



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**SENATE STANDING
ORDERS 2015
AS AMENDED**



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Federal Republic of Nigeria*

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OPENING PRAYER

ALMIGHTY GOD, Ruler of Heaven and Earth, we beseech Thee to inspire and guide all our counsels and actions, so that we may always walk in the path of justice, love and charity to one another.

Help us with Thy Grace to do only things that will promote the unity, happiness and prosperity of Nigeria.

Amen.

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL RULES FOR CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1.-(a) The proceedings in the Senate and in all Committees of the Senate shall be conducted in accordance with the following Standing Orders.

Business of the Senate conducted according to Standing Orders.

(b) In all cases not provided for hereinafter, or by Sessional or other Orders, or practice of the Senate, the Senate shall by Resolution regulate its procedure.

Practice and procedure of the Senate.

CHAPTER II

FIRST SITTING OF THE SENATE

First Sitting of
the Senate

2.—(1) On the first sitting of a new Senate, pursuant to the Proclamation of the first sitting of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senators-elect shall assemble at the time and place so appointed.

Clerk reads
Proclamation

(2) Senators-elect, having assembled, the Clerk to the National Assembly shall:

(a) read the Proclamation for the holding of the first session of the Senate.

Roll Call

(b) call the Senate to order and proceed to the roll call and confirmation of writs of election as well as declaration of assets and liabilities of Senators-elect in alphabetical order.

(c) after the roll call, but before their swearing in, preside over the election of the President and Deputy President of the Senate.

Confirmation or
writ of election

(3) Each senator-elect called shall present the writ of election and the receipt for the declaration of assets and liabilities which shall be laid upon the Table by the Clerk.

PRESIDING OFFICERS

3.—(1) A Senator-elect may, before taking the Oaths prescribed in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, take part in the election of the President and Deputy President of the Senate.

Election of
President of the
Senate

ELECTION OF PRESIDING AND OTHER OFFICERS

(2) Nomination of Senators to serve as Presiding Officers and appointments of Principal Officers and other Officers of the Senate or on any Parliamentary delegations shall be in accordance with the ranking of Senators. In determining ranking, the following order shall apply-

Ranking of
Senators

(i) Senators returning based on number of times re-elected;

(ii) Senators who had been members of the House of Representatives;

(iii) Senators elected as Senators for the first time.

(iv) The appointment of Senators as Chairmen and Members of Committees shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the Six Geopolitical Zones of the Country and there shall be no predominance of Senators from a few Geopolitical Zones.

(3) The election of the President of the Senate shall be conducted in the following manner:

Nomination of
Senators

(a) a Senator-elect, addressing the Clerk, shall propose another Senator elect to the Senate to be President of the Senate and shall move that such Senator-elect "Do take the chair of the Senate as President of the Senate."

Senator informs
the Senate if
accepts
nomination

(b) a Senator-elect when nominated and seconded shall inform the Senate whether he or she accepts the nomination. He may then proceed to address the Senate.

Procedure if
only one Senator
nominated

(c) the Clerk shall then ask "Are there any further nominations?", and if there are no further nominations, the Clerk shall say "I declare the nominations closed". The Clerk shall then, declare the Senator-elect so proposed and seconded elected as President of the Senate. Such Senator-elect shall be conducted to the Chair by the proposer and seconder of the motion, and shall take the chair of the President of the Senate.

Procedure if two
Senators
nominated

(d) if more than one Senator-elect is proposed as President of the Senate, the Clerk shall after the second nomination ask: "Are there any further nominations?", and if there are no further nominations, the Clerk shall say, "I declare the nominations closed".

(e) when two or more Senators-elect are nominated and seconded as Senate President, the election shall be conducted as follows:

Methods of
voting

(i) by electronic voting; or.

(ii) voting by secret ballot which shall be conducted by the Clerks-at-Table using the list of the Senators-elect of the Senate, who shall each be given a ballot paper to cast his vote, with the proposers and seconder as Teller.

Tellers

(iii) the Clerk of the Senate shall submit the result of the voting to the Clerk of the National Assembly who shall then declare the Senator-elect who has received the highest number of votes as Senate President-elect.

Senate
President-elect

(f) when more than two Senators-elect are nominated and seconded to be Senate President, the division shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in Order 3 (3) (e) (ii) herein and the Senator-elect who has received the highest number of votes shall be declared the Senate President elect. In the event of two or more Senators-elect receiving highest but equal number of votes, the name of the candidate having the smallest number of votes shall be excluded from subsequent divisions, a further division

Procedure if
more than two
Senators -elect
are nominated

shall take place. This voting shall continue until one candidate receives a simple majority of votes of the Senators-elect. Such person will then be declared Senate President-elect.

Candidates
withdraws
names

(g) at any time after the result of the first voting is declared, but before the commencement of a second or subsequent voting, a candidate may withdraw his name from the election, which shall then proceed as if such Senator-elect had never been nominated. Whenever at any stage a withdrawal leaves only one candidate remaining, such a candidate shall, without further voting, be declared as Senate President elect.

No debate or
question of
privilege

(h) during the election of a Senate President, there shall be no debate and no question of privilege may be raised.

Voting

(i) all Senators-elect are entitled to participate in the voting for Senate President and Deputy Senate President.

Election of the
Deputy Senate
President

(4) The procedure for the election of the Deputy Senate President shall be the same as that of the Senate President.

Declaration of
Assets and
Liabilities and
Oaths

(5) The Senate President and Deputy Senate President-elect shall submit their assets and liabilities declaration and acknowledgment receipt and subsequently take and subscribe to

the Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Membership as prescribed in the Constitution before the Clerk to the National Assembly.

(6) Having been sworn, the Senate President returns his acknowledgment to the Senate for the honour conferred upon him, and thereupon sits down in the chair and then the Mace (which hitherto lay on the lower bracket) shall be laid on the upper bracket of the Table.

Senate President
takes Chair and
Mace laid upon
the Table

(7) Every Senator-elect shall, before taking his seat, submit his Certificate of Return to the Senate President, as well as his assets and liabilities declaration and acknowledgment receipt, and subsequently take and subscribe to the Oath/Affirmation of Allegiance and Oath of Membership prescribed in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended.

Oath of
Allegiance and
Oath of
Membership

(8) Whenever a vacancy has occurred in the office of Senate President or Deputy Senate President during a session, the Clerk shall report same to the Senate at its next sitting, and the Senate shall either forthwith, or at its next sitting, proceed to the election of a new Senate President in the manner hereinbefore provided.

Vacancy in the
office of the
Senate President

9. The proceedings and debates of the Senate shall be conducted in English, but when adequate arrangements are made, can also be in Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba. A Senator may present a

Language

petition in any Language other than English, if the petition be accompanied by an English translation certified to be correct by the Senator presenting the petition.

Quorum.

10.—(1) The quorum of the Senate shall be one third of the members of the Senate.

(2) If, at any time during the daily sessions of the Senate, a question is raised by any Senator as to the presence of a quorum, the presiding officer shall within fifteen minutes forthwith, direct the Clerk to call the roll and announce the result, and these proceedings shall be without debate.

(3) Whenever after such roll call, it shall be ascertained that a quorum is not present, the President of the Senate may direct Sergeant-at-Arms to request and, when necessary, to compel the attendance of the absent Senators, which order shall be determined without debate; and pending its execution, and until a quorum shall be present, no debate nor motion, except to adjourn or to suspend sitting shall be in order.

(4) If notice be taken in a Committee of the whole Senate that a quorum is not present, the Chairman shall follow the course pursued by the President in accordance with paragraphs (2) of this Rule.

(5) If from the number of Senators taking part in a division, including those Senators who

decline to vote, it appears that a quorum is not present the divisions shall be invalid, the business then under consideration shall stand over until the next sitting; and the President shall count the Senate as provided in paragraph (2) and (3) of Rule 10. If a quorum is then present, the next business shall be entered upon.

(6) In the event of joint sitting, quorum shall not be less than one-third of all the members of the National Assembly.

CHAPTER III

SITTINGS OF THE SENATE

Seat of Senators **11.—**(1) The President of the Senate shall allocate a seat to each Senator.

(2) A Senator may only speak from the seat allocated to him, provided that the President of the Senate may change the allocation from time to time.

Re-assembly of
the Senate **12.—**(1) Whenever the Senate shall stand adjourned to a date not fixed and it is represented to the President of the Senate by the leaders of the political parties in the Senate that the Senate shall meet on a certain day at a certain time, the President of the Senate shall give notice accordingly and the Senate shall meet on the date and at the time stated in the notice.

(2) Whenever the Senate stands adjourned either to a date fixed by the rule of the Senate or to a date determined in accordance with paragraph (1) of this Rule and it is represented by the Leaders of the Political Parties in the Senate to the President of the Senate that the Public interest requires that the Senate should meet on an earlier or a later date or time than that on which it stands adjourned, the President of the Senate may give notice accordingly, and the Senate shall meet on the date and at the time stated in the notice.

(3) Whenever the President of the Senate shall have given notice in accordance with either of the two preceding paragraphs, the Clerk shall communicate the terms of the notice to each Senator.

13.—(1) On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, except the second and fourth Fridays, of the month, Committee meetings are to hold from 2.00p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Sittings of the
Senate

(2) On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the Senate shall meet at 10.00 a.m. and unless previously adjourned shall sit until 2.00 p.m. unless before a substantive motion had been moved by the Leader of the Senate or a Senator acting in that capacity "that this Senate do now adjourn" and if such a motion be moved and if the question thereon has not previously been determined, at 2.00 p.m. the President of the Senate shall adjourn the Senate without question being put.

(3) Fifteen minutes before the time appointed for the termination of a sitting, the President of the Senate shall interrupt the business under Discussion and unless the closure is moved, its resumption shall be appointed for such day as the Senator in charge of such business shall name, and if the Senate shall be in Committee at that time, the Chairman shall interrupt the business and unless the closure is moved shall leave the Chair forthwith to report progress to the Senate

and ask their leave to sit again on such day as the Senator in charge of the business shall name. Any other business, if unopposed, shall then be disposed of but at the time appointed for the termination of the sifting notwithstanding that there may be business then under discussion the President of the Senate shall adjourn the Senate without question being put.

(4) On the interruption of business, the closure may be moved, and if proceedings under Standing Rule 59 (closure of Debate) be then in progress, the President or the Chairman shall not leave the Chair until the questions consequent thereon have been decided, even though the divisions on such questions carry on beyond the time appointed for the raising of the Senate. In that event, immediately such questions have been decided on, if in Committee as soon as the Chairman's report has been received, the President shall adjourn the Senate without question being put.

(5) Until the time appointed for the termination of a sitting is reached, the Senate shall not adjourn except in pursuance of a resolution, the motion for which may be made by the Leader of the Senate.

(6) At the time appointed for the termination of a sitting, the President of the Senate shall adjourn the Senate without question being put.

(7) On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, proceedings in pursuance of the provisions of any act may be entered upon or continue after 3 p.m. and on any such day such proceedings if under discussion at 5.45 p.m. shall not be interrupted and until they have been disposed of, the President of the Senate shall not accept any motion for the adjournment of the Senate under paragraph (6) of the Rule.

(8) When all business referred to in paragraph (7) of this Rule have been disposed of the President of the Senate shall then if it be after 5.45 p.m. adjourn the Senate without question being put.

CHAPTER IV

PRIVILEGES

14.--(a) Privileges are the rights enjoyed by the Senate collectively and by the members of the Senate individually conferred by the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act Cap 208 laws of the Federation 1990 and other statutes, or by practice, precedent usage and custom.

Definition

(b) Whenever a matter of privilege arises, it shall be taken up immediately.

Taken up
immediately

(c) In cases where adequate provision is not made in this Standing Orders, the senate shall by resolution regulate its procedure.

Privilege.

15. Any Senator may rise at any time to speak upon a matter of Privilege suddenly arising, and he shall be prepared to move, without Notice, a motion declaring that a contempt or breach of privilege has been committed, or referring the matter to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, but if the matter is raised in Committee of the Whole Senate, the Chairman shall leave the Chair to report progress.

Precedence to
matter of
Privilege

16. When a matter of privilege at any time arises, the President shall, until the matter is disposed of, or unless the debate on a motion thereon is adjourned, suspend the consideration and decision of every other question: provided that precedence over other business shall not be given to any motion if, in the opinion of the President of the Senate, a prima facie case of breach of privilege has not been made out or the matter has not been raised at the earliest opportunity.

Privileges of the
Floor

17.—(1) No person shall be admitted to the lobby or the floor of the Senate while in session, except the following and only by consent of the Senate:

(a) the President or Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and their Private Secretaries;

(b) former elected Presidents and former elected Vice Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(e) former Presidents and former Vice Presidents of the Senate;

(d) former Senators and Senators-elect;

(e) Members of the House of the Representatives;

(f) Judges of the Supreme Court;

(g) former Clerks and former Sergeant-at-arms of the Senate;

(h) Secretary to the Government of the Federation (when carrying a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria);

(i) former Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the House of Representatives;

(j) Ambassadors and Ministers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(k) Governors of State and former elected Governors of State;

(l) members of National Legislatures of foreign countries only on official duties;

(m) Legislative Aides to Senators when in the actual discharge of official duties; and

(n) officers and employees of the Senate in the discharge of their Official duties.

(2) The Senate Chamber shall not be granted for any other purpose than the use of the Senate.

(3) No smoking or drinking shall be permitted at any time on the floor of the Senate Chamber.

Complaint
against
newspaper,
book, etc.

18. Any Senator complaining to the Senate of a statement in a newspaper, book or other publication as breach of privilege shall produce a copy of the newspaper, book or other publication containing the statement in question, and shall be prepared to give the name of the printer or publisher.

Privilege matter
raised when
Senate not
Sitting

19. During a period when the Senate is not sitting and is not expected to meet for a further period of at least two weeks, a member may bring to the attention of the President of the Senate a matter of privilege which has arisen since the Senate last met and which he proposes should be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.

If the President of the Senate is satisfied that a prima facie case of breach of privilege has been made out and the matter is one upon which urgent action should be taken, he shall refer it forthwith to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges: Provided that any referral by the President of the Senate in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this Standing order shall be reported to the Senate by the President at its next sitting whereupon the member who raised the matter shall be required to move forthwith, without notice, that such referral be endorsed by the Senate. If the motion is negatived, the Committee on Ethics and Privileges shall take no further action in respect of the matter.

