



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 19th May, 2020

1. The Senate met at 10:35 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 12th May, 2020.
Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Message from Mr. President:**
The President of the Senate announced that he had received a letter from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

Confirmation of Appointments:



**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

15th May, 2020

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-
GENERAL & COMMISSIONERS OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION (SEC)**

Pursuant to sections 3 and 5(1) of the Investment and Securities Act, 2007, I write to request for confirmation by the Senate, the appointment of the following Four (4) nominees as Director-General and Commissioners of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Their CVs are attached herewith.

| <i>S/N</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Position</i> |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>1.</i> | <i>Mr. Lamido A. Yuguda</i> | <i>Director-General</i> |

2. Mr. Reginald C. Karawusa *Full-time Commissioner*
3. Mr. Ibrahim D. Boyi *Full-time Commissioner*
4. Mr. Obisan T. Joseph *Full-time Commissioner*

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

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

4. Petitions:

- (i) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Istifanus D. Gyang (*Plateau North*) drew the attention of the Senate to two (2) petitions from:
 - (a) Jos South Local Government Traditional Council, against the Nigeria Police Staff College, Jos, over non-payment of compensation to land owners; and
 - (b) Jos South Local Government Traditional Council, against the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), over non-payment of compensation to the customary land owners.

He urged the Senate to look into the matters.

Petitions laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within four (4) weeks.

- (ii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Clifford A. Ordia (*Edo Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Mrs. Mariel Rae-Omoh, against the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation, over her wrongful dismissal from the service. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within four (4) weeks.

- (iii) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Samuel O. Egwu (*Ebonyi North*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Hon. Julius Ibere, on behalf of Izzi Development Union, Abakaliki, against the Federal Ministry of Education, over the choice of site of the newly approved Federal College of Education in Ebonyi State. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within four (4) weeks.

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Aliyu S. Abdullahi (*Niger North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the major Military Offensive Against Bandits in Katsina State: Need to integrate adjoining States of Niger, Zamfara, Kaduna, Kebbi and Sokoto. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes its resolutions on the urgent need for action against the rising spate of armed banditry in Niger and Katsina States vide two motions on the subject on Tuesday 12th May 2020;

aware through a Presidential Spokesman that President Muhammadu Buhari has authorised the commencement of a major military operation to sweep bandits and kidnappers out of Katsina State; as major proactive measures by Special Forces to replace the reactive strikes against the camps of these bandits and criminals;

further aware that the criminalities by these armed bandits and kidnappers are carried out mostly under the cover of the contiguous forests reserves and areas stretching from Katsina, Zamfara, Kaduna and Niger States with pockets of safe havens in Kebbi and Sokoto States;

alarmed that, a major offensive in Katsina State alone is likely to make the armed bandits and kidnappers seek safer haven in Zamfara, Kaduna and Niger States which host the Zurmi and Kamuku forests among others, further compounding the plight of hapless and poor communities along these forest corridors; and

further aware that it was the earlier massive operations in Zamfara and Kaduna States that led the armed bandits to seek safe haven elsewhere, thus moving into Katsina and Niger States respectively; and some others pushing their luck to some parts of Sokoto and Kebbi States;

Accordingly resolve to:

- (i) commend President Muhammadu Buhari for his proactive leadership and directive even in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic;
- (ii) urge Mr. President to expand the scope of the operations to include Zamfara, Kaduna and Niger States and any other surrounding area or States that the armed bandits may want to seek safe haven following the massive operation;
- (iii) urge the Military formations and the Nigerian Police to increase their surveillance operation to track movements by these armed bandits to prevent them from accessing any safe haven.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do commend President Muhammadu Buhari for his proactive leadership and directive even in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge Mr. President to expand the scope of the operations to include Zamfara, Kaduna and Niger States and any other surrounding area or States that the armed bandits may want to seek safe haven following the massive operation.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word “Niger” in line 2, *insert* the word “Sokoto” (*Senator Ibrahim A. Gobir — Sokoto East*).

