



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 18th March, 2020

1. The Senate met at 10:43 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 17th March, 2020.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

(a) **Conferment of Honorary Doctorate:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu (*Lagos Central*) as follows:



SENATOR OLUREMI S. TINUBU, OON
LAGOS CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT
Chairman, Senate Committee on Communications

9th March, 2020

His Excellency,
Senator (Dr.) Ahmad Lawan, CON
President of the Senate,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Your Excellency

CONFERMENT OF HONORARY DOCTORATE

I am pleased to notify Your Excellency and my very Distinguished Colleagues of the decision of the Senate of the Lagos State University (LASU) to confer on me, an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (Youth Improvement, Female Education, Youth Empowerment and Girls Back to School Scheme) at her 24th Convocation.

Thus, it is my privilege to invite you to the Conferment Ceremony which is scheduled as follows:

Date: Thursday, 26th March, 2020

*Venue: University Auditorium, Lagos State University, Badagry
Expressway, Ojo, Lagos.*

Time: 9:00 am

Kindly indicate to me, your interest and availability to attend, to enable adequate preparations to receive you.

While looking forward to the honour of your presence at the Ceremony, please accept the assurance of my highest regards.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Senator Oluremi Tinubu, OON

(b) Acknowledgment:

The President of the Senate acknowledged the presence of the following who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings:

- (i) Staff and Students of the Fountain School, Abuja;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Rehabiah International School, Nyanya, Abuja;
- (iii) Staff and Students of JDC International Schools, Karu LGA, Nasarawa State; and
- (iv) Staff and Students of Excellent Grade International Schools, Kubwa, Abuja.

4. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Mohammed D. Goje (*Gombe Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the increasing wave of Coronavirus/COVID-19 worldwide. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

advice the Senate to deliberate on this matter and advise the Executive Arm accordingly on the way forward;

commended the Federal Government; Federal Ministry of Health; Lagos and Ogun States Government on control measures adopted;

reiterated that stern measures introduced by South Africa, Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, etc to secure their respective citizens; and

further reiterated the wide case of Lagos State which could spread to other States of the Federation; and urged the Senate to critically debate the Coronavirus issue in the interest of Nigerians.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation to address the nation on the Coronavirus/COVID-19 situation;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to take more drastic precautionary measures including but not limited to travel bans, restriction on large gatherings, tightening of border controls, stringent screening and fourteen (14) days quarantine for travellers coming into Nigeria;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to keep Nigerians abreast of all measures and development relating to Coronavirus worldwide; and
- (iv) support the Federal Government in its drive to eradicate Coronavirus.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation to address the nation on the Coronavirus/COVID-19 situation — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to take more drastic precautionary measures including but not limited to travel bans, restriction on large gatherings, tightening of border controls, stringent screening and fourteen (14) days quarantine for travellers coming into Nigeria — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to keep Nigerians abreast of all measures and development relating to Coronavirus worldwide — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do support the Federal Government in its drive to eradicate Coronavirus — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

“(i) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to establish a testing centre in every State of the Federation (*Senator Jibrin I. Barau — Kano North*).

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

(ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to strict airlines from high risk countries from Nigerian airports (*Senator Aliyu M. Wammako — Sokoto North*).

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

(iii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to make it mandatory for all public places such as schools, restaurants, public/private offices, mosques, churches, etc to make provision for regular handwashing using soap, water and sanitisers (*Senator Sadiq S. Umar — Kwara North*).

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

(iv) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to shutdown the use of all International Airports except Abuja and Lagos to ensure proper monitoring, testing and evaluation of passengers movement in and out of Nigeria (*Senator Aliyu S. Abdullahi — Niger North*).

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

(v) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to suspend the policy of issuance of visa on arrival to foreign citizens (*Senator Philip A. Tanimu — FCT*).