CHAPTER V

SENATORS

- 20.** Every Senator shall at the commencement of each session, or as soon as he has taken his seat, enter his name and address, and also his address during the session, in a book to be kept by the Clerk of the Senate, Senators to leave Address with the Clerk.
- 21.** A Senator going abroad shall so inform the President of the Senate, indicating the purpose, the time of his stay abroad and his contact address. Journeys abroad
- 22.** A Senator shall, to the best of his ability, regularly attend the sittings of the Senate and those of the Committees of which he is a member. Attendance at sittings
- 23.—(1)** A Senator shall resign his seat in the Senate by writing to the President of the Senate which letter shall be submitted personally by him or her to the President of the Senate in open session of the Senate on the legislative day preceding the date of resignation. Mode of resignation from the Senate
- (2)** The President of the Senate shall cause the letter to be read by the Clerk as soon as it is received and may allow a short debate on it. The letter shall be published in the Votes and Proceedings of the Senate.

Dispatch of
letter of
resignation

24.—(1) If a Senator is unable to submit his letter of resignation personally to the President of the Senate as herein before provided, he shall send it:

(a) if in the country ? through some one authorised for this purpose in writing by the President of the Senate;

(b) if abroad ? through a diplomatic or consular representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The person authorised as stated in (a), or the representative as stated in (b), shall verify the member's signature on the resignation and mark on it the date of the signature.

CHAPTER VI

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS OF THE SENATE

25. The President shall preside at sittings of the Senate:

Functions of the
President of the
Senate

(a) he shall sign the Votes and Proceedings after confirmation by the Senate;

(b) he shall be responsible for the observance of the Rules of Order in the Senate and Committee;

(c) he shall receive all communications addressed to the Senate;

(d) he shall have general control, except as provided by rule or Law, of the Chamber of Senate, and its corridors and passages;

(e) he shall sign all acts, addresses, resolutions, writs, warrants and subpoena issued by order of the Senate.

(f) he shall be responsible for the observance of the Rules of debates. He shall give rulings on points of order or of Constitution raised during debates;

(g) he shall have a casting vote to avoid equality of votes but shall not vote in any other case;

(h) he shall interpret the Rules.

Deputy
President of the
Senate

26. In the absence of the President of the Senate, the Deputy President of the Senate shall perform all the duties and functions of the President of the Senate.

President of the
Senate
Pro-Tempore

27. In the absence of the President of the Senate and Deputy President of the Senate, such Senator as the Senate may elect for the purpose shall preside. such senator shall be known as "President Pro-Tempore".

Majority Leader
of the Senate

28.—(1) There shall be a Majority Leader of the Senate. The majority leader shall be a Senator nominated from the party with the highest number of Senators.

(2) His functions shall be:

(a) to lead the business of the Senate;

(b) to manage the legislative schedule of the Senate;

(c) to liaise with Committee Chairmen and other functionaries of the Senate;

Duties of the
Deputy Majority
Leader of the
Senate

29.—(1) There shall be a Deputy Majority Leader of the Senate. The Deputy Majority Leader shall be a Senator nominated from the party with the highest number of seats in the Senate.

(2) His functions shall be:

(a) to assist the Majority Leader of the Senate in the performance of his functions; and

(b) to act for the Majority Leader of the Senate in his absence.

30. The Minority Leader, Deputy Minority Leader, Minority Whip and Deputy Minority Whip shall be nominated from among the minority parties in the Senate.

Minority Leader,
Deputy Minority
Leader, Minority
Whip.

31.—(1) There shall be a Chief Whip of the Senate. The Chief Whip shall be a Senator nominated from the party with the highest number of seats in the Senate.

Duties of the
Whip

(2) It shall be the duty of the Chief Whip to maintain order and decorum in the Senate including managing the affairs of his party during meetings.

(3) The functions of Chief Whip shall be:

(a) Managing the affairs of his party during meetings;

(b) Organising the party members in divisions and debates;

(c) Arranging the business of the party on the floor of the Senate.

(4) There shall be a Deputy Majority Whip of the Senate. He shall be a Senator nominated from the party with the highest number of seats in the Senate. The duties of the Deputy Majority Whip shall be:

(a) to assist the Majority Whip in the performance of his functions; and

(b) to act for the Majority Whip in his absence.

Duties of the
Minority Leader

32.—(1) There shall be a Minority Leader of the Duties of the Senate. The Minority Leader shall be nominated Minority Leader from the Minority parties in the Senate.

(2) The functions of Minority Leader shall:

(a) to liaise with the Senate Majority Leader;

(b) to second motions for the parties on major issues;

(c) to second motions on formal and nonpartisan business of the Senate;

(d) to perform such duties as the President may allocate to him.

Duties of
Deputy Minority
Leader

(3) There shall be a Deputy Minority Leader of the Senate. The Deputy Minority Leader of the Senate shall be a Senator nominated from the Minority Parties in the Senate. The duties of the Deputy Minority Leader shall be:

(a) to assist the Minority Leader in the performance of his functions; and

(b) to act for the Minority Leader in his absence.

(4) Informing members of the Minority Party of all forth coming business; working closely with the Minority and Deputy Minority leaders and in their absence, act on their behalf.

(5) There shall be a Deputy Minority Whip of the Senate. The Deputy Minority Whip of the Senate shall be a Senator nominated from the minority parties in the Senate. The duties of the Deputy Minority Whip shall be:

Deputy Minority
Whip

(a) to assist the Minority Whip in the performance of his functions; and

(b) to act for the Minority Whip in his absence.

(6) After due notice of the Senate, each party has the right to change its Leader or Whip, provided that the change is made by majority of the senators of the Party in the Senate.

33.—(1) Acting on behalf of the Clerk to the National Assembly, the Clerk shall, at the commencement of the first sitting of the Senate call the Senators-elect to order, proceed to the roll call of Senators-elect by State in alphabetical order, pending the election of a President of the Senate and the Deputy President of the Senate.

Duties of the
Clerk of the
Senate

(2) At the opening of each day's proceedings, the Clerk shall distribute to Senators the Order Paper, setting forth the business of the day.

(3) The Clerk shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the Senate and of Committees of the Whole Senate, and shall circulate a copy of Such minutes to be known as the Votes and Proceedings, on the day following each sitting of the Senate or as soon as possible thereafter.

(4) Votes and Proceedings shall record all decisions of the Senate and shall be signed by the president of the Senate after confirmation by the Senate.

(5) In the case of divisions of the Senate or Committee of the Whole Senate, the Votes and Proceedings shall include the numbers voting for and against the question, and the names of Senators so voting.

(6) The Clerk shall prepare from day to day, and keep an Order Book showing all business appointed for any day, and any notices of motions or amendments which have been set down for a future day or an early day if no particular day has been selected. The order shall be open to the inspection of Senators at all reasonable times in the office of the Clerk or at the Table.

(7) The Clerk shall be responsible for the custody of the votes, records, bills and other documents laid before the Senate, which shall be open to inspection by Senators and other persons under such arrangement as may be sanctioned by the President of the Senate.

34. In case of unavoidable absence of the Clerk, his duties shall be performed by the Deputy Clerk.

Absence of
Clerk

35. During any vacancy in the office of the Clerk, all of Clerk powers, functions, and duties of the Clerk shall be exercised and performed by the Deputy Clerk.

Vacancy in
office.

36.—(1) It shall be the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms to attend the Senate during its sittings, to maintain order under the direction of the President of the Senate or Chairman, and pending the election of a President of the Senate or Deputy President of the Senate under the direction of the Clerk. He shall execute the commands of the Senate, and all processes issued by authority thereof, directed to him by the President of the Senate.

Duties of the
Sergeant-at-Arms

(2) He shall be the Chief Security Officer of the Senate.

(3) He shall enforce strictly the rules relating to the privileges of the Chamber.

(4) He shall allow no person to enter any room or rooms reserved for Senators during Senate sittings; and fifteen minutes before the hour of the meeting of the Senate each day he shall see that the floor is cleared of all persons except those privileged to remain, and keep so until ten minutes, after adjournment.

(5) He shall have the duty of ensuring that no visitor allowed by the President of the Senate or any other presiding officer into the Chamber of the Senate has on himself a camera or any other recording equipment or instrument of any description whatsoever, for the purpose of taking photographs, or recording the proceedings of the Senate. Neither shall such visitor bear firearms nor mobile phones.

(6) He shall ensure that no Senator or visitor shall enter the Chamber or the public gallery of the Senate with any type of walking stick, or any offensive or dangerous weapon. Mobile phone shall be switched off in the Chamber.

Jurisdiction of
Sergeant-at-Arms

37. The Sergeant-At-Arms attending the Senate shall be responsible for the safe keeping of the Mace, furniture and fittings thereof.

Other security
personnel

38. Any security personnel within the precincts of the Senate shall be subject to the direction of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

CHAPTER VII

ARRANGEMENT OF BUSINESS

39. Unless the Senate otherwise directs, the business of each Sitting day shall be transacted in the following order: Order of Business

- (1) Formal entry of the President of the Senate;
- (2) Prayers;
- (3) Approval of Votes and Proceedings;
- (4) Oath/Affirmation of Allegiance and the Oath/Affirmation of Membership of new Senators-elect;
- (5) Message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (6) Other announcement by the President of the Senate;
- (7) Petitions;
- (8) Matters of urgent public importance;
- (9) Personal Explanation; and
- (10) Order of the day.

40.—(1) The President of the Senate shall immediately after prayers or as soon as any new Senator-elect has taken the Oath/Affirmation of Allegiance read to the Senate any message addressed to the Senate by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Messages from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

(2) A message from the President, if presented to the Senate by the Leader of the Senate may be brought up at any time before the commencement or at the close of public business, and shall be considered forthwith or ordered to be considered upon a future day.

Petitions

41.—(1) A petition may only be presented to the Senate by a Senator, who shall affix his name at the beginning thereof.

(2) A Senator presenting a petition shall confine himself to a brief statement of the parties from whom it came, the number of signatures attached to it and the material allegations contained in it, and to reading the prayers of such petitions.

(3) All petitions shall be ordered, without question being put to lie upon the Table. Such petitions shall stand referred to the Public Petitions Committee.

(4) No Senator may present to the Senate a petition signed by himself.

(5) No petition shall be presented to the Senate unless it is in accordance with the following rules:

(a) every petition must be properly addressed to the Senate, respectful, decorous and temperate in its language, and must conclude with a prayer setting forth the relief sought by the petitioner;

(b) every petition must be signed by a least one person on every sheet on which the petition is written;

(c) if signatures are affixed to sheets other than that containing the petition itself, the prayer of the petition or summary thereof shall be written at the top of each sheet;

(d) signatures or marks shall not be valid unless, in the case of signatures, they are in the handwriting of the person signing and in the case of marks, they are witnessed and attested to as required by law. The signatures or marks shall be followed by the residential addresses of the persons signing of making the mark.

(e) every petition shall be in English language or in any other language but must be accompanied by an English translation thereof and duly certified to be correct by the Senator who presents it.

(6) The Senate will not receive any petition which asks for a grant of public funds unless the recommendation of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been signified thereto: Provided that Petition for legislation to this effect may be received.

(7) The Senate shall not receive any petition on any matter for which there is a judicial remedy.

Matter of Urgent
Public
Importance

42.—(1) The matter for discussion shall, if possible, be referred to the President of the Senate before commencement of the day's sitting and the President of the Senate shall refuse to allow the claim unless he is satisfied that the matter is definite and urgent.

(2) If the claim is allowed by the President of the Senate, and the Leave of the senate is given, by at least one-fifth of all the Senators, the matter shall stand over till the next legislative day.

(3) Not more than one such motion may be made at the same sitting.

Personal
Explanation

43. By the indulgence of the Senate and the leave of the President of the Senate, a Senator may make a Personal Explanation although there be no question before the Senate; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the Explanation. The terms of the proposed statement shall be submitted in detail to the President of the Senate when his leave to make it is sought.

Orders of the
Day

44.—(1) An Order of the Day is a Bill or other matter which the Senate has ordered to be taken into consideration on a particular day. An earlier day cannot be substituted for the day so appointed.

Precedence of
orders of the day
postponed by
request.

(2) Orders of the Day shall, have precedence over each other according to the Order of the Day in which they appear on the Order Paper. An Order

of the Day may be postponed on motion without Notice moved by the Senator in charge thereof, or in his absence, by another Senator at his request.

(3) Orders of the day not reached before the end of a Sitting or appointed for a day on which the Senate does not sit shall be set down for a later date to be determined by the Rules and Business Committee.

45.—(1) No rule shall be suspended except by a vote of two thirds of the Senate. Suspension of Rules

(2) When a motion to suspend the Rule has been submitted to the Senate, it shall be in order, before the final vote is taken thereon, to debate the proposition to be voted upon for twenty minutes, one half of such time to be given to debate in opposition to such proposition; and the rights of debate shall be allowed whenever the previous question has been ordered on any proposition on which there has been no debate.

(3) On any Legislative Day on which the President of the Senate entertains motion to suspend the rules and pass Bills or Resolutions he may announce to the Senate, in his discretion, before entertaining the first of such motions that he will postpone further proceedings on each of such motions on which a recorded vote of the Ayes and Noes is ordered, or on which the vote is objected to until-

(a) all of such motions on that Legislative Day have been entertained and any debate thereon concluded with the question having been put and determined on each such motion on which the taking of the vote will not be postponed; or

(b) the next legislative day, with the question having been put and determined on each such motion on which the taking of the vote will not be postponed; or

(c) where the President of the Senate has postponed votes pursuant to paragraph (3) (a) of this clause, when the last of all motions on the Legislative Day to suspend the Rules and pass Bills or Resolutions has been entertained and any debate therein concluded, the President of the Senate shall put the question on each motion which further proceedings were postponed in the order in which that motion was entertained.

(4) Where the President of the Senate has postponed votes pursuant to paragraph (3) (b) of this clause, on the next legislative day the President of the Senate shall put as unfinished business on which further proceedings were postponed, in the order in which that motion was entertained.