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

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Military formations and the Nigerian Police to increase their surveillance operation to track movements by these armed bandits to prevent them accessing any safe haven — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) commend President Muhammadu Buhari for his proactive leadership and directive even in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic;
- (ii) urge Mr. President to expand the scope of the operations to include Zamfara, Kaduna, Niger and Sokoto States and any other surrounding area or States that the armed bandits may want to seek safe haven following the massive operation;
- (iii) urge the Military formations and the Nigerian Police to increase their surveillance operation to track movements by these armed bandits to prevent them accessing any safe haven (*S/Res/151/01/20*).

6. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator George T. Sekibo (*Rivers East*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) establishing a parparallel COVID-19 Task Force in Rivers State for the purpose of screening and allowing vehicles into the State ostensibly with agricultural products as approved by the Federal Government. He also reiterated that the Rivers State Government already has such a team on ground for that purpose with the Police and Security Agencies inclusive. He further stated that some lorries conveying livestock and human beings into the State were halted at the border, therefore wondering why the Police will allow such movement into Rivers State. He therefore, maintained that setting up a parallel Task Force seems to be a call for anarchy and contravening the directive on the address by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on inter-state-movement. He urged the Senate to call on the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) to reverse the parallel team forthwith.

The Senate urged the two (2) Teams/Committees to work together in harmony for the purpose of containing the spread of the COVID-19 in Rivers State.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Chukwuka G. Utazi (*Enugu North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of most Distinguished Senator Fidelis Okoro. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

informed that late Senator Fidelis Okoro, that once represented Enugu North Senatorial District of Enugu State, died on Sunday, 17th May, 2020 in Abuja, after a protracted illness;

notes that Senator Fidelis Okoro, being a 3rd term ranking Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, was first elected and served between 1992-1993 on the platform of the defunct National Republican Convention (NRC), and subsequently was elected in 1999 on the platform of Alliance for Democracy, AD in a State that has been under the firm control of the People's Democratic Party from 1999 till present; a product of political chicanery to outwit political rivals in the Enugu bigwig politics of the time, and expectedly cross-carpeted in 2001 to join the People's Democratic Party. My co-sponsors will do more justice to this point;

further notes that late Senator Fidelis Okoro contested for his 3rd term in the Senate in 2003 and won overwhelmingly, and served till 2007 when he bowed out honorably, and yielded his position to Senator Ayogu Eze, and will ever be remembered as a team player who played by the rules and was always supportive of all elected Governors of Enugu State till he breathed his last;

further informed that late Senator Fidelis Okoro was born in 1946 in Nru Nsukka but attended St. Peter Clavers Catholic School, Kafachan in Kaduna State and speaks Hausa fluently. From Kafachan, late Senator Fidelis Okoro moved to St. Theresa's College, Nsukka for his Secondary education, but had to move on to Awkunanaw Boy's Secondary School, Enugu to round up his college education. He was admitted to study Medicine at the University of Ibadan, which he barely completed his first year before the Nigeria Biafra Civil War broke out. After the Civil war, the young Fidelis chose and obtained a fresh admission from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka where he studied Zoology. His proclivity towards politics started while in the University. As an activist, he was involved in several student union politics culminating with his election as the Student Union President of University of Nigeria, Nsukka;

notes further that late Senator Fidelis Okoro, for a start in life, after his University education got employed with the Local Government Service Commission, and being not satisfied, he moved on to the Police College for training as a Police Officer. Being still not satisfied, late Senator Okoro left the Nigeria Police Force and joined the Nigeria Customs Service where he spent greater number of years before resigning to join politics in 1979. The Jim Nwobodo administration appointed late Senator Fidelis Okoro as the Honorable Commissioner in charge of Chieftaincy Matters in the old Anambra State. As wise men always come from the East, nay the Southeast, late Senator Fidelis Okoro under his Excellency Sen. Jim Nwobodo was to birth Anambra State Road Safety Corps, between 1981-1983, the forerunner of the present Federal Road Safety Corps as its pioneer State Chairman. This he accomplished with zest and verve, drawing from his experiences in the police and customs training schools;

