



# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 20th November, 2019

1. The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**

Closed Session — 10:37 a.m.

Open Session — 11:01 a.m.

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on issues bordering on the workings of the Senate in particular and the National Assembly in general.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 19th November, 2019.

*Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.*

4. **Announcements:**

(a) *Arewa Consultative Forum: Courtesy Call on the President of the Senate*

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Aliyu M. Wamakko (Sokoto North) as follows:



**SENATOR ALIYU M. WAMAKKO**  
Sokoto North Senatorial District, Sokoto State

*The President of the Senate,  
National Assembly,  
Abuja.*

*20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019*

**COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

*This is to inform all concerned Senators that the AREWA CONSULTATIVE FORUM will pay a courtesy call on the President of the Senate today 20th November, 2019 at 2:30pm in President of the Senate Meeting Room 301.*

*All concerned Senators are warmly invited please.*

*(Signed)*

*Senator Aliyu Wamakko Magatakarda  
Chairman, Northern Senators Forum*

(b) **Acknowledgment:**

The President of the Senate acknowledged the presence of the Members of Students Union, Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos State who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

**5. Presentation of Bills:**

- (i) Federal Polytechnic Akpabuyo, Cross River State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (SB.177) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Electoral Act No.6 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (SB. 179) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Trade Mark Act CAP T13 LFN 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2019 (SB. 180) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Police Act CAP P19 LFN 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2019 (SB. 181) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Police Academy (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (SB. 182) — *Read the First Time.*
- (vi) Investment and Security Act CAP 124 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (SB. 183) — *Read the First Time.*
- (vii) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2019 (SB. 184) — *Read the First Time.*
- (viii) Institute of Aviation Safety and Management Obosi, Anambra State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (SB. 186) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ix) Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (SB. 187) — *Read the First Time.*
- (x) National Food Reserve Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (SB. 189) — *Read the First Time.*

**6. Third Ordinary Session (5th Parliament) of the PAN African Parliament:**

*Report on the Third Ordinary Session (5th Parliament) of the PAN African Parliament:*

*Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**7. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (SB. 66):**

*Motion made:* That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment and Regulation of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Protect Persons with Mental Health Needs and Establishment of National Commission for Mental and Substance Abuse Services, for the Effective Management of Mental Health in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters, 2019 be read the Second Time (*Senator Yahaya I. Oloriegbe — Kwara Central*).

*Debate:*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary) to report within Four (4) weeks.*

8. **Federal University of Agriculture and Technology Funtua (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (SB. 150):**

*Motion made:* That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Agriculture and Technology Funtua and to Make Comprehensive Provisions for its due Management and Administration and for Related Matters, 2019 be read the Second Time (*Senator Bello Mandiya — Katsina South*).

*Debate:*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within Four (4) weeks.*

9. **Federal College of Education, Sabon-Birni, Sokoto State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (SB. 82):**

*Motion made:* That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Education, Sabon-Birni, Sokoto State and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2019 be read the Second Time (*Senator Ibrahim A. Gobir — Sokoto East*).

*Debate:*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within Four (4) weeks.*

10. **Protection from Internet Falsehood and Manipulations (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (SB.132):**

*Motion made:* That a Bill for an Act to Make Provisions for the Protection from Internet Falsehood and Manipulations and for Related Matters, 2019 be read the Second Time (*Senator Mohammed S. Musa — Niger East*).

*Debate:*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to report within Four (4) weeks.*

11. **Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (SB. 122):**

*Motion made:* That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act No.6 2010 and for Other Related Matters, 2019 be read the Second Time (*Senator Ovie A. Omo-Agege — Delta Central*).

*Debate:*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) to report within Four (4) weeks.*

## 12. Motions:

(a) *Urgent Need to Address the Power Shortages in Nigeria by including Nuclear Power in Nigeria's Energy Mix:*

*Motion made:* That the Senate notes that the primary sources of energy for the production of electricity in Nigeria includes Gas, Hydro, Oil and Coal, with current power generation capacity of 7000 Mega Watts;

*further notes* that Experts using modern energy modelling tools have estimated that for the Nigerian economy to grow at the rate of 10 percent, the country's electricity requirement by 2020 will need to reach 30,000MW, and by 2030 it will be 78,000MW;

*aware* that Nuclear energy is one of the cleanest and safest source of energy in the world today and nuclear power generation does not produce greenhouse gases;

*further aware* that in 2006, Nigeria ratified critical treaties with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Vienna Austria, with the aim of enabling Nigeria access nuclear power into the country's energy mix;

*recalls* that in 2001, the Nigeria Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) was established by the Federal Government to control and regulate the use of radioactive substances, materials, emitting and generating ionizing radiation;

*further recalls* that the Nigeria and Russian Federation signed bilateral agreements on Nuclear Energy cooperation. The recent visit of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation to Russia is a move in the right direction to stimulate implementation;

*cognizant* that the Nigerian Atomic Energy Commission was reactivated with the mandate to drive the processes towards deploying nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and well-being of Nigerians;