(5) At any time after the vote on the question has been taken on the first motion on which the President of the Senate has postponed further

proceeding under this paragraph, the President of the Senate may in his discretion, reduce to not less than five minutes the period of time within which a recorded vote on the question may be taken on any or all of the additional motions in which the President of the Senate has postponed further proceedings under this paragraph.

MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

46. Unless the Rules otherwise direct, notice shall be given of any Motion or amendment which is proposed to be moved with the exception of the following:

Notice of
Motion

(a) a motion or amendment made or offered in Committee of the whole Senate;

(b) a motion for the adjournment of the Senate or of any debate;

(c) a motion that the report of a Select Committee be referred to Committee of the Whole Senate;

(d) a motion for the withdrawal of strangers;

(e) a motion for the suspension of a Senator;

(f) a motion arising out of the business of the day made immediately after that business is disposed of and before any fresh matter is entered upon; and

(g) an amendment to a motion which has been moved without notice.

47.—(1) Notice must be written and signed.

(2) All notices of motions must be submitted to the President of the Senate at the following periods:

(a) on a day on which the Senate is sitting;

(b) on a day when the Senate is not sitting between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. except on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

(3) The President of the Senate shall forward such notice(s) of motions to the Rules and Business Committee, which shall schedule it on the order paper.

(4) The Rules and Business Committee shall examine the substance of all motions referred to it and if approved be scheduled on the order paper for deliberations within seven (7) days after the publication of the schedule.

(5) The Senate shall deliberate on the general principles and merits of all such motions and if necessary shall refer same to the relevant Committee.

(6) All notices of amendments to motions must be given to the President of the Senate not later than five (5) days after the publication of the schedules. The Senate President shall cause such amendments to be forwarded to the Rules and Business Committee.

48.—(1) Amendments proposed to any motion or bill under consideration in the Senate or a Committee thereof shall only be in order if they are relevant to the question or matter then under discussion.

Relevance of
Amendments

(2) An amendment proposed to any amendment proposed from the Chair shall only be in order if it be relevant to that amendment.

49. The question on any motion or amendment shall not be proposed from the Chair in the Senate unless it shall have been seconded, but in Committee a seconder shall not be required.

Seconding
Motions and
Amendments

50.—(1) Upon an amendment to insert or add words the President of the Senate or Chairman shall state the amendment and propose the question thereon in the form that those words be inserted (or Added).

Method of
putting the
Question on
Amendments

(2) Upon an amendment to leave out words, the President of the Senate or the Chairman shall state the amendment and propose the Question thereon in the form "That those words be left out".

(3) Upon an amendment to leave out words, and insert other words instead, the President of the Senate or the Chairman shall first state the words to be left out and put the question thereon in the form, "That those words to be left out" and if that question be agreed to shall then state the words proposed to be inserted and put the question thereon in the form, "That those words be there inserted".

Withdrawal of
Motions or
Amendment

51.—(1) A motion or an amendment may be withdrawn, at the request of the mover by leave of the Senate or Committee, before the commencement of debate. A motion or an amendment so withdrawn may be made again but in the case of motion, notice is required.

(2) If an amendment has been proposed to a question, the original motion cannot be withdrawn until the amendment has been disposed of.

Dispensing with
Notice

52. Notice shall not be dispensed with in the case of a motion or in respect of any other proceeding for which notice is required except with the consent of the President of the Senate and the general assent of the Senators present.

CHAPTER VIII

RULES OF DEBATE

53.—(1) A Senator shall not read his speech save if he is moving a motion or presenting a Bill. Rules of Debate

(2) A Senator may however, read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes.

(3) A Senator is allowed to read his speech during debates on the Appropriation Bill.

(4) A Senator must confine his observations to the subjects under discussion and may not introduce matter irrelevant thereto.

(5) Reference shall not be made to any matter on which a Judicial decision is pending, in such a way as might in the opinion of the President of the Senate prejudice the interest of parties thereto.

(6) It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the Senate has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive motion for rescission.

(7) It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language.

(8) No Senator shall impute improper motives to any other Senator.

(9) A Senator desiring to speak shall raise his hand in his place and if called upon, shall rise and address his observations to the President of the Senate or the Chairman.

(10) If two or more Senators rise at the same time the President of the Senate or Chairman shall call on the Senator who first catches his eye.

(11) No Senator shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the Senate, unless he be the mover, proposer, or introducer of the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until those chosen to speak shall have spoken.

(12) The Senator reporting the measure under consideration from a Committee may open and close, where general debate has been had thereon; and if it shall extend beyond one day, he shall be entitled to forty minutes to close, notwithstanding he may have used thirty minutes in opening.

(13) The conduct of the President, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senators and Judges or the performance of judicial functions by other persons shall not be raised except upon a substantive motion. For the purpose of this paragraph, a substantive motion does not include a motion for an adjournment.

54.—(1) Any Senator deviating from the provisions of these rules may be immediately called to order by the President of the Senate or the Chairman, or by a Senator rising to a point of order. A Senator rising to a point of order shall simply direct attention to the point he desires to bring to notice and submit it to the President of the Senate or to Chairman for decision.

Raising a point
of Order

(2) When the question of order has been stated, the Senator who raised it shall resume his seat, and no other Senator, except with the leave of the President of the Senate or Chairman shall rise until the President of the Senate or Chairman has decided the question, after which the Senator who was addressing the Senate or Committee at the time the question was raised shall be entitled to proceed with his speech giving effect to the ruling from the Chair.

55.—(1) The Rules and Business Committee shall allocate time to all sequence of speeches, Motions or Bills coming before the Senate.

Time limit and
Sequence of
Speeches

(2) During the debates on all motions and bills, the President of the Senate shall allow speeches for the proposal first followed by speeches against the proposal.

(3) The President of the Senate shall allocate one-half of such time to be given to debate in favour of and one-half to debate in opposition to such proposition.

(4) No Senator shall be entitled to address the Senate or a Committee of the Whole Senate for more than forty minutes on any subject.

BEHAVIOUR OF SENATORS IN THE SENATE

Senators to
stand still

56.—(1) At the entry of the Presiding Officer, all Senators, Officials, Members of the Press and those in the gallery shall stand still until the Presiding Officer has taken his seat.

Decorum

(2) During a sitting all Senators shall enter and leave the Senate with decorum.

Senators to take
their places

(3) Every Senator, when he or she comes into the Chamber, shall take his or her seat, and shall not at any time stand in any of the passages or gangways.

Senators to
make obeisance
to Chair

(4) Every Senator shall make obeisance to the Chair in passing to or obeisance to Chair, from his seat.

Crossing the
floor of the
Senate

(5) Senators shall not cross the floor of the Senate unnecessarily nor sit in a place allotted to any other Senator.

Senators passing
through the
Senate

(6) Senators shall take care not to pass between the Chair and any Senator who is speaking, or between the Chair and the Mace.

When President
is putting the
question.

(7) When the President of the Senate is putting a question, no Senator may walk out of or across the floor of the Chamber.

(8) Senators shall not read newspapers or magazines in their places and shall only read such books and letters as may be connected with the business under debate.

Reading of
Newspapers

(9) When a Senator is speaking, no Senator may converse aloud or make any noise or disturbance to interrupt him.

Senator
speaking not to
be interrupted

(10) During a sitting all senators shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones.

Senators to be
silent

(11) No Senator shall be allowed to smoke, chew or drink upon the floor of the Senate.

No smoking,
chewing or
drinking

(12) No Senator may interrupt another Senator while speaking, unless:

Interruption not
allowed
exceptions

(a) to call attention to a point of order or privilege suddenly arising;

(b) to call attention to the want of a quorum;

(c) to call attention to the presence of stranger;

(d) to move a closure motion; or

(e) to move "That the business of the day be called on".

(13) Senators shall attend the sitting of the Senate properly dressed.

Senators to be
properly dressed

Relevancy in
Debate

57.—(1) Debate upon any motion, Bill or amendment shall be relevant to such motion, Bill or amendment, except in the case of a substantive motion for the adjournment of the Senate.

(2) When a motion is made for the adjournment of a debate of the Senate during any debate, or that the Chairman do report progress or do leave the chair; the debate upon such motion shall be confined to the matter of such motion; and a senator who has made or seconded such a motion shall not be entitled to move or second any similar motion during the same debate.

(3) When an amendment proposed to leave out words and insert other words instead thereof, debate upon the first question proposed on the amendment may include both the words proposed to be left out and those proposed to be inserted.

(4) On an amendment proposing to leave out words or to insert words debate shall be confined to the omission or insertion of such words respectively.

Dilatory motions

58. No dilatory motion shall be entertained by the President of the Senate.

Closure of
debates

59.—(1) After a question has been proposed, a Senator rising in his place may claim to move "That the question be now put" and, unless it shall appear to the Chair that such motion is an abuse of the Rules of the Senate or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the

motion "That the question be now put" shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate notwithstanding that the mover had no opportunity to make his reply.

(2) When the motion "That the question be now put" has been carried, and the question consequent thereon has been decided, any further motion may be made (if the assent of the Chair has not been withheld) which may be required to bring to a decision any question already proposed from the Chair.

(3) Such question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate.

(4) This rule shall be put in force only when in the Senate, the President of the Senate, or, in Committee of the Whole Senate, the President of the Senate or the Deputy President of the Senate is in the Chair; provided that when the absence of the President of the senate has been announced under the provisions of Rule 26 (duties of the deputy President of the Senate), this order may be put into force in the Senate when the Deputy President of the Senate is in the Chair.

(5) A question for the closure of debate shall not be decided in the affirmative unless, when a division be taken, it appears by the numbers declared from the Chair that not less than one-half of all the Senators voted in support of the motion.

Adjournment of
debate

60. A Senator who has not spoken to the question, or who has the right of reply, may move the adjournment of debate, which question shall be put forthwith and determined without amendment or debate. If the question is resolved in the affirmative, the Rules and Business Committee shall fix the time for the resumption of the debate.

If motion
negatived,
mover may
speak later

61. In the event of a motion for the adjournment of the debate upon any question being negatived, the Senator moving the motion for such adjournment may address the Senate at a later period during such debate.

Anticipation

62.—(1) It shall be out of order to make a motion or move an amendment dealing with the subject matter of a bill or other order of the day appointed for consideration.

(2) An order of the day, notice of motion or amendment of which notice has been given shall not be anticipated in a debate upon a motion for the adjournment of the Senate or in any other debate.

(3) In determining whether a discussion is out of order on the grounds of anticipation, the President of the Senate shall have regard to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the Senate within a reasonable time.

CHAPTER IX

ORDER

63. Whenever the President of the Senate, or the Chairman rises during a debate, any Senator then speaking or offering to speak shall sit down, and the Senate or the Committee shall be silent so that the President of the Senate or the Chairman may be heard without interruption.

The President to
be heard in
silence

64. The President of the Senate in the Senate and the Chairman in any Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the rules of Order in the Senate and Committee respectively and their decision upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the Senate except upon a substantive motion after notice.

Decision of
Chairman is
final

65. Whenever the President of the Senate is of the opinion that a motion offered to the Senate is contrary to its Rules and Privileges, the President of the Senate shall appraise the Senate thereof immediately, before putting the question thereon, and may quote the rule or authority applicable.

President to
advise Senate
when motion out
of order

66. If a Senator on being called to order for an offence against any Standing Order persists in the offence, the President of the Senate may direct the Senator to discontinue his/her speech.

Senator called
order

Order in the
Senate
Committee

67.—(1) The President of the Senate or the Chairman, after having called the attention of the Senate, or of the Committee, to the conduct of a Senator, who persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition either of his own arguments, or of the argument used by other Senators in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech.

(2) If such a Senator refuses to resume his or her seat, the President of the Senate, or the Chairman shall order such a Senator whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the Senate during the remainder of that day's sitting; and the Sergeant-at-arms shall act on such orders he may receive from the Chair in pursuance of this order.

Naming a
Senator

(3) If on any occasion the President of the Senate or the Chairman deems that his powers, under the previous provision of this Rule are inadequate, he may name such Senator or Senators, in which event the procedure shall be followed as is prescribed by paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (8) and (9) of this Rule.

Suspension after
naming

(4) When a Senator is named by the President of the Senate, if the offence is a minor one, the President of the Senate may order the Senator to withdraw for the rest of the Legislative Day; but if the matter appears to the President of the Senate to be of a more serious nature, the President of the Senate shall put the question on motion being made, no amendment, adjournment

or debate being allowed, that such suspension being for any time stated in the motion not exceeding 14 legislative days.

(5) When a Senator has been named by the Chair when the Senate is meeting in Committee, the Chair shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee and report the circumstances to the Senate and the President of the Senate shall then proceed as in clause (4), as if the offence had been committed in the Senate itself.

Idem

(6) If any Senator who is suspended from the service of the Senate refuses to obey the direction of the President of the Senate, when summoned under the order of the President of the Senate by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the President shall call to the attention of the Senate that force is necessary in order to compel obedience by any Senator named by the President of the Senate.

Suspension from
Session when
force necessary

(7) Not more than one Senator shall be named at the same time, Unless two or more Senators, present together, have jointly disregarded the authority of the Chair.

(8) If a Senator be suspended under the provisions of this rule, he shall be directed by the President of the Senate to withdraw. His suspension shall last until determined by the Senate.

(9) If a Senator or two or more Senators acting jointly who have been suspended under this rule from the service of the senate, shall refuse to obey the direction of the President of the Senate

to withdraw, when severally summoned under the direction, the President of the Senate shall call the attention of the Senate to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction. When the Senator or Senators named by him as having refused to obey his direction have been removed from the Senate, they shall thereupon without any further question being put be suspended from the service of the Senate during the remainder of the session.

(10) Senators who are ordered to withdraw under paragraph (2) of this rule or who are suspended from the service of the Senate under paragraphs (3) and (6) of this rule, shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the Senate and shall be excluded therefrom for the remainder of the sitting or for the period of their suspension as the case may be.

(11) In the case of grave disorder arising in the Senate the President of the Senate may, if he thinks it necessary to do so, adjourn the Senate without putting any question.