strongly informed that late Senator Fidelis Okoro before joining politics, went into several businesses; from the establishment of a 4 Star Hotel, named Millipat Hotels in Nsukka, Estate business to a major player in the Downstream Petroleum industry of our economy, with chains of petrol filling stations and motor haulage business with innumerable trucks; and

further notes that Senator Fidelis Okoro while in the Senate from the return to democratic rule in Nigeria in 1999 till his departure from the Senate in 2007, outside membership of several Committees of the Senate chaired the Senate Committee on Commerce and Industry as well as the Chairman of Senate Committee on Defence, from where he ensured that the triple expectations of all lawmakers in representation, oversight and lawmaking were greatly accomplished. He was also appointed into the Board of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, NAU, Awka after leaving the Senate. Senator Fidelis Okoro was a lover of life and he lived it to the fullest, leaving behind his immediate and extended large family as mourners.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honor of late Senator Fidelis Okoro and all the faithfuls departed; and
- (ii) urge the Government of Enugu State to name Enugu Road, Nsukka after late Senator Fidelis Okoro to immortalize him.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honor of late Senator Fidelis Okoro and all the faithfuls departed — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Government of Enugu State to name Enugu Road, Nsukka after late Senator Fidelis Okoro to immortalize him — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honor of late Senator Fidelis Okoro and all the faithfuls departed; and
- (ii) urge the Government of Enugu State to name Enugu Road, Nsukka after late Senator Fidelis Okoro to immortalize him (*S/Res/152/01/20*).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

8. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Abdulfatai Buhari (*Oyo North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Senator Robert Koleoso, which sad event occurred on Thursday, 9th April, 2020. He stated that the lawmaker represented Oyo North Senatorial District between 2003 - 2007 who hails from Saki area of Oyo State. He stressed that the late Sen. R. Koleoso made remarkable contributions as a member of Senate Committee on Local and Foreign Debts towards debt relief package between Nigeria and Paris Club. He urge the Senate to observe one minute silence in honour of the deceased.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

9. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Binos D. Yaroe (*Adamawa South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the urgent need for measures to halt incessant attacks on rural communities of Numan and Lamurde Local Government Areas of Adamawa State and for the provision of relief materials for persons displaced by the recent attacks and communal clashes. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes that the farming and cattle rearing communities of Adamawa South Senatorial District have lived peacefully together for generations; and that in the past occasional conflicts were amicably settled through dialogue and restitution to injured parties;

concerned that in recent years such conflicts, which are avoidable, have on many occasions degenerated into deadly communal clashes;

observes that since December 2017 most of the 9 Local Governments in Adamawa South Senatorial District have been under one form of deadly invasion or the other, beginning with the invasion by suspected militant herdsmen on Dong and Kodomun (in Demsa Local Government Area) and Kodomti, Bang and Bujum (in Numan Local Government Area) as well as other neighbouring villages. These invasions involved looting, burning down of entire villages and carrying out wanton killings of men, women and children;

recalls that because of the gruesome nature of the attacks and the extent of the killings (over 100 persons were reported to have been killed in the December 4th, 2017 attacks), H.E. Prof. Yomi Osinbajo, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on Tuesday December 5, 2017 visited Dong in Demsa Local Government accompanied by Sen. Umaru Jibrilla Bindow, Governor of Adamawa State. The purpose of the visit was to assess, first-hand, the extent of the carnage visited on the people of Dong Town;

recalls further that during the visit to Dong, the Vice President was reported to have said, "The reason why we are here is to see for ourselves. The first thing of course is to see how we can compensate the loss and take immediate steps and make sure that NEMA immediately supplies relief materials and also restores some things destroyed to the state they were before the destruction." (Punch: Dec. 6, 2017);

regrettably, to date, the people of Dong, Kodomti, Bolki, Bang, Bujum and other communities attacked and destroyed then, and since then, have not received any support from either the State or Federal Government. These communities have been struggling on their own to rebuild their homes and lives;

worried that these large scale attacks which have abated somewhat over the last one year have resurfaced again in the last one week with consequential loss of lives and property;

