



**SENATE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER**

Tuesday, 28th April, 2020

1. Prayers
2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
3. Oaths
4. Announcements (if any)
5. Petitions

ORDER OF THE DAY

MOTION

1. Covid-19 Pandemic: Reviewing the National Response to the challenges and the way forward.

Sponsors: Sen. Abdullahi, Yahaya Abubakar (*Kebbi North*) Sen. Abaribe, Enyinnaya Harcourt (*Abia South*)

Co-Sponsors

Sen. Oloriegbe, Yahaya Ibrahim (*Kwara Central*)

Sen. Abdullahi, Aliyu Sabi (*Niger North*)

Sen. Utazi, Chukwuka Godfrey (*Enugu North*)

Sen. Adeola, Solomon Olamilekan (*Lagos West*)

Sen. Umar, Sadiq Suleiman (*Kwara North*)

The Senate:

Aware of the outbreak of a strange respiratory disease in Wuhan China in November, 2019, later named by World Health Organization (WHO) as COVID-19;

Aware that by the 3rd week of January 2020, the WHO has declared COVID-19 as a pandemic, and International Health Emergency was declared.

Aware that Nigeria recorded its first Index Case of COVID-19 on Thursday, 27th February, 2020 involving a 44 year old Italian who came from Italy to provide Consultancy Service to a company in Ogun State;

Notes that the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) set up an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to handle the outbreak of COVID-19 in Nigeria on Friday, 28th February, 2020;

Notes that the President C-in-C set up a Multi Sector Presidential Task Force (PTF) to coordinate and implement National Response to COVID-19 in Nigeria in the 3rd week of March, 2020;

Observes that Mr. President C-in-C being worried by the relentless rise in number of cases especially in Lagos, FCT and Ogun State, declared a lockdown in the two States and the FCT on the Sunday, 29th of March 2020, effective Monday, 30th March, 2020 for 14 days. The lockdown was extended again on Monday, 13th April, 2020 for another 14 days;

Further observes that many States in Nigeria also instituted Lockdown in their domains including closure of their Borders;

Notes the inconveniences that the restrictions have put on the lives of Nigerians and appreciates their cooperation and patience in view of the limitations of the various palliatives/support provided by the Federal, State Governments, Organized Private Sector and Individuals to the citizens during the lockdowns;

Further notes the hardship brought on the daily Income Earners and other vulnerable groups by the Pandemic and the lockdown response, and fully appreciates the sacrifices being made by this groups of Nigerians during this trying period;

Concerned about the Social, Economic, Psychological, Health and Security consequences and impact of the "Lockdown" strategy on the citizens of Nigeria;

Concerned about on the ineffectiveness of the lockdown due to, among others, poor awareness of citizens about the dangers of COVID-19; Poor Mobilization, Education and Enlightenment of the citizens; and Inadequacies and Inefficiencies in the distribution of the palliatives during the lockdown;

Disturbed that despite all actions by the Presidential Task Force (PTF) and NCDC, the cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in Nigeria with Community Transmission now happening, and becoming a major threat to people's lives;

Disturbed further that from one State and One Case on Thursday, 27th February, as at Sunday, 26th April, 2020, (Eight (8) weeks later), 32 States plus FCT now have cases of COVID-19. With total cases of One Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy Three (1, 273), Two Hundred and Thirty Nine (239) discharged, Forty (40) deaths (3% case Fatality Rate);

Worried that with a population of over Two Hundred Million (200), only Eleven Thousand, Four Hundred and Twenty Six (11,426) tests have been concluded so far;

Concerned that there are many challenges with the management of the situation in Nigeria, including;

- a. Shortage of Extraction kits and Testing kits in the Country;
- b. Non-uniform treatment regimen at treatment facilities;
- c. Limited resources to support the States at point of care;
- d. Limited information to guide distribution of medical products;
- e. Low stocks of essential supplies;
- f. Poor coordination of response between the Federal and State Governments;
- g. Poor utilization of available human and manufacturing capacities; and

Further notes that the massive disruption of the World Economy caused by the Pandemic has its direct effect on Nigeria in the form of the collapse of price of oil- the main source of revenue in the country and consequently the drop in the revenue sources such as VAT, taxes, custom duties due to local and international lockdowns. This has dire consequences for the welfare of the people and the economy of the nation;

Convinced that given all the efforts being made to fight against the pandemic scourge, the time has come for the nation to take stock of the successes achieved and the challenges ahead.

According resolves to:

- i. *Commend* the President Commander in Chief, Muhammadu Buhari for confronting the COVID-19 Pandemic by providing effective leadership and having risen to the occasion when it matters most;
- ii. *Further commends* the frontline patriotic health workers for their hard work, diligence and sacrifices including putting their lives and on the line in tackling this Pandemic;
- iii. *Further commends* the PTF, NCDC, Federal Ministry of Health, Hospitals and other Health Institutions (Public and Private) for their steadfastness and dedication in combating the pandemic;
- iv. *Appreciate* the World Health Organization and the International Development Partners, Corporate bodies, Faith based Organizations and individuals for their donations and support towards fighting the Pandemic;

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- v. *Urge* the Federal Executive Arm to rejig the implementation strategy and structures for the response to the Pandemic to ensure better coordination between Federal, State, Local Governments and the Private Sector, particularly in detection, isolation, Treatment of cases, distribution of palliatives and other interventions;
 - vi. *Urge* the Executive to set up a National Technical Committee on COVID-19 made of relevant scientists and health professionals, both at home and abroad. The committee should be charged with the responsibility of developing National strategic response to the Pandemic including the detailed Epidemiology of the disease in Nigeria, the development/production of rapid testing kits, effective therapy and prevention mechanisms, etc;
 - vii. *Urge* the executive to articulate a coherent and coordinated exit strategy from the lockdown, through a phased opening of the economic and social spheres of the nation without comprising the safety of the citizens and ensuring that there is no increase in the rate of the infection;
 - viii. *Call* on the PTF and the state Governors to embark on massive mobilization, education and enlightenment of Nigerians on the reality of the pandemic and ways and means of protecting themselves, their families and communities from contracting and spreading the virus;
 - ix. *Urge* the executive to fast track the submission of the revised MTF, FSP and 2020 National Budget to the National Assembly for consideration and passage;
 - x. *Urge* the executive to use this grim period to change the trajectory and structure of the Nigerian economy by:
 - A. Appropriating at least 10% of GDP as a stimulus package for investment into;
 - Health and Education infrastructures;
 - Agricultural value chains;
 - Solid mineral value chains;
 - Renewable sources of energy;
 - Petroleum industry value chain;
 - Investment on integrating research, Science, Technology, and Innovation into Agriculture, Industry and Manufacture.