(12) Nothing in this rule shall be taken to deprive the Senate of the power of proceeding against any Senator according to resolution of the Senate.

Strangers
excluded on
motion

68. All strangers may be excluded from the Senate or any Committee thereof on a motion properly moved and adopted by the Senate or the Committee, as the case may be.

69. Except as herein provided, no Senator shall bring any stranger into any part of the Senate when the Senate, or the Committee of the Whole, or a Committee of the Senate, is meeting.

No Stranger on floor, etc. during meetings

70.—(1) The following matters not open to debate, shall be moved without argument or opinion offered, and shall be forthwith put from the Chair without amendment:

Matters not open to debate

(a) motion for adjournment of debate;

(b) motion for extension of time moved by the Chairman of the Rules and Business Committee or any Senator acting for him;

(c) motion that the question be now put;

(d) question that a Bill be reported;

(e) motion of dissent from a ruling of the Chairman;

(f) motion that the Chairman reports progress;

(g) motion that a Senator be suspended; and

(h) question that strangers be ordered to withdraw.

(2) Should any of these questions be negatived, no similar proposal shall be received if the President of the Senate or the Chairman is of the opinion that it is an abuse of the orders or forms of the Senate, or is moved for the purpose of obstructing business.

Not to obstruct

CHAPTER X

VOTING

Voting

71.—(1) No Senator may speak on any question after the same has been fully put by the President of the Senate or the Chairman.

(2) A question is fully put when the President of the Senate or Chairman has collected the voices both of the Ayes and of the Noes.

(3) When the question has been put by the President of the Senate or the Chairman at the conclusion of the debate the votes shall be taken by voices Ayes and Noes and the result shall be declared by the President of the Senate or the Chairman.

(4) The result shall be declared by the president or the Chairman stating "I think the Ayes have it" or "I think that the Noes have it" as the case may be.

(5) If a Senator states that he voted in error or that his vote has been counted wrongly, he may claim to have his vote altered, provided that such request is made as soon as the President of the Senate, or in Committee, the Chairman has announced the numbers and before he or the Chairman shall have declared the result of the division.

(6) In the event of the numbers being equal, the President of the Senate or the Chairman may give a casting vote, but if he does not do so, the

question shall pass in the negative and the President of the Senate or the Chairman shall declare accordingly.

72. The modes of voting in the Senate shall be: Mode of voting
(a) by voice vote;

(b) by signing of register in a division; or

(c) through electronic voting device installed in the Senate.

73.—(1) Any Senator may challenge the opinion of the President or the Chairman by claiming a division. Division in the Senate and Committee of the Whole Senate

(2) If the opinion of the President of the Senate, or in Committee of the Whole Senate, the Chairman, as to the decision of a question is challenged, the President of the Senate or the Chairman shall direct that the lobbies be cleared and on such direction being given, all doors leading to the Chamber shall be locked and the division bells shall be rung for one minute.

(3) After the lapse of two minutes from the direction to clear the lobbies the President of the senate or the Chairman shall put the question a second time and, if his opinion is again challenged, a division shall be taken by the Clerk calling each Senator's name and asking each Senator separately how he desires to vote and recording the vote Accordingly. The Clerk shall

thereafter read the names and announce the number of those who have voted for and against the proposal, and the President or the Chairman shall declare the result of the division.

(4) Every Senator present, unless he expressly says that he declines to vote, shall record his vote either for the Ayes or the Noes. The Clerk shall add a statement of the names of Senators who decline to vote.

Declaration of
pecuniary
interest

74.—(1) A Senator shall declare any direct pecuniary interest he may have in any matter coming before the senate or a Committee for deliberation.

(2) The Senate or Committee shall by resolution decide whether or not such Senator may vote or participate in the deliberations on such matter.

(3) A Senator who fails to declare his direct pecuniary interest in any such matter before participating in or voting on the matter shall be liable to suspension from the sitting of the Senate and its Committee for a period of not exceeding seven days or such number of days as the Senate may decide.

Divisions in
Committee other
than Committees
of the Whole
Senate

75.—(1) In Committees other than Committee of the Whole Senate, a division shall be taken by the Clerk to the Committee asking each Senator of the Committee separately, how he desires to vote and recording the votes accordingly.

(2) In taking the division, the names of all Senators of the Committee shall be called in alphabetical order.

(3) When a division is claimed in a Committee other than a Committee of the Whole Senate, every Senator of the Committee present shall, unless he expressly states that he declines to vote, record his vote either for the Ayes or Noes. The Clerk to the Committee shall enter in the minutes of the proceedings the record of each Senator's vote and shall add a statement of the names of Senators who declined to vote. A Senator must vote according to his voice.

(4) As soon as the Clerk has collected the votes the Chairman shall state the number of Senators voting for the Ayes and Noes respectively and shall then declare the result of the division. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman may where he has a casting vote, give that vote. If no casting vote is given, the question shall pass in the negative.

(5) If a member of the Committee states that he voted in error or that his vote has been counted wrongly he may claim to have his vote altered, provided that such request is made as soon as the Chairman has announced the numbers and before he shall have declared the result of the division.

(6) The provisions of Rule 73 (Division in the Senate and Committee of the Whole Senate) shall apply to divisions under this rule as they apply to divisions in the Senate.

CHAPTER XI

CATEGORIES OF BILLS

Categories of
Bills

76. There shall be three classes of Bills namely:
Executive Bills, Member's Bills and Private Bills:

(a) an Executive Bill is a bill initiated by or from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or any arm, department or agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria and introduced into the Senate as a legislative Proposal of the Executive.

(b) a Member's bill is a bill initiated by a member or group of members of either House or both Houses of the National Assembly and introduced into the Senate as a legislative proposal of the member or group of members sponsoring a Bill.

(c) a Private Bill is any bill other than an Executive Bill or Member's Bill.

PROCEDURE ON BILLS

Notice regarding
Bills

77.—(1) Notice of presentation of a Government Bill shall be given by publication of the provisions proposed to be embodied in such Bill in an issue of the Official Gazette or National Assembly Journal of which a copy shall have been sent to every Senator.

(2) Any Senator who wishes to move for leave to bring a bill shall give notice of provisions proposed to be embodied in the bill to the Clerk, who shall cause them to be published in two successive issues of the Official Gazette or National Assembly Journal and shall send a copy of the first of such issues to every Senator.

(3) A compendium of the background information and financial implications shall accompany every Bill.

Compendium
and
consolidation

78.—(1) (a) All Bills emanating from the President shall be forwarded to the President of the Senate under covering letter personally signed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Presentation and
First Reading

(b) All bills emanating from the Judiciary shall be forwarded to the President of the Senate under covering letter personally signed by the Chief Justice of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(2) Bills from the Senate shall be forwarded to the President of the Senate.

(3) The President of the Senate shall forward such Bill(s) to the Committees on Rules and Business for publication in the Schedule of Bills in the Order Paper and registered in the Register of Bills.

(4) A printed copy of the Bill shall as soon as possible be sent to every Senator.

(5) On receipt of the Bill from the President of the Senate, the Rules and Business Committee shall schedule the bill for the first reading.

(6) Upon the short title of the Bill being read aloud by the Clerk, the Bill shall be deemed to have been read the first time.

Appointment
days for Stages
of Bills

79.—(1) Every bill shall receive three readings previous to its passage, which readings shall be in different days, unless the Senate unanimously directs otherwise and the President of the Senate shall give notice at each reading whether it is first, second or third.

(2) At the conclusion of the first reading or on any subsequent stage of a Bill, a day to be named by the Committee on Rules and Business shall be appointed for next stage.

Second Reading
of Bills

80.—(1) On the order for the second reading of a Bill being read, a motion may be made "That the Bill be now read a second time" and a debate may arise covering the general merits and principles of the Bill.

(2) On the second reading of a Bill, an amendment may be proposed without notice to the question "That the Bill be now read a second time" to leave the word "Now" and add at the end

of the question "Upon this day months" or on amendment may be moved to leave out all the words after the word "That" in order to add words stating the object and motive on which the opposition to the Bill is based, but such words must be strictly relevant to the principles of the bill and not deal with its details.

(3) When debate on the motion for the second reading has been concluded, and any amendments disposed of, the Chair shall put the question on the second reading: "That this Bill be now read a second time". On this question being agreed to, the Clerk shall read the long title of the Bill.

81.—(1) When a bill has been read the second time, it shall stand committed to a Standing Committee, unless the Senate on motion made commits it to the Committee of the whole Senate. Such motion shall not require notice, but must be made immediately after the Bill is read a second time and must be proposed by the Leader of the Senate. Bills committed to Standing committees shall be allocated to a particular Committee by the President of the Senate whose discretion in this matter is final.

Committal of
Bills

(2) A bill touching on the jurisdiction of two or more committees shall be referred to the committee having dominant Jurisdiction. The other committees affected shall be constituted into sub-committees thereof for the purpose of considering and reporting to the main committee on aspects of the bill affecting their Committees.

(3) The Committee to which a bill has been committed shall report to the Senate after consideration of the bill with amendments (if any) it proposes to it.

(4) Upon the report of the Standing Committees on a bill not objected to by the Senate, it shall be placed on the Calendar.

(5) Bills placed on the Calendar shall be considered at a date to be determined by the Committee on Rules and Business.

(6) A Bill committed to the Committee of the Whole Senate, after the second reading may be taken forthwith or on a future day as may be determined by the Committee on Rules and Business.

Scope of
Amendments in
Committee

82. Any Committee to which a Bill is committed shall have power to make such amendments therein as they shall think fit, provided that every amendment shall be relevant to the subject matter of the Bill and to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates; but if any such amendments shall not be within the title of the Bill, they shall amend the title accordingly, and shall report the same specially to the Senate.

Procedure in
Standing
Committees on
Bill

83.—(1) Any amendments proposed to the Bill of which notice has not been given shall be handed to the Chairman in writing.

(2) No amendment shall be moved which is inconsistent with any clause already agreed upon or any decision already come to by the Committee, and the Chairman may at any time during the discussion of a proposed amendment withdraw it from the consideration of the Committee if in his opinion the discussion shall have shown that the amendment violates the provisions of this Rule.

(3) All amendments having been considered, the Committee Chairman shall report to the Senate on a date scheduled by Rules and Business Committee.

84. The quorum in Committee of the Whole Senate shall consist of the number of Senators as is required to form a quorum of the Senate.

Committee of
the Whole
Senate

85.—(1) The Chairman of the Committee shall call the number of each clause in succession or the first and last number of a group of clauses and if no amendment be offered thereto or when all proposed amendments shall have been disposed of, shall proceed to put the question, "That the clause (or the clause as amended) stand part of the bill".

Procedure on
Bill in the
Committee of
the Whole
Senate

(2) No amendment shall be moved which is inconsistent with any clause already agreed upon or any decision already come to by the Committee, and the Chairman may at any time during the discussion of a proposed amendment

withdraw it from the consideration of the Committee if in his opinion the discussion shall have shown that the amendment violates the provisions of this rule.

(3) A clause may be postponed, unless upon an amendment thereto a question shall have been fully put from the Chair.

(4) Postponed clauses shall be considered after the remaining clauses of the Bill have been considered and before new clauses are brought up.

(5) When every clause and schedule and proposed new clause or schedule has been dealt with, the preamble if there be one, shall be considered and the question put "That this preamble (as amended) be the preamble to the Bill", provided that no amendment to the preamble shall be considered which is not made necessary by a previous amendment to the Bill.

(6) If any amendment be necessary to the title of the Bill it shall be made at the beginning of the proceedings detailed above, but no question shall be put that the title or that the title as amended stand part of the bill.

(7) At the conclusion of the proceedings the Chairman shall put the question "That I do report the Bill (or the bill as amended) to the Senate", which question shall be decided without amendment or debate.

86.—(1) When a Bill has been reported from a Committee of the Whole Senate it shall be ordered to be read the third time forthwith or upon such day as the Rules and Business Committee may appoint: provided that if a Senator gives notice of his intention to move the re-committal of the Bill in accordance with the next following paragraph of this rule, a bill may not be read the third time until such time as the Motion for re-Committal has been disposed of.

Re-Committal
and Third
Reading

(2) When a Bill has been ordered for third reading, any Senator who wished to amend or delete any provisions contained in the Bill or to introduce any fresh provision may give notice of his intention on the order for third reading being read to move "That the Bill be recommitted". If such motion be agreed to, the senate shall resolve itself into Committee immediately or upon such day as the Rules and Business Committee may appoint. When the Bill has been reported, the Senate shall then proceed with the third reading of the Bill unless the Rules and Business Committee decides to postpone this stage to a later day. When a Bill has been the subject of a special report from a Standing Committee, the Chairman in charge of the Bill may, on notice given, move "That the Bill be re-committed to the Standing Committee". On this question being proposed, the Senate may debate the special report from Standing Committee.

(3) On the third reading of a Bill similar amendments may be proposed to the question "That the Bill be now read the third time" as may be proposed on the second reading.

(4) Amendments for the corrections, error or oversight may, with the permission of the Senate President be made before the question for the third reading of the bill is put from the Chair, but no amendments of a material character shall be proposed and on this point the decision of the President of the Senate shall be final.

(5) When a Bill originating in the Senate has been read the third time, a printed copy of it signed by the Clerk of the Senate and endorsed by the President of the Senate shall be forwarded by the Clerk of the Senate to the Clerk of the House of Representatives together with a message desiring the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

(6) When a Bill which originated in the House of Representatives has been read the third time; the Clerk of the Senate shall either-

(a) retain the Bill and send a message to the House of Representatives "that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment"; or

(b) cause any amendment or amendments that may have been made to it by the Senate to be entered in the original copy of the Bill received from the House of Representatives, which copy, signed by the Clerk of the Senate

and endorsed by the President of the Senate, shall then be returned to the House of Representatives desiring the concurrence of the House of Representatives to the amendment or amendments made by the Senate.

(c) when a Bill passed by the senate and sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence is sent back to the Senate with House of Representatives amendments, the Senate shall resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole Senate, which shall proceed to determine if the House of Representatives amendments are acceptable.

87.—(a) If the House of Representatives amendments are not acceptable to the Senate, then Conference Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives shall meet.