concerned that in the early hours of Tuesday, 12 May, 2020, unknown gunmen launched attacks on Bolki and Gon, two village areas of Numan Local Government; two persons were killed in the attacks and the entire villages were burnt down and their livestock rustled;

further concerned that a few days later on Friday, 15 May, 2020, communal clashes erupted in Tingno and Sabon-Layi towns of Lamurde Local Government, where about 15 people are feared dead and large sections of the towns burnt down and properties worth millions destroyed;

disturbed that Mbemun village, a fishing community in Lamurde Local Government, was also attacked by unknown gunmen the following day, Saturday, 16 May, 2020, and the entire village razed to the ground, although no life was lost; and

observes that the communities that were subject to these attacks over the last one week are all farming/fishing communities, and these attacks and clashes have effectively impaired their land preparation activities for the upcoming farming season, thereby posing an imminent threat to food security in the area and the State;

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the communities of Bolki, Gon, Tingno, Sabon-Layi and Mbemun recently affected by insurgency attacks and communal clashes;
- (ii) urge the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) to urgently carry out an assessment of the destruction of houses, public institutions and places of worship by insurgents since December 2017 in Shelleng, Guyuk, Lamurde, Numan, Demsa and Mayo-Belwa Local Government Areas of Adamawa State with a view to providing support for the reconstruction of the destroyed structures;
- (iii) urge the Chief of Army Staff to direct the Brigade Commander of 23 Armoured Brigade Yola to deploy an Army formation on the Adamawa side of the border with Taraba State to checkmate cross-border movement of insurgents;
- (iv) commend the Commissioner of Police Adamawa Police Command for swiftly deploying and stationing a MOPOL unit at the Tingno crisis area, and urge him to station a similar unit at the Bang-Bujum axis to act as a deterrent; and
- (v) observe a one-minute silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in the recent attacks and communal clashes in Bolki and Tingno, respectively.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the communities of Bolki, Gon, Tingno, Sabon-Layi and Mbemun recently affected by insurgency attacks and communal clashes — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) to urgently carry out an assessment of the destruction of houses, public institutions and places of worship by insurgents since December 2017 in Shelleng, Guyuk, Lamurde, Numan, Demsa and Mayo-Belwa Local Government Areas of Adamawa State with a view to providing support for the reconstruction of the destroyed structures — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Chief of Army Staff to direct the Brigade Commander of 23 Armoured Brigade Yola to deploy an Army formation on the Adamawa side of the border with Taraba State to checkmate cross-border movement of insurgents — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do commend the Commissioner of Police Adamawa Police Command for swiftly deploying and stationing a MOPOL unit at the Tingno crisis area, and urge him to station a similar unit at the Bang-Bujum axis to act as a deterrent — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do observe a one-minute silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in the recent attacks and communal clashes in Bolki and Tingno, respectively — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“That the Senate do urge the two (2) Distinct Communities to accept to live together peacefully in their ancestral home with one another” (*Senator Mohammed D. Goje — Gombe Central*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the communities of Bolki, Gon, Tingno, Sabon-Layi and Mbemun recently affected by insurgency attacks and communal clashes;
- (ii) urge the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) to urgently carry out an assessment of the destruction of houses, public institutions and places of worship by insurgents since December 2017 in Shelleng, Guyuk, Lamurde, Numan, Demsa and Mayo-Belwa Local Government Areas of Adamawa State with a view to providing support for the reconstruction of the destroyed structures;
- (iii) urge the Chief of Army Staff to direct the Brigade Commander of 23 Armoured Brigade Yola to deploy an Army formation on the Adamawa side of the border with Taraba State to checkmate cross-border movement of insurgents;
- (iv) commend the Commissioner of Police Adamawa Police Command for swiftly deploying and stationing a MOPOL unit at the Tingno crisis area, and urge him to station a similar unit at the Bang-Bujum axis to act as a deterrent;
- (v) observe a one-minute silence in memory of all those who lost their lives in the recent attacks and communal clashes in Bolki and Tingno, respectively; and
- (vi) urge the two (2) Distinct Communities to accept to live together peacefully in their ancestral home with one another (*S/Res/153/01/20*).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

10. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Elisha C. Ishaku (*Adamawa North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Senator Paul Wampana, which sad event occurred on Sunday, 10th May, 2020. He stated that he was a Senator in the Second Republic; a Chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP); Zonal Vice Chairman North-East; and also served as a Minister of State for Public Health under Shehu Shagari Administration in 1983. He urged the Senate to observe one minute silence in honour of the deceased.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

11. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Yahaya I. Oloriegbe (*Kwara Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Dr. Yusuf Amuda Aluko, which sad event occurred on Friday, 15th May, 2020. He was at various times Medical Director in many General Hospitals in Nigeria. He urge the Senate to observe one minute silence in honour of the deceased.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

12. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Nigerian Local Content Development Regulation Bill, 2020 (SB. 419) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Act 2010 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 420) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (SB. 421) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) National Health Act 2014 (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 423) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.) Bill, 2020 (HB. 44) — *Read the First Time.*

13. National Food Reserve Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB.189):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Food Reserve Agency and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2020 be read the Second Time (*Senator Abdullahi Adamu — Nasarawa West*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to report within Four (4) weeks.

14. Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (SB.417):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 and for Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2020 be read the Second Time (*Senator Teslim K. Folarin — Oyo Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Local Contents to report within Four (4) weeks.

15. Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act CAP B3 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2020 (SB.178):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act CAP B3 LFN 2004 and Re-enact the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act and for Matters Connected Therewith, 2020 be read the Second Time (*Senator Uba Sani — Kaduna Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to report within Four (4) weeks.

16. Federal Tertiary Teaching Hospitals Development Tax Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB.136):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Tertiary Teaching Hospitals Development Tax Fund for the Rehabilitation, Restoration, Improvement and Consolidation of Tertiary Health Care Delivery in Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2020 be read the Second Time (*Senator Mohammed S. Musa — Niger East*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Health (Tertiary and Secondary) to report within Four (4) weeks.

17. Motions:

(a) Urgent need for quick disaster response to communities in Baruten, Edu and Kaiama Local Government Areas in Kwara State:

Motion made: That the Senate notes that destructive rainstorm occurred repeatedly in Baruten, Edu and Kaiama Local Government Areas in Kwara State in the last two weeks affecting communities and towns including Gure, Kenu, Bushiru, Biogberu, Tiberu, Okuta, Chikanda, Ningurme, Yakiru, Likpata and Kaiama communities;

notes also that over 200 houses and properties worth millions were destroyed with several people injured and one death;

concerned that the victims are currently living in deplorable conditions having been rendered homeless leading to many being dislocated and dispersed into different other villages and communities;

worried that in this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic where citizens are advised to stay at home, displaced victims without a home or roof over their heads are at risk aside putting other community members in danger; and

further worried that members of these affected communities are predominately farmers and with their dislocation during this peak of raining season when their farming activities is at its zenith hence, their livelihood will therefore be disrupted, further impoverishing them and exposing them to various other risks including COVID-19 and hunger.

Accordingly resolves to:

urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development; and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to quickly mobilize resources to provide relief and rehabilitation materials to the victims in the affected communities (*Senator Sadiq S. Umar — Kwara North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development; and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to quickly mobilize resources to provide relief and rehabilitation materials to the victims in the affected communities — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

(i) That the Senate do urge the State Governments to strengthen the State Emergency Management Agency and Local Government Emergency Management Agencies to support National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in meeting up with the challenges in area of disasters in their States and Local Government Areas (LGAs) (*Senator Uche L. Ekwunife — Anambra Central*).

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

(ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to establish the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPADEC) in line with Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission Act of 2004 which has the statutory responsibility of such natural disasters in the affected States (*Senator Muhammad E. Bima — Niger South*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development; and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to quickly mobilize resources to provide relief and rehabilitation materials to the victims in the affected communities;
- (ii) urge the State Governments to strengthen the State Emergency Management Agency and Local Government Emergency Management Agencies to support National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in meeting up with the challenges in area of disasters in their States and Local Government Areas (LGAs); and
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to establish the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPADEC) in line with Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission Act of 2004 which has the statutory responsibility of such natural disasters in the affected States (*S/Res/154/01/20*).

