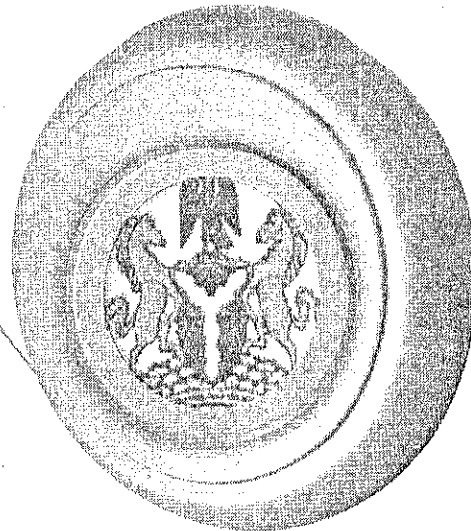
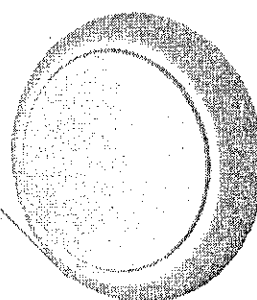




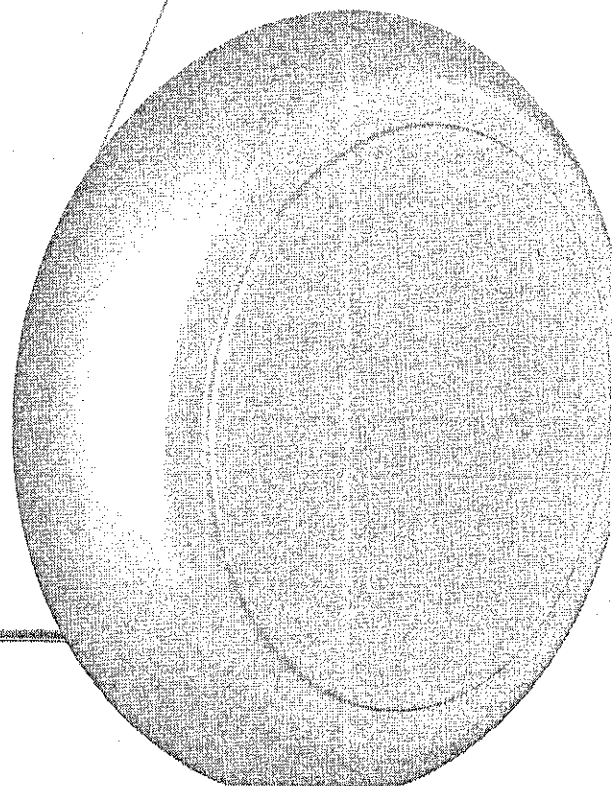
THE SENATE

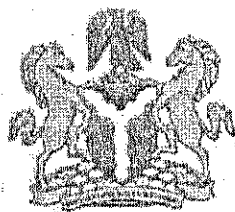
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, PRIVILEGES AND
PUBLIC PETITIONS



**Report of the Senate Committee on
Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions
in Respect of a Complaint from
Senator Dino Melaye Against Senator
Ovie Omo-Agege for Allegedly
Insinuating Through a Press
Conference That the Amendment to
the Independent National Electoral
Commission Act 2010 (Amendment)
Bill 2018 was Targeted at President
Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**

**Presented by Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu
March, 2018**





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 a Complaint from Senator Dino Melaye Against Senator Ovie Omo-Agege for Allegedly Insinuating Through a Press Conference That the Amendment to the Independent National Electoral Commission Act 2010 (Amendment) Bill 2018 was Targeted at President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR

1.0 Preamble

The Senate would recall that on Tuesday, 20th February, 2018, rising on Orders 14 and 15, Senator Dino Melaye (Kogi West) drew the attention of the Senate to an alleged insinuation by Senator Ovie Omo-Agege through a Press Conference that the adoption of the Conference Report which amended the Independent National Electoral Commission Act 2010 on Wednesday, 14th February, 2018 was targeted at President Muhammed Buhari, GCFR, 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 Mao Ohuabunwa	Member
4.	Senator Obinna Ogba	Member
5.	Senator Mohammed Shitu	Member
6.	Senator Peter Nwaoboshi	Member
7.	Senator Jeremiah Useni	Member
8.	Senator Matthew Urhoghide	Member
9.	Senator Dino Melaye	Member
10.	Senator Omotayo Alasoadura	Member
11.	Senator Binta Masi Garba	Member
12.	Senator Omogunwa Yele	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 agreed that in addressing this matter, it would be guided by 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 Dino Melaye; and
2. The respondent, Senator Ovie Omo-Agege.