Meeting of
Conference
Committee

(b) Some of the members of the Senate Committee which considered the Bill originally shall among others represent the Senate in the Conference Committee.

(c) The Conference Committee shall deliberate only on areas of disagreement between the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Conference Committee shall not insert in its report any matter not committed to it by either Senate or House of Representatives nor shall it be in order to strike out from the Bill, matter agreed to by the Senate or House of Representatives.

(d) The sitting of the Conference Committee may be open or closed to the public depending on the subject matter under discussion and the majority view of the members.

Assent

88.—(a) When a bill has been passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives without amendment or with such amendments as may have been agreed to by both Houses, a clean copy certified by the Clerk to the National Assembly shall as soon as possible be presented to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his assent.

(b) Where the President either withholds his assent to a Bill or does not communicate his assent or otherwise within 30 days from the date the Bill was sent to him for assent, the Senate shall again deliberate on the Bill.

(c) If the Conference Committee accepts the President's amendments to the Senate and House of Representatives, and the amendments is adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives, then the Bill shall again be sent to the President for assent.

(d) If the Conference Committee rejects the President's amendments and recommends the application of the two-thirds rule and the said report is accepted by the Senate and the House of Representatives, then the Bill becomes law without the President's assent if it is passed by two-thirds majority of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

89. The Senator in charge of a bill may make a motion without notice for its withdrawal either before the commencement of public business or on the order of the day for any stage of the Bill being read.

Withdrawal of
Bills

90. More than one Bill of the same subject matter may be introduced, but when the second reading of a bill has been agreed to or negatived the question shall not be proposed for the second reading of another Bill of the same subject matter during the same session. On the order of the day relating to such a Bill being read the President of the Senate shall direct that the Bill be withdrawn.

Bills on the
same Subject
Matter

91. If it appears to the President of the Senate from the notice of the terms proposed to be embodied in a bill not being a Government measure that the proposals are intended to affect or benefit some particular person, association or corporate body then:

Bills affecting
Private Rights

(i) before allowing such a bill to be read the first time the President of the Senate shall satisfy himself that in addition to the notice already presented under Rule 77 (Notice regarding bills), additional notice of the Bill has been given by advertising a statement of its general nature and objects in the Official Gazette and in one newspaper circulating in Nigeria.

(ii) every applicant for a private bill shall:

Declaration

(a) make a declaration proving publication of the notices referred to in clause (1), and

Printing Cost

(b) pay the cost of printing the bill at all its stages including reprinting if it is amended.

(iii) when any such bill has been read a second time it shall stand referred to the Committee without question put. Any party whose interests are, in the opinion of the President of the Senate, prejudicially affected by the proposed provisions of the bill may be heard before the Committee either in person or by Counsel.

(iv) every Select Committee on such a Bill shall require proof of the fact and other allegations set forth in the Bill as showing that it is expedient that the Bill should be passed, and may take such oral or other evidence as it may think requisite and thereafter if the Committee finds that the said facts and allegations are not proved, it shall report accordingly; but if the Committee finds that the allegations have been proved, the Committee shall consider the several clauses of the Bill, and may strike out clauses, add new clauses, and make any other amendments which it shall deem necessary, and in respect of all amendments which it makes, shall describe their purport in a special report to the Senate. No new clause shall be allowed in such Bill which is outside the terms of the notice in the Official Gazette.

(v) when it is intended to examine any witness, the petitioner or Senator requiring such witness shall deliver to the Clerk, two days at least before the day appointed for their examination, a list containing the name, residence and occupation of every witness.

(vi) the evidence of every witness shall be taken down and when printed sent in proof to the witness. The witness shall be at liberty to suggest corrections due to inaccurate reporting and the evidence shall be printed with such of the corrections as may be approved by the Chairman.

(vii) the Committee may at its discretion refuse to hear any irrelevant or recalcitrant witness.

(viii) after the report of the Select Committee has been presented to the Senate, the President of the Senate shall, if such report be adapted propose the question "That the Bill be read the third time".

92.—(1) (a) During each year, there shall be introduced into the Senate, an Appropriation Bill which shall contain the estimated (Budget) financial requirements for expenditure on revenue accounts on all the services of the government for the succeeding financial year. The details of these financial requirements shall be contained in the Estimates which shall be presented at the same time.

Procedure on
Money Bills
(Budget)

(b) On presentation, the bill shall be deemed to have been read the first time and a date be fixed for commencement of the second reading.

(2) The committee on Rules and Business shall determine the number of days to be allotted for the second reading of the bill. At the hour appointed for interruption of business on the last of such allotted days, the President of the Senate shall put the question to bring the proceedings on the second reading to conclusion. Provided that the question on second reading may be agreed to on a day earlier than the last day so allotted.

(3) During the second reading, the debate shall be confined to the financial and economic state of Nigeria and the government financial policy. Detailed items in the estimate may not be debated on the second reading.

(4) (a) When the bill has been read the second time, it shall be committed to the Appropriation Committee. The Standing Committees of the Senate shall for this purpose be deemed to be sub-Committees of the Appropriation Committee and, shall consider estimates for the Ministries, Departments and Agencies, which come under their charge.

(b) After consideration, the sub-Committees shall report back to the Appropriation Committee. The Appropriation Committee after deliberating on the report of

the Sub-Committees shall then report to the Committee of the Whole Senate to be known as "Committee of Supply".

(5) The President of the Senate or in his absence the Deputy President of the Senate shall preside over the Committee of Supply.

(6) There shall be allotted such number of days as the Committee on Rules and Business shall determine for discussion of the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill in the Committee of Supply.

(7) The clauses of an Appropriation Bill or a Supplementary Appropriation Bill shall stand postponed until after the consideration of any schedule to such Bill.

(8) On the consideration of the first schedule, the Chairman shall call the title of each Head of Expenditure in turn and shall propose the question "That the sum Naira for Head stand part of the schedule".

(9) Any Senator may move an amendment to any provision in the Estimate.

(10) When several amendments are proposed to the same provision in the estimates, they shall be called in the Order in which they appear on the order Paper and each amendment shall be disposed of before the next is called, provided that when the mover of the amendment is not present to move, the same shall lapse.

(11) At least two clear days' notice of any amendment shall be required.

(12) When all amendments to 0 sub-head or item have been disposed of, no further amendment or debate on the same shall be allowed.

(13) When all amendments standing on the Order Paper in respect of a particular provision have been disposed of the President of the Senate shall propose the question "That the sum of Naira for Head stand part of the schedule".

(14) At the hour appointed for the interruption of business on the last day allotted for the consideration of the Appropriation bill in Committee of Supply, the Chairman shall proceed to put any question on any Head not yet voted on and the question "That the schedule or schedules stand part of the Bill". On the question on the postponed clauses of the bill, no amendment shall be allowed other than an amendment consequential on any increase or decrease in the total sum appropriated by any schedule, such amendment shall be put from the Chair without motion made, and no debate shall be allowed on any such question or amendment.

(15) For the purpose of this rule, any day in which the Appropriation Bill is put down as the first order of the day shall be an allotted day.

(16) On any day upon which the proceedings on the Appropriation Bill are to be brought to a conclusion under this order, no dilatory motion shall be moved upon such proceedings and the proceedings shall not be interrupted or postponed under any Rule.

(17) When the Appropriation Bill has passed the Committee of Supply, the Appropriation Committee shall within three working days prepare and submit a summary of all amendments agreed to by the Senate. The report shall also show clearly the total amount approved for each Ministry, Department or Agency. Upon approval of the Committee's report the Senator in-charge shall move the third reading of the Bill forthwith which motion shall not require to be seconded and shall be decided without amendment or debate and if decided after the hour appointed for the adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate shall immediately, on that decision being reached, adjourn the Senate without question put.

(18) After the third reading, the laid down procedures for Bills shall be followed.

(19) In the event of a difference between the Senate and the House of Representatives on money Bills, the relevant section of the Constitution shall apply.

CHAPTER XII

ANNUAL REPORTS AND OTHER SESSIONAL PAPERS

Time for
presenting
statutory reports

93.—(1) Ministers shall forward to the Senate all reports required by statute within three months of the close of the reporting period unless reasons for delay are given to the Senate.

Idem

(2) The statutory annual report of each ministry and of all boards and commissions and other agencies reporting to each ministry for the immediate past reporting period shall be presented to the Senate before the consideration of the Ministry's estimates unless sufficient reasons are given to the Senate for non-compliance.

Method of
presenting

(3) Reports, returns and other documents required to be laid before the Senate by any Act of Assembly or under any Standing Order or resolution of the Senate, or that any Minister wishes to forward to the Senate, may be deposited with the Clerk of the Senate, whether or not on a legislative day, and such report, return or other documents shall be deemed for all purposes to have been forwarded and laid on the Table. All such reports, returns and documents laid on the Table shall be deemed referred to the appropriate Committee of the Senate. A record of such document shall be entered in the Vote and Proceedings on the day it is laid except that

where it is filed on a day that is not a legislative day, it shall be entered in the Votes and Proceedings of the next legislative day.

(4) The Minister concerned shall forward copies of all reports as well as copies of background materials to all Senators.

Distribution of background materials

94. The Clerk of the Senate shall keep a record of all reports required by statute, which have been tabled, and those outstanding.

List of documents tabled and outstanding

CHAPTER XIII
COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE
ESTABLISHMENT AND JURISDICTION
OF COMMITTEES

Membership
appointed

95.—(1) The membership of all Committees shall not be less than nine (9) and not more than thirteen (13) Senators.

(2) No Senator shall serve in more than three (3) Committees.

(3) No Committee Chairman shall serve in more than two (2) other Committees.

(4) No member of the Committee of Selection shall be a Committee Chairman.

Special
Committees

96. Within the first fourteen legislative days following the first sitting of the Senate, the membership of the following Special Committees shall be appointed:

(i) Committee of Selection

(ii) Committee on Rules and Business

(iii) Senate Services Committee

(iv) Committee on Ethics; Code of Conduct and Public Petitions

(v) Public Accounts Committee

(vi) Committee on National Security and Intelligence.

97.—(1) (a) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee of Selection appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate to perform the functions allocated to it by these rules, and for such other matters as the Senate may from time to time refer to it.

Committee of
Selection

(b) The Committee on Selection shall consist of the Senate President, the Deputy Senate President, the Senate Majority Leader, Chief Whip, Deputy Majority Leader, Deputy Chief Whip, Minority Leader, Deputy Minority Leader, Minority Whip and the Deputy Minority Whip.

Functions of the Committee include:

(c) the President shall be the Chairman of the Committee of Selection and in his absence, the Deputy President;

(d) nominating Senators to serve on committees to consider any special matters brought before the Senate;

(e) such Senators as may be going on parliamentary delegation other than Committees.

(f) all Committee Appointments shall be subject to periodic reviews.

Review of
Committee
Appointments

Rules and
Business
Committee

(2) (a) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Rules and Business appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate consisting of Senators nominated by the Political Parties represented in the Senate.

(b) The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

(i) scheduling Business of the Senate and causing them to be printed on the Order Paper;

(ii) allocation of time for the business of the Senate;

(iii) Senate organisation relative to its Rules and Procedure;

(iv) monitoring the passage of Bills that are before the Senate and its committees;

(v) interaction with State Houses of Assembly relative to Rules and Business of the Senate;

(vi) workshops and seminars in respect of parliamentary practice and procedure for Senators;

(vii) Gazetting of Bills.

Committee on
Senate Services

(3) There shall be a Committee to be known as Senate Services appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(a) welfare of Senators;

(b) budget and appropriation of the Senate;

(c) maintenance of the Senate Chamber and premises including offices and accommodation;

(d) residential and office accommodation for Senators;

(e) provision of equipment and materials for Senate Premises;

(f) provision of Motor vehicles for Senators;

(g) monitoring of the Finances of the Senate. The Senate may appoint other special committees to perform such duties as the need may arise.

(4) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

Ethics. Code of
Conduct and
Public Petitions
Committee

(a) consideration of the subject matter of all petitions referred to it by the Senate and shall report from time to time to the Senate its opinion of the action to be taken thereon together with such other observations on petition and the signatures attached thereof, as the Committee may think fit;

(b) the Committee shall recommend to the Senate from time to time such administrative actions as it may deem appropriate to establish and enforce standards of official conduct for the Senators;

(c) the Committee shall oversee and monitor the activities of Code of Conduct Bureau.

Public Accounts
Committee

(5) There shall be a Committee to be known as Public Accounts Committee appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(a) to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by the Senate to meet the public expenditure: together with the Auditor's report thereon. The Committee shall, for the purposes of discharging that duty, have power to send for any person, papers and records, to report from time to time to the Senate and to sit notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate:

(b) the committee shall have power to examine any accounts or report of statutory Corporations and Boards after they have been laid on the table for the Senate and to report thereon from time to time to the Senate and to sit notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate:

(c) the Committee shall have power to enquire the report of the Auditor-General for the Federation with respect to any prepayment audit query which had been overruled by the Chief Executive of the Ministry, Extra-Ministerial Departments or Agency of the Federal Government and Courts of the Federation and to report same to the Senate.

(6) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on National Security and Intelligence appointed at the commencement of the life of the senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
National
Security and
Intelligence

(a) public security;

(b) matters relating to any organisation or Agency established by Law for ensuring the security of the Federation.

The Senate may appoint other special Committees to perform such duties as the need may arise.

Other Special
Committees

98. STANDING COMMITTEES

(1) There shall be a committee to be known as committee on Agriculture and Rural Development appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

Committee on
Agriculture and
Rural
Development

(a) agricultural production and marketing and stabilising of prices of agricultural products and commodities (not including distribution outside Nigeria);

(b) animal husbandry and diseases control;

(c) crop-insurance and soil conservation;

(d) dairy Products;

(e) extension of farm credit and farm security; and National Food Security generally;

(f) forestry in general and forest reserves;

(g) inspection of livestock and meat products;

(h) plant industry, Soil and Agriculture Engineering;

(i) commodities Exchange;

(j) rural development;

(k) fisheries;

(l) poultry;

(m) agricultural inputs including fertilizers, production of farm products, marketing, distribution and stabilisation of prices for such inputs;

(2) There shall be a committee to be known as committee on Air Force appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Air Force

(i) payments, promotion, retirements and other benefits and privileges of Members of the Air Force;

(ii) size and composition of the Air Force;

(iii) scientific research and development in support of the Air Force;

(iv) Air Force barracks;

(v) resettlement scheme for serving officers of the Air Force;

(vi) clearance of foreign Military aircrafts;

(vii) Air Force reservations and establishments;

(viii) annual budget estimates.

