



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS(1)

Tuesday, 28th April, 2020

1. The Senate met at 10:28 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Closed Session:**
Closed Session — 10:31 a.m.
Open Session — 11:58 a.m.

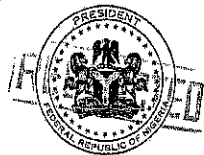
The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on issues bordering on the workings of the Senate in particular and the National Assembly in general.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 24th March, 2020.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Messages from Mr. President:**
The President of the Senate announced that he had received four (4) letters from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

(a) *New External Borrowing 2020:*



**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

24th March, 2020

*Distinguished Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Distinguished Sen. President

**REQUEST FOR RESOLUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
TO RAISE ₦850 BILLION IN NEW EXTERNAL BORROWING IN THE 2020
APPROPRIATION ACT IN NAIRA FROM THE DOMESTIC CAPITAL MARKET**

The Senate may wish to recall that the 2020 Appropriation Act provided for ₦1,594,986,007,544.00 of New Borrowing, comprising ₦744,986,007,544.00 of New Domestic Borrowing and ₦850 billion of New External Borrowing. These borrowings were to part-finance the 2020 Budget deficit of ₦2,175,197,885,232.00.

Furthermore, the Senate may wish to note that External Borrowing from the International Capital Markets increases Nigeria's External Reserves, provides access to lower cost and longer tenured funds, as well as avoids crowding out private sector borrowers who also wish to access the Domestic Capital Market. However, recent developments in the global economic environment, as a result of the Corona Virus Pandemic and decline in international oil prices, have made it less attractive to borrow from the International Capital Markets, at this time.

To ensure that there are adequate funds to finance critical projects and programmes in the 2020 Budget, I hereby seek the Senate's approval, by Resolution, to raise the ₦850 billion of New External Borrowing, in Naira, from the Domestic Capital Market, instead of from the International Capital Markets. However, it remains our intention to access the International Capital Markets when global conditions improve, to refinance this ₦850 billion of New Borrowing and optimize the benefits inherent in External Borrowing. As presently, the conditions in the Domestic Capital Market are favourable, in terms of availability of funds and relatively low interest rates, this course of action is deemed prudent given our current realities.

I have directed the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning to make herself available to provide any additional information or clarification which you may require. I trust that this request will be expeditiously considered, to accelerate the raising of the ₦850 billion in New Borrowing from the Domestic Capital Market, to part-finance the 2020 Budget deficit as well as to deliver critical projects and programmes to the Nigerian people.

Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

(b) Confirmation of Appointment:



PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

18th March, 2020

Distinguished Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Distinguished Sen. President,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN
AND MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION**

In compliance with the provision of Section 154(1) of constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I write to request for confirmation by the Senate, the appointment of the following, Thirty-eight (38) nominees as Chairman and Members of the Federal Character Commission. Their Cvs are attached herewith.

