SENATE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER

Tuesday, 17th December, 2019

1. Prayers
2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
3. Oaths
4. Announcements (if any)
5. Petitions

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Agricultural Processing Zones (Est, etc) Bill, 2019 (SB. 258) - First Reading
2. Nigerian Peace Corps (Est, etc) Bill, 2019 (SB. 271) - First Reading
3. Nigerian Maritime University Okerenkoko (Est, etc) Bill, 2019 (SB. 272) - First Reading
   Sen. Manager, James Ebiowou (Delta South).
4. NDDC Act No. 6 2000 (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (SB. 273) - First Reading
   Sen. Adeola, Solomon Olamilekan (Lagos West).
5. Federal Orthopedic Hospital Kuta (Est, etc) Bill, 2019 (SB. 279) - First Reading
   Sen. Musa, Mohammed Sani (Niger East).
6. Federal College of Education, Ila Orangun Bill, 2019 (SB. 300) - First Reading
   Sen. Basiru, Surajudeen Ajibola (Osun Central).

PRESENTATION OF A REPORT

1. Report of the Joint Committee on Navy, Marine Transport and Finance
   Sen. Sekibo, George Thompson (Rivers East)
   - That the Senate do receive the report of the Joint Committee on Navy, Marine Transport and Finance on the
     Investigation of the Illegal Security Activities by Ocean Marine Solutions Limited (OMSL) at the Secure
     Anchorage Area (SAA) of Lagos Ports – To be Laid.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION

   Sen. Abdullahi, Yahaya Abubakar (Kebbi North–Senate Leader).
   - That the Senate do consider the request of the President C–n–C on the 2016 – 2018 External Borrowing Plan
     in accordance with Sections 21 and 27 of the Debt Management Office (Est, etc) Act.
CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. A Bill for an Act to provide the Legal Framework to establish the Federal Medical Centre Rigasa, Kaduna State and for related matters, 2019 (SB. 169) - Second Reading
Sen. Sani, Uba (Kaduna Central).

2. A Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of Oil Palm Industrial Park and for matters connected therewith, 2019 (SB. 171) - Second Reading
Sen. Nnachi, Michael Ama (Ebonyi South).

MOTIONS

1. The need to investigate alleged ill treatment and injustices suffered by Nigerian Traders and Businesses in Ghana.

Sponsor: Sen. Ubah, Ifeanyi Patrick (Anambra South)

The Senate:

Notes with concern alleged injustice and ill treatment of Nigerian traders and Nigerian business owners in Ghana;

Aware that Ghana and Nigeria as member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have reciprocal obligations under the ECOWAS Protocol to their respective citizens to reside and do business within their territories without molestation;

Further aware that following the desire of the Ghanaian government to promote trade and good neighborliness between Nigeria under President Kufour’s moto “property owning democracy”, many Nigerian businesses went to establish in Ghana creating thousands of jobs for Ghanaian citizens and generally contributing to the growth of the Ghanaian economy;

Notes that as at the end of 2010, Nigerian businesses accounted for 60% of foreign investments in Ghana from the African continent;

Concerned that of recent, the once flourishing economic relations between Nigeria and Ghana has come under repeated threats as a result of recent hostile posture of Ghanaian authorities and indigenous Ghanaian Traders Union towards Nigerian traders through:

- The adoption of discriminatory legislations aimed at frustrating Nigerian traders and businesses such as the passage of the Ghana Investment Promotion Commission Act 865 (GIPC) that raised the amount of money in registering businesses owned by foreigners (mostly owned by Nigerians) in Ghana to $200,000 and further restriction and prohibition of foreigners from trading in particular markets;

- Molestation of Nigerian traders and other hostile acts directed against Nigerian businesses such as the recent closure of over six hundred shops and businesses belonging to Nigerians carried out by the Ghana Union of Traders Association (GUTA) on 2nd December, 2019 and which remained closed up to the time of moving this motion;

- Enactment of the Ghana Investment promotion Centre (GIPC) Act 865 of 2013 which prohibits ECOWAS Citizens from engaging in small and medium scale Enterprises (SMEs) with a further prohibition on registration of SMEs by foreigners; and