(3) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Anti-Corruption appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Anti-Corruption

(i) all matters relating to corruption and cognate issues;

(ii) independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences commission (ICPC);

(iii) all anti-corruption institutions and services established by law;

(iv) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Appropriations

(4) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Appropriations appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(a) appropriation of revenue for the support of the government;

(b) issuance of call letters/circulars on Appropriation (Budgetary);

(c) annual Appropriation Bill;

(d) supplementary Appropriation Bill;

(e) all other matters related to Appropriation (Budget Matters);

(g) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Aviation

(5) There shall be a committee to be known as the Committee on committee on Aviation appointed at the Aviation commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(i) airport development and Management;

(ii) civil aviation regulatory and other services;

(iii) authorization of scheduled and non-scheduled flight;

(iv) meteorological service;

(v) provision of air safety services of Nigeria Aerodromes;

(vi) aviation, international security and communications;

(vii) international transport aviation agencies;

(viii) international aviation agreements;

(ix) aviation training;

(x) annual budget estimates.

(6) There shall be a committee to be known as the committee on Banking, Insurance and other financial Institutions. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Banking,
Insurance and
other Financial
Institutions

(i) monitoring the activities of the central Bank of Nigeria (CBN);

(ii) banks, and banking deposits, insurance and federal monetary policy;

(iii) monetary and credit including currency, insurance, notes and redemption of gold, silver including coinage, valuation of Naira;

(iv) examination of insurance policies;

(v) Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC);

(vi) Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company (NSPMC);

(vii) Nigeria Export-Import Commission (NEXIM);

(viii) Nigeria Insurance Commission (NAICOM);

(ix) National Board for Community Banks (NBCB):

(x) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Capital Market

(7) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Capital Market appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(i) Nigerian stock Exchange (NSE); and

(ii) Stock market.

(iii) Annual Budget.

Committee on
Commerce

(8) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Commerce appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(a) commerce in Nigeria generally:

(b) measures to foster commercial activities with foreign nations and to safeguard Nigeria's business interest abroad:

(c) international commodity agreement:

(d) consumer affairs and consumer protection;

(e) companies:

(f) copyrights:

(g) inter-state commerce:

(h) monopolies, combines and Trusts:

(i) patents, trademarks, and merchandise marks;

(j) price control;

(k) business names;

(l) trade fairs and exhibitions;

(m) weights and measures;

(n) bankruptcy and insolvency;

(o) bills of sale;

(p) export processing zones;

(q) international trade fairs;

(r) non-oil exports;

(s) annual budget estimates.

(9) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Communications appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Communications

(a) post offices and postal services;

(b) telephone and telexes;

(c) cable grams;

(d) frequency allocation;

(e) telecommunications;

(f) satellite communication;

(g) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Cooperation and
Integration in
Africa and
NEPAD

(10) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa and NEPAD appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(i) coordinating the activities of regional bodies which includes ECO WAS and AU;

(ii) liaison with regional bodies: ECOWAS and AU;

(iii) coordinating the activities of the new partnership for African development, NEPAD;

(iv) any other matter relating to regional cooperation in Africa; and

(v) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Culture and
Tourism

(11) There shall be a committee to be known as Culture and Tourism appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

(i) Hotel industries;

(ii) Tourism generally;

(iii) Promotion of culture heritage;

(iv) Matters relating to culture generally, including national monuments, artifacts, museums antiquities, national troupe, theatres, etc.;

(v) annual budget estimates.

(12) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Defence and Army appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Defence and
Army

(a) payments, promotion, retirement and other benefits and privileges of members of the Army;

(b) size and composition of the Army;

(c) defence headquarters;

(d) ammunition depots, forts, arsenal reservations and establishments;

(e) scientific research and development in support of the Army;

(f) barrack projects;

(g) military application of nuclear energy;

(h) disarmament;

(i) Army cadets;

(j) resettlement scheme for serving officers of the Army;

(k) war graves, monuments and memorabilia;

(l) peace keeping operations;

(m) annual budget estimates.

(13) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Drugs, Narcotics
and Financial
Crimes

(i) matters relating to law enforcement, administration and policies on drugs, Narcotics and financial crimes;

(ii) monitoring relevant Government Ministries/Extra-ministerial departments, Agencies, offices, organizations schools, Institutions rehabilitation centers, etc. Established for the purposes of controlling Narcotics, drugs and financial crimes;

(iii) liaising with the United Nations, foreign countries, International bodies and Non-Governmental organizations for the purpose of harmonizing Narcotics, drugs and financial crimes laws in line with the United nations Government and International treaties;

(iv) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Downstream
Petroleum
Sector

(14) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Downstream Petroleum Sector appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

(i) oil refineries;

(ii) Pipeline and Petroleum Products Marketing;

(iii) NNPC;

(iv) Ministry of Petroleum Resources;

(v) Petroleum Products Price Regulation;

(vi) oil subsidy;

(vii) annual budget estimates.

(15) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Education including Universal Basic Education (UBE) appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Education
including
Universal Basic
Education
(UBE)

- (a) matters relating to education generally;
- (b) academic research;
- (c) external aid for education;
- (d) educational broadcasts;
- (e) educational library services;
- (f) educational statistics;
- (g) federal scholarships;
- (h) institutions of higher education;
- (i) vocational and non-formal education;
- (j) national and international education agency;
- (k) primary and secondary education (special education);
- (l) implementation of Universal Basic Education Act;
- (m) annual budget estimates.

(16) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Employment,
Labour and
Productivity

(a) all matters relating to trade unions and labour generally;

(b) conditions of employment;

(c) all matters relating to Social Security and other cognate issues;

(d) industrial relations;

(e) Workman's Compensation;

(f) Factory Inspection;

(g) Trade Testing;

(h) Labour Safety;

(i) health, welfare and education;

(j) co-operative education and training;

(k) national productivity improvement;

(l) co-operative societies generally;

(m) National Provident Fund;

(n) industrial safety regulations

(o) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Environment
and Ecology

(17) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Environment and Ecology appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(a) matters affecting Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA);

(b) control of air pollution;

(c) control of industrial waste;

(d) control of toxic and other hazardous waste dumping by industrialised nations;

(e) control of water pollution;

(f) laying policy on clean environment for the country;

(g) environmental sanitation;

(h) control of Erosion;

(i) control of Desertification;

(j) oil spillage (control regulations);

(k) conservation including parks and gardens;

(l) marine resources management;

(m) Ecological Fund;

(n) annual budget estimates.

(18) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Establishment and Public Services appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Establishment
and Public
Services

(a) federal public services matters generally including parastatals;

(b) conditions of Service;

(c) pension and gratuities;

(d) training and manpower development;

(e) the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation;

- (f) inter-governmental Affairs;
- (g) liaison between the National Assembly and the Presidency;
- (h) office of Head of Service;
- (i) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Federal Capital
Territory

(19) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Federal Capital Territory appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

- (a) matters affecting the Federal Capital Territory;
- (b) planning and development of the new Federal Capital Territory;
- (c) allocation of lands in the Federal Capital Territory;
- (d) control of development within the Federal Capital Territory;
- (e) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Federal
Character and
Inter-
Governmental
Affairs

(20) There shall be a committee to be known as committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

- (i) Federal Character Commission;
- (ii) implementation of federal character principles as enshrined in the constitution;

(iii) the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation;

(iv) inter-governmental Affairs;

(v) liaison between the National Assembly and the Presidency;

(vi) inter-party relationships;

(vii) annual budget estimates.

(21) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Finance appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

Committee on
Finance

(i) Custom and Excise

(ii) taxes and taxation;

(iii) tariff review;

(iv) determination of general fiscal and monetary policy of Government;

(v) revenue/profile of Government;

(vi) annual budget estimates.

(22) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Foreign Affairs appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Foreign Affairs

(a) relations of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with foreign nations generally;

(b) foreign loans;

(c) international conferences and congresses;

(d) measures relating to diplomatic services;

(e) intervention abroad and declaration of war;

(f) neutrality;

(g) protection of Nigerian citizens abroad and expatriation;

(h) measures relating to international Economic policy;

(i) trading with friendly nations;

(j) measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and Economic/geographical groupings to safeguard Nigeria's business abroad;

(k) international commodity agreements for co-operation;

(l) pilgrimage;

(m) repatriation of destitute Nigerians;

(n) technical assistance to foreign countries-

(o) extradition;

(p) reparation;

(q) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Gas

(23) There shall be a committee to be known as committee on Gas appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

- (i) exploration and exploitation of gas;
- (ii) pricing and marketing of gas
- (iii) Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG); and
- (iv) annual budget estimates.

(24) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Health and Primary Health Care appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Health, Primary
Health Care

- (a) specialist hospitals and centres of excellence;
- (b) national hospitals
- (c) drugs and vaccine manufacturing including National Programme on Immunisation (NPI);
- (d) Teaching Hospitals;
- (e) National Health Institutes;
- (f) Drug Laws;
- (g) Sanitation Laws;
- (h) Food and Environmental Hygiene;
- (i) World Health Organisation and other International Organisations;
- (j) Nigeria Red Cross and Red Crescent;
- (k) Primary and Secondary health care including control of communicable diseases e.g. AIDS;

- (l) Epidemics;
- (m) Medical laboratory and forensic services;
- (n) Chemical Services;
- (o) Pharmacy;
- (p) public health including port health and quarantine;
- (q) Narcotics and Drug Abuse Control;
- (r) care and protection of handicapped and under privileged;
- (s) health finance;
- (t) control of private medical services;
- (u) traditional medical practice;
- (v) training and control of medical personnel;
- (w) medical professional bodies;
- (x) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Housing

(24) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Housing appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

- (i) Federal Housing Fund;
- (ii) National housing;
- (iii) urban planning;
- (iv) annual budget estimates.

(25) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Industries appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Industries

- (a) standardisation and quality control;
- (b) industrial development matters generally;
- (c) incentives for, industrial development;
- (d) national industrial planning;
- (e) small-scale industries;
- (f) aid to industries;
- (g) heavy industries set up by the Federal Government of Nigeria;
- (h) participation of small business enterprises, procurement and government contracts;
- (i) promotion and administration of technology transfer programmes;
- (j) industrial financing;
- (k) privatisation and commercialisation;
- (l) Industrial Training Fund;
- (m) annual budget estimates.

(26) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on National Identity Card, National Population and Independent National Electoral Commission appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

National Identity
Card, National
Population and
Independent
National
Electoral
Commission
(INEC).

- (i) National Electoral laws;
- (ii) Registration of voters, voters card;
- (iii) Election generally;
- (iv) Independent National Electoral Commission;
- (v) annual Budget estimates.

Committee on
Information

(27) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Information appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include;

- (a) Promotion of cultural heritage;
- (b) Matters relating to culture generally including national monuments artifacts, museums, antiquities, etc.;
- (c) Public enlightenment and Information;
- (d) Film production;
- (e) Newspapers, television and Radio;
- (f) Regulation of importation of obscene literature, films and photographs;
- (g) National Orientation Agency;
- (h) Advertising
- (i) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Internal Affairs

(28) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Internal Affairs appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

- (a) immigration and deportation;
- (b) naturalization and citizenship;
- (c) political asylum and Refugees;
- (d) prisons and other institutions for treatment of offenders;
- (e) public holidays;
- (f) aliens;
- (g) expatriates Quota;
- (h) national day and other celebrations;
- (i) immigration and visas;
- (j) emigration;
- (k) passports and travel certificates;
- (l) seaman's identity;
- (m) medals and badges containing the National Flag and National Coat of Arms;
- (n) business permits;
- (o) registration of Marriages, births & deaths:
- (p) registration of Voluntary organisations;
- (q) National Identity Card Project;
- (r) National Civic Registration
- (s) Registration of Voters, Voters Card;
- (t) elections generally;
- (u) funding of Political Parties;
- (v) Independent National Electoral Commission;
- (w) demography, which includes birth rate, death rate, structure by age, sex, etc.;
- (x) national population census;
- (y) annual budget estimates.

(29) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

(i) study, analysis and suggestion on improvement of the charters of all Inter-Parliamentary cooperation grouping of which the Senate is a member;

(ii) recommend for the Senate, the formation of and entry by the Senate into any new parliamentary grouping;

(iii) ensure the maintenance of harmonious and productive relations between the National Assembly and all world parliaments;

(iv) coordinate National and International parliamentary exchanges, hospitality and countries on reciprocal basis;

(v) make recommendation to the Senate as to the desirability of the Senate sending delegation to specific inter-parliamentary events and to the selection committee on the possible delegates;

(vi) liaise and coordinate efforts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Relevant departments of the Federal Government on matters relating to Parliamentary attachments and training of Senators;

(vii) initiate the organization of national and International parliamentary Associations and experiences;

(viii) represent and lead the National Assembly in specific international Associations or grouping on terms agreed to between the House and the Senate;

(ix) ensure the execution of the Senate resolution on inter-parliamentary relation;

(x) annual budget estimates.

(30) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include;

Committee on
Judiciary,
Human Rights
and Legal
Matters

(a) judicial matters;

(b) constitutional matters;

(c) Federal courts and judges;

(d) revision and codification of status of Nigerians;

(e) legal practitioners;

(f) administration of justice;

(g) notaries public;

(h) public trustees;

(i) extradition;

(j) administration of estates;

(k) legal education;

(l) regulation of policies on legal practice by professional legal Bodies

(m) National Human Rights Commission;

(n) legal aid;

(o) human rights issues and policies;

(p) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Land Transport

(31) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Land Transport appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

(i) railways;

(ii) mass transit;

(iii) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Local and
Foreign Debts

(32) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Local and Foreign Debt appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

(i) Local debts;

(ii) Foreign debts;

(iii) Monitoring, payment and rescheduling of debts; and

(iv) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Marine
Transport

(33) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Marine Transport appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

- (i) maritime shipping;
- (ii) navigation;
- (iii) ports, docks and harbors;
- (iv) marine resource development;
- (v) Inland Waterways;
- (vi) international marine agreements;
- (vii) annual budget estimates.

