



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 23rd July, 2019

1. The Senate met at 10:22 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Closed Session:**
Closed Session — 10:25 a.m.

Open Session — 11:00 a.m.
3. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 18th July, 2019.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
4. **Messages from Mr. President:**
The President of the Senate announced that he had received a letter from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

Confirmation of Appointment of the Ministerial Nominees:



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

22nd July, 2019

*Distinguished Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

CONFIRMATION OF MINISTERIAL NOMINEES

In accordance with Section 147(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I have the honour to forward the under-listed names of ministerial nominees for confirmation by the Senate. Copies of their Curriculum Vitae are attached herewith.

S/No.	State of Origin	Name
1.	Abia	Dr. Okechukwu Ogah
2.	Adamawa	Muhammadu Musa Bello
3.	Akwa Ibom	Sen. Godswill Akpabio
4.	Anambra	Dr. Chris N. Ngige
5.	Anambra	Sharon O. Ikeazor
6.	Bauchi	Adamu Adamu
7.	Bauchi	Amb. Maryam Katagum
8.	Bayelsa	Timipre Silva
9.	Benue	Sen. George Akume
10.	Borno	Mustapha Baba Shehuri
11.	Cross River	Goddy Jedy - Agba
12.	Delta	Festus Keyamo, SAN
13.	Ebonyi	Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu
14.	Edo	Dr. Osagie Ehanire
15.	Edo	Clement IK Anade Agba
16.	Ekiti	Otunba Richard Adeniyi Adebayo
17.	Enugu	Geoffrey Onyeama
18.	Gombe	Dr. Ali Isa Ibrahim Pantami
19.	Imo	Emeka Nwajuaba
20.	Jigawa	Engr. Suleiman H. Adamu
21.	Kaduna	Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed
22.	Kaduna	Dr. Muhammad Mahmoud
23.	Kano	Sabo Nanono
24.	Kano	Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Bashir Salihi Magashi
25.	Katsina	Sen. Hadi Sirika
26.	Kebbi	Abubakar Malami
27.	Kogi	Ramatu Tijjani
28.	Kwara	Lai Mohammed
29.	Kwara	Gbemisola Saraki
30.	Lagos	Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN)
31.	Lagos	Sen. Adeleke O. Mamora
32.	Nasarawa	Mohammed H. Abdullahi
33.	Niger	Amb. Zubairu Dada
34.	Ogun	Arch. Olamilekan Adegbite
35.	Ondo	Sen. Tayo D. Alasoadura
36.	Osun	Rauf Aregbesola
37.	Oyo	Sunday Dare
38.	Plateau	Pauline Tallen
39.	Rivers	Rotimi Amaechi
40.	Sokoto	Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi
41.	Taraba	Eng. Saleh Mamman
42.	Yobe	Abubakar D. Aliyu
43.	Zamfara	Sa'adiya Umar Farouk

It is my hope that this exercise will receive the usual kind expeditious consideration of the Distinguished Senate.

Please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards.

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

By the leave of the Senate, the Ministerial Screening commences tomorrow.

5. Announcements:**(a) Meeting of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Caucus:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Abdullahi A. Yahaya (Kebbi North) as follows:



Senate Majority Leader
Federal Republic of Nigeria

23rd July, 2019

President of the Senate
National Assembly Complex
Abuja.

MEETING OF THE SENATE APC CAUCUS

There will be a meeting of the Senate Caucus of the All Progressives Congress (APC) at Hearing Room One, at the White House immediately after Plenary.

(Signed)

Senator Abdullahi A. Yahaya
Majority Leader

(b) Meeting of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Caucus:

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe (Abia South) as follows:



Senate Minority Leader
Federal Republic of Nigeria

23rd July, 2019

The President of the Senate
National Assembly, Abuja

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senate Caucus will meet after Plenary at the Party Secretariat, Wadata Plaza at 2pm.

All PDP Senators are enjoined to be present unfailingly.

Very Truly Yours,

(Signed)

Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe
Minority Leader

(c) *Appointment of Acting Deputy Clerk to the Senate:*

The President of the Senate announced the appointment of Mr. Abdullahi Ahmadu Echofu, as Acting Deputy Clerk of the Senate with effect from 18th July, 2019 consequent upon the retirement of former Deputy Clerk, Senate.

