



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 20th February, 2020

1. The Senate met at 10:48 a.m. The Deputy President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 19th February, 2020.
Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Announcement**
Acknowledgment:
The Deputy President of the Senate acknowledged the presence of the following who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:
 - (i) Staff and Students of Premier International School, Wuse II, Abuja;
 - (ii) Staff and Students of K.K. International School, Kubwa, Abuja; and
 - (iii) Staff and Students of Early Beginners International School, Lokogoma, Abuja.
4. **Presentation of Bills:**
 - (i) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (SB. 321) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (ii) Federal Polytechnic Maiduguri (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 338) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (iii) National Agency for the Education, Rehabilitation, De-radicalization and Integration of repentant insurgents in Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 340) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (iv) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (SB. 274) — *Read the First Time.*
 - (v) Metallurgy Training Institute Orumba (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 341) — *Read the First Time.*
5. **Committee on Education (Basic and Secondary):**
Report on the Sorry State of Computer Education:
Motion made: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Education (Basic and Secondary) on the urgent need to address the sorry state of Computer Education by providing training for Teachers and Basic Computer Facilities in public Schools (*Senator Akon E. Eyakenyi — Akwa-Ibom South*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid and presented.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to engage the relevant Stakeholders in Education to review/revise the existing National Computer Policy and ensure it covers issues related to learning ICT and learning through ICT - quality professional development programmes for pre-service and serving Teachers; integration of practical teaching and learning of ICT; benchmark and standards for development, production and use of e-contents and resources (including learning applications) and local context software in our schools; and time line (5 - 10 years) within which the educational system will fully integrate the ICT — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to partner with the State Governments on the need for dogged implementation of the National Computer Policy in the education system: Training and retraining of Teachers on ICT; provision of Computers and Laptops for Teachers and provision of alternate power supply such as solar power and Generators for Schools — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Education to include Computer Studies and Application/ICT as one of the core courses for Teachers in Training and enforce the knowledge and application of Computer Studies as one of the pre-requisites for qualifying as professional Teachers within a particular time frame — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to provide additional funds to Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), National Teachers' Institute (NTI) and National Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) to broaden their scope within their mandate of operation respectively, in the construction of e-Model schools and provision of Smart Classrooms in all the States; training and certifying of teachers on digital literacy, and establishment of national hub for the development of e-content and e-resources for teaching and learning ICT nationwide — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to engage the relevant Stakeholders in Education to review/revise the existing National Computer Policy and ensure it covers issues related to learning ICT and learning through ICT - quality professional development programmes for pre-service and serving Teachers; integration of practical teaching and learning of ICT; benchmark and standards for development, production and use of e-contents and resources (including learning applications) and local context software in our schools; and time line (5 - 10 years) within which the educational system will fully integrate the ICT;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to partner with the State Governments on the need for dogged implementation of the National Computer Policy in the education system: Training and retraining of Teachers on ICT; provision of Computers and Laptops for Teachers and provision of alternate power supply such as solar power and Generators for Schools;

- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to include Computer Studies and Application/ICT as one of the core courses for Teachers in Training and enforce the knowledge and application of Computer Studies as one of the pre-requisites for qualifying as professional Teachers within a particular time frame; and
- (iv) urge the Federal Government to provide additional funds to Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), National Teachers' Institute (NTI) and National Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) to broaden their scope within their mandate of operation respectively, in the construction of e-Model schools and provision of Smart Classrooms in all the States; training and certifying of teachers on digital literacy, and establishment of national hub for the development of e-content and e-resources for teaching and learning ICT nationwide (*S/Res/123/02/20*).

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

Report on a petition from Maryam Danna Mohammed Against the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC):

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of a petition from Maryam Danna Mohammed against the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) for Alleged Wrongful Termination of Her Appointment (*Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) to reinstate Maryam Danna Mohammed and pay all her entitlements because her disengagement did not follow due process in line with laid down Civil Service Rules and procedures — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do communicate its resolution to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Managing Director of the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) for compliance and implementation.

Amendment

Immediately after the word "Federation" in line 2, *leave out* the word "and" and *insert* the words "to direct the" instead thereof (*Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi — Kebbi North*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) to reinstate Maryam Danna Mohammed and pay all her entitlements because her disengagement did not follow due process in line with laid down Civil Service Rules and procedures; and
- (ii) communicate its resolution to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to direct the Managing Director of the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) for compliance and implementation (*S/Res/124/02/20*).

7. Motion:

The Need to Establish a Visionary Budget-Driven National Planning Framework for Nigeria:
Motion made: The Senate aware that in the last 20 years, Nigeria has developed several National Development Plans with a focus on strategically improving the socio-economic status of the country and the lives of every Nigerian. These plans and strategies include the Transformation Agenda, National and State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS I & II and SEEDS) and Nigeria Vision 20: 2020;

aware that these National Plans were aimed at socio-economic development, with a focus on wealth creation, employment generation, poverty reduction and value orientation and the long-term Vision 2020 statement was that "by 2020, Nigeria will be one of the 20 largest economies in the world, able to consolidate its leadership role in Africa and establish itself as a significant player in the global economic and political arena";

notes that in certain aspects, Nigeria has improved in its global position. Nigeria ranked 27th in nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2020 from 30th in 2018 and improved 15 places in the global ease of doing business ranking, from 146 in 2018 to 131 in 2020. However, in the first quarter of the year 2020, yet it is evident that Nigeria's Development Plans have fallen short of achieving the vision of becoming one of the top 20 largest economies in the world;

