



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Monday, 6th November, 2023

1. The Senate met at 11:54 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Special Plenary:**
Motion made: Pursuant to Order (7) that the Senate do sit this day, Monday, 6th November, 2023 to deliberate on issues of National importance and rescind its earlier adjournment date of Tuesday, 7th November, 2023 (*Senate Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 2nd November, 2023.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Announcement:**
Meeting:
The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Bamidele Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central*) as follows:



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

6th November, 2023

*The President of the Senate,
Senate Chamber,
National Assembly,
Abuja.*

Announcement

There will be a meeting of Selection Committee immediately after plenary at the President of the Senate's Office.

(Signed)

Senator Bamidele M. Opeyemi

Senate Leader

5. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Electricity Act, (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 228) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Federal University of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 237) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Federal University of Education Gumel, Jigawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB.239) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (SB. 246) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (SB. 247) — *Read the First Time.*

6. Motions:

- (a) ***Urgent Need to mandate schools to locate their Creche and Nursery Classes to the Ground Floors of their High-Rise Buildings and implement Safety Protocols:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes with grief, the death of a toddler David Etim Udo on the 24th October, 2023 who fell from a school high rise building at Emerald International School Aba, Abia State;

further notes that the incident brought to the fore again the issue of safety in our schools particularly for babies and toddlers in Creche and Nursery schools across Nigeria;

aware that accidents do occur including falls from multi-floor buildings in our schools resulting in injuries, temporary or permanent disabilities and in some cases, death;

also aware that many of these accidents may not have been reported appropriately to the supervisory state authorities to cause the activation of necessary investigation and possible sanctions. The ultimate is for investigations to cause state policy direction that will permanently prevent recurrence of these heinous accidents;

concerned that if there are state policies or not, school operators and managers are expected to display duty of care and ensure that babies and toddlers under their care are properly monitored and prevented from falling off high-rise buildings in their premises; and

also concerned that the case of Master David Udo is a pathetic and heart-breaking incident that requires this Senate to critically look into the safety issues and protocols in schools across the country including school building and facilities design and arrangement.

Accordingly resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Police to immediately commence a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fall and subsequent death of Master David Udo;
- (ii) also urge the Federal and States' Ministries of Education to compel schools nationwide to relocate their Creche and Nursery classes to the ground floor or bungalow within the school premises;

- (iii) further urge the Federal and States' Ministries of Education to immediately conduct a risk assessment in all school infrastructures in Nigeria to identify hazards and vulnerabilities and timeously identify means to mitigate such hazards; and
- (iv) Equally urge the Federal and States' Ministries of Education to enforce safety protocols in schools as enshrined in the National Policy on Safety, Security and violence-free Schools and issuing its implementation guidelines (*Senator Adebule, Idiat Oluranti — Lagos West*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Police to immediately commence a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fall and subsequent death of Master David Udo — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do also urge the Federal and States' Ministries of Education to compel schools nationwide to relocate their Creche and Nursery classes to the ground floor or bungalow within the school premises — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do further urge the Federal and States' Ministries of Education to immediately conduct a risk assessment in all school infrastructures in Nigeria to identify hazards and vulnerabilities and timeously identify means to mitigate such hazards — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do Equally urge the Federal and States' Ministries of Education to enforce safety protocols in schools as enshrined in the National Policy on Safety, Security and violence-free Schools and issuing its implementation guidelines — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Police to immediately commence a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fall and subsequent death of Master David Udo;
- (ii) also urge the Federal and States' Ministries of Education to compel schools nationwide to relocate their Creche and Nursery classes to the ground floor or bungalow within the school premises;
- (iii) further urge the Federal and States' Ministries of Education to immediately conduct a risk assessment in all school infrastructures in Nigeria to identify hazards and vulnerabilities and timeously identify means to mitigate such hazards; and
- (iv) equally urge the Federal and States' Ministries of Education to enforce safety protocols in schools as enshrined in the National Policy on Safety, Security and violence-free Schools and issuing its implementation guidelines (*S/Res/064/01/23*).

One minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

(b) *Need to prevent loss of lives caused by floods and undredged River Benue in Adamawa State:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes that River Benue is an international river flowing into Nigeria from the high land of Northern Cameroon through Jimeta in Adamawa State, Ibi in Taraba State, Makurdi in Benue State and finally meets River Niger at Lokoja;

aware that the volume of water flow of the River is adversely affected by climate change and construction of dams resulting to its uncontrolled shrinking with devastating effects on agricultural activities such as dry season farming, floods, negative effects on inland waterways transportation;

further aware that the River Benue flows across seven Local Government Areas of Fufore, Yola South, Yola North, Girei, Demsa, Numan and Lamurde which explains why Adamawa State is always affected by consequences of flood disaster largely caused by lack of dredging which in 2022 alone according to NEMA, displaced over 2.41 Million people and over 600 fatalities were recorded with expansive hectares of farmlands across the affected states swept off;

disturbed that as a result of flood by the River Benue, on Wednesday, 1st November, 2023, 32 people were on board trying to cross the river at Garin Alaji near Chikito village where the boat capsized but only 7 bodies were discovered and 5 rescued alive, the remaining are unaccounted for up till now in addition to the earlier reported case where 53 people lost their lives in the same river; and

regrets that the Perennial flood by River Benue and attendant consequences of loss of lives, displacement of people, and destruction of farmlands threatening food security will continue if urgent action is not taken to address the situation that apparently threatens the realization of primary purpose of government.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) facilitate the inclusion of the dredging of River Benue in the 2024 Appropriation Bill to address the perennial flooding and its multi-dimensional consequences on Nigerians;
- (ii) urge the President to also facilitate the construction of Dasin Hausa Dam proposed to be in Fufore Local Government Area to curtail potential risk of excessive flood from the Lagdo Dam in Republic of Cameroon;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the victims of the deceased and embark on enlightenment campaigns on dangers of crossing rivers before or after rainfall; and
- (iv) further urge the National Inland Water Ways Authority to investigate the causes of an increased number of Boat Mishaps in the State (*Senator Abbas, Aminu Iya — Adamawa Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do facilitate the inclusion of the dredging of River Benue in the 2024 Appropriation Bill to address the perennial flooding and its multi-dimensional consequences on Nigerians.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the words “dredging of”, *insert* the words “Rivers Benue; Niger and other Rivers” instead thereof: (*Senator Mohammed Adamu Aliero Mainasara — Kebbi Central*).

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

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the President to also facilitate the construction of Dasin Hausa Dam proposed to be in Fufore Local Government Area to curtail potential risk of excessive flood from the Lagdo Dam in Republic of Cameroon.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "of", in line 1, insert the words "receptor dams, including" instead thereof: (Senator Abba Patrick Moro — Benue South)

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

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the victims of the deceased and embark on enlightenment campaigns on dangers of crossing rivers before or after rainfall.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "the", in line 2, leave out the word "deceased" and insert the words "perennial floods" instead thereof: (Senator Jarigbe A. Jarigbe — Cross River North)

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

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do further urge the National Inland Water Ways Authority to investigate the causes of an increased number of Boat Mishaps in the State.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "State", in line 2, insert the words "and ensure enforcement of safety measures" instead thereof: (Senator Amos Yohanna — Adamawa North)

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) facilitate the inclusion of the dredging of Rivers Benue, Niger and other Rivers in the 2024 Appropriation Bill to address the perennial flooding and its multi-dimensional consequences;
- (ii) urge the President to also facilitate the construction of receptor dams including Dasin Hausa Dam proposed to be in Fufore Local Government Area to curtail potential risk of excessive flood from the Lagdo Dam in Republic of Cameroon;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the victims of the perennial floods and embark on enlightenment campaigns on dangers of crossing rivers before or after rainfall; and
- (iv) further urge the National Inland Water Ways Authority to investigate the causes of an increased number of Boat Mishaps in the State and ensure enforcement of safety measures (S/Res/065/01/23).

7. Closed Session:

Closed Session — 12:58 p.m.

Open Session — 1:39 p.m.

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate, in a Closed Session, deliberated on issues bordering on the workings of the Senate in particular and the National Assembly in general.

8. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 7th November, 2023 at 10.00 a.m.
(Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 1:46 p.m.

Godswill Obot Akpabio, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.