S/N	NAME	POSITION	STATE	REMARKS
1.	Dr. Muheeba (Farida) Dankaka	Chairman		New Appointment
2.	Hon. Henry, Ogbulogo	Member	Abia	New Appointment
3.	Dr. Salihu Bello	Member	Adamawa	New Appointment
4.	Obonganwan Dorah Daniel Ebong	Member	Akwa Ibom	New Appointment
5.	Rev. Ibeabuchi Uche	Member	Anambra	New Appointment
6.	Mohammad Tijjani	Member	Bauchi	New Appointment
7.	Tonye G. Okio	Member	Bayelsa	New Appointment
8.	Mr. Silas Mfa Macikpah	Member	Benue	New Appointment
9.	Abba Ali Monguno	Member	Borno	New Appointment
10.	Mr. Nsor Atangba	Member	Cross River	New Appointment
11.	Hon. Alims Agoda	Member	Delta	New Appointment
12.	Hon. Tobias Ckwuru Chukwuemeka	Member	Ebonyi	New Appointment
13.	Imuetinyan Festus	Member	Edo	New Appointment
14.	Barr. Sesan Fatoba	Member	Ekiti	New Appointment
15.	Mrs. Ginika Florence Tor	Member	Enugu	New Appointment
16.	Hanza Mohammed	Member	Gombe	New Appointment
17.	Dr. Diogu Uche	Member	Imo	New Appointment
18.	Lawan Ya'u Roni	Member	Jigawa	New Appointment
19.	Hadiza Usman Muazu	Member	Kaduna	New Appointment
20.	Muhammad Awwal Na'itya	Member	Kano	New Appointment
21.	Hon. Lawai Garba	Member	Katsina	New Appointment
22.	Abubakar Atiku Bunu	Member	Kebbi	New Appointment
23.	Pharm. Idris Eneye Bello	Member	Kogi	New Appointment
24.	Daniel James Kolo	Member	Kwara	New Appointment
25.	Are Miftah Bolaji	Member	Lagos	New Appointment
26.	Nasir Isa Kwarra	Member	Nassarawa	New Appointment
27.	Maj. Gen. Suleiman Barau Said (Rtd.)	Member	Niger	New Appointment
28.	Abiodun Istaq Akinlade	Member	Ogun	New Appointment
29.	Chief Olufemi Lawrence Omosanya	Member	Ondo	New Appointment
30.	Adeoye, Abdulrazak Olalekan	Member	Osun	New Appointment
31.	Prof. Adeniyi Olowofela	Member	Oyo	New Appointment
32.	Mr. Stephen A. Jings	Member	Plateau	New Appointment
33.	Woko.cha Augustine	Member	Rivers	New Appointment
34.	Abdullahi Aminu Tafida	Member	Sokoto	New Appointment
35.	Alhaji Armaya'u Dauda Abubakar	Member	Taraba	New Appointment
36.	Hon. Jibril Maigari	Member	Yobe	New Appointment
37.	Hon. Sani Garba	Member	Zamfara	New Appointment
38.	Sen. Adamu Muhammed Sidi-Ali	Member	FCT	New Appointment

2. It is my hope that the Senate will consider and confirm the nominees in the usual expeditious manner.

3. Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

(c) Confirmation of Appointment:



PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

19th March, 2020

Distinguished Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan
 President of the Senate,
 Senate Chambers,
 National Assembly Complex,
 Three Arms Zone,
 Abuja.

Dear Distinguished Sen. President,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF
 THE REVENUE MOBILIZATION ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION**

In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I write to forward to the Senate for confirmation, the underlisted seven (7) names of nominees as members of the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission. Their Curriculum Vitae are attached herewith.

S/N	NAME	STATE	POSITION
1.	Salamatu Mohammed Bala	Adamawa	New Appointment
2.	Hon. Alfred Egba, Esq	Bayelsa	New Appointment
3.	Alh. Adamu Shettima Yuguda Dibal	Borno	New Appointment
4.	Barr. (Sir) Emmanuel O. Nwosu	Imo	New Appointment
5.	Oladele Semiu Gboyega	Osun	New Appointment
6.	Bello Abubakar Wamakko	Sokoto	New Appointment
7.	Ahmed A. Yusuf	Taraba	New Appointment

2. It is my hope that the Senate will consider and confirm the nominees in the usual expeditious manner.

3. Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,
 (Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

(d) Confirmation of Appointments:



PRESIDENT
 FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

18th March, 2020

Distinguished Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan
 President of the Senate,
 Senate Chambers,
 National Assembly Complex,
 Three Arms Zone,
 Abuja.

Dear Distinguished Sen. President,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF (2) COMMISSIONERS
 FOR THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

In compliance with the provision of Section 154(1) of constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I write to request for confirmation by the Senate, the appointment of the following two (2) nominees as Commissioners in the Federal Civil Service Commission. Their CVs are attached herewith.

S/N	NAME	POSITION	STATE REPRESENTED	NEW/RENEWAL OF APPOINTMENT
1.	Dr. Frederick O. Ekwem	Commissioner	Imo&Abia	New Appointment
2.	Dr. Jonah Madugu	Commissioner	Benue, Nasrawa & Plateau	Renewal

2. It is my hope that the Senate will consider and confirm the nominees in the usual expeditious manner.

3. Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

5. **Remarks by the President of the Senate:**



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
Federal Republic of Nigeria

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, DISTINGUISHED SENATOR AHMAD IBRAHIM LAWAN, PhD, CON, AT THE RESUMPTION OF THE SENATE PLENARY, April 28, 2020, AT THE SENATE CHAMBERS, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX, THREE ARM ZONE, ABUJA.