(b) ***Urgent need for the Federal Government to Streamline Import Duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) Waiver to Essential Pharmaceutical Drugs:***

Motion made: That the Senate, aware that in the wake of the COVID -19 Pandemic, the Federal Government of Nigeria on the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) adopted certain fiscal measures including introduction of Import Duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) Waivers on essential health and medical supplies in order to abate the spread of the Pandemic in Nigeria;

notes that in line with the fiscal measures introduced via the Nigeria Customs Service Circular No. NCS/HS/899/31/T/VOL. II/ 4, dated 29th April, 2020, all medical supplies relevant to the management of COVID-19 infection such as COVID-19 Test Kits, Protective Garments, Thermometers, Disinfectants/Sterilization products, Medical Ventilators, Patient Monitoring Devices, etc, were exempted from Import Duty and VAT Waiver for a period of six (6) months effective from 1st May, 2020, different from Presidential Directives to include all Pharmaceutical products;

notes however that the Import Duty and VAT Waivers granted by the Federal Government on medical supplies as operated by the Nigeria Customs Service did not extend to essential pharmaceutical drugs such as anti-malaria, anti-diabetics, anti-hypertensive, anti-cancer and several others needed by children and the elderly, the elderly being most vulnerable group of people to COVID-19 infection;

aware that in the absence of globally accepted treatment protocol for the dreaded COVID-19, most clinicians in Nigeria have employed combination of different drug regimen including drugs already in use daily for the treatment of other ailments thereby putting immense pressure on the existing supply chain leading to a spike in prices on commonly consumed drugs;

aware also that the disruption in economic activities and the total/relaxed lockdown of several States in the country as part of measures to control the spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the country has adversely affected the disposal income of most people to purchase essential drugs such as anti-malaria, anti-diabetics, anti-hypertensive, anti-cancer drugs thereby increasing the vulnerability of people with such ailments to COVID-19 infection;

aware that the current exchange rate has hit hard on Pharmaceutical companies as the Nigeria Customs rate of ₦465 to a Dollar which has made it very difficult for Importers. Many of the Pharmaceutical companies rely more on Drugs Imports which is to the tune of about 70%;

observed that at the moment people with underlying ailments such as diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, cancer, are reported to have recorded the highest mortality rate out of those who die from COVID-19 underscoring the need for special fiscal measures to ensure that drugs for treatment of such categories of persons are granted Import Duty and VAT Waivers so that those who need such drugs can access them easily; and

convinced that there is an urgent need to urge the Federal Government to streamline the Import Duty and VAT Waivers to essential pharmaceutical drugs such as anti-malaria, anti-diabetics, anti-hypertensive, anti-cancer drugs and others commonly consumed by children and the elderly, the elderly being most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection.

According resolves to:

- (i) commend the Federal Government for the recent Import Duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) Waiver on health and medical supplies in the country as part of measures to abate the spread of COVID-19 Pandemic in Nigeria;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to streamline the Import Duty and VAT Waivers granted on medical supplies to apply on essential pharmaceutical drugs such as anti-malaria, anti-diabetics, anti-hypertensive, anti-cancer and several others needed by children and the elderly, the elderly being most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Finance; Health (Secondary and Tertiary); and Primary Healthcare and Communicable Diseases to liaise with the Federal Ministry of finance, Budget and National Planning with a view to ensuring compliance with the resolution (2) of this motion (*Senator Ifeanyi P. Ubah — Anambra South*).

Extension of Time:

Motion made: That the Senate do sit this day beyond the time appointed for the termination of the Sitting of the Senate (Rule 13) (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do commend the Federal Government for the recent Import Duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) Waiver on health and medical supplies in the country as part of measures to abate the spread of COVID-19 Pandemic in Nigeria — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to streamline the Import Duty and VAT Waivers granted on medical supplies to apply on essential pharmaceutical drugs such as anti-malaria, anti-diabetics, anti-hypertensive, anti-cancer and several others needed by children and the elderly, the elderly being most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the word “streamline” in line 2, and *insert* the word “include” instead thereof (*Senator Muhammad A. Adamu — Kebbi Central*).