concerned that despite an incremental growth in the nation's nominal GDP and gross national income (GNI) over the years, the average Nigerian has experienced little or no change to their socio-economic status. Some have even experienced a retrogressive impact on their lives in recent years. Nigeria has been dubbed "the poverty capital of the world" with 47.7% of the population, with figures as high as 94,734,000 (ninety-four million, seven hundred and thirty-four thousand) Nigerians living in abject poverty as at November 2020. 1/3 of the nation's children are never enrolled in school and Nigeria currently has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS related deaths in the world;

convinced that there is an urgent need to identify and eliminate the obstacles that have posed a problem to the successful conceptualization and implementation of previous national development plans in Nigeria, ahead of the next generation of national plans;

observes that international practice in countries that have demonstrated significant success in implementing their national development plans, such as Ghana and Rwanda, formulated collaborative and evidence-based plans with clearly identified objectives and target areas at the conceptualization stage. They also paid deliberate attention to ensure a purposeful link between the national budgeting process and national planning, as their resource allocations and policy frameworks were principally akin to the priority goals set out in their respective national development plans;

observes that under Ghana's Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA) II, (2014-2017) for example, the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) is legally mandated to prepare legislative instruments and prescribe the procedure and timelines to rejuvenate the development planning process at all levels of government. In Rwanda, the Ministries of Finance and Planning were merged to form the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in 1997, in order to improve co-ordination between the functions of finance and planning and to foster greater evidence-based national planning and performance-based budgeting;

further observes that even in a more developed economy where national planning tends to be more sector-related, such as Norway and New Zealand, there is a clear recognition of the importance of budget and national planning coordination by the Ministry of Finance (or relevant Ministry, Department and/or Agencies (MDAs) and that Parliament or Cabinet plays a vital role in institutionalizing such plans and in the implementation process;

disturbed that despite Nigeria's articulated national plans over the years, it continues to adopt annual national budgets that do not reflect a buy-in from relevant stakeholders and MDAs, towards implementing and achieving the development goals set out in the national development strategies and plans;

further disturbed that the approval of budget submissions by MDAs to the National Assembly is not reflective of goal-oriented and performance-based allocations. For example, under the Appropriations Act, 2018 the total budget allocation to the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing, a vital Ministry in national development, was ₦554 billion. This figure dropped by almost half to ₦331 billion in the 2020 budget. However, the 2020 proposed "Budget of sustainable growth, job creation and projects expenditure" has increased the combined allocation to the Ministry of Power and Ministry of Works and Housing to ₦420 billion. This roller-coaster allocation is a cause for concern as it calls into question; existing benchmarks for success, criteria for resource allocation and the accountability of MDAs to efficiently utilize their allocated resources to achieve the goals within their jurisdiction and minimize wasted resources;

understands that the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning as well as other relevant MDAs need to adopt a national planning and budget framework that promotes a buy-in from relevant stakeholders at the conception stage, to a harmonized vision. This collaborative and coordinated planning will ensure a national vision that enables MDAs identify relevant programmes and projects to be implemented within the budget framework period, while informing the budget hearing and defence process during preparation of the annual budget; and

recognizes that without a visionary budget-driven national development plan, growth strategies and the respective MDAs will continue to fall short of achieving their goals, and projects will have little or no purpose. There will continue to be a high propensity for wasteful resource allocation and/or overlapping projects. Therefore, addressing these issues must be at the heart of the next generation of mid-term and long-term national development plans (for example Nigeria 2050) and subsequent budgeting cycles in Nigeria.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Appropriations; National Planning; and Finance, to conduct a thorough review of Nigeria's budgeting practices as well as national planning process, with a view to creating a more synergised and collaborative system that is both effective and efficient;
- (ii) invite the Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning and the Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission to address the Senate on the failures and shortcomings of previous National Development Plans and to present a detailed report, appraising the current budget and national planning processes and within four (4) weeks from the Senate appearance, recommend to the Senate, relevant legislative and bureaucratic steps that could be adopted to foster a more efficient, effective and synergized Budget and National Planning system;
- (iii) further mandates the Committees on Appropriations; National Planning; and Finance to identify any extant Legislations and/or Regulations that are archaic, contrary to international best practices and would stand as an impediment to a more effective and efficient budgetary and national planning framework, and take the necessary steps to effect amendments and/or repeal such Legislations and/or Regulations; and
- (iv) mandate the Joint Committee to carry out any other necessary legislative steps that would give effect to the realization of the spirit and intent of this motion.

Debate:

Amendment Proposed

Leave out Proposed Resolutions (i) - (iv) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

“That the Senate do organize a Round Table discussion by the Committees on National Planning; Finance; and Appropriations to invite Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other Stakeholders to come up with well structured national planning process to enhance national development” (*Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi — Kebbi North*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed.

Resolved:

That the Senate do organized a Round Table discussion by the Committees on National Planning; Finance; and Appropriations to invite Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other Stakeholders to come up with well structured national planning process to enhance national development (*S/Res/125/02/20*).

8. **Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act No. 19 of the 1995 (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2020 (SB.19):**

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. **Federal University of Agriculture Dambatta, Kano State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB.254):**

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. **Information in Electronic Transaction Bill, 2020 (SB. 155):**

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. **Federal College of Education Ibokun (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 134):**

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. **Adjournment:**

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 25th February, 2020 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:18 p.m.

Ovie Augustine Omo-Agege
Deputy President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.