PROTOCOL

Distinguished Colleagues, it is a great pleasure to welcome you back to this hallowed chamber. The world has been on lockdown in the last couple of months because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has unsettled economies, affected the way we relate to each other and disrupted calendars of activities across different sectors. Government has responded well under the recommendations of scientists and experts.

Our sessions have been interrupted, but we have sustained our interventions and collaborations with other arms and agencies of government in the concerted bid to mitigate the damage from the pandemic. We will continue in our efforts in the interest of our good health, the well-being of our people and the sustainable development of our nation.

The Senate has convened today to enable us to sustain work on solutions and to ensure that the health crisis does not create further problems that might be much more difficult to deal with.

This pandemic has killed thousands of citizens across the world. We have also lost many of our dear compatriots. One of them is the Chief of Staff to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mallam Abba Kyari. We condole with President Mohammadu Buhari (GCFR) on this painful loss, just as we mourn other citizens who have died because of the disease.

We pray the Almighty Allah will give their families the fortitude to bear the loss and grant them Aljana Fidaus. It is our additional prayers that we shall be able to mitigate the continuous spread of the virus, so we can regain our normal life and stay with the onerous business of nation building.

Let me commend your collective and individual efforts in supporting the people these uncertain times. Your counsels and gifts during this period are well documented. Kindly continue with this support, while educating them on the importance of social distancing, personal hygiene, and to avoid large gatherings. Citizens need to comply with measures like use of facial mask and reduction in movements until the virus is gone.

It is also important we educate them on the guidelines and protocols of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) on reporting suspected cases. The task before us is imperative and the responsibility of the legislator is even more important because of our closeness to the people.

The pandemic has affected our budget for this year, not just because of falling oil prices, but also because it has forced a reduction in economic activities, leading to an enormous loss of revenue. We have been working with the executive on areas of adjustments for a more realistic implementation, and our resumption today will lead to a quicker resolution of some of our decisions.

We are confident that we shall soon overcome this crisis, like previous health emergencies. All hands will however have to be on deck to register a quicker and more resounding success.

Distinguished colleagues, it is on this note that I welcome you to this plenary.

God bless us all.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(Signed)

President of the Senate

6. Suspension of Rules 11[1&2] COVID-19:

Motion made: That the Senate do suspend Rule 11 to enable Senators alter their sitting position in compliance with World Health Organisation (WHO) and National Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC) protocol of social distancing to suspend its rule and allow the Senate to sit in this mode (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

7. Executive Communication

Approval of the ₦850 Billion from the Domestic Capital Market:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the request of the Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for the approval of ₦850 Billion from the Domestic Capital Market for the funding of 2020 Appropriation Act (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do approved the ₦850 Billion from the Domestic Capital Market for the funding of 2020 Appropriation Act — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do approved the ₦850 Billion from the Domestic Capital Market for the funding of 2020 Appropriation Act (*S/Res/142/01/20*).

The Senate further mandated its Committees on Appropriations; Finance; Local and Foreign Debts; and National Planning to interface with the Federal Ministry of Finance and National Planning.

8. Motion:

COVID-19 Pandemic: Reviewing the National Response to the Challenges and the Way Forward.

Motion made: That 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, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation 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, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation being worried by the relentless rise in the 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 Lockdowns 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 public spirited 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 these 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 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 (1) Case on Thursday, 27th February, as at Sunday, 26th April, 2020, (Eight (8) weeks later), Thirty Two (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 Crude 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.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) commend the Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, Muhammadu Buhari for confronting the COVID-19 Pandemic by providing effective leadership and having risen to the occasion when it matters most;
- (ii) further commend the Leadership, the Committee Chairmen and Members of the National Assembly who throughout this trying period engaged and worked with the Presidential Task Force, the Ministries of Finance and Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), and other Executive bodies in providing leadership support, creative solutions, material supplies and palliatives to address the challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic;
- (iii) further commends the Frontline Patriotic Health Workers for their hard work, diligence and sacrifices including putting their lives on the line in tackling this Pandemic;
- (iv) further commends the Presidential Task Force (PTF), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Federal Ministry of Health, Hospitals and other Health Institutions (Public and Private) for their steadfastness and dedication in combating the pandemic;