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

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Finance; Health (Secondary and Tertiary); and Primary Healthcare and Communicable Diseases to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning with a view to ensuring compliance with the resolution (2) of this motion.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the Proposed Resolution (iii) and *insert* the following instead thereof: “That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning with a view to ensuring compliance with the resolution (2) of this motion”.

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to direct the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to allow the importers of these affected drugs to enjoy the same government waiver exchange rates included in the benefits of the waivers (*Senator Francis A. Fadahunsi — Osun East*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) commend the Federal Government for the recent Import Duty and Value -Added Tax (VAT) Waiver on health and medical supplies in the country as part of measures to abate the spread of COVID-19 Pandemic in Nigeria;
 - (ii) urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to include the Import Duty and VAT Waivers granted on medical supplies to apply on essential pharmaceutical drugs such as anti-malaria, anti-diabetics, anti-hypertensive, anti-cancer and several others needed by children and the elderly, the elderly being most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection;
 - (iii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning with a view to ensuring compliance with the resolution (2) of this motion; and
 - (iv) urge the Federal Government to direct the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to allow the importers of these affected drugs to enjoy the same government waiver exchange rates included in the benefits of the waivers (*S/Res/155/01/20*).
- (c) ***The Ajaokuta Steel Company: A Panacea to the Diversification of the Nigerian Economy:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes that Ajaokuta Integrated Steel Complex was conceived and steadily developed with the vision of erecting a Metallurgical Process Plant cum Engineering Complex with other auxiliaries and facilities;

notes also that the complex is meant to be used to generate important upstream and downstream industrial and economic activities that are critical to the diversification of our economy into an industrial one;

aware that the Steel Plant aptly tagged as the "Bedrock of Nigeria's industrialization" was erected over 35 years ago. Due to constant preservation, the facilities have remained largely intact although the electronics and electrical items might have gone bad;

aware also that Ajaokuta Integrated Iron and Steel Plant is planned to be executed in three (3) Phases and was conceived to launch Nigeria into an industrialized nation and make the manufacturing Sector lead in GDI contribution, it covers over 24,000 Hectares of land;

Among those phases are:

Phase I - Production of 1.3million tonnes of liquid steel per year to generate round products and light sections;

Phase II - Production of 2.6million tonnes of liquid steel per year during which flat products are to be added to the product mix; and

Phase III - Production of 5.2million tonnes of liquid steel per year to enlarge the volume of the product mix and include some special grades of steel;

agreed that a working Steel Plant is always the Bedrock of industrialization for any developing nation hence it is one of the pillars of the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP) launched in 2014;

reiterates that the Steel sector is very critical to our national development because of its catalytic role and linkage effects on the other sectors of the National economy;

aware that Ajaokuta Steel Plant is situated on a 24,000 Hectares of green field land mass that is envisaged to grow into a technological village clusters for small scale industries (as we have in Sheffield (UK) and Bukar (India) presently) that will in due course utilize the products and by products of the Steel Plant as their raw materials;

further aware that employment generation for the first phase commissioning of the Steel plant will yield 10,000 direct technical staff and 500,000 indirect jobs of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled in the downstream and upstream industries and services;

regrets that without developing our own Steel industry, we will only export all our Raw Steel at very cheap rate and import the finished steel and allied products at exorbitant prices (as it is with our oil today);

regrets also that Nigeria imports over ₦2.3 trillion of Steel and Allied Product every year, our own Steel industry will therefore be a tangible Foreign Exchange Earner and saver for our fragile economy;

concludes that a completed Ajaokuta Steel Plant in no doubt will present a huge benefits to our bid for economic diversification. It will be a huge foreign exchange earner and saver for the country, an employment generation thereby help greatly in reducing the current wave of youth unrest, kidnaping and banditry in the Country; and

aware that in line with this administration commitment to the development of the Steel Sector, the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation inaugurated a Presidential Committee on the implementation of the Ajaokuta Steel.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency expedite action towards the completion of the Ajaokuta Steel Project;
- (ii) commend Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for the inauguration of the Presidential Committee on the implementation of Ajaokuta Steel;
- (iii) urge the Presidential Committee to hit the ground running by ensuring that all issues surrounding the operation of Ajaokuta Steel Company are resolved; and
- (iv) urge the Senate Leadership and the Committee on Solid Minerals, Steel Development and Metallurgy to undertake a facility tour of the complex after the COVID-19 lockdown (*Senator Oseni Yakubu — Kogi Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency expedite action towards the completion of the Ajaokuta Steel Project — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do commend Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for the inauguration of the Presidential Committee on the implementation of Ajaokuta Steel — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Presidential Committee to hit the ground running by ensuring that all issues surrounding the operation of Ajaokuta Steel Company are resolved — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Senate Leadership and the Committee on Solid Minerals, Steel Development and Metallurgy to undertake a facility tour of the complex after the COVID-19 lockdown — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation for an expeditious completion of Ajaokuta-Okaba-Otukpo rail line, to facilitate transportation of coal from Okaba (in Ankpa Local Government of Kogi State) to the Ajaokuta Steel Plant (*Senator Jibrin Isah — Kogi East*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency expedite action towards the completion of the Ajaokuta Steel Project;
- (ii) commend Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for the inauguration of the Presidential Committee on the implementation of Ajaokuta Steel;
- (iii) urge the Presidential Committee to hit the ground running by ensuring that all issues surrounding the operation of Ajaokuta Steel Company are resolved;
- (iv) urge the Senate Leadership and the Committee on Solid Minerals, Steel Development and Metallurgy to undertake a facility tour of the complex after the COVID-19 lockdown; and
- (v) urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation for an expeditious completion of Ajaokuta-Okaba-Otukpo rail line, to facilitate transportation of coal from Okaba (in Ankpa Local Government of Kogi State) to the Ajaokuta Steel Plant (*S/Res/156/01/20*).

(d) ***Power Sector Recovery Plan and the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic:***

Motion made: That the Senate do recall the outbreak of the dreaded COVID-19 Pandemic and when the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning intimated the leadership of the National Assembly of plans to establish a ₦1.7trn COVID-19 Crisis Intervention Fund to be utilized to upgrade healthcare facilities across the country, stimulate agriculture, solid mineral, power sector and also execute social intervention programmes that will benefit the masses;

notes that while the appropriate Executive Bill that will articulate the actual use of the proposed ₦1.7trn COVID-19 Crisis Intervention Fund is yet to be presented to the Senate for consideration, the devastating impact of the Pandemic on the power sector has necessitated the need for the Senate to draw the attention of the Federal Government to the need to include the sector in the disbursement of the proposed fund bearing in mind the vital role of stable electricity supply to current efforts towards jumpstarting the economy which is still groaning under the impact of the Pandemic;

notes further that stable and uninterrupted power supply is also a critical factor in the management of COVID-19 patients at the designated isolation and treatment centres across the country as well as in the implementation of the proposed upgrade of healthcare facilities across the country and even after the Pandemic, the importance of uninterrupted power supply to critical segments of the economy like the manufacturing sector cannot be overemphasized as the manufacturing sector relies heavily on uninterrupted power supply to thrive;

aware that prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its attendant negative impact on the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI), the NESI was already facing teething operational constraints including the absence of cost - reflective tariffs, inadequate enumeration and metering of consumers, limited access to funds for investment, poor revenue generation, and high levels of Aggregate Technical Commercial and Collection (ATC & C) losses. Generation Companies (GenCos) were owed 72 per cent of their revenue in 2019 while Electricity Distribution Companies (DisCos) reported average ATC & C losses of about 41 per cent in the same year. All these constraints prevented the NESI from performing optimally across the power value chain;

aware also that this Distinguished Senate as a clear demonstration of its commitment to proffer lasting legislative solution to the challenges confronting the NESI recently mandated its Standing