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

(vi) That the Senate do urge the three (3) tiers of Government to mandate the of Public Health Departments to rise to the challenges of Public Health in the country with the increasing situation of Coronavirus (*Senator Abdullahi Adamu — Nasarawa West*).

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

- (vii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to convene an immediate meeting of National Health Council; and National Council of Information to harmonise their responses and awareness programmes on COVID-19 (*Senator Opeyemi M. Bamidele — Ekiti Central*).
- (viii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to quarantine all Nigerians returning from Coronavirus infected countries (*Senator Yahaya I. Oloriegbe — Kwara Central*).

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

- (ix) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to set up a Special Intervention Fund for the purpose of tackling Coronavirus” (*Senator Solomon O. Adeola — Lagos West*).

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 address the nation on the Coronavirus/COVID-19 situation;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to take more drastic precautionary measures including but not limited to travel bans, restriction on large gatherings, tightening of border controls, stringent screening and fourteen (14) days quarantine for travellers coming into Nigeria;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to keep Nigerians abreast of all measures and development relating to Coronavirus worldwide;
- (iv) support the Federal Government in its drive to eradicate Coronavirus;
- (v) urge the Federal Government to establish a testing centre in every State of the Federation;
- (vi) urge the Federal Government to strict airlines from high risk countries from Nigerian airports;
- (vii) urge the Federal Government to make it mandatory for all public places such as schools, restaurants, public/private offices, mosques, churches, etc to make provision for regular handwashing using soap, water and sanitisers;
- (viii) urge the Federal Government to shutdown the use of all International Airports except Abuja and Lagos to ensure proper monitoring, testing and evaluation of passengers movement in and out of Nigeria;
- (ix) urge the Federal Government to suspend the policy of issuance of visa on arrival to foreign citizens;
- (x) urge the three (3) tiers of Government to mandate the of Public Health Departments to rise to the challenges of Public Health in the country with the increasing situation of Coronavirus;
- (xi) urge the Federal Government to convene an immediate meeting of National Health Council; and National Council of Information to harmonise their responses and awareness programmes on COVID-19;
- (xii) urge the Federal Government to quarantine all Nigerians returning from Coronavirus infected countries; and

- (xiii) urge the Federal Government to set up a Special Intervention Fund for the purpose of tackling Coronavirus (*S/Res/141/01/20*).

5. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (SB. 383) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (SB. 405) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (SB. 403) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (SB. 408) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Institute of Information and Communication Technology Kaduna South (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 407) — *Read the First Time.*

6. Ad-hoc Committee on the Nigerian Security Challenges:

Report on the Urgent Need to Restructure, Review and Reorganize the Current Security Architecture:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Nigerian Security Challenges on the need to Restructure, Review and Reorganize the Current Security Architecture in Nigeria (*Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi — Kebbi North*).

Question put and agreed to.

Debate:

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.

Further consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

7. Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Act CAP N96 LFN 2010 (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 183):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 118):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Electoral Act CAP E6 (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 176):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Sickle Cell Anaemia (Control and Prevention) Bill, 2020 (SB. 166):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. **Federal University of Agriculture, Kabba (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 282):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
12. **Federal College of Education (Technical) (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 164):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
13. **Federal University of Education, Ankpa, Kogi State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB.146):**
Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.
14. **Motions:**
- (a) ***The Demolition of Properties in Dakwa a Settlement in Tafa Local Government Area of Niger State by the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) and the Non-payment of Land Compensation to Niger State by the Federal Government: Urgent Need for Intervention to Prevent Further Demolition and Encroachment by the FCDA and Immediate Settlement of All Compensation Arrears to Niger State by the Federal Government of Nigeria:***
Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.
- (b) ***The Suitability of Hydroelectric Gravity Dams in Redressing the Harms of Perennial Flooding in Nigeria:***
Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.
15. **Adjournment:**
And it being 2:32 p.m. the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Thursday, 19th March, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.
Adjourned accordingly at 2:32 p.m.

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