**  
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 11th July, 2018.  
*Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.*
3. **Announcements:**
  - (a) **Peoples Democratic Party Caucus Meeting:**  
The Deputy Senate President read a letter from Senator Godswill O. Akpabio (*Akwa Ibom North-West*) as follows:



**Senator Godswill O. Akpabio**  
*Akwa Ibom North-West Senatorial District*  
*Senate Minority Leader*

12<sup>th</sup> July, 2018

## ANNOUNCEMENT

*There will be a brief meeting of Peoples Democratic Party Caucus immediately after Plenary at Hearing Room 1. All Distinguished Senators are expected to attend.*

(Signed)  
**Senator Godswill O. Akpabio**  
*Senate Minority Leader.*

- (b) **Acknowledgment:**  
The Deputy Senate President acknowledged the presence of the following who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:
  - (i) Members of Nigeria Universities Nursing Students Association, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State.
  - (ii) Staff and Students of Holy Ghost College, Egume, Kogi State;
  - (iii) Staff and Students of Prime Scholars School, Kubwa, Abuja; and

(iv) Staff and Students of Legend Ville Academy, Dutse, Abuja.

4. **Presentation of a Bill:**  
Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2018 (SB. 694) — *Read the First Time.*

5. **Committee on Environment:**  
*Report on the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency Act 2006 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB. 557):*  
*Motion made:* That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Environment on the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency Act 2006 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (*Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu — Lagos Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Laid.*

6. **Motions:**  
(a) *Need for emergency reconstruction of the Runway of the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu:*

*Motion made:* That the Senate is informed that while aboard an Air Peace flight from Abuja to Enugu, the pilot made a chilling announcement about the state of the runway of the Akanu Ibiam International Airport and enjoined passengers on board who can get the necessary authorities to listen to help in immediately setting about the resurfacing of the runway to forestall accident as the potholes and cracks pot-marking the runway make take-off and landing a bumpy and frightening undertaking;

*observes* that the Akanu Ibiam International Airport in Enugu is the first Airport east of the Niger that was built even before Nigeria's independence and was only upgraded to the status of International Airport on August 24, 2013, long after Port-Harcourt Airport;

*notes* that the runway before it was upgraded was 2400 metres length and 45 metres width but after the upgrade, it was extended to 3000 metres length which can now take medium to large size aircraft;

*informed* that a result of a technical appraisal shows that due to high water table of the airport, water percolates and gets trapped between upper asphalt and bottom concrete and this persistent retention of water weakens asphalt and creates potholes and cracks as a result of the weight of landing aircraft which are now heavier than the aircraft of the 60s and 70s;

*aware* that palliative works carried out in the last quarter of 2017 to create water drains embedded in the asphalt surface end to end have not solved the problem as transition between new asphalt and old asphalt makes the surface rough and bumpy;

*further informed* that the airport also lacks approach lights at two ends of the runway which has necessitated that the airport operates between 7am to 7pm and the nearness of the runway to Orié Emene market attracts birds which perch around refuse dumps and abattoirs in the market that are awfully dangerous to aircraft engines especially during take-off and landing;

*considering* that the South-East is the last, among all the geo-political zones of Nigeria, to have an international airport, the condition of the runway of the airport is disheartening and it would not only expose users of the airport to harm and avoidable accident, it would also discourage international airlines and interests from using the airport; and

*notes* that the upgrade of the airport to international status was a fulfillment of the dreams of the people of South-East of Nigeria who are famed entrepreneurs and have long clamoured for direct flights to other part of the world where they engage in myriad of commercial activities in order to cut costs associated with logistics and distance.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation and other relevant Authorities, to as a matter of urgency, resurface and reconstruct the Runway of the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu, and also extend the length of the Runway (*Senator Chukwuka G. Utazi Enugu North*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

***Question:*** That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation and other relevant Authorities, to as a matter of urgency, resurface and reconstruct the Runway of the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu, and also extend the length of the Runway — *Agreed to*.

***Additional Proposed Resolution:***

***Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:***

“ That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Aviation to carry out holistic investigation into the design and construction of the runway and other surrounding issues” (*Senator Kabir G. Marafa — Zamfara Central*).

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

***Resolved:***

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation and other relevant Authorities, to as a matter of urgency, resurface and reconstruct the Runway of the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu, and also extend the length of the Runway; and
  - (ii) mandate the Committee on Aviation to carry out holistic investigation into the design and construction of the runway and other surrounding issues (*S/Res/012/04/18*).
- (b) ***Gruesome killing of 40 people in Sokoto State by Armed Bandits:***

***Motion made:*** That the Senate notes with sadness the gruesome and unprecedented killing of Forty (40) innocent and defenseless people in Sokoto by Armed Bandits on Monday morning at Dogon-yero in Gandi District in Raba Local Government Area of Sokoto;

*further concerned* that these armed bandits have been operating in Zamfara forest where they carry nefarious and barbaric killings of innocent people over a period of 2years;

*further notes* that they moved with motorcycles that carry up to three people numbering about thirty motorcycles in all, meaning that the armed bandits were up to 90;

*worried* that the armed bandits sent 2 people to the village to buy food for them and the villagers observed that the emissaries were armed and they were interrogated by the villagers and found to be armed bandits similar to the ones operating in Zamfara State. The villagers apprehended and executed the two emissaries;

*informed* that the armed bandits sent advance notice to the villagers that they were coming to retaliate the killing of their people; and