(d) *Acknowledgment:*

The President of the Senate acknowledged the presence of the Staff of Thomas Adewumi International College, Oko, Kwara State who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

6. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Uba Sani (*Kaduna Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the urgent need to address the outbreak of measles in Wusar Community, Gwaraji Ward, Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes with serious concern, the outbreak of Measles in Wusar Community, Gwaraji Ward, Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State since Monday, 15th July, 2019;

regrets that since the unfortunate outbreak, over one hundred children in the community have lost their lives;

worried that the death toll could still rise due to the slow response of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and other emergency medical units in responding to, and curbing the spread of the disease;

notes that Nigeria ranks among countries with the highest cases of measles infection in the world according to the World Health Organization (WHO) with States in Northern Nigeria recording the highest attack rate;

notes also, that World Health Organization's (WHO) statistics have further indicated that over 750,000 children died in 2015 alone due to the poor nature of our health sector, and many of these deaths were vaccine-preventable;

believes that the outbreak and consequential death of over one hundred children in Wusar Community, Gwaraji Ward, Igabi Local Government, and the loss of lives of several other children all over the country could have been prevented if the children had been vaccinated;

notes that the National Immunization Financing Task Team (NIFT) which was set-up by the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) in 2015, estimates that ₦15 Thousand is the ideal amount needed to properly vaccinate a single Nigerian child, thereby putting the total amount needed to vaccinate children in Nigeria at approximately ₦120 Billion given that approximately 8 million children are born in Nigeria yearly;

notes with great concern, that the ₦21.25 Billion which was allocated for vaccinations in the 2019 Budget is almost ₦100 Billion less than the total annual requirement;

observes that the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), which was graciously established by a bill sponsored by the 8th Assembly and signed into law by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, is not adequately funded;

aware that the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), was established to, among other things:

- Prevent, detect, monitor and control diseases of national and international public health importance, including emerging and re-emerging diseases;
- Develop, maintain and co-ordinate surveillance systems to collect, analyse and interpret data on diseases of public health importance, in order to detect public health threats, guide health interventions and set public health priorities;
- Lead the response to disease outbreaks, public health emergencies and disasters in order to minimise the impact on health;
- Conduct, collate, synthesise and disseminate public health research to inform policy and guidelines on diseases of public health importance, and put in place a national public health research agenda and database;
- Provide guidance, technical and logistic support to the States and Local Governments for the planning, implementation and management of diseases of public health importance and on activities to reduce health risk and impact from public health events;
- Provide support and coordinate the control of national and trans-border responses to mass public health emergencies, such as mass casualties, floods, nuclear, biological and chemical terrorism, disease outbreaks and heavy metals poisoning;
- Develop and maintain a communication network with all public health institutions, with roles in mitigating impact of diseases;

aware also that the NCDC has the statutory responsibility of setting up Zonal Centers in all the six geo political zones of the Federation and Offices in all the States of the Federation;

observes that the NCDC neither has a Zonal Centre in the North Western geo political zone of the Federation nor a state office in Kaduna State;

observes also that available indicators show that the overall performance of the NCDC and NPHCDA is being hampered by lack of financial resources, infrastructure deficit, and lack of drugs, vaccines and equipment;

believes that increasing the budgetary allocation for the management of these Agencies will significantly aid them in performing their statutory functions to Nigerians;

convinced that the establishment of an office of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in Kaduna State will drastically reduce the chances of a reoccurrence of measles outbreak in Kaduna State and also lead to the early detection and response if there is to be another outbreak of infectious diseases in the future.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) sympathize with the people of Wusar community, Gwaraji Ward, Igabi Local Government and Government of Kaduna State for the unfortunate measles outbreak and observe a minute's silence in honour of the children who lost their lives as a result;
- (ii) urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to as matter of urgency report to the community for on-the-spot assessment, with a view to providing relief materials and all other necessary support as may be necessary to mitigate the loss suffered by the community;

- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Health, the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA), the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), National Orientation Agency and other relevant Federal Government Agencies to embark on, and intensify massive sensitization and awareness campaign on the dangers associated with measles with a view to eliminating the scourge in the country;
- (iv) direct its Committee on Primary Health and Communicable Disease when constituted, to engage the Director General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) on the status of the Centre's statutory requirement to have Zonal Centres in all the six geo political zones and offices in all the States of the Federation as well as follow up on the activities of the Centre;
- (v) urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to set up an office in Kaduna State in earnest; and
- (vi) increase budgetary allocation for the management of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the management of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) in order to fast-track the establishment of Zonal Centres in all the six geo political zones and offices in all the States of the Federation.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do sympathize with the people of Wusar community, Gwaraji Ward, Igabi Local Government and Government of Kaduna State for the unfortunate measles outbreak and observe a minute's silence in honour of the children who lost their lives as a result — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to as matter of urgency report to the community for on-the-spot assessment, with a view to providing relief materials and all other necessary support as may be necessary to mitigate the loss suffered by the community — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Health, the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA), the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), National Orientation Agency and other relevant Federal Government Agencies to embark on, and intensify massive sensitization and awareness campaign on the dangers associated with measles with a view to eliminating the scourge in the country — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do direct its Committee on Primary Health and Communicable Disease when constituted, to engage the Director General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) on the status of the Centre's statutory requirement to have Zonal Centres in all the six geo political zones and offices in all the States of the Federation as well as follow up on the activities of the Centre.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Proposed Resolution (iv) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

“That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Primary Health and Communicable Disease when constituted to create awareness campaign on the need for parents and guardians to immunise their children and wards against measles and other vaccines of preventable diseases”
(*Senator Yahaya I. Oloriegbe — Kwara Central*).

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

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to set up an office in Kaduna State in earnest — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vi):

Question: That the Senate do increase budgetary allocation for the management of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the management of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) in order to fast-track the establishment of Zonal Centres in all the six geo political zones and offices in all the States of the Federation — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) sympathize with the people of Wusar community, Gwaraji Ward, Igabi Local Government and Government of Kaduna State for the unfortunate measles outbreak and observe a minute's silence in honour of the children who lost their lives as a result;
- (ii) urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to as matter of urgency report to the community for on-the-spot assessment, with a view to providing relief materials and all other necessary support as may be necessary to mitigate the loss suffered by the community;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Health, the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA), the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), National Orientation Agency and other relevant Federal Government Agencies to embark on, and intensify massive sensitization and awareness campaign on the dangers associated with measles with a view to eliminating the scourge in the country;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Primary Health and Communicable Disease when constituted to create awareness campaign on the need for parents and guardians to immunise their children and wards against measles and other vaccines of preventable diseases;
- (v) urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to set up an office in Kaduna State in earnest; and
- (vi) increase budgetary allocation for the management of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the management of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) in order to fast-track the establishment of Zonal Centres in all the six geo political zones and offices in all the States of the Federation (*S/Res/029/01/19*).

7. Approval of Appointment:

Approval of Appointment of Fifteen (15) Special Advisers:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for the Approval of the appointment of Fifteen (15) Persons as Special Advisers to Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Request (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration of the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for the Approval of the appointment of Fifteen (15) Persons as Special Advisers to Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation.

Request recommended for approval:

Request of Fifteen (15) Persons as Special Advisers

—

Agreed to.

Chairman to report progress.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for the Approval of the appointment of Fifteen (15) Persons as Special Advisers to Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation and approved the request.

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Approval of Appointments:*Question:*

“Will the Senate approve the request of the appointment of Fifteen (15) Persons as Special Advisers to Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Request of the appointment of Fifteen (15) Persons as Special Advisers to Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation accordingly approved.

8. Motions:

(a) *Exiting Petroleum Subsidy: Ensuring Self-Sufficiency in Domestic Refining of Petroleum Products:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes that although Nigeria produces 2m barrels of crude per day, its moribund refineries have very little refining capacity and imports roughly 90 per cent of its fuel, negating much of the benefits accruing to oil-producing nations from high crude prices;

further notes that according to Petroleum Products Pricing and Regulatory Agency, (PPPRA), and Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, (NNPC), between 2006 (when the Petroleum Support Fund, (PSF), was set up) and 2018, at least ₦10 trillion has been spent on petrol import subsidy - while the Senate in May 2019 criticized the payment of ₦11 Trillion to oil marketers as subsidy in the last six years as it (the Senate) also approved the payment of additional ₦129 Billion subsidy claims to 67 petroleum marketers;