(34) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Media and Public Affairs appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

Committee on
Media and
Public Affairs

- (i) management of the image and public relations of the Senate;
- (ii) external publicity and other issues in the mass media concerning Senate;
- (iii) other matters concerning the media that may be referred to the committee by the Senate (Senate Majority Leader).
- (iv) Annual budget estimate.

(35) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on National Identity Card and Population appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

Committee on
National Identity
and National
Population

- (i) National ID card project;
- (ii) National Population Census;
- (iii) all matters related to population;
- (iv) National Civic Registration;.
- (v) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
National
Planning,
Economic
Affairs and
Poverty
Alleviation

(36) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

- (a) economic intelligence;
- (b) economic planning;
- (c) National Manpower Board;
- (d) statistics;
- (e) preparation and publication of the National Rolling Plan;
- (f) Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission;
- (g) economic policy;
- (h) International Economic Council;
- (i) National Economic Council;
- (j) fiscal and monetary policies of Government, macro-economics;
- (k) trade and investment policy;
- (l) economic intelligence and planning;
- (m) international economic policies.

(n) designing policies and reaching out to rural areas for the provision of avenues of employment generation and productive opportunities;

(o) designing programmes for rural housing, land reforms, education, primary health care, drinking water, communication and rural radio television;

(p) designing infrastructure development programmes for rural roads;

(q) agriculture, markets and development of rural energy resources;

(r) annual budget estimates.

(37) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Navy appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

(i) payments, promotion, retirements and other benefits and privileges of Members of the Navy;

(ii) Size and composition of the Navy;

(iii) scientific research and development in support of the Navy,

(iv) Naval Cadets;

(v) resettlement scheme for serving officers of the Navy.

(vi) Naval Barracks.

(vii) Annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Niger Delta

(38) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Niger-Delta appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(a) Niger-Delta Development Commission;

(b) matters affecting the Niger-Delta;

(c) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Police Affairs

(39) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Police Affairs appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(a) Police Affairs generally;

(b) budget relating to the operation and maintenance of police departments;

(c) issues relating to recruitment, promotion, benefits and privileges of members of the police force;

(d) maintenance of law and order and ensuring internal security of the nation;

(e) fire-arms control;

(f) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Power, Steel
Development
and Metallurgy

(40) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Power Steel Development and Metallurgy appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(a) generation, transmission and distribution of Electricity in Nigeria;

(b) Power Holding Company of Nigeria;

(c) iron and steel development;

(d) aluminium development;

(e) annual budget estimates.

(41) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Privatization appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Privatization

(i) operation of the Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE);

(ii) operation of the national council in privatization (NCP);

(iii) any function assigned by laws on privatization.

(iv) annual budget estimates.

(42) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Science and Technology appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Science and
Technology

(a) science research and development;

(b) science and scholarship;

(c) matters relating to relevant research institutions;

(d) research and development of engineering infrastructures and technology;

(e) development of foundries and related infrastructures;

(f) development of model industries for rapid industrialisation of the country;

(g) agricultural, Industrial, Medical and Building research;

(h) energy research;

(i) nuclear and solar energy;

(j) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Solid Minerals

(43) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Solid Minerals appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

(a) Explosives;

(b) Geological surveys and minerals investigation;

(c) Exploration mines, minerals and quarry (other than petroleum);

(d) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Special Duties

(44) There shall be a Committee to be known as Committee on Special Duties appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

(i) general affairs of the Senate President's office;

(ii) budget on special projects as determined by the Senate, e.g. construction of National

Assembly building;

(iii) Ecological Fund;

(iv) any special duties as may be assigned to it from time to time by the Senate President;

(v) National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA);

(vi) annual budget estimates.

(45) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Sports and Social Development appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Sports and
Social
Development

(a) Social Development matters generally;

(b) Care and protection of handicapped and the under-privileged;

(c) Sports;

(d) annual budget estimates.

(46) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on States and Local Governments appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the Committee shall include:

Committee on
States and Local
Governments

- (i) liaising with State Governments;
- (ii) liaising with Local Governments;
- (iii) matters relating to the Administration of States;
- (iv) matters relating to the administration of Local Governments;
- (v) bounding disputes;
- (vi) interstate relationship;
- (vii) annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Petroleum
Resources

(47) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Petroleum Resources appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

- (i) exploration of hydrocarbons generally;
- (ii) petroleum and petrochemicals;
- (iii) energy conventions;
- (iv) Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR);
- (v) Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC);
- (vi) Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Agency (NNRA);
- (vii) Petroleum Training Institute (PTI);
- (viii) oil block allocation;
- (ix) annual budget estimates.

(48) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Water Resources appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Water Resources

- (a) matters relating to Water Resources;
- (b) development of Dams;
- (c) irrigation;
- (d) exploration and development of underground water;
- (e) tariff determination and water rates;
- (f) Hydrological and Hydro-geological investigation;
- (g) water supply undertakings;
- (h) canalisation and Dredging;
- (i) earth dams;
- (j) annual budget estimates.

(49) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

Committee on
Women Affairs
and Youth
Development

- (a) National Youth Service Corps;
- (b) Youth and child development;
- (c) Women Affairs;
- (d) Annual budget estimates.

Committee on
Works

(50) There shall be a committee to be known as Committee on Works appointed at the commencement of the life of the Senate. The jurisdiction of the committee shall include:

- (a) Federal highways;
- (b) tariff regulation and road safety;
- (c) parks and gardens;
- (d) fire protection of sea coasts against erosion;
- (e) building research;
- (f) Federal surveys and mapping;
- (g) lands;
- (h) land reclamation;
- (i) annual budget estimates.

Membership of
Committees

99.—(1) Members of Committees shall be nominated by various political parties in accordance with their numerical strength in the Senate.

Substitution

(2) Any Senator appointed to a Standing Committee may, at any time afterwards, be discharged by order of the Senate from attending the Committee and another Senator nominated by the party to which the discharged Senator belongs.

Temporary
substitution

(3) A temporary substitution in the membership of a Standing Committee may be

made provided a notification thereof, signed by the Whip, or a Senator acting as the Whip, of the party of the member, is filed with the Clerk of the Committee either before or 30 minutes of a Committee meeting.

(4) If the place of a Committee member becomes vacant, there shall be in his place another member nominated by the party with the approval of the Senate.

Vacancy in
Committee
membership

100. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of a Standing or a Special Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Selection Committee in consultation with the Selection Committee subject to the approval of the Senate.

Chairman of
Committee

101. The quorum at committee sittings shall be one-third of the membership provided the Chairman in his absence the Vice-Chairman acting in that capacity is present.

Quorum in
Committees

102.—(1) (a)(i) The Rules of the Senate are the rules of its Committees and sub-Committees so far as applicable, except in connection with a motion of high privilege in Committees and sub-Committees.

Rules of
Procedure for
Committees in
general

(ii) Each Sub-Committee of a Committee is a part of that Committee, and is subject to the authority and direction of that Committee and so its rules as far as applicable.

(b) Each Committee is authorised at any time to consider such investigations and studies as it may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities under this rule.

(c) Each Committee is authorised to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearing held by the Committee. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of a Committee shall be paid from the contingency fund of the Senate or of the appropriate Committee.

Report of
Committees

(d) Each Committee shall submit to the Senate annual report of the activities under the rule.

(e) The report of a Standing Committee is the report as determined by the Committee as a whole or a majority thereof.

Idem

(f) No minority report may be presented to or received by the Senate.

Dissenting
Opinion

(g) Every Senator shall be permitted to indicate in a report that he or she dissents from a particular recommendation or comment within the report. The Committee shall permit a member to express the reasons for such dissent.

(h) Disorder in a Standing Committee can only be censured by the Senate on receiving a report from the Committee.

Disorder
reported to
Senate

(i) Standing Committees shall be severally empowered to retain the services of expert, professional, technical and clerical staff as may be deemed necessary.

Staff

(j) The Clerk of the Standing Committee shall administer and monitor the expenditure of any such Committee and shall advise the Committee if expenditure are likely to exceed the budget approved for the Committee.

Committee
Clerk

ADOPTION OF WRITTEN RULES

(2)(a) Each Standing Committee of the Senate shall adopt written rules governing its procedures. Such rules:

Committee
Rules

(i) shall be adopted in a meeting which is open to the public unless the Committee in open session and with a quorum present, determines, by roll call vote that all or part of the meeting on that day is to be closed to the public.

(ii) shall not be inconsistent with the Rules of the Senate or with those provisions of law having the force and effect on Rules of the Senate; and

(iii) shall in any event incorporate all of the succeeding provisions of this clause to the extent applicable. Each Committee's rules specifying its regular meeting days, and any other rules of a Committee, which are in addition to the provisions of this clause, shall be published in the National Assembly Record.

Regular Meeting
days

(b) Each Standing Committee of the Senate shall adopt regular meeting days, which shall not be less frequent than monthly for the conduct of its business.

Each such Committee shall meet, for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the committee or for the transaction of other Committee business, on all regular meeting days fixed by the Committee, unless otherwise provided by written rule(s) adopted by the Committee.

Additional and
special Meetings

(c) (i) The Chairman of each Standing Committee may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other conduct of other Committee business. The Committees shall meet for such purpose pursuant to that call.

(ii) If at least five members of any Standing Committee desires that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chairman, those members may file in the offices of the Committee their written request to the Chairman for that special meeting. Such requests shall specify the filing of the request, the Clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chairman of the filing of the request.

(iii) If, within three working days after the filing of the request, the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting, to be held within seven working days after filing of the request, a majority of the members of the Committee may file in the offices of the Committee their written notices that a special meeting of the Committee will be held specifying the date and hour of, and the measure of matter to be considered at that special meeting. The Committee shall meet on that day and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the filling of the notice the Clerk of the Committee shall notify all members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

(d) Every meeting of the Committee shall be presided over by the Chairman or in his absence, the members present shall elect one of their members to preside at the meeting.

(e)(i) Each Committee shall keep a complete record of all committee action which shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a roll call vote is demanded. The result of each such roll call vote shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable time in the offices of the Committee. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, or proposition and the names of those members present but not voting.

(ii) All Committee hearings, records data, charts and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the office records of the members serving as Chairman of the Committee; and such records shall be the property of the Senate and all members of the Senate shall have access thereto except that in the case of records in the Committee on Ethics and Privileges regarding the conduct of any member, officer or employee of the Senate, no Senator (other than a member of such Committee) shall have access thereto without the specific, prior approval of the Committee.

(f)(i) Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the mark up legislation of each Standing Committee or Sub-Committee thereof shall be open to the public except when the Committee or Sub-Committee, in open session and with a majority present, determines, by roll call vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting of that day shall be closed to the public. Provided, however, that no person other than members of the Committee and such National Assembly staff and such departmental representative as they may authorise shall be present at any business or markup session which has been closed to the public. This paragraph does not apply to open Committee hearing which are provided for by subparagraph (f) (ii) of the paragraph, or to any meeting that relates solely to internal budget or personnel matters.

Open Meeting
and Hearings

(ii) Each hearing conducted by each Committee or Sub-Committee thereof shall be open to the public except when the Committee or Sub-Committee, in open session and with a majority present, determines, by roll call shall vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of testimony, evidence or other matters to be considered would endanger national security or would violate any law or rule of the Senate.

(iii) Notwithstanding the requirement of the preceding sentence majority of those present, there being in attendance the requisite number required, under the rules of the Committee for the purpose of taking testimony:

(a) may vote to close the hearing for the sole purpose of discussing whether testimony or evidence to be received would endanger national security or violate paragraph (f) (i) above or;

(b) may vote to close the hearing as provided in paragraph (f) (i) above. No member may be excluded from non-participatory attendance at any hearing of any Committee or Sub-Committee. With the exception of the Committee on Ethics and Public Petitions, unless the Senate shall by majority vote authorise a particular Committee or Sub-Committee, for purposes of a particular subject of investigation to close its hearing to members by the same procedures designated in this sub-paragraph for closing hearings to the public provided, however, that the Committee or Sub-Committee may by the same procedure vote to close one subsequent day of hearing.

(iv) Each Committee of the Senate (except the Committee on Rules and Business), shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any Committee hearing

at least one week before the announcement of the hearing. If the Committee determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, it shall make the announcement at an earliest possible date. Any announcement made under this sub-paragraph shall be promptly published in the National Assembly Journal.

(v) Each Committee shall in so far as it is practicable, require each witness who is to appear before it to file with the Committee (in advance of his or her appearance(s), a written statement of the proposed testimony and to limit the oral presentation at such appearance to a brief summary of his or her argument.

(vi) No point of order shall lie with respect to any measure reported by any Committee on the ground that hearings on such measure were not conducted in accordance with the provisions of this subparagraph; except that a point of order on that ground may be made by any member of the Committee which reported the measure, if in the Committee, such point of order was:

(a) timely made; and

(b) improperly overruled or not properly considered.

103. In exercise of the Powers conferred on the National Assembly by Section 88 and 89 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Senate shall have power to direct or cause to be directed an investigation into any matter.

Powers to
conduct
investigation

CHAPTER XIV

QUORUM FOR TAKING TESTIMONY AND CERTAIN OTHER ACTION

Quorum

104.—(1)(a) Each Committee may fix the number of its members to constitute quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence which shall not be less than two.

(b) Each Committee (except the Committee on Appropriations) may fix the number of its members to constitute quorum for taking any action other than the reporting of a measure or recommendation which shall not be less than one-third of the members.

Calling and
interrogation of
witness

(2)(a) Whenever any hearing is conducted by any Committee and upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled upon request to the Chairman by majority of them before the completion of the hearing, to call witness selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing hereon.

(b) Each Committee shall apply the five-minute rule in the interrogation of the Committee who so desires has had an opportunity to question each witness.

Investigative
Hearing
Proceedings

(3)(a) The Chairman at an investigative hearing shall announce in the opening statement the subject of the investigation.

(b) Witnesses at investigative hearing may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of guiding them concerning their constitutional rights.

(c) The Chairman may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearing and the committee may cite the offender to the Senate for contempt.

