



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 2nd July, 2019

1. The Senate met at 10:13 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 13th June, 2019.
Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Oaths:**
Senator-Elect, Mohammed Sani Musa (*Niger East*) took and subscribed to Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as required by law.
4. **Announcements:**
 - (a) **Principal Officers of All Progressives Congress (APC):**
The President of the Senate read a letter from Comrade Adams A. Oshiomole, the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) as follows:



Office of the National Chairman
All Progressives Congress (APC)

1st July, 2019

Dr. Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan,
Senate President,
Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

**SUBMISSION OF THE LIST OF PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE SENATE BY THE
NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE**

Your Excellency, I convey to you on behalf of our great Party our compliments and wish to forward hereunder a broad consensus that has been reached by the Party with regards to the Principal Officers of the Senate.

After extensive consultations with the leadership of the Party and taking several factors into consideration, we arrived at a conclusion which I respectfully submit as the consensus reached in respect of the remaining Principal Officers of the Senate which are as follows:-

1. Senate Leader - Abdullahi Abubakar Yahaya
2. Deputy Sen. Leader - Boroffice Robert Ajayi
3. Chief Whip - Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu
4. Deputy Chief Whip - Abdullahi Aliyu Sabi

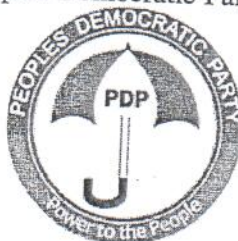
Mr. Senate President, please convey to our Distinguished (APC) Senators the renewed assurances of my highest regards.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Comrade Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole

- (b) **Principal Officers of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP):**
The President of the Senate read a letter from Prince Uche Secondus, the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as follows:



Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

21st June, 2019

The President of the Senate
Senate of the Federal Republic
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja.

MINORITY LEADERSHIP OF THE 9TH SENATE

In accordance with extant laws, Senate Rules, Conventions and General Legislative Practices Worldwide, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), after wide consultations with Senate Caucus, the Party leadership from the geopolitical zones and the National Working Committee (NWC), hereby forward the names of the duly agreed and approved Senate Minority Leadership as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Senate Minority Leader | - | Sen. Enyinnaya Abaribe |
| 2. Deputy Senate Minority Leader | - | Sen. Emmanuel Bwacha |
| 3. Senate Minority Whip | - | Sen. Philip Aduda |
| 4. Deputy Senate Minority Whip | - | Sen. Sahabi Ya'u |

The Party wishes to use this opportunity to again congratulate you on your election as the President of the 9th Senate. We are also looking forward to a robust Senate that truly represents the aspirations and general concerns of the Nigerian people.

While counting on the confidence of the Senate and your good self, kindly accept the assurances of our highest regards and esteem consideration.

(Signed)
Prince Uche Secondus
 National Chairman

(Signed)
Sen. Umaru Ibrahim Tsauri, CON
 National Secretary

(c) **Ad hoc Committee:**

The President of the Senate named the following Senators as Members of *Ad hoc* Committee on 9th Senate Legislative Agenda:

(i)	Senator Muhammad A. Aliero	—	Chairman
(ii)	Senator Jibrin I. Barau	—	Member
(iii)	Senator Abdulfatah Buhari	—	Member
(iv)	Senator Olubunmi A. Adetunmbi	—	Member
(v)	Senator Chimaroke O. Nnamani	—	Member
(vi)	Senator Uche L. Ekwunife	—	Member
(vii)	Senator Dung I. Gyang	—	Member
(viii)	Senator Sadiq S. Umar	—	Member
(ix)	Senator Aishatu A. Dahiru	—	Member
(x)	Senator Dauda H. Jika	—	Member
(xi)	Senator Gershom H. Bassey	—	Member
(xii)	Senator Degi-Eremienyo B. Wangagha	—	Member
(xiii)	Senator Ifeanyi P. Ubah	—	Member

(d) **Meeting:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Muhammad A. Aliero (*Kebbi Central*) as follows:



Ad hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda
 Federal Republic of Nigeria

2nd July, 2019

The President of the Senate
 National Assembly, Abuja

NOTICE OF MEETING

All the Senators mentioned as members of Committee on Legislative Agenda are going to have their inaugural meeting tomorrow at 2p.m.

Venue: Room 0.02, New Senate Building.

