



# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 29th January, 2020

1. The Senate met at 10:35 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**  
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 28th January, 2020.  
*Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.*
3. **Announcement:**  
**Acknowledgment:**  
The President of the Senate acknowledged the presence of the following who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:
  - (i) Members of National Association of Political Science Students, Federal University, Oye Ekiti, Ekiti State; and
  - (ii) Staff and Students of Spiritan International Girls' Secondary School, Sabon-Lugbe, Abuja.
4. **Petitions:**
  - (i) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ezenwa O. Francis (*Imo East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Finian T. Okoro, against the Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State, over his unlawful termination of appointment. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.  
*Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.*
  - (ii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Olalekan R. Mustapha (*Ogun East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Ayanlaja, Adesanya & Co. on behalf of Rite Foods Limited, against Seven-Up Bottling Company PLC and Ziad Maalouf, over business operational matters. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.  
*Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.*
  - (iii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu (*Lagos Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to two (2) petitions from:
    - (a) S. M. Alkali and Company on behalf of former Chairman, and Non-Executive Commissioner of Nigerian Communications Commission Board, against the Presidency, over their untimely removal from office; and

- (b) Media for Ethnic Equality on behalf of former Postmaster-General, and former Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), against the Presidency, over their premature removal from office. He urged the Senate to look into the matters.

*Petitions laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.*

**5. Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Albert B. Akpan (*Akwa Ibom North-East*) drew the attention of the Senate to final resolution of the 12 years cost contention of over \$6 billion on the NNPC/Chevron Escravos Gas to Liquid Project. He stated that this project has initial shareholding structure of 25% to Nigeria and 75% to Chevron Nigeria. He further stated that the Committee on Gas finally resolved the age long disagreement between the Joint Venture Partners in favour of our country with 60% and Chevron 40% in the \$11 billion Gas to Liquid Escravos Project. This feat is quite phenomenal. He commended the leadership of the Senate for this achievement.

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

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Istifanus D. Gyang (*Plateau North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Anti Plateau Narrative and Killings Orchestrated by Boko Haram: a Ploy to Polarize Nigerian Citizens along Ethno-religious divides. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

*notes* that a new trend is emerging in the Boko Haram terrorism in which Nigerian citizens of Plateau State origin are targeted for abduction and isolated for brutal killing only because of their faith, origin and aboriginal status;

The cases under reference are:

- Mr. Lawrence Duna Dacighir - Aid worker killed in 2019;
- Mr. Godfrey Ali Shukagham, - Aid worker killed in 2019;
- The recent one is a 200 level Biology Education student of University of Maiduguri Mr. Ropvil Daciya Dapel;
- Jennifer Ukanbong Samuel, a health worker that was released recently;
- Lilian Gyang a student of University of Maiduguri abducted returning on resumption and still in Boko Haram captivity; and
- Abdulhamid Bashir still in captivity.

*also notes* that the consequential effects of this defective anti Plateau narrative has led to the abduction of over 6 persons - 4 male and 2 female. Three boys including an undergraduate of the University of Maiduguri, were brutally murdered by Boko Haram were shot at short range. Videos of the killings laced with hate messages have gone viral evoking passions and condemnation not only in Plateau State but across the nation and even globally;

*concerned* that the anti Plateau hate narrative are reminiscent of the Nazi Germany episode where the Nazi supremacist regime promoted the demonization of Jews and incited anti Semitism as a justification for the subsequent gas chambers genocide against the Jews. The Xenophobic and hateful narrative being orchestrated by Boko Haram is intended to set other Nigerian citizens against those of Plateau origin;

*further concerned* that the anti Plateau narrative of Boko Haram is an attempt by the fanatical sect to whip up religious and ethnic sentiments of unsuspecting Nigerians and to shift attention from its evil acts that has not spared Muslims and other Nigerian citizens of all classes and creeds from North to South, East to West.

Indeed, neither Traditional rulers nor ordinary citizens, Imams or Pastors are spared by the terror and scourge of Boko Haram. It is simply a ploy to polarize citizens along ethno-religious sectarian divides;

*aware* that the anti Plateau Boko Haram Xenophobic narrative draws attention to the early days of banditry which was obviously perceived as a Plateau problem, hence not given the desired attention deserving a national emergency. The subsequent calamitous snowballing of banditry that has today become the monster that it is, ravaging the entire North Central and North West geo political regions with devastating consequences. To allow and isolate the anti Plateau narrative of Boko Haram is to ignore the lessons that history has tabled before us and in so doing risk its spread with any other state as the next possible victim; and