aware that even though the President removed subsidy in May 2016 amid falling crude oil price and an economic recession, more than \$160 million was spent on subsidy in early 2017 as the national oil company absorbed costs due to an increase in crude oil price;

aware also that although Nigeria introduced petroleum subsidies in the 1980s as a temporary measure aimed at strengthening the local refining industry and improving product affordability and domestic consumption, it has however become a permanent feature of our economic life and has not only continued unabated, but has sky rocketed over the years as successive administrations have failed to make Nigeria self-sufficient in domestic production of refined petroleum products;

further aware that research by the Council on Foreign Relation's Program on Energy Security and Climate Change has shown that in countries where subsidies account for a substantial portion of government budgets or national GDP, they can be fiscally debilitating and economically damaging. For instance, when subsidies constrain government budgets, they can displace necessary public investment in critical infrastructures and the confluence of fuel subsidies and state ownership in the energy sector often results in corruption, smuggling, and the emergence of black markets;

notes that the NNPC has four major refineries with a combined installed capacity of 445,000 barrels per day and despite the huge resources expended on Turn Around Maintenance, none of the four refineries currently works up to 50 per cent of their capacity according to official figures from the NNPC;

further notes that despite promises and plans by government to bridge shortages in downstream infrastructure and specifically fix Nigeria's moribund refineries and make them work to optimal capacity by 2019, the former Oil Minister admitted while speaking last year in Lagos at the 18th edition of the International Biennial Health Safety and Environmental (HSE) Conference on the oil and gas industry in Nigeria that those plans will not materialize until 2020 when Dangote Petrochemical refinery's 650,000 barrels per day, Nigeria's four refineries of 450,000bpd capacity and three modular refineries come on stream;

also notes that in an exclusive interview with the Guardian Newspaper in May 2019, the Senior Technical Adviser to the erstwhile Minister of Petroleum on Refineries and Downstream Infrastructure disclosed that about 43 refineries, including large scale and modular refineries have been granted licenses to refine petroleum products across the country; that two of those modular refineries would be inaugurated soon in the Niger Delta region;

cognizance of the fact that the overriding objective of modular refineries is to overcome the huge capital requirement that impedes the establishment and maintenance of large-scale refineries thereby ensuring self-sufficiency in the production and supply of petroleum products;

worried that according to Business Day Newspaper reports based on data obtained from the Department of Petroleum Resources website, a total of potential 633,000 barrels per day refining capacity has already been lost due to the expiry of licenses of both conventional and modular refinery projects; and

disturbed that despite the dire need to exit petroleum importation/subsidy and boost local refining capacity to reduce the current 91% exposure to petrol importation, there is neither a comprehensive plan/roadmap to that end and for mobilizing technical and financial aid for refinery license holders to ensure refineries under construction become operational, nor proactive information system on the status of existing refineries and licenses as well as details of subsidy payments. An open data principle would undoubtedly enhance transparency and accountability and ultimately build trust between citizens and government.

Accordingly Resolves to:

- (i) mandates an *Ad hoc* Committee to invite the Minister of State for Petroleum and the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to brief the Committee on the status of existing refineries including private and modular refineries and licenses; provide a robust plan/roadmap for exiting importation of refined petroleum products and payment of subsidy; and, apprise the Committee on a plan for domestic refining with specific time frames; and
- (ii) report back to the Senate in eight weeks (*Senator Rose O. Oko — Cross River North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do mandates an *Ad hoc* Committee to invite the Minister of State for Petroleum and the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to brief the Committee on the status of existing refineries including private and modular refineries and licenses; provide a robust plan/roadmap for exiting importation of refined petroleum products and payment of subsidy; and, apprise the Committee on a plan for domestic refining with specific time frames.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Proposed Resolutions (i) and (ii) *insert* the following instead thereof:

“That the Senate do mandate the Joint Committee on Downstream Petroleum Sector; and Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to invite the Honourable Minister/Minister of State for Petroleum; and the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to brief the Committee on the status of existing refineries including private and modular refineries and licences; and apprise the Committee on a plan for domestic refining with specific time frames, and report within eight(8) weeks” (*Senator Kabiru I. Gaya — Kano South*).

