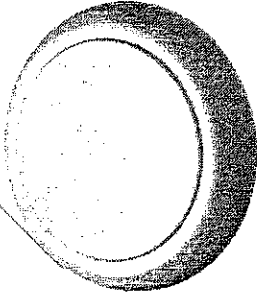




THE SENATE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA COMMITTEE
ON ETHICS, PRIVILEGES AND PUBLIC
PETITIONS



Report of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in Respect of Complaints of Breach of Privilege by Distinguished Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume Over Senator Dino Melaye's Alleged First Degree Saga and also, Over Insinuations by the Media that the Invitation of the Comptroller-General of Customs, Col. Hameed Ali (rtd) by the Senate was Informed by the Seizure of a Bullet-Proof SUV Vehicle Belonging to the Senate President



**Presented by Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu
March, 2017**



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1.0 Preamble

The Senate would recall that on Tuesday, 21st March, 2017, rising on Orders 14 and 15, Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume (Borno South) drew the attention of the Senate to media insinuations that Senator Dino Melaye did not complete his first degree programme and also, the insinuation by the media that the invitation of the Comptroller-General of Customs, Col. Hameed Ali (rtd) by the Senate was informed by the seizure of a bullet-proof SUV vehicle belonging to the Senate President, attempted to be cleared with fake National Assembly documents but seized by the Customs Service, and urged the Senate to look into the matter.

In line with Order 41(3), the Senate referred the matter to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions for detailed investigation.

2.0 Membership of the Committee

1.	Senator Samuel Anyanwu	Chairman
2.	Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah	Vice-Chairman
3.	Senator Mohammed Shitu	Member
4.	Senator Omogunwa Yele	Member
5.	Senator Peter Nwaoboshi	Member
6.	Senator Jeremiah Useni	Member
7.	Senator Obinna Ogba	Member
8.	Senator Dino Melaye	Member
9.	Senator Omotayo Alasoadura	Member
10.	Senator Binta Garba	Member
11.	Senator Matthew Urhoghide	Member
12.	Senator Mao Ohuabunwa	Member
13.	Senator Ovie Omo-Agege	Member

2.1 Secretariat

Freedom Osolo

Clerk to the Committee

3.0 Committee Action

Following the Senate resolution and referral, the Committee met and resolved that in addressing this matter, it would consider the following instruments:

- a) The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);**
- b) Senate Standing Orders 2015 (as amended); and**
- c) The principle of equity, fairness and justice.**

The Committee also resolved to invite:

1. The complainant, Distinguished Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume;
2. The respondents:
 - a) The Senate President, Senator Dr. Bukola Saraki;
 - b) The Importer, Mr. Tokunbo Akindele;
 - c) The Dealer, Mr. Lanre Shittu; and
 - d) The Chairman, Senate Services.
 - e) Senator Dino Melaye

4.0 Testimonies/Submissions

The Committee received written submissions, documents and listened to oral testimonies from the complainant and respondents as follows:

4.1 The Complainant, Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume

Testifying, Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume stated as follows:

1. That he did not petition the Senate President;
2. That seeing that the integrity of the Senate would be damaged by the story he read in the media that the Senate was only on a

vengeance mission against the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service because the Nigeria Customs seized Senator Saraki's Bullet-proof Range Rover vehicle; and also, seeing that image of the Senate would be smeared by Senator Dino's First Degree Certificate saga, he raised the matters through Orders 14 and 15 in order that the Senate may clear the smear on its integrity;

3. That he wanted to even go to court to stop the anti-people policy of the Federal Government/Nigeria Customs that citizens should be asked to produce Customs papers of their cars on Nigerian streets, but that he soft-pedalled when he saw that the Customs had withdrawn from further action;
4. That he did not have any document to prove the allegations he made against Senator Dino Melaye and the Senate President other than what he read in the media; and
5. That he thought he should be commended for his patriotism.