4.0 Testimonies/Submissions

The Committee received documents and a letter and listened to oral testimonies from the complainant and respondent as follows:

4.1 The Complainant, Senator Dino Melaye

Testifying before the Committee, Senator Dino Melaye stated as follows:

1. That he was disturbed that the aftermath of the adoption by the Senate on Wednesday, 14th February, 2018 of the Conference Report on the Independent National Electoral Commission Act, 2010 (Amendment) Bill 2018 and the insinuations therefrom, had not only portrayed him in bad light but also had a very serious negative effect on him as a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
2. That the address of Senator Ovie Omo-Agege on Chennels' Television and NTA same day alluding that the adoption of the report on the Bill was targeted at President Muhammad Buhari, GCFR, had portrayed him as if he were in an institution that works against the interest of one man which was against the oath he swore to on 9th June, 2015 that he was going to do good to all manner of men; that he also

alleged that more than fifty (50) Senators were against the amendment;

3. That the statement of Senator Ovie Omo-Agege was malicious, unfounded and aimed at smearing the reputation of the Senate as an institution and impugned on his privilege as a Senator;
4. That he laboured so hard for Muhammadu Buhari to emerge as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2015; and
5. That if the decision of the Senate which he belonged could be teleguided and skewed against a particular person, then that was no democracy.

He requested that the Senate should look into the matter and investigate if the adoption of the Conference Report on INEC Act, 2010 (Amendment) Bill 2018 was truly targeted at Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief.

4.2 The Respondent, Senator Ovie Omo-Agege

Responding, Senator Ovie Omo-Agege said:

- 1) That he would not be able to make any presentation before the Committee because he had taken the matter to court;
- 2) That the charges made against him by Senator Dino Melaye were criminal in nature, and that he should not be made to open up. That the matter be postponed until it is discharged by the court.

5.0 Observations/Findings

After carefully examining the documents before the Committee and hearing out the complainant and respondent, the Committee observed as follows:

- 1) That after Senator Ovie Omo-Agege had admitted guilt on the floor of the Senate on Wednesday, 21st February, 2018 by apologising to the Leadership and the entire Senate, the Committee was surprised that he changed his mind and took the Senate President and the Senate to court;
- 2) That as an insightful, effective and forthright member of the Committee up to that hour, this action infuriated all the members of the Committee who fired questions from all directions at him;
- 3) That when he was asked if his court action came before or after the matter was referred to the Committee and whether a court action could stop the Senate from carrying out its responsibility, he kept mute; but the Committee noted that his court action came after the referral and his apology;
- 4) That after the Distinguished Senator had apologised, he and Senator Abdullahi Adamu published an advert in the Vanguard Newspaper with the heading, "Parliamentary Support Group (Senate) for President Muhammadu Buhari", suggesting that the Senate was polarised; and

- 5) That the Committee is of the opinion that the action by Senator Ovie Omo-Agege of going to court after apologising to the Senate was totally unacceptable, especially as an experienced lawyer and member of the Committee who is conversant with the modus operandi of same, and therefore, must be punished to serve as deterrent to others who might contemplate taking the Senate to court over its internal matters.

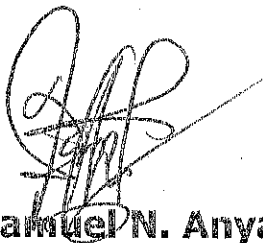
6.0 Recommendation

Having carefully and fully exhausted all sides to the matter and the inherent implication therefrom for today and the future of the National Assembly, the Committee recommends as follows:

- 1) That Senator Ovie Omo-Agege be suspended for 181 legislative days from the date this resolution is taken to serve as deterrent to other Senators who might contemplate taking the Senate to court over its power to regulate or determine its internal matters.

7.0 Conclusion

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, on behalf of the Committee, I thank you for your attention and the determination to uphold the tenets of the Senate.



Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu
Chairman



Freedom Osolo
Clerk to the Committee

Endorsement

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