(Signed)
Senator Muhammad A. Aliero

(e) **Acknowledgment:**

The President of the Senate acknowledged the presence of Staff and Students of Shepherds-Field Academy, Garki-Abuja who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

5. **Remarks by Senator Abdullahi Yahaya, Senate Leader:**
The Senate Leader stated that he was humbled by the responsibility reposed on him by his party, All Progressives Congress (APC), and Distinguished Senators on my selection as Leader of the Senate. He also expressed his appreciation for the contribution made by the President of the Senate. He intend to provide a purposeful leadership by engaging all colleagues on the unity of Nigeria and guarantee dividends of democracy to Nigerians. He promised to ensure that he assist the Presiding Officers to succeed their mission of developing Nigeria.
6. **Remarks by Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe, Minority Leader:**
The Minority Leader thanked the PDP and his colleagues for his appointment. He stated that Senators should note that they were privileged and recognised Nigerians who were elected to serve Nigeria. He pledged the support and cooperation of PDP members in the Senate and also urged APC members to reciprocate during debates for a better Nigeria.
7. **Remarks by the President of the Senate:**



**President of the Senate
Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**ADDRESS WELCOMING SENATORS BACK TO PLENARY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SENATE, HIS EXCELLENCY SENATOR AHMAD IBRAHIM LAWAN, PhD, CON ON
TUESDAY, 2ND JULY, 2019.**

Now, The Work Begins...

Dear Colleagues,

Let me welcome you all back from the short break as we formally begin our work in the 9th National Assembly. It is trite to say that we all have our job cut out for us. I have in recent weeks had discussions with President Muhammadu Buhari on the challenges facing the country and how we can leverage our position as lawmakers to help him deliver on his mandate. I will be doing more of that in the coming weeks and months. If we must build an economy that lifts majority of our people out of poverty, there is need for a serious collaboration between the executive and the legislature.

However, I am also aware that there are people for whom any notion that the leadership of a National Assembly controlled by the ruling party work in harmony with the executive is anathema. That is not the way the presidential system of government was designed to function and I am not for any adversarial or acrimonious relationship. I intend to work closely with President Buhari in the interest of Nigeria without compromising the integrity of the National Assembly as an independent arm of government with oversight powers.

As lawmakers, one of the powerful tools we have for our work is the power of oversight which is meant to enhance transparency and accountability. In exercising these powers, we will not only review, monitor and supervise projects being implemented by the executive, we will critically examine them vis-à-vis the cost and whether they align with our national aspirations. And we will follow the progress of these projects right from conception to when they are finally delivered to the people. But we will do so with every sense of responsibility.

I have been in the National Assembly since 1999, first as a member of the House of Representatives and from 2007 as a Senator, so I am conversant with the role of the legislature and the principle of separation of powers, both in theory and in practice. The system of checks and balances which we practice in Nigeria today was enshrined to safeguard the values of justice and the rule of law and deliver public good. Therefore, in a season when majority of Nigerians are more concerned with outcomes that reflect their concerns, the best way to serve that interest is through cooperation and collaboration.

In a period of dwindling resources amid rising population, the expectations of our people remain huge. But to deliver those essential services without which our society can neither develop nor thrive, the executive and the legislature must work together. So, in exercising our mandate as lawmakers, we must at all times, and in all circumstances, be guided by how our action will positively impact the greater majority of our people.

Each of us, as lawmakers, must also resolve that the exchange of views, especially within this hallowed chambers, will be constructive and that we will respect one another. Tolerance, which we cannot legislate upon in this chambers, is a virtue we must all strive to promote in a bid to reposition our multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. On my part, I pledge to lead in a bipartisan and unifying manner.

Distinguished colleagues, it should worry us in this chamber that majority of our people still grapple with extreme poverty. But while how to tackle the growing inequality should be part of our legislative agenda, the security challenge posed by insurgents, kidnappers, armed robbers and other criminal cartels from North to South, East to West will require our collective efforts. We also need to consolidate on the oil sector reforms started by the last Senate even as we help the executive to reinvigorate the war against corruption with necessary legislations.

If there is one issue that is dear to me and which we must all take very seriously, it is that more than ten million of our children are out of school. As a former lecturer who has also in the past chaired the House of Representatives Committee on Education, I subscribe to the view that "All children, no matter where they live or what their circumstances, have the right to quality education." Even though primary education is officially free and compulsory, over 10 million of the country's children aged 5 - 14 years are out of school.

This is a challenge for us in the next four years.

I am well aware that the problems of our country are quite enormous but they are not insurmountable. If we all work together as members of the same government, with different roles, we will achieve our goals to better the lot of the Nigerian people.

Once again, I welcome you all back to Abuja. Now, let the real work begin.

(Signed)

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

8. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Aishatu A. Dahiru (*Adamawa Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the plight of ten blind patients at National Eye Centre, Kaduna recently. She sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Rule 42(2)].

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

Rising on Rule 42, Senator George T. Sekibo (*Rivers East*) drew the attention of the Senate to the oil pipeline explosion on Saturday, 22nd June, 2019 at Komkom, Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State. He stated that scores of lives were lost and several people injured in the outbreak. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Rule 42(2)].