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

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- (i) “That the Senate do urge the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and other relevant Agencies of Government on timely renewal of licences to operators on conditions affordable to both conventional and modular refinery stakeholders to continue in operations to boost local production and reduce the refining capacity cost on daily basis to the bearest minimum (*Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

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

- (ii) “That the Senate do invite relevant stakeholders including Central bank of Nigeria (CBN) and private sector to advice the Committee on the issue of subsidy (*Senator Gershom H. Bassey — Cross River South*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) mandate the Joint Committee on Downstream Petroleum Sector; and Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to invite the Honourable Minister/Minister of State for Petroleum; and the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to brief the Committee on the status of existing refineries including private and modular refineries and licences; and apprise the Committee on a plan for domestic refining with specific time frames, and report within eight(8) weeks;
- (ii) urge the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and other relevant Agencies of Government on timely renewal of licences to operators on conditions affordable to both conventional and modular refinery stakeholders to continue in operations to boost local production and reduce the refining capacity cost on daily basis to the bearest minimum; and
- (iii) invite relevant stakeholders including Central bank of Nigeria (CBN) and private sector to advice the Committee on the issue of subsidy (S/Res/030/01/19).

(b) *Urgent need for the Senate's intervention on the militia attack on Okokolo in Agatu Local Government of Benue State:*

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the people of Benue South Senatorial District are a peace loving people and the state from its inception has been a fertile land. The state is a good ground for Agricultural activities. Most of the inhabitants are Agrarian by nature and owing to the agricultural potential of the State; it is usually referred to as the food basket of the Nation;

concerned that Agatu Local Government which happens to be one of the local Governments within my senatorial district has continuously suffered untold hardships due to persistent clashes between herdsmen and farmers;

further notes that the attack on armless, helpless, and innocent people of Okokolo in Agatu Local Government Area and its environs by armed militia is unfortunate;

worried with deep concern that on the 30th of June, 2019 there was an attack on my constituents in a church in Okokolo town in Agatu Local Government Area led to the death of over 25 persons/worshippers and this has created fears, anxieties, and agonies among the settlers leading to them deserting their homes;

regrets that the illegal proliferation of small arms and light weapons has contributed in no small measure to the attacks on Okokolo town;

notes with sympathy that this dastardly acts are being perpetrated against innocent persons of the Benue South Senatorial District despite several peace agreements/accords entered into by the parties;

concerned that the protracted crisis within these Agrarian settlements presently will result in food shortage across the nation since farmers are finding it increasingly unsafe to go to their farms for the fears of being attacked; and

acknowledging and noting the danger inherent in the continuous deterioration of the security situation across the Nation which has already led to massive refugee crisis, it has become absolutely necessary for us in the Senate to act immediately to forestall further loss of lives and properties.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) strongly condemn the attacks in Agatu communities and observe a minute silence for the departed;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency to immediately intervene to provide relief materials to the people of Okokolo in Agatu Local Government Area;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to take proactive measures to curtail insecurity and malicious killings ravaging States of the Federation;
- (iv) urge the relevant security agencies to be proactive in order to forestall future occurrence; and
- (v) urge all relevant security agencies to intensify the mop up of small arms and light weapons in circulation across the States of the Federation (*Senator Abba P. Moro — Benue South*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do strongly condemn the attacks in Agatu communities and observe a minute silence for the departed — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency to immediately intervene to provide relief materials to the people of Okokolo in Agatu Local Government Area — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to take proactive measures to curtail insecurity and malicious killings ravaging States of the Federation — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the relevant security agencies to be proactive in order to forestall future occurrence — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do urge all relevant security agencies to intensify the mop up of small arms and light weapons in circulation across the States of the Federation — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) strongly condemn the attacks in Agatu communities and observe a minute silence for the departed;

- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency to immediately intervene to provide relief materials to the people of Okokolo in Agatu Local Government Area;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to take proactive measures to curtail insecurity and malicious killings ravaging States of the Federation;
- (iv) urge the relevant security agencies to be proactive in order to forestall future occurrence; and
- (v) urge all relevant security agencies to intensify the mop up of small arms and light weapons in circulation across the States of the Federation (S/Res/031/01/19).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