- (v) 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;
- (vi) urge the Executive Arm of Government 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;
- (vii) further 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;
- (viii) 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 compromising the safety of the citizens and ensuring that there is no increase in the rate of the infection;
- (ix) urge 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;
- (x) urge the Executive to fast-track the submission of the revised Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) and 2020 National Budget to the National Assembly for consideration and passage;
- (xi) urge the Executive to use this grim period to change the trajectory and structure of the Nigerian economy by 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;
 - Infrastructure and public works (Roads, Railways, Harbours, Power, Water Ways, etc); and
 - Investment on integrating research, Science, Technology, and Innovation into Agriculture, Industry and Manufacture (*Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi — Kebbi North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do commend the Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, Muhammadu Buhari for confronting the COVID-19 Pandemic by providing effective leadership and having risen to the occasion when it matters most — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do further commend the Leadership, the Committee Chairmen and Members of the National Assembly who throughout this trying period engaged and worked with the Presidential Task Force, the Ministries of Finance and Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), and other Executive bodies in providing leadership support, creative solutions, material supplies and palliatives to address the challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do further commends the Frontline Patriotic Health Workers for their hard work, diligence and sacrifices including putting their lives on the line in tackling this Pandemic — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do further commends the Presidential Task Force (PTF), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Federal Ministry of Health, Hospitals and other Health Institutions (Public and Private) for their steadfastness and dedication in combating the pandemic — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do 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 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vi):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Executive Arm of Government 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 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vii):

Question: That the Senate do further 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 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (viii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Executive to articulate a coherent and coordinated exit strategy from the lock down, through a phased opening of the economic and social spheres of the nation without compromising the safety of the citizens and ensuring that there is no increase in the rate of the infection — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ix):

Question: That the Senate do urge 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 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (x):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Executive to fast-track the submission of the revised Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) and 2020 National Budget to the National Assembly for consideration and passage — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (xi):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Executive to use this grim period to change the trajectory and structure of the Nigerian economy by 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;
- Infrastructure and public works (Roads, Railways, Harbours, Power, Water Ways, etc); and
- Investment on integrating research, Science, Technology, and Innovation into Agriculture, Industry and Manufacture.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word “on” in line 1, *insert* the following words “Science, Technology, Innovation and Research Value Chains” (*Senator Uche L. Ekwunife — Anambra Central*).

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

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“That the Senate do observe one minute silence in honour of Mallam Abba Kyari, Chief of Staff, and other patriots” (*Senator Aliyu S. Abdullahi — Niger North*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) commend the Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, Muhammadu Buhari for confronting the COVID-19 Pandemic by providing effective leadership and having risen to the occasion when it matters most;
- (ii) further commend the Leadership, the Committee Chairmen and Members of the National Assembly who throughout this trying period engaged and worked with the Presidential Task Force, the Ministries of Finance and Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), and other Executive bodies in providing leadership support, creative solutions, material supplies and palliatives to address the challenges of COVID-19 Pandemic;
- (iii) further commends the Frontline Patriotic Health Workers for their hard work, diligence and sacrifices including putting their lives on the line in tackling this Pandemic;
- (iv) further commends the Presidential Task Force (PTF), National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Federal Ministry of Health, Hospitals and other Health Institutions (Public and Private) for their steadfastness and dedication in combating the pandemic;

- (v) 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;
- (vi) urge the Executive Arm of Government 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;
- (vii) further 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;
- (viii) 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 compromising the safety of the citizens and ensuring that there is no increase in the rate of the infection;
- (ix) urge 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;
- (x) urge the Executive to fast-track the submission of the revised Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) and 2020 National Budget to the National Assembly for consideration and passage;
- (xi) urge the Executive to use this grim period to change the trajectory and structure of the Nigerian economy by 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;
 - Infrastructure and public works (Roads, Railways, Harbours, Power, Water Ways, etc); and
 - Investment on Science, Technology, Innovation and Research Value Chains integrating research, Science, Technology, and Innovation into Agriculture, Industry and Manufacture
- (xii) observe one minute silence in honour of Mallam Abba Kyari, Chief of Staff, and other patriots (*S/Res/143/01/20*).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

9. **Adjournment:**

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 28th April, 2020 at 2.15 p.m.
(*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 2:00 p.m.

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