*further aware* that the nation and indeed Nigerians citizen of Plateau origin are today looking up to this Senate to, not only show concern, but raise a strong voice in condemning the Xenophobic terror unleashed against them by Boko Haram.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) condemn in the strongest terms the anti Plateau hate narrative by Boko Haram whose ultimate intention is to polarize Nigerians citizen along ethno-religious divides;
- (ii) condemn the abduction and killings of Nigerians citizen of Plateau State origin still by Boko Haram, three of whom were killed and three others are still being held captive;
- (iii) urge government to take additional steps to secure Nigerians citizen and in particular, those of Plateau origin who have become targets for abduction and persecution by Boko Haram; and
- (iv) urge the authorities of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; University of Jos, Jos; and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi to absorb all undergraduate and post graduate students of Plateau State origin currently studying in the University of Maiduguri as their safety is gravely jeopardized by the anti Plateau hate narrative orchestrated by Boko Haram.

*Debate:*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do condemn in the strongest terms the anti Plateau hate narrative by Boko Haram whose ultimate intention is to polarize Nigerians citizen along ethno-religious divides — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do condemn the abduction and killings of Nigerians citizen of from Plateau State origin still by Boko Haram, three of whom were killed and three others are still being held captive — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge government to take additional steps to secure Nigerians citizen and in particular, those of Plateau origin who have become targets for abduction and persecution by Boko Haram — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the authorities of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; University of Jos, Jos; and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi to absorb all undergraduate and post graduate students of Plateau State origin currently studying in the University of Maiduguri as their safety is gravely jeopardized by the anti Plateau hate narrative orchestrated by Boko Haram — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

- (i) condemn in the strongest terms the anti Plateau hate narrative by Boko Haram whose ultimate intention is to polarize Nigerians citizen along ethno-religious divides;
- (ii) condemn the abduction and killings of Nigerians citizen of Plateau State origin still by Boko Haram, three of whom were killed and three others are still being held captive;
- (iii) urge government to take additional steps to secure Nigerians citizen and in particular, those of Plateau origin who have become targets for abduction and persecution by Boko Haram; and
- (iv) urge the authorities of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; University of Jos, Jos; and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi to absorb all undergraduate and post graduate students of Plateau State origin currently studying in the University of Maiduguri as their safety is gravely jeopardized by the anti Plateau hate narrative orchestrated by Boko Haram (*S/Res/108/01/20*).

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

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Olalekan R. Mustapha (*Ogun East*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Sabo Market, Sagamu Inferno, Ogun State. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

*notes* that early Tuesday morning of 28th January, 2020 at about 12:00am, the Sabo market Sagamu was razed down by fire adjudged to be the worst fire outbreak in the history of market infernos in the country;

*concerned* about the perennial occurrences of fire outbreak in recent times in Kano, Sokoto, Birnin Kebbi, Kaduna, Gashua, Ibadan, Warri, Minna, Yola, Jos, Ado Ekiti, Ikom in Cross River, Lagos, and the recent gas explosion in Kaduna State;

*observes* that the Sabo market, an inter-continental trade hub in the South West that has been in existence for centuries;

*notes* that a number persons sustained various degrees of injury during the Sabo fire incident of 28th January, 2020; which destroyed shops that constitute about 90 per cent of the market and property worth billions of naira was lost in the inferno;

*concerned* that no one seems to know what caused the fire incidence that completely razed down this market;

*worried* that the rate at which fire outbreaks occur is becoming troublesome and calls to question the effectiveness of our Federal and State Fire Services and other emergency response management agencies tasked with the mandate of urgently addressing the trend of infernos among other expectations; and

*convinced* that sensitization and effective implementation of simple but important tips on national fire safety code could save lives and property during such emergencies

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), to provide relief material to the victims of the fire incident;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to constitute a special taskforce that will be saddled with the responsibility of investigating the incessant fire outbreaks in public places;

- (iii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency in collaboration with the National Orientation Agency to embark on a national campaign on need for the public to strictly adhere to national fire safety code in order to prevent the perennial occurrence of fire outbreaks;
- (iv) urge the three tiers of Government - Federal, State and Local Government Councils to provide their Fire Service Departments with requisite state-of-the-art firefighting equipment, introduce routine training and motivation strategies of the fire service staff so that they can respond more efficiently during fire outbreaks;
- (v) urge the Federal Government and other regulatory agencies to evolve and enforce modern means of preventing and combating fire disaster by ensuring that all markets in the country are built with approved plans to prevent outbreak of fire incident and properly equipped with modern firefighting equipment to ensure that our people are not subjected to this kind of distressing loss; and
- (vi) urge the Federal Government and other corporate bodies to come to the aid of the Sabo market traders by providing them with special grants to continue sustaining a livelihood as well as contributing to the nation's Gross Domestic Product.