*further cognizant* that the National Energy Policy, which was approved in 2003, along with the National Energy Master plan that was produced in 2007, should be updated and passed into law;

*observes* that Billions of Naira were spent towards energy increment by previous administration with no commensurate benefits to Nigeria in improved power generation;

*further observes* that the treaties and protocols on nuclear energy ratified by Nigeria which are the legal guaranties for nuclear energy are yet to be domesticated in Nigeria, same having failed to reach 3rd reading at the Senate in both the 6th and 8th National Assembly respectively;

*worried* that power outages in Nigeria have constituted the major constraint to the development of the manufacturing sector and negatively affect the cost of running business in Nigeria and ultimately the economy of the country; and

*concerned* that unless the energy mix in Nigeria is broadened to include Nuclear Energy, the persistent power outages being experienced by the country will not be easy to address.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to reposition the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority to enable it to carry out its mandate of ensuring safety, security safeguards and physical protection of nuclear materials including hazardous waste in Nigeria;

- (ii) urge the Federal Government to re-engineer, refocus and recognize the Nigerian Atomic Energy Commission with the mandate to ensure timely contacts and negotiations with nuclear vendors for construction of nuclear power plants with time line;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to expedite action on the Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards Bill currently with the Senate; and
- (iv) pass into law all treaties and protocols on nuclear energy as ratified by Nigeria (*Senator Umaru T. Al-Makura — Nasarawa South*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution (i):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to reposition the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority to enable it to carry out its mandate of ensuring safety, security safeguards and physical protection of nuclear materials including hazardous waste in Nigeria — *Agreed to*.

***Proposed Resolution (ii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to re-engineer, refocus and recognize the Nigerian Atomic Energy Commission with the mandate to ensure timely contacts and negotiations with nuclear vendors for construction of nuclear power plants with time line — *Agreed to*.

***Proposed Resolution (iii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to expedite action on the Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards Bill currently with the Senate — *Agreed to*.

***Proposed Resolution (iv):***

*Question:* That the Senate do pass into law all treaties and protocols on nuclear energy as ratified by Nigeria — *Agreed to*.

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to reposition the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority to enable it to carry out its mandate of ensuring safety, security safeguards and physical protection of nuclear materials including hazardous waste in Nigeria;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to re-engineer, refocus and recognize the Nigerian Atomic Energy Commission with the mandate to ensure timely contacts and negotiations with nuclear vendors for construction of nuclear power plants with time line;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to expedite action on the Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards Bill currently with the Senate; and
- (iv) pass into law all treaties and protocols on nuclear energy as ratified by Nigeria (*S/Res/074/01/19*).

**(b) *Need to Promote Tourism, to Further Diversify the Nigerian Economy:***

*Motion made:* That the Senate is aware that Nigeria depends on crude oil exports and revenues for the bulk of its foreign exchange, to the detriment of other critical sectors;

*also aware* that the need to diversify the Nigerian economy to reduce dependence on oil revenues while creating new streams of income has been a core agenda of the President Muhammadu Buhari led administration;

*notes* that there are several other sectors including but not limited to agriculture, mining, tourism that with adequate investment and reforms, are capable of being major contributors to Nigeria's GDP;

*further notes* that tourism is a global industry that contributes hugely to economies around the world, constituting almost 10 percent of the global GDP at \$8 trillion in 2016, 8.8 percent of the world's jobs, and 5.8 percent of the world's total exports valued at \$1.1 trillion;

*further aware* that Countries who have gone on to improve tourism revenues achieved same by putting in place, measures to encourage and boost tourism;

*aware* of research findings that show that visa restrictions are a major hindrance to full bloom tourism sector in developing countries; and visa liberalization increases substantially, the volume of arrivals;

*notes accordingly*, the report of the World Tourism Organization, identifying a visa as a money maker, tool to limit immigration, travellers' activities and the duration of their stays, and a national security measure;

*further notes* that the report highlights as follows "If the cost of obtaining a visa exceeds a threshold, potential travellers are simply deterred from making a particular journey or choose an alternative destination with less hassle";

*also aware* that the World Travel and Tourism Council estimates the tourism industry in Sub-Saharan Africa to pull in as much as 4 million jobs in the next couple of years;

*aware* that many Countries have taken heed of the travellers' plight and simplified their visa processes with Countries like Seychelles and Mauritius offering visa free entry and visa on arrival;

*saddened* that Nigeria seems to be doing everything to ensure that tourism development is hampered;

*notes* that Nigeria has an online visa application/visa on arrival system which is only open to persons coming into the Country to conduct business;

*further saddened* that negative reports of bureaucracy and stringent conditions for issuance of Nigerian visas greatly affect economic receipts;

*opines* that improved tourism will also create employment opportunities, market for cultural goods, boost the hospitality industry, and increase demand for airport services;

*aware* that neighbouring Ghana has recently been touted as the next big tourist destination, with her fifteen (15) year long tourism plan, emphasis on slave trade relics and ports, and the afro nation festival; and could be a gateway to promoting tourism in the rest of Africa;