(c) ***The deplorable conditions of Ikot Ekpene-Umuahia and Aba-Ikot Ekepe Highways linking Akwa Ibom and Abia States:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes with serious concern the deplorable conditions of Ikot Ekpene-Umuahia and Aba-Ikot Ekepe highways linking Akwa Ibom and Abia States;

observes that the Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene road was first constructed in the early 60's shortly after Nigeria's Independence, and since then subsequent Governments have not done significant developments on the road in terms of expansion and even routine maintenance. The two States have tried within their limited resources to keep the road motorable by carrying-out temporal maintenance work which to a large extent does not stand the test of time;

aware that these roads are major roads connecting the South-West, North Central, South-East and the South-South States of Edo and Delta to Akwa-Ibom and Cross River States, in the Northern flank. Hence, the rehabilitation/reconstruction of these roads are of great concern to me, my people and indeed Nigerians of goodwill;

aware that the situation of the roads are worst during raining seasons, especially the Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene road. As a matter of fact, the road presently is not passable. Most of the broken portions have become rivers and waterlogs. It's now a safe haven for hoodlums as they have taken advantage of these bad sections to operate freely especially at nights;

worried that as an alternative, passengers and travelers on that road now ply an interior road through Umuahia-Ikwarazu Road, in Obot Akara Local Government Area to get to Ikot Ekpene, then continue their journey;

worried also that this alternative route is so fragile and not capable of carrying heavy duty vehicles which it's presently subjected to, and no sooner or later, might get dilapidated. The road was constructed by Akwa Ibom State Government to ease movements of children to schools and farm produce to the City Centre of Ikot Ekpene and other rural areas of Akwa Ibom State and beyond;

regrets that the contract for the reconstruction of Aba-Ikot Ekpene road was awarded by the Federal Ministry of Works to NIGERCAT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY since 2008, and had been abandoned since then; and

further worried that if construction work is not expedited to salvage the situation, the two states may be completely ousted and my people will not only be denied passable roads to travel back home, but will also be taken back to the 'Aged Long Days', while Nigeria as at today is making efforts to move to the NEXT LEVEL.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government through Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to expedite actions on intervention measures to salvage the road from total collapse;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Works to commence construction of the Aba-Ikot Ekpene road as a lasting solution, and possibly make it a dual carriage road;
- (iii) urge this Senate to investigate the delay in the construction of Aba-Ikot Ekpene road, which was awarded to NIGERCAT Construction Company since 2008; and
- (iv) urge the Security Agencies, especially the Police to deploy their personnel to those grey spots, where hoodlums have found solace and made it their habitable abode mostly at odd hours (*Senator Christopher S. Ekpennyong — Akwa-Ibom North West*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government through Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to expedite actions on intervention measures to salvage the road from total collapse — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Works to commence construction of the Aba-Ikot Ekpene road as a lasting solution, and possibly make it a dual carriage road.

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge this Senate to investigate the delay in the construction of Aba-Ikot Ekpene road, which was awarded to NIGERCAT Construction Company since 2008.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Proposed Resolutions (ii) and (iii) and *Insert* the following instead thereof: "That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to investigate the delays in the construction of highways across the nation, which constructions were awarded since 2008 such as the Aba-Ikot Ekpene; Dikko-Lambata - Minna Roads; and all others for accelerated completion" (*Senator Mohammed S. Musa — Niger East*).

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

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Security Agencies, especially the Police to deploy their personnel to those grey spots, where hoodlums have found solace and made it their habitable abode mostly at odd hours — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government through Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to expedite actions on intervention measures to salvage the road from total collapse;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to investigate the delays in the construction of highways across the nation, which constructions were awarded since 2008 such as the Aba-Ikot Ekpene; Dikko-Lambata - Minna Roads; and all others for accelerated completion; and
- (iii) urge the Security Agencies, especially the Police to deploy their personnel to those grey spots, where hoodlums have found solace and made it their habitable abode mostly at odd hours (*S/Res/032/01/19*).

(d) *Urgent need to revive the Palm Oil Industry in Nigeria:*

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. **Adjournment:**

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 24th July, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.
(*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 2:00 p.m.

Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.