



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 18th July, 2023

1. The Senate met at 11:28 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 13th July, 2023.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Motions:**

(a) ***Urgent Need to Control the Erosion Ravaging Onitsha-Oba Section of the Onitsha-Owerri Federal Highway in Anambra State:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes with dismay the devastating effects of ravaging gully erosions and landslide on Onitsha-Owerri Federal Road, between Electrical Parts Market and Metallurgical Training Institute, Obosi (Idemili North L.G.A) and Oba Junction near Rojenny Games Village in Idemili South L.G.A - along Onitsha-Owerri Federal Highway, all within Anambra Central Senatorial District of Anambra State;

also notes that one lane of the affected road has been cut off by the gully erosion at the Oba junction with the second lane under serious threat of imminent collapse while buildings and factories within the vicinity are on the verge of collapsing into the gully;

worried that the erosion and landslide are creating traffic gridlock along the sections of the Onitsha-Owerri Highway;

concerned that if the menace of gully erosions and landslide is not urgently controlled, the sections of the road will completely cave in, thus leading to total disconnection of the highway with attendant severe consequences and cutting off of vehicular movement to Imo, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Cross River States;

also notes that Onitsha-Owerri federal highway is a gateway to business activities and other relationships between the Western States and South East and South-South States; and

further notes that the magnitude of the menace is beyond the control of the State Government.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to direct the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to commence repairs and re-construction of the affected parts of the Onitsha-Owerri Federal Road and particularly, the section between Upper Iweka Round About in Onitsha and Oba in Idemili South L.G.A. of Anambra State which spans about 6 kilometers;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to ensure regular surveillance of Federal high ways to identify and nip erosion threats to the federal roads in the bud; and
- (iii) further urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to join in the detection and prevention of erosion menace on the highways (*Senator Umeh, Victor Chukwunonyelu — Anambra Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to direct the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to commence repairs and re-construction of the affected parts of the Onitsha-Owerri Federal road and particularly, the section between Upper Iweka Round About in Onitsha and Oba in Idemili South L.G.A. of Anambra State which spans about 6 kilometers — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do also urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to ensure regular surveillance of Federal High ways to identify and nip erosion threats to the federal roads in the bud — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do further urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to join in the detection and prevention of erosion menace on the highways — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- “(i) That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing; the Federal Ministry of Environment; and Ecological Fund Office to urgently fix the erosion menace on Ovom road, Ogbo Hill, Aba, Abia State (*Senator Darlington Nwokocha — Abia Central*);
- (ii) That the Senate do urge the Ecological Fund Office in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to constitute a team of Engineers to tour and have an overview of erosion sites in the country, design as peculiar to the environment with a view to control erosion in Nigeria (*Senator Patrick C. Ndubueze — Imo North*);
- (iii) That the Senate do urge the Nigeria Building and Road Research Institute to come up with cheaper and effective ways of controlling erosion menace in Nigeria (*Senator Babagida U. Hussaini — Jigawa North West*);
- (iv) That the Senate do urge for the Ecological Fund Office in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to include the Kirfi, Wanka and Dewu in Kirfi Local Government Area for control of erosion in those communities (*Senator Shehu Buba Umar — Bauchi South*);
- (v) That the Senate do urge the inclusion of Nasarawa and Ikot Nkebre

communities of Calabar Municipal Local Government Area of Cross River State for immediate intervention and erosion control by the Federal Government (*Senator Asuquo Ekpennyong — Cross River South*)

- (vi) That the Senate do urge the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to take inventory of all the affected areas in the country in order to address the erosion menace as there is no community that is not affected (*Senator Ahmed Abdulhamid — Jigawa East*)”.

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to direct the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to commence repairs and re-construction of the affected parts of the Onitsha-Owerri Federal road and particularly, the section between Upper Iweka Round about in Onitsha and Oba in Idemili South L.G.A. of Anambra State which spans about 6 kilometers;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to ensure regular surveillance of Federal High ways to identify and nip erosion threats to the federal roads in the bud;
- (iii) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to join in the detection and prevention of erosion menace on the highways;
- (iv) equally urge the Federal Ministry of Works; Federal Ministry of Environment; and Ecological Fund Office to urgently fix the erosion menace in Ovom road, Ogbo Hill, Aba, Abia State;
- (v) call on the Ecological Fund Office in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Office to constitute a team of Engineers to tour round the erosion sites and have an overview of the erosion sites in the country, design as peculiar to the environment in a view to control erosion in Nigeria;
- (vi) also call on the Nigeria Building and Road Research Institute to come up with cheaper and effective ways of controlling erosion menace in Nigeria;
- (vii) further call on the Ecological Fund Office in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Office to include the Kirfi, Wanka and Dewu in Kirfi Local Government Area to quickly intervene in controlling the erosion in those communities;
- (viii) equally call on the inclusion of Nasarawa and Ikot Nkebre communities of Calabar Municipal Local Government Area of Cross River State for immediate intervention and erosion control by the Federal Government; and
- (ix) still call on the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to take inventory of all the affected areas in the country in order to address the erosion menace as there is no community that is not affected (*S/Res/021/01/23*).