(d) When it is asserted that the evidence or testimony at an investigatory hearing may tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any persons:

(i) such testimony or evidence shall be presented in executive session, if by a majority of those present, there being in attendance the requisite number required under the rules of the Committee to present for the purpose of taking testimony, the Committee determines that such evidence or testimony may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person; and

(ii) The Committee shall proceed to receive such testimony in open session only if a majority of the members of the Committee, a majority being present, determine that such evidence or testimony will not tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. In either case the Committee shall afford such person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness;

and receive and dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witness.

(e) Except as provided in sub-paragraph (4) the Chairman shall receive and the Committee shall dispose of requests to subpoena additional witness.

(f) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public session without the consent of the Committee.

(g) In the discretion of the Committee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent sworn statement in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee is the sole judge of the pertinency of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

(h) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorised by the Committee.

Limitation on
the Jurisdiction
of Committees

105. The Senate shall not delegate to any Committee the power to decide whether a bill shall be passed into a law or to determine any matter which it is empowered to determine by resolution under these rules. A Committee may, however, be authorised to make recommendations to the Senate on any such matter.

MISCELLANEOUS

106. Any Senator who is unable to attend meeting of the Senate shall acquaint the President of the Senate as early as possible of his inability to attend.

Absence of
Senators

107.—(1) An official report of all speeches made in the Senate, Committee of the Whole and the Committees of the Senate which shall be as nearly as possible verbatim, shall be prepared under the supervision of Editor.

Official Reports

(2) The report shall be published in such form as the Senate may direct, and a copy thereof shall be sent to each Senator as soon as practicable after the conclusion of each sitting.

(3) A Senator may, on any day following that on which the official report containing a speech by him was issued, notify the Editor of any purely verbal corrections in that speech for inclusion in the bound volume of such report.

(4) If a Senator disputes the correctness of the record of any speech or seeks to make any material change in the record, the President of the Senate shall rule thereon and shall direct publication of the speech in accordance with his ruling which shall be communicated to the Senator concerned and shall be final.

108. No Senator shall appear before the Senate or any Committee thereof as Counsel or Solicitor for any party, or in any capacity which he is to receive a fee or reward.

Employment for
Members in
Professional
Capacity

Strangers

109. Strangers shall be admitted to debates in the Chamber under such rules as the Senate may make from time to time for that purpose, provided that if any Senator takes notice that strangers be present, the President of the Senate, or in Committee, the Chairman, shall put forthwith the question:

"That strangers do withdraw" without permitting any debate or amendment. Notwithstanding anything in these rules, the President of the Senate, or the Chairman, may whenever he thinks fit, order the withdrawal of strangers from, any part of the Senate.

Press

110. The Senate may grant a general permission to the representative of any journal to attend the sitting of the Senate provided that if the journal publishes a report of the proceedings which the Senate considers unfair, such permission may be revoked.

Model of
amending the
Rules

111.—(1) Any Senator desiring to amend any part of the Rules or adding any new clause shall give notice of such amendments in writing to the President of the Senate giving details of the proposed amendments.

(2) The President of the Senate shall within seven working days of the receipt of the notice, cause the amendments to be printed and circulated to members. Thereafter, it shall be printed in the Order Paper of the Senate.

(3) The Mover or Movers of the amendments shall be allowed to explain in detail the proposed amendments; thereafter the Senate shall decide by simple majority votes whether the amendments should be considered or rejected.

(4) If the decision is to consider the amendments, then another date shall be set aside by the Rules and Business Committee whereby opportunity would be given to Senators to further propose amendments but must strictly be confined to the original amendments.

(5) Two-thirds majority shall decide the amendments and such amendments shall form part of the Rule of the Senate.

112. The Legislative business of the Senate which remains undetermined at the close of a session of the Senate shall be resumed and proceeded with in same manner as if no adjournment of the Senate had taken place; and all papers referred to committees and not reported upon at the close of session of the Senate shall be returned to the office of the Clerk of the Senate and retained until the next session of the Senate when they shall be returned to the several committees to which they had previously been referred.

Business
continued from
Session to
Session

CHAPTER XV

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Meeting with
the President of
the Federal
Republic of
Nigeria

113. When the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall meet the Senate, the Senate shall be convened by the President of the Senate to the appointed place, the Presiding Officer of the Senate and the Senators shall attend at the place appointed, with the necessary officers of the Senate.

Presence during
closed session

114. When acting upon confidential or Executive business, unless the same shall be considered in open session, the Senate Chamber shall be cleared of the persons except the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, the Clerk-at-the-Table, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and such other officers as the Presiding Officer shall think necessary, and all such officers shall have been sworn to secrecy.

Secrecy

115. All confidential communications made by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Senate shall be kept secret by the Senators and the officers of the Senate; and all remarks, Votes and Proceedings thereon shall also be kept secret, until the Senate shall, by their own resolution, take off the injunction of secrecy.

Removal of
injunction of
secrecy

116. Whenever the injunction of secrecy shall be removed from any part of the proceedings of the Senate in closed legislative session, the order of the Senate removing the same shall be entered in the Votes and Proceedings of the day as well as

in the Journal, and shall be published in the Official Gazette under the direction of the Clerk of the Senate.

117. Any Senator or officer of the Senate who shall disclose the secret or proceedings of the Senate shall be liable, if a Senator, confidential Business to suffer suspension from the Senate for the life of the Senate and if an officer, to dismissal from the service of the Senate, and to punishment for contempt.

Disclosure of
secret or
confidential
business

118. Whenever by the request of the Senate or any Committee thereof, any documents or papers shall be communicated to the Senate by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or the Head of any department relating to any matter pending in the Senate, the proceedings in regard to which are secret or confidential under the rules, the said documents and papers shall be considered as confidential, and shall not be disclosed without leave of the Senate.

Documents and
Papers delivered
to the Senate

119. When nominations shall be made by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Senate, the nominations shall:

Proceedings on
Nominations

(a) if the responsibilities of the nominees are specified, be referred to the appropriate committee,

(b) if the responsibilities are not stated, be referred to the Committee of the Whole Senate.

120. The Senate or Committee shall sit in open session unless the Senate or Committee by a majority vote decides otherwise.

121.—(a) The Senate shall not consider the nomination of any person who has held any public office as contained in Part II of the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution prior to his nomination unless there is written evidence that he has declared his assets and liabilities as required by Section 11 (1) of Part I of the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Such declaration shall be required for scrutiny by the Senators.

(b) All nominees should also submit themselves to Finger Print clearance by the Force Criminal Investigations Department of the Nigeria Police Force.

122. The President shall forward a certificate stating that he intends to appoint a person to any of the offices requiring the confirmation of the Senate.

123. Upon receipt of a certificate as referred to in paragraph 121, the Clerk shall distribute to each Senator a list of the nominees in respect of whom a certificate has been received. The President shall make available sufficient copies of the relevant documents.

124. Following a meeting of the Committee for the purpose of confirming nominees at which a nominee was not confirmed, or before 14 working days from the tabling of the certificate, pursuant to paragraph 121 during which no Committee meeting for the purpose of confirming nominees has taken place, whichever shall come first, a report shall be made by the Committee and adopted by the Senate that the Senate will not confirm the nominee.

125. The Committee shall report to the Senate its decision on the confirmation of the nominee. Upon receiving the report, the Senate shall determine a date for the confirmation of the nominees reported upon by the Committees. Such date shall be within 7 working days following the receipt of the report of the Committees.

126. Upon notice from the Clerk of the Senate that the appointment of a nominee has been reported from the Committee for confirmation, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who made the nominations shall provide to the Senate a copy of the nominee's application, a copy of his or her resume, a description of the responsibilities of the position, a detailed description of the nominee's search process and a statement of the criteria by which the nominee was chosen.

127. At any meeting of the Senate for the purpose of confirming nominees, the Chair shall divide

the time available for confirmation so that an equal amount of time will be spent on the reports of the appropriate Committees.

128. In considering the confirmation of a nominee, the Committee shall not call as witness any person other than the nominee. However, resort may be had to memoranda submitted to the Committee, if any. Such memorandum shall contain the name(s) of the writer, verifiable address, a clear and dated signature, and shall be accompanied by an affidavit deposed to the veracity of its contents.

129. The Senate shall determine whether or not it concurs in the appointment of the nominee at the conclusion of the meeting held to confirm the appointment of the nominee unless any member requests that the Committee defer its determination for up to 7 calendar days to a future meeting of the Committee. In its report, the Committee shall state whether or not it concurs in the appointment of the nominee, and may state its reason therefore.

130. Where consideration of the appointment of a nominee is deferred in accordance with paragraph 123, the time allowed for the making of the report as established in paragraph 126 shall not be extended.

131. The final question on every nomination shall be "Will the Senate confirm the nomination/

appointment of as?"
This question shall not be put on the same day on which it may be reported by a Committee unless by unanimous consent.

132. Nominations neither confirmed nor rejected during the session or within 21 working days in the case of Ministerial nominees shall be returned by the Clerk to the National Assembly to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and shall not again be made to the Senate by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

PROCEEDINGS ON TREATIES

133. (a) When a treaty shall be laid before the Senate for ratification, it shall be read a first time; and no motion in response to it shall be in order, except to:

Treaty laid
before Senate

(i) refer it to a Committee;

(ii) print it in confidence for the use of the Senate; or

(iii) remove the injunction of secrecy.

(b) When a treaty is reported from a Committee or without amendment:

(i) it shall, unless the Senate unanimously otherwise direct, lie over one day for consideration; after which it may be read a second time on demand and considered as in Committee of the Whole, when it shall be

proceeded with by articles, and the amendments reported by the Committee shall be first acted upon, after which other amendments may be proposed;

(ii) when through with, the proceedings has as in Committee of the Whole shall be reported to the Senate, when the question shall be, if the treaty be amended, "Will the Senate concur in the amendments made in Committee of the Whole?;

(iii) the amendments may be taken separately, or in gross if no Senator shall object; after which new amendments may be proposed;

(iv) at any stage of such proceedings the Senate may remove the injunction of secrecy from the treaty.

(c) (i) The decisions thus made shall be reduced to form a resolution of ratification, with or without amendments, as the case may be, which shall be proposed on a subsequent day, unless, by unanimous consent, the Senate determine otherwise, at which stage no amendment to the treaty shall be received unless by unanimous consent.

(ii) The resolution of ratification when pending shall be open to amendment in the form of reservations, declaration, statements, or understandings.

(d) On the final question to advise and consent to the ratification in the form agreed to, the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senators present shall be necessary to determine it in the affirmative; but all other motions and questions upon a treaty shall be decided by a majority vote, except a motion to postpone indefinitely, which shall be decided by a vote of two-thirds.

134. Treaties transmitted by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Senate for ratification shall be resumed at the second or subsequent session of the same Senate at the stage in which they were left at the final adjournment of the session at which they were transmitted; but all proceedings on treaties shall terminate with the life of the Senate, and they shall be resumed at the commencement of the next Senate as if no proceeding has previously been had thereon.

Treaties resumed
from Session to
Session

PROCEEDINGS ON PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

135. When the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by instrument published in the Gazette of the Government of the Federation issues a Proclamation of a State of Emergency in the Federation or any part thereof, he shall immediately after the publication:

Proclamation of
a State of
Emergency

(a) transmit copies of such Gazette containing the Proclamation including the details of the emergency to the President of the Senate, and

(b) Provide a compendium of background information on the circumstances of the Receipt of emergency.

Receipt of
proclamation
Documents

136. On receipt of the documents aforesated, the President of the Senate shall:

(a) if the Senate is in session forthwith convene the Senate;

(b) if the Senate is not in session, cause the Clerk of the Senate to issue a notice convening the Senate within three working days.

Briefing of the
Senate

137. The President shall in a closed session brief the Senate on the circumstances of the Proclamation of a State of Emergency and thereafter make available to the Senators the documents as Provided by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Resolution

138. Except the Senate by a unanimous decision directs, the Senate shall then forthwith resolve into a Committee of Whole for the consideration of the Proclamation and on reporting progress, the Senate shall decide in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria approving the Proclamation.

**RECORDS OF SENATE PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC**

139. The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria may, by special order of the Senate, be furnished with an authenticated transcript of the Senate proceedings on his Bills, nominations and Treaties. However, no paper or documents except original Bills, nominations and treaties transmitted to the Senate by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and finally acted upon by the Senate shall be delivered from the office of the Clerk without an order of the Senate for that purpose.

Records of
Senate
Proceedings for
the President of
the Federal
Republic of
Nigeria

(2) The Clerk shall circulate to each Senator copies of all the Bills, resolutions or motions that have been forwarded to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Copies of the letters conveying such Bills, resolutions and motions shall also be circulated to each Senator.

(3) The Clerk to the Senate shall at the end of each calendar month present to the Senate a list of the Bills, resolutions, etc. that:

(a) have passed through the Senate and been assented to by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(b) are still awaiting assent by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and

(c) are still with the House of Representatives having been passed by the Senate.

PROCEDURE FOR THE JOINT SESSIONS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Senate Session
in Chamber

140. Senators move into House of Representatives' Chamber.

President of Nigeria arrives the Federal House of Representatives Chamber.

President shakes hands with Chairman of National Assembly (i.e. President of the Senate) and the Speaker Federal House of Representatives.

President takes his seat.

Chairman's opening remarks.

Mr President called upon to address the National Assembly.

President shakes hands again and moves out of Chambers.

Chairman declares Joint Session closed.

After closure, Senators return to their Chamber.

141. In these rules the context otherwise requires "the Constitution" definitions means the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Definitions

"The President of the Senate" includes, except where it is otherwise provide in any standing rule, a person presiding in accordance with Section 51 (b) (3) of the Constitution.

"Printing" includes stencilling, typing or any similar mechanical method of reproduction.

"Session" means one legislative year.

"Sitting" means a period during which the Senate is sitting continuously without adjournment and includes any period during which the Senate is in Committee.

"Legislative Day" means any day on which the Senate meets.

"A stranger" is anyone sitting in the Senate chambers while not being a Senator or an official of the Senate in the discharge of his official duties:

"A Bill" is a draft legislation intended to be passed by the legislature into an Act.

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