*notes with sympathy* that the Chairman of the Local Government and the Village Head alerted the law enforcement agencies on this notice of the bandits. Security was provided for a period of 5 days after which they were withdrawn, immediately the security agencies were withdrawn, the armed bandits moved in and started killing indiscriminately using AK47 rifles. The situation now is that most of the villagers have left their homes out of fear and so many are still stranded in the bush, not to mention the injured ones still at the hospital and others rendered homeless.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to mandate the Nigerian Airforce and the Nigeria Police helicopters division to carry aerial surveillance of Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi States with a view of identifying the locations and hideouts of these bandits and deal with them decisively;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) through the Commissioners of Police in the three (3) States to set up a Special Squad to mop up the whole zone and get rid of the armed bandits;
- (iii) urge for synergy between the Directorate of State Security (DSS), the Police and the Armed Forces with the view to share intelligence and strategies to embark upon in getting rid of the armed bandits;
- (iv) observe one minute silence in honour of the victims;
- (v) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send Emergency relief to the affected communities; and
- (vi) send a delegation to condole with the government and people of Sokoto State over this unfortunate incident (*Senator Muhammad A. Aliero — Kebbi Central*).

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

***Question:*** That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to mandate the Nigerian Airforce and the Nigeria Police helicopters division to carry aerial surveillance of Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi States with a view of identifying the locations and hideouts of these bandits and deal with them decisively — *Agreed to.*

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

***Question:*** That the Senate do urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) through the Commissioners of Police in the three (3) States to set up a Special Squad to mop up the whole zone and get rid of the armed bandits — *Agreed to.*

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

***Question:*** That the Senate do urge for synergy between the Directorate of State Security (DSS), the Police and the Armed Forces with the view to share intelligence and strategies to embark upon in getting rid of the armed bandits — *Agreed to.*

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

***Question:*** That the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of the victims — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution(v):***

***Question:*** That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send Emergency relief to the affected communities — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution(vi):***

***Question:*** That the Senate do send a delegation to condole with the government and people of Sokoto State over this unfortunate incident — *Agreed to.*

***Resolved:***

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to mandate the Nigerian Airforce and the Nigeria Police helicopters division to carry aerial surveillance of Sokoto, Zamfara and Kebbi States with a view of identifying the locations and hideouts of these bandits and deal with them decisively;

- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) through the Commissioners of Police in the three (3) States to set up a Special Squad to mop up the whole zone and get rid of the armed bandits;
- (iii) urge for synergy between the Directorate of State Security (DSS), the Police and the Armed Forces with the view to share intelligence and strategies to embark upon in getting rid of the armed bandits;
- (iv) observe one minute silence in honour of the victims;
- (v) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send Emergency relief to the affected communities;
- (vi) send a delegation to condole with the government and people of Sokoto State over this unfortunate incident; and
- (vii) send a delegation to condole with the government and people of Sokoto State over this unfortunate incident (*S/Res/013/04/18*).

*One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.*

**7. 2018 Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Bill, 2018 (SB.690):**

*Motion made:* That a Bill For An Act To Authorize the Issue from the Federal Capital Territory Administration Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration Account, the total Sum of ₦271,532,518,887 (Two Hundred and Seventy One Billion, Five Hundred and Thirty Two Million, Five Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty Seven Naira) only of which the Sum of ₦56,166,171,520 (Fifty Six Billion, One Hundred and Sixty Six Million, One Hundred And Seventy One Thousand, Five Hundred And Twenty Naira) Only, is for Personnel Costs and the Sum of ₦61,134,045,738 (Sixty One Billion, One Hundred and Thirty Four Million, Forty Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Thirty Eight Naira) only, is for Overhead Costs whilst the Balance of ₦154,232,301,630 (One Hundred And Fifty Four Billion, Two Hundred And Thirty Two Million, Three Hundred and One Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty Naira) only, is for Capital Projects for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial Year commencing from 1st January and ending on 31st December and for Other Matters, 2018 be read the Second Time (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

*Debate:*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to report within Four (4) weeks.*

**8. Federal University of Agriculture, Zuru (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.686):**

*Motion made:* That a Bill for an Act to establish the Federal University of Agriculture, Zuru (Establishment, etc.) and for Other Connected Matters, 2018 be read the Second Time (*Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah — Kebbi South*).

*Debate:*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within Four (4) weeks.*

9. **Committee on National Identity Card and National Population Commission:**  
*Report on the Screening of Twenty Three (23) Nominees for Confirmation of Appointment as Commissioners:*  
  
*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*
10. **Committee on Special Duties:**  
*Report on the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Bill, 2018 (SB. 335):*  
  
*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*
11. **Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development:**  
*Report on the National Fertilizer Quality (Control) Act 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (SB. 338):*  
  
*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*
12. **Committee on Establishment and Public Service:**  
*Report on the Facility Management Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.340):*  
  
*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*
13. **Committee on Establishment and Public Service:**  
*Report on the Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.636):*  
  
*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*
14. **Committee on Information and National Orientation:**  
*Report on the Agency for National Ethics and Values (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (HB. 519):*  
  
*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*
15. **Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:**  
*Report on the Federal College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu, Abia State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.519):*  
  
*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*
16. **Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:**  
*Report on the Federal College of Education Usugbenu, Irrua, Edo State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018 (SB.554):*  
  
*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*
17. **Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:**  
*Report on the Federal Polytechnic, Kabo (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2018 (SB. 407):*  
  
*Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**18. Adjournment:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 17th July, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

*Adjourned accordingly at 12:54 p.m.*

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