(b) *Urgent Need for Erosion Control in Edo Central Senatorial District to Save Lives, Properties and Physical Infrastructure from Collapse:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the peculiar nature of the topography of Edo Central Senatorial District has put many communities under the constant threat of erosion devastation, resulting in massive gully erosions, flooding and road

devastations, which is one major reason why most roads quickly fail leading in communities and homes being damaged and abandoned;

also notes that the Okene-Auchi-Benin expressway, a major road infrastructure in Nigeria began to fail at the Ekpoma axis owing to several gully erosions. The Ewu-Uromi-Agbor Road corridor has also experienced similar fate in Uromi axis. Nigerians in Irrua, Ekpoma, Uromi, Ewu and other communities have fled their homes or got their access roads damaged owing to the erosion problems. In June, two persons died after being swept away from their homes in Ujoelen, Ekpoma. A school girl died two years ago in Efandion, Uromi, on her way to school due to the uncontrollable flooding. It is difficult to construct roads to Udo community because of the wild erosion gullies. This trend is all over the area;

worried that infrastructure like roads and electricity will be grievously affected by the devastation of erosion gully if the situation is not arrested as government institutions like schools and hospitals will also be damaged and more Nigerians may lose their homes as it is already being experienced; and

also worried that ongoing highway road projects in Edo central face the risk of being damaged even before they are completed, as a result of which the country may just be losing hundreds of millions of naira because of the natural disaster. The cost of interventions in erosion disaster is too weighty for local and state governments to bear

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge for the collaboration of Federal Agencies, namely; the Federal Ministry of Environment; Federal Ministry of Works and Housing; and Ecological Fund Office towards tackling the menace of erosion devastation in Edo Central Senatorial District;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA); and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to collaborate and provide palliative emergency works in Ekpoma (Uhiele, Ujoelen, Ukpenu, Borehole Road & Emuhi), Irrua (Uwesun and Ikekato), Ewu (Eguare and Uzoghola), Uromi (Efandion, Eguare & Uzegwa), Udo and Illushi;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment, Ecology, Works, Special Duties, FERMA (when constituted) and Legislative Compliance to;
 - engage the Federal Ministry of Environment; Federal Ministry of Works and Housing; NEMA and Ecological Fund Office to come up with a durable and lasting workplan to arrest the devastation;
 - involve FERMA to prevent the expressways and other roads in the area from further degradation; and
 - set up NEMA stations in Edo Central to assist residents in the event of emergency that could lead to loss of lives and properties (*Senator Okpebholo, Monday — Edo Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge for the collaboration of Federal Agencies, namely; the Federal Ministry of Environment; Federal Ministry of Works and Housing; and Ecological Fund Office towards tackling the menace of erosion devastation in Edo Central Senatorial District — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency

(FERMA); and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to collaborate and provide palliative emergency works in Ekpoma (Uhiele, Ujoelen, Ukpenu, Borehole Road & Emuhi), Irrua (Uwesani and Ikekato), Ewu (Eguare and Uzogholo), Uromi (Efandion, Eguare & Uzegwa), Udo and Illushi — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Environment, Ecology, Works, Special Duties, FERMA (when constituted) and Legislative Compliance to:

- engage the Federal Ministry of Environment; Federal Ministry of Works and Housing; NEMA and Ecological Fund Office to come up with a durable and lasting workplan to arrest the devastation;
- involve FERMA to prevent the expressways and other roads in the area from further degradation; and
- set up NEMA stations in Edo Central to assist residents in the event of emergency that could lead to loss of lives and properties — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge for the collaboration of Federal Agencies, namely; the Federal Ministry of Environment, Ecological Fund Office and the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing towards tackling the menace of erosion devastation in Edo Central Senatorial District;
 - (ii) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA); and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to collaborate and provide palliative emergency works in Ekpoma (Uhiele, Ujoelen, Ukpenu, Borehole Road & Emuhi), Irrua (Uwesani and Ikekato), Ewu (Eguare and Uzogholo), Uromi (Efandion, Eguare & Uzegwa), Udo and Illushi;
 - (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment, Ecology, Works, Special Duties, FERMA (when constituted) and Legislative Compliance to:
 - engage the Federal Ministry of Environment; Federal Ministry of Works and Housing; NEMA and Ecological Fund Office to come up with a durable and lasting workplan to arrest the devastation;
 - involve FERMA to prevent the expressways and other roads in the area from further degradation; and
 - set up NEMA stations in Edo central to assist residents in the event of emergency that could lead to loss of lives and properties (S/Res/022/01/23).
- (c) ***Urgent Need to Reconstruct/Rehabilitate the Onitsha-33-Otuocha-Adani Road Boundary to Enugu State:***

Motion made: That the Senate recalls the decision of government to seek alternative sources for funding critical national projects to increase the stock of infrastructure, through initiatives such as private sector partnership, SUKUK funds and the FIRS/NNPCL Road Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme, without which we cannot grow our nation;

notes that the 48km stretch of the Federal Government Trunk 'A' Road, a major economic artery in the Onitsha and Omambala region of Anambra and Kogi States which traverses the GRA, Onitsha, 33-Otuocha-Adani-Enugu State and Kogi State has dilapidated, thus leading to loss of lives and properties;

also notes that this very important Federal Road connects many agrarian communities

and is also major food basket of the South East region known for rice farming and other arable crops like Yam, Cassava, Potato and Corn; such critical national project if not tackled can lead to food scarcity, bring untold hardship, neglect and exacerbating the sufferings and pain on the people and the attendant loss of revenue that would have accrued to the government;

further notes the presence of critical infrastructure like the Cooking Gas extractive industry/refinery at Ponti Nkponando, Aguleri, many industries located along that Anambra, Enugu and Kogi States corridor and many other businesses, which contribute huge sums of needed revenue for the nation;

equally notes that this road will be segmented into two sections, the first section is dualization from GRA Onitsha to Aguleri/Otuocho junction (about 10km); and the second section will remain a single carriage way from Otuocho/ Aguleri junction to Adani, Enugu and Kogi States;

aware that the project is under the Federal Ministry of Works & Housing but has not been awarded because of paucity of funds, hence the need for placement of funding to be financed through the NNPC Road Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme, under which it is the financier that selects the road they want to invest in; and

observes that while consideration should be given to the detrimental effects of the road on the social and economic experience that has affected the well-being of the affected communities, as well as the potential risks posed to human lives and the local economy and the worsening security situation in Anambra, Enugu and Kogi States as a result of the deplorable state of the road;

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) under the Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme to capture and include this important road as a project to be prioritize, funded and to be executed through the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to urgently commence design for the road and subsequent award (once NNPCL/FIRS captures the road and provide funding) of this economically important road as part of measures to guarantee food security and enhance security of lives and properties; and
- (iii) urge the Committees on Petroleum Upstream; Works (when constituted) and Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation (*Senator Nwoye, Tony — Anambra North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) under the Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme to capture and include this important road as a project to be prioritize, funded; and to be awarded/executed through the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to urgently commence design for the road and subsequent award (once NNPCL/FIRS captures the road and provide funding) of this economically important road as part of measures to guarantee food security and enhance security of lives and properties — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Committees on Petroleum Upstream; Works (when constituted) and Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) under the Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme to capture and include this important road as a project to be prioritize, funded and to be executed through the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing;
 - (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to urgently commence design for the road and subsequent award (once NNPCL/FIRS captures the road and provide funding) of this economically important road as part of measures to guarantee food security and enhance security of lives and properties; and
 - (iii) urge the Committees on Petroleum Upstream; Works (when constituted) and Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation (*S/Res/023/01/23*).
- (d) ***Urgent Need for Intervention to Arrest the Incessant Sea Incursion Ravaging Ayetoro Community in Ondo State***