*Debate:*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), to provide relief material to the victims of the fire incident — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to constitute a special taskforce that will be saddled with the responsibility of investigating the incessant fire outbreaks in public places — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency in collaboration with the National Orientation Agency to embark on a national campaign on need for the public to strictly adhere to national fire safety code in order to prevent the perennial occurrence of fire outbreaks — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the three tiers of Government - Federal, State and Local Government Councils to provide their Fire Service Departments with requisite state-of-the-art firefighting equipment, introduce routine training and motivation strategies of the fire service staff so that they can respond more efficiently during fire outbreaks — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (v):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government and other regulatory agencies to evolve and enforce modern means of preventing and combating fire disaster by ensuring that all markets in the country are built with approved plans to prevent outbreak of fire incident and properly equipped with modern firefighting equipment to ensure that our people are not subjected to this kind of distressing loss — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (vi):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government and other corporate bodies to come to the aid of the Sabo market traders by providing them with special grants to continue sustaining a livelihood as well as contributing to the nation's Gross Domestic Product — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), to provide relief material to the victims of the fire incident;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to constitute a special taskforce that will be saddled with the responsibility of investigating the incessant fire outbreaks in public places;
- (iii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency in collaboration with the National Orientation Agency to embark on a national campaign on need for the public to strictly adhere to national fire safety code in order to prevent the perennial occurrence of fire outbreaks;
- (iv) urge the three tiers of Government - Federal, State and Local Government Councils to provide their Fire Service Departments with requisite state-of-the-art firefighting equipment, introduce routine training and motivation strategies of the fire service staff so that they can respond more efficiently during fire outbreaks;
- (v) urge the Federal Government and other regulatory agencies to evolve and enforce modern means of preventing and combating fire disaster by ensuring that all markets in the country are built with approved plans to prevent outbreak of fire incident and properly equipped with modern firefighting equipment to ensure that our people are not subjected to this kind of distressing loss; and
- (vi) urge the Federal Government and other corporate bodies to come to the aid of the Sabo market traders by providing them with special grants to continue sustaining a livelihood as well as contributing to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (*S/Res/109/01/20*).

**8. Presentation of Bills:**

- (i) National Ear Care Centre (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (HB. 13) — *Read the First Time*.
- (ii) Customs and Excise Management Act CAP C45 LFN (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 286) — *Read the First Time*.
- (iii) National Commission for Teachers Education Bill, 2020 (SB. 289) — *Read the First Time*.
- (iv) Federal University of Agriculture, Kabba (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 282) — *Read the First Time*.
- (v) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act CAP N30 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 290) — *Read the First Time*.
- (vi) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (SB. 248) — *Read the First Time*.

**9. Executive Communication:**

***Confirmation of the Nomination of Dr. Kingsley Isitua Obiora for Appointment as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN):***

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on the confirmation of the nomination of Dr. Kingsley Isitua Obiora for Appointment as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)(*Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to report within two (2) weeks.*

**10. Executive Communication:**

***Confirmation of the Nomination of Captain Musa Shuaibu Nuhu for Appointment as the Director General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA):***

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on the confirmation of the nomination of Captain Musa Shuaibu Nuhu for Appointment as the Director General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA)(*Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Aviation to report within two (2) weeks.*

**11. Executive Communication:**

***Confirmation of the Nomination of Chairman and Member of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC):***

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on the confirmation of the nomination of the following persons as Chairman and Member of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC):

S/NO.	NAME	POSITION	GEOPOLITICAL ZONE
1.	Professor Adeolu Akande	Chairman	South West
2.	Mr. Uche Onwude	Member	South East

*(Senate Leader).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Communications to report within two (2) weeks.*

**12. Motion:**

***Nigerian Security Challenges: Urgent Need to Restructure, Review and Reorganize the Current Security Architecture:***

*Motion made:* The Senate notes the recent upsurge of security related challenges and the devastating loss of lives, limbs and properties that it unleashed on the nation;

*further notes* the comprehensive new national security strategy that the government unfolded in December, 2019 with its very clear statement of goals, objectives and challenges that faced the nation particularly those challenges whose recent upsurge have a direct and devastating impact on the lives and safety of the people.