*saddened* that Nigeria has all the trappings of huge tourism potential, rich cultural heritage, tropical weather, great array of wildlife and vegetation etc. that are not being maximized to our advantage;

*also saddened* that Nigeria has hundreds of kilometres of coastal waters which stretch into beaches, and are in other climes major tourist attractions. It is sad however, that our beaches are packed with filth and pose environmental hazards;

*opines also* that the Nigerian Fashion Industry, having garnered global recognition is capable of providing a platform to boost tourism;

*worried* that India, the leading consumer of Nigeria's oil, is set to switch its buses to alternative sources of energy in two years; and

*also worried*, in light of OPEC's world outlook, published in 2016, indicating that a global decline in demand for oil is expected from year 2030, about the glee with which we are still focusing on exploration of crude.

**Extension of Time:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do sit this day beyond the time appointed for the termination of the Sitting of the Senate (Rule 13) (*Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Budget Office to increase budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism;
- (ii) urge the relevant Federal Ministries and Agencies to revamp the various tourist attractions across the Country;
- (iii) urge the Ministry of Environment at various levels of government to create incentives to promote eco-friendly waterfronts to make beaches more tourist friendly; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs; and Culture and Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Culture and Tourism to organize a stakeholder meeting, to ensure dialogue and discussion of the issues and way forward (*Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu — Lagos Central*).

*Debate:*

**Proposed Resolution (i):**

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Budget Office to increase budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out* the provisions in Proposed Resolution (i) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do urge the Budget Office to increase budgetary allocation to the Culture arm of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture" (*Senator Matthew A. Urhoghide — Edo South*).

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

**Proposed Resolution (ii):**

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the relevant Federal Ministries and Agencies to revamp the various tourist attractions across the Country — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (iii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Environment at various levels of government to create incentives to promote eco-friendly waterfronts to make beaches more tourist friendly — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (iv):***

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs; and Culture and Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Culture and Tourism to organize a stakeholder meeting, to ensure dialogue and discussion of the issues and way forward.

***Amendment Proposed:***

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

"That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs; and Culture and Tourism, in collaboration with the Honourable Ministers of Foreign Affairs; and Information and Culture to organize a stakeholder meeting, to ensure dialogue and discussion of these issues and way forward (*Senator Matthew A. Urhoghide — Edo South*).

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

***Resolved:***

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Budget Office to increase budgetary allocation to the Culture arm of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture;
- (ii) urge the relevant Federal Ministries and Agencies to revamp the various tourist attractions across the Country;
- (iii) urge the Ministry of Environment at various levels of government to create incentives to promote eco-friendly waterfronts to make beaches more tourist friendly; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs; and Culture and Tourism, in collaboration with the Honourable Ministers of Foreign Affairs; and Information and Culture to organize a stakeholder meeting, to ensure dialogue and discussion of these issues and way forward (*S/Res/075/01/19*).

(c) ***Urgent Need to Combat the High Rate of Infants Deaths Caused by Pneumonia in the Country:***

*Motion made:* That the Senate is aware that Pneumonia is a lung disease condition which can be caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi, which leaves children fighting for breath with their lungs filled with pus and fluid. Children with low immune systems weakened by other infections or by malnutrition and those living in areas with high level of air pollution and unsafe water are more at risk of being infected by the disease;

*worried* that about five countries in the world are responsible for more than half of child pneumonia deaths, with Nigeria ranking second after India in the number of deaths arising from Pneumonia; with 162,000 deaths;

*also worried* by a report from the Chief Executive Officer "Save the Children Foundation" Kelvin Watkins, published in Daily Trust Newspaper of 12th November, 2019, Page 3, that Pneumonia claimed the lives of about 2,000 children in Nigeria under the age of five in 2018 or one child in every three minutes;



*seriously concerned* that millions of children are at risk of not celebrating their fifth birthdays as more than 40% of one-year-old in Nigeria are unvaccinated and three in four children suffering from pneumonia symptoms do not get access to medical treatment; and

*notes* that most pneumonia death can be prevented with vaccines and treated with low-cost antibiotics, such as Amoxicillin DT.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to launch a massive vaccination programme to arrest this killer disease; and
- (ii) urge Federal Ministry of Health through its relevant agencies to make available Amoxicillin DT antibiotics to Health Centers round the country to treat the Infection (*Senator Clifford A. Ordia — Edo Central*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution (i):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Health to launch a massive vaccination programme to arrest this killer disease — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (ii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge Federal Ministry of Health through its relevant agencies to make available Amoxicillin DT antibiotics to Health Centers round the country to treat the Infection — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to launch a massive vaccination programme to arrest this killer disease; and
- (ii) urge Federal Ministry of Health through its relevant agencies to make available Amoxicillin DT antibiotics to Health Centers round the country to treat the Infection (*S/Res/076/01/19*).

**13. Adjournment:**

And it being 2:26 p.m. the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Thursday, 21st November, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

*Adjourned accordingly at 2:26 p.m.*

**Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan, Ph.D, CON**

*President,*

*Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