4.2 The Respondents:

a) The Senate President, Senator Dr. Bukola Saraki

Responding to the allegation, the Senate President said:

1. That he appeared before the Committee in order to clear the mess introduced by Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume;
2. That he was happy to appear because his appearance would help build the institution of the Senate as a body bigger and greater than its component parts;
3. That he was not an importer, neither did he import or order to be imported any Range Rover SUV vehicle; and

4. Concluded that legislators must protect the institution because a strong parliament makes a strong democracy.

4.3 The Importer, Mr. Tokunbo Akindele

Speaking before the Committee, the importer, Mr. Tokunbo Akindele stated as follows:

1. That he contacted Hizmark Inc. USA to provide him a bullet-proof Range Rover (SUV) vehicle which cost \$298m dollars;
2. That the vehicle arrived late and could not be used for the purpose for which it was ordered; that the vehicle arrived in September, 2015;
3. That the vehicle had to be consigned to Lanre Shittu Group (a car dealer) for sale;
4. That he was not approached by Senator Bukola Saraki or the National Assembly to import the bullet-proof Range Rover;
5. That the car in question was imported by himself for various uses, and was cleared by the company (Hizmark Inc. USA) and delivered to him;
6. That the car was cleared not with National Assembly documents;
7. That he was surprised at the turn of events because the dealer sold the car in December, 2015 to the National Assembly and the car has been in use since that time in the Lagos Liaison office of the National Assembly;
8. That all this stories being told emanated from the time the car was being driven from Lagos to Abuja where it was intercepted by men of the Nigeria Customs Service who demanded for the

car documents which were not in the possession of the driver;
and

9. That the entire episode was being wrongly presented by the press.

4.4 The Car Dealer, Mr. Lanre Shittu

Speaking to the Committee, the Dealer, Mr. Lanre Shittu, stated:

1. That the bullet-proof Range Rover (SUV) that was consigned to him by the importer, Mr. Tokunbo Akindele to sell was a vehicle already cleared and did not need further documentary clearance;
2. That he sold the car to National Assembly in December, 2015 at N62.5million only;
3. That the car had been in use by the National Assembly in Lagos since he sold it ; and
4. That there was no problem with the vehicle until it was being moved from Lagos to Abuja when men of the Nigeria Customs intercepted it; that at that time, the driver did not have the papers of the car in his possession; and
5. That he was not contracted by the Senate President or National Assembly to import the car; that he only sold it to the National Assembly as an SUV fully cleared, that he no longer needed.

4.5 The Chairman, Senate Services, Senator Ibrahim Gobir

Testifying, Senator Ibrahim Gobir, stated:

1. That the National Assembly does not import cars, it only buys from dealers; and

2. That it did not import or buy any car in the name of the Senate President or for him.

4.6 Senator Dino Melaye

Testifying, Senator Dino Melaye stated:

1. That he graduated from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria with a Third Class degree in year 2000;
2. That he passed all his courses and was given a statement of result which he presented to the Committee;
3. That he also served and was issued a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) certificate; he presented this with other documents to members of the Committee for examination;
4. That he was yet to collect the original certificate of his degree; and
5. That he changed his name from Daniel Jonah Melaye to Dino Melaye because he was already being popularly referred to as Dino Melaye and provided evidence of change-of-name.

4.7 The Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Professor Ibrahim Garba

The Vice-chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Prof. Ibrahim Garba testified concerning Senator Dino Melaye as follows:

1. That Senator Dino Melaye who was known at that time as Daniel Jonah Melaye, was admitted and graduated from the Ahmadu Bello University;
2. That he passed all his courses and graduated on February 3, 2000.

5.0 Observations/Findings

After carefully examining the documents available and hearing out the matter, the Committee observed as follows:

1. That the name of the Senate President, Senator Dr. Bukola Saraki was not mentioned anywhere in the Bill of lading or any document whatsoever connected with the importation or purchase of the SUV Range Rover vehicle;
2. That he did not import any SUV Range Rover as corroborated by all respondents;
3. That this story was cooked up with intent to embarrass the Senate President, the Senate and by extension, the National Assembly;
4. That the complainant did not conduct due diligence before bringing the matter to the floor of the Senate;
5. That as a former Senate Leader and a ranking Senator, he was expected to have weighed the consequences of the allegation, carefully investigated it before presenting it;
6. That Senator Dino Melaye obtained a first degree in Geography from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; and
7. That having failed to cross-check facts before presentation at plenary, he could not be said to be a patriotic representative of the Senate, and should be penalized to serve as deterrent to others.

6.0 Recommendations

After due consideration of the matter as revealed by different parties to the case, the Committee recommends as follows:

1. That the Senate do suspend Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume for bringing Senator Dino Melaye, his colleague, and the institution of the Senate to unbearable disrepute at this time of our National life when caution, patriotism, careful consideration and due diligence should be our watchwords.
2. The suspension is with effect from today (28th March, 2017) to last for 181 legislative days.

7.0 Conclusion

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, on behalf of the Committee, I thank you for listening.



Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu
Chairman



Freedom Osolo
Clerk to the Committee