This include:-

- i. Terrorism and violent extremism;
- ii. Armed banditry, kidnapping, militancy and separatist agitation;
- iii. Pastoralist / farmer clashes and Cattle Rustling;
- iv. Organized crime;
- v. Piracy and sea robbery; and
- vi. Cross border crimes of smuggling and illegal drugs and Fire arms trafficking;

*appreciative* of the recent effort to redefine our approaches to the security challenges, it is our view that implementation strategy must be operationalized in a manner that takes a critical and intrusive review of the nature, structure and disposition of the security institutions, particularly the Police, Civil Defence, Intelligence, Customs, Immigrations, etc;

*further notes* that the various local, state and regional responses to these security challenges by way of self-help initiative such as Civilian JTF, Hisbah, Yansakai, Yanbanga and more recently Amotekun which are mainly expressions of peoples' desperation and disappointment with the failure of the state security architecture to protect them;

*opines* that the current structure, operational strategies, personnel training and disposition of these critical institutions have been outgrown by our contemporary security challenges. This is because, in the current challenging dispensation, we must prioritize the restructuring and reorganizing those security apparatuses that shoulder the direct responsibilities of protecting the Nigerian people and their urban and rural space. This is with a view to making them more effective, responsive community integrated and people friendly. Far reaching measures and structural reforms are necessary in order to arrest the rapidly deteriorating internal security environment. The current challenges seem to have overwhelmed our security institutions.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- i. urge Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation to declare a National Security Emergency;
- ii. constitute an Ad-hoc Committee to:-
  - a. engage the Security Agencies and report to the Senate;
  - b. engage the National Security Adviser on the implementation modalities of the December, 2019 National Security Strategies;
  - c. engage the National Security Institutions to discuss their operational structures, funding, equipment and staff disposition with a view to reviewing the national security architecture to make it more responsive in tackling the myriad security challenges facing the nations and the people; and
  - d. produce a draft blueprint on the ways and means of tackling the current security challenges for the consideration of the Senate (*Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi — Kebbi North*).

**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.*

*Debate:*

**Proposed Resolution (i):**

*Question:* That the Senate do urge Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation to declare a National Security Emergency — *Agreed to.*

**Proposed Resolution (ii):**

*Question:* That the Senate do constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee to:-

- a. engage the Security Agencies and report to the Senate;



- b. engage the National Security Adviser on the implementation modalities of the December, 2019 National Security Strategies;
- c. engage the National Security Institutions to discuss their operational structures, funding, equipment and staff disposition with a view to reviewing the national security architecture to make it more responsive in tackling the myriad security challenges facing the nations and the people; and
- d. produce a blueprint on the ways and means of tackling the current insecurity challenges for the consideration of the Senate — *Agreed to.*

**Additional Proposed Resolution:**

*Insert* Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“That the Senate do invite the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to appear before the Senate to brief it on the concept and practical implementation modalities of Community Policing Policy on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 (*Senator Aliyu S. Abdullahi — Niger North*)”.

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

**Resolved:**

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation to declare a National Security Emergency; and
- (ii) That the Senate do constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee to:-
  - a. engage the Security Agencies and report to the Senate;
  - b. engage the National Security Adviser on the implementation modalities of the December, 2019 National Security Strategies;
  - c. engage the National Security Institutions to discuss their operational structures, funding, equipment and staff disposition with a view to reviewing the national security architecture to make it more responsive in tackling the myriad security challenges facing the nations and the people; and
  - d. produce a draft blueprint on the ways and means of tackling the current insecurity challenges for the consideration of the Senate; and
- (iii) invite the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to appear before the Senate to brief it on the concept and practical implementation modalities of Community Policing Policy on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 (*S/Res/110/01/20*).

**13. Ad hoc Committee:**

The President of the Senate named the following Senators as Members of *Ad hoc* Committee on Nigerian Security Challenges: Urgent Need to Restructure, Review and Reorganize the Current Security Architecture:

- |        |                             |   |          |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|----------|
| (i)    | Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi | — | Chairman |
| (ii)   | Senator Eyinnaya H. Abaribe | — | Member   |
| (iii)  | Senator Aliyu S. Abdullahi  | — | Member   |
| (iv)   | Senator Mohammed A. Ndume   | — | Member   |
| (v)    | Senator Aliyu M. Wamakko    | — | Member   |
| (vi)   | Senator Dauda H. Jika       | — | Member   |
| (vii)  | Senator Kashim Shettima     | — | Member   |
| (viii) | Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah   | — | Member   |

(ix)	Senator George T. Sekibo	—	Member
(x)	Senator Ibrahim A. Gobir	—	Member
(xi)	Senator Suleiman A. Kwari	—	Member
(xii)	Senator Kabiru I. Gaya	—	Member
(xiii)	Senator Gershon H. Bassey	—	Member
(xiv)	Senator Stella A. Oduah	—	Member
(xv)	Senator Ibikunle O. Amosun	—	Member
(xvi)	Senator Abba P. Moro	—	Member
(xvii)	Senator Abubakar Y. Yusuf	—	Member

*By the leave of the Senate, the Ad hoc Committee should report to the Senate within two (2) weeks.*

**14. Adjournment:**

And it being 4:22 p.m. the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Thursday, 30th January, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

*Adjourned accordingly at 4:22 p.m.*

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