- Frustrations faced by Nigerian citizens in registering businesses as a result of obstacles placed on the way of genuine Nigerian entrepreneurs like the requirement of proof of importation of $1million into Ghana as applicable to citizens of non-ECOWAS member states such as China, India etc;
Aware that Nigeria and Ghana had previously set up a Joint Task Force from the Trade Ministries of the two countries to inspect business facilities of companies registered under the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) in both countries and also organized an Economic Submit in Accra in 2010 in order to address the dangers of the above mentioned threats to the business interests of Nigerians in Ghana;

Concerned that the above measures and the protection offered Nigerian traders under the ECOWAS framework have failed to address incessant threats to Nigerian businesses in Ghana and mindful that unless the Senate intervenes, the situation may deteriorate into a serious diplomatic and economic crisis;

Further concerned that these allegations cast doubt on the commitment of the Government of Ghana to genuinely reciprocate the sacrifices of Nigeria as a leading member state of ECOWAS by guaranteeing the safety of Nigerian businesses in Ghana;

Worried that the complaints of affected Nigerian traders and business owners are yet to receive the deserved attention by appropriate authorities from the Federal Government of Nigeria even after repeated written complaints; and

Convinced that there is an urgent need to investigate these allegations and indeed draw the attention of the Federal Government of Nigeria and its relevant authorities to this unfortunate development;

Accordingly resolves to:

i. **Mandate** the Senate Committee on Trade and Investment to investigate the status of Nigerian Businesses in Ghana and the efforts made by the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investments, Federal Ministry Foreign Affairs to protect the interest of Nigerian traders and businesses in Ghana;

ii. **Mandate** the Senate Committee on Trade and Investment to investigate the alleged closure of over six hundred shops and businesses belonging to Nigerians carried out by the Ghana Union of Traders Association (GUTA) on 2nd December, 2019 and which remained closed up to the time of moving this motion, and to report back with appropriate recommendations within six weeks;

iii. **Send** a Delegation of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Committees of Foreign Affairs and Trade & Investment including the Sponsor of this Motion on a Fact Finding Mission and report back to the Senate; and

iv. **Call** on the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment, and the Nigerian Diaspora Commission to adopt and implement measures that will protect the interests of Nigerian traders in Ghana.


Sponsor: Sen. Onor, Sandy Ojang (*Cross River Central*)
Co-Sponsors:
Sen. Omo-Agege, Ovie Augustine (*Delta Central*)
Sen. Oko, Rose Okoji (*Cross River North*)
Sen. Apiafi, Betty Jocelyn (*Rivers West*)
Sen. Abaribe, Enyinnaya Harcourt (*Abia South*)
Sen. Ekwunife, Uche Lilian (*Anambra Central*)
Sen. Akpan, Albert Bassey (*Akwa-Ibom North East*)
Sen. Degi-Eremienyo, W.Biobarakuma (*Bayelsa East*)
Sen. Ewhrudjakpo, Lawrence O. (*Bayelsa West*)
Sen. Manager, James Ebiowou (*Delta South*)
Sen. Ogba, Joseph Obinna (* Ebonyi Central*)
Sen. Ordia, Akhimienmona Clifford (*Edo Central*)
Sen. Mpigi, Barinada (*Rivers South-East*)
Sen. Bassey, Gershom Henry (*Cross River South*)
Sen. Orji, Theodore Ahameful (*Abia Central*)
Sen. Oduah, Stella Adaeze (*Anambra North*)
Sen. Ubah, Ifeanyi Patrick (*Anambra South*)
Sen. Eyakenyi, Akon Etim (*Akwa-Ibom South*)
Sen. Diri, Douye (*Bayelsa Central*)
Sen. Nwaooboshi, Peter Onyeluka (*Delta North*)
Sen. Egwu, Samuel Omnyi (* Ebonyi North*)
Sen. Nnachi, Michael Ama (* Ebonyi South*)
Sen. Alimikhen, Francis Asekhave (*Edo North*)
The Senate:

Notes that the Calabar – Itu highway is the major link between Cross River, Akwa Ibom and other South-South and South East states;

Further notes that the Calabar – Itu Federal Highway is very paramount to the economy of South-South and South East states, due to its economic significance;

Aware that due to the near unmotorable state of the road over the last couple of years, the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing in 2017 awarded Julius Berger construction company the contract for the rehabilitation and dualization of the highway;