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the oil producing Ayetoro is a phenomenal historical and cultural settlement along the coastal stretch of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State and is also a major source of revenue for the nation;

also notes that Ayetoro community used to be one of the most prosperous riverine settlements in Nigeria due to its thriving trade in fish;

further notes that Ayetoro community and its environs account for 5.4% of the 60,000 barrel per day of Ondo State's crude oil production output amounting to about 3.7% of Nigeria's total oil production and this ranks Ondo State as the 5th, among Nigeria's oil producing States, under the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Act;

disturbed that devastating sea incursions and ocean surges have been the albatross of the Ayetoro community for over two decades with hundreds of homes and properties being destroyed annually, resulting in the displacement of indigenes of the community and consequently, in the disruption of oil exploration in the area;

also disturbed that the surges have become an annual occurrence that successive governments have failed to attend to and serving as daily reminder to the indigenes of Ayetoro that the community is gradually slipping into the belly of the Atlantic Ocean;

aware that a concerned interventionist agency, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) as early as 2004, just four years after its creation, made a commendable attempt to stem the slide by awarding the contract for the construction of a shoreline protective wall designed with a geo-tube technology in Ayetoro to Gallet Nigeria Limited at an original contract sum of ₦6.4 billion, of which 25 per cent was reportedly paid;

also aware that the said contract was revoked in 2009 for alleged lack of capacity and re-awarded to Dredging Atlantic Limited at an undisclosed cost; however eleven years after the new contractor took over, and sixteen years after the contract was first awarded, there is nothing on ground to show any intervention by the government, thereby creating the wrong impression of an unconcerned Federal Government;

worried that Ayetoro is on the verge of being completely lost to the sea if nothing is

done urgently, and this is more poignant because residents are gradually losing hope that their abodes of many years have not receive desired attention from relevant authorities; and

also worried that the utopian community, where communalism once fully held sway may soon be an illusion of history following the incessant sea incursion ravaging the community.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta; Environment; and Ecology and Climate Change (when constituted) to interface with relevant Federal Ministries to work out modalities for instant intervention in the disaster;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Niger Delta (when constituted) to conduct an investigation into the ₦6.5 billion-shoreline protection contract awarded by the NDDC in 2006 with a view to finding an alternative solution where necessary, to stem the dangerous slide and report back within four weeks for further legislative action;
- (iii) further mandate the Committee on Niger Delta (when constituted) to investigate the various contracts awarded in respect to Ayetoro community particularly contracts awarded to Dredging Atlantic Limited, find out to whom money was paid to, the amount, why was the contract abandoned and recover public fund; and
- (iv) urge the oil producing companies in Ayetoro to give accounts of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments and assist the immediate people of Ayetoro community (*Senator Jimoh, Ibrahim Folorunsho — Ondo South*)

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Niger Delta; Environment; and Ecology and Climate Change (when constituted) to interface with relevant Federal Ministries to work out modalities for instant intervention in the disaster — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do also mandate the Committee on Niger Delta (when constituted) to conduct an investigation into the ₦6.5 billion-shoreline protection contract awarded by the NDDC in 2006 with a view to finding an alternative solution where necessary, to stem the dangerous slide and report back within four weeks for further legislative action — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Niger Delta (when constituted) to investigate the various contracts awarded in respect to Ayetoro community particularly contracts awarded to Dredging Atlantic Limited, find out to whom money was paid to, the amount, why was the contract abandoned and recover public fund — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the oil producing companies in Ayetoro to give accounts of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments and assist the immediate people of Ayetoro community — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

"That the Senate do urge the National/International Organisations that operate within those areas to urgently embark on all inclusive Corporate Social Responsibility to save the environment" (*Senator Darlington Nwokocha — Abia Central*).

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta; Environment; and Ecology and Climate Change (when constituted) to interface with relevant Federal Ministries to work out modalities for instant intervention in the disaster;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta (when constituted) to conduct an investigation into the ₦6.5 billion-shoreline protection contract awarded by the NDDC in 2006 with a view to finding an alternative solution where necessary, to stem the dangerous slide and report back within four weeks for further legislative action;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta (when constituted) to investigate the various contracts awarded in respect to Ayetoro community particularly contracts awarded to Dredging Atlantic Limited, find out to whom money was paid to, the amount, why was the contract abandoned and recover public fund; and
- (iv) urge the oil producing companies in Ayetoro to give accounts of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments and assist the immediate people of Ayetoro community; and
- (v) urge the National/International Organisations that operate within those areas to urgently embark on all inclusive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to save the environment (*S/Res/024/01/23*).

4. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 19th July, 2023 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:06 p.m.

Godswill Obot Akpabio, CON

President,

Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