10. **The Need to Strengthen Security at the Nigerian Airports:**

Motion made: That the Senate notes with great concern the report in Daily Trust Newspaper of 1st of May, 2019 on how Zainab Aliyu a Nigerian Citizen was arrested by Saudi Drug Enforcement Agency on allegation of drugs trafficking;

aware that Sahara Reporters also reported, quoting the Chief Press Secretary of the Zamfara State Governor on the 18th June, 2019 the effort of the Governor to meet with the officials of Saudi Arabian Government to discuss ways towards the release of the Zamfara-born Alaramma Ibrahim, who has been in detention for almost two years over alleged drugs trafficking, whose arrest followed a frame-up initiated from the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano from our findings;

further informed that there are several other incidents of arrests of innocent Nigerian Citizens by the Saudi Government and other countries on similar allegations of drugs trafficking;

worried that these innocent citizens are just victims of circumstances as many of these distasteful situations would have been curtailed but for security lapses at the Nigerian Airports infiltrated by Drug Syndicates with easy access to plant illicit drugs on innocent travellers or their belongings without their knowledge;

appreciates that Zainab Aliyu and two other Nigerian Citizens were saved from execution by the Saudi Government due to the prompt intervention of the Nigerian Government after investigations proved they had no knowledge of the drugs in their luggage;

aware that the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigeria Police, the Nigeria Customs Service, the Nigerian Immigration Service and other Aviation Security Personnel are responsible for the security of our Airports. Sadly some of the staff of these Agencies may not be exonerated for dereliction of duties and making our Airports unsafe; and

concerned that some of the actions of some of the Airport personnel may continue to attract international embarrassment, loss of opportunities by our citizens especially outside the shores of Nigeria.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to ensure the installation and usage of effective CCTV cameras and other security systems in all Nigerian Airports for the purpose of monitoring the Airport environments, for the avoidance of planting illicit drugs and other illegal activities;
- (ii) urge FAAN to acknowledge only accredited personnel on duty to be allowed in restricted areas of the Airport; and
- (iii) urge FAAN to give a directive on the need for all personnel on duty to be held accountable, questioned, investigated and punished accordingly to serve as a deterrence, should there be a case of an arrest of any Nigerian Citizen that pass-through Nigerian Airports on allegations of drug trafficking (*Senator Ibrahim Y. Oloriegbe — Kwara Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to ensure the installation and usage of effective CCTV cameras and other security systems in all Nigerian Airports for the purpose of monitoring the Airport environments, for the avoidance of planting illicit drugs and other illegal activities — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge FAAN to acknowledge only accredited personnel on duty to be allowed in restricted areas of the Airport — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge FAAN to give a directive on the need for all personnel on duty to be held accountable, questioned, investigated and punished accordingly to serve as a deterrence, should there be a case of an arrest of any Nigerian Citizen that pass-through Nigerian Airports on allegations of drug trafficking.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word “FAAN” in line 1, insert the words “and other Agencies operating in our Airports” (*Senator Jibrin I. Barau — Kano North*).

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

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- (i) “That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Aviation when constituted to ensure legislative compliance on the resolutions” (*Senator James E. Manager — Delta South*).

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

- (ii) “That the Senate do urge FAAN to expose and ensure maximum sentence through the Courts on errant officers” (*Senator Teslim K. Folarin — Oyo Central*).

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

- (iii) “That the Senate do urge FAAN to further investigate and present a comprehensive report on the incident” (*Senator Tolulope A. Odebiyi — Ogun West*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to ensure the installation and usage of effective CCTV cameras and other security systems in all Nigerian Airports for the purpose of monitoring the Airport environments, for the avoidance of planting illicit drugs and other illegal activities;
- (ii) urge FAAN to acknowledge only accredited personnel on duty to be allowed in restricted areas of the Airport;
- (iii) urge FAAN and other Agencies operating in our Airports to give a directive on the need for all personnel on duty to be held accountable, questioned, investigated and punished accordingly to serve as a deterrence, should there be a case of an arrest of any Nigerian Citizen that pass-through Nigerian Airports on allegations of drug trafficking;

- (iv) mandate the Committee on Aviation when constituted to ensure legislative compliance on the resolutions;
- (v) urge FAAN to expose and ensure maximum sentence through the Courts on errant officers; and
- (vi) urge FAAN to further investigate and present a comprehensive report on the incident (S/Res/001/01/19).

11. **Adjournment:**

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 3rd July, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.
(Senate Leader).

Adjourned accordingly at 12:20 p.m.

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