Further aware that the project has been abandoned for months, thereby causing heavy traffic gridlock. This has greatly affected commuters, motorists, traders, businessmen. It is particularly distressing to note in this regard that almost all the retail and commercial purchases for the Cross River market come from Onitsha, Aba and Port-Harcourt. In the same vein, the entire South-South and South-East states depend substantially on Cross River State for the purchase of quality chippings for Roads, Buildings and other forms of construction activities. This gridlock has therefore undeniably locked down critical economic activities in all the aforementioned states, thereby creating a terrible economic downturn with obviously devastating consequences on the citizenry;

Worried that the state of the road has worsened to the level where erosion, gullies and potholes are the major characteristics of the highway, which clearly is a national embarrassment;

Further worried that this terribly deteriorating state of the road, if not quickly addressed would clearly promote poverty and worsen the already alarming security situation in the concerned zones; and

Concerned that the distance between Calabar and Uyo which ordinarily should be about one and a half hours, now takes several hours or even days; resulting to a shift to the usage of the Ocean route between Calabar and Oron that has already claimed several lives resulting from Boat mishaps occasioned by an influx that was unprepared for.

Accordingly resolves to:

i. Urge the Federal Government to immediately mandate Julius Berger to, as a matter of economic emergency, resume the rehabilitation and dualization of the Calabar – Itu Federal Highway;

ii. Fund the project in a meaningful manner as to accelerate commitment on the part of Julius Berger and ensure speedy completion of the project; and

iii. Observe a minute silence in honour of those who have already lost their lives in the Ocean pathway of Calabar and Oron.

3. Urgent Need for Rehabilitation of Itobe - Ajaokuta Road, in Kogi State.

Sponsor: Sen. Isah, Jibrin (Kogi East)

The Senate:

Notes that Itobe-Ajaokuta road in Kogi State is a major route for commuters and motorists, in particular, from South-East, part of North-Central and Kogi East to Abuja and other parts of the North;
Worried that a portion of this road covering about 5 kilometers, has deteriorated so much so that commuters and motorist spend about 2 hours on this portion; 
Further worried that apart from various degrees of accidents on the road, there are increasing cases of robbery attacks and kidnapping, as the vehicles must descend to the lowest possible speed limit to navigate the road;

Concerned that with the temporary closure of Enugu International Airport, many South Easterners are compelled to use the route to and from Abuja; and

Believes that an immediate palliative measure through the use of laterites and other quick fix will assist to provide temporary succour, while awaiting complete reconstruction of the road by the Federal Ministry of Transportation.

Accordingly resolves to:

Call on the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence immediate palliative work on the road.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions
   Sen. Akinyelure, Patrick Ayo (Ondo Central)
   - That the Senate do consider the reports of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

   a. Petition from Rex Onyekachi Uzoegbu, Esq. on Behalf of Chief Ezekiel Ariaye and Chief James Wege Against the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) Limited for Alleged Inhumanity, Cruelty, Servitude, Fragrant Disobedience to Law of Equity, Social Justice, Bad Conscience And Deliberate Continuous Refusal to Adequately Compensate Chief Ezekiel Ariaye and Chief James Wege for Their Life-threatening, Great Bodily Harm By NAOC;

   b. Petition from Alhaji Aminu Ja’afar and Three (3) Others against the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna, For the Unjust Withdrawal of Four (4) Cadets From the Academy on Academic Grounds;

   c. Petition from Nwachukwu A. Ndukwe Against the Hon. Minister of Water Resources for Delaying His Appointment as Executive Director in Anambra/Imo River Basin Development Authority; and

   d. Petition from M.S. Chado, Esq. on Behalf of Mr. Isah Ndagi Maiyaki Against the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) for Unlawful Termination of His Appointment Over Alleged Forgery by the Agency.

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions</td>
<td>Tuesday, 17th December, 2019</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Committee Room 204 Senate New Building</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Tuesday, 17th December, 2019</td>
<td>1.00pm</td>
<td>Committee Room 107 Senate New Building</td>
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<td>(Screening Exercise)</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>FCT</td>
<td>Tuesday, 17th December, 2019</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Committee Room 305 Senate New Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions</td>
<td>Wednesday, 18th December, 2019</td>
<td>12.00noon</td>
<td>Committee Room 120 Senate New Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Local Content</td>
<td>Wednesday, 18th December, 2019</td>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Committee Room 204 Senate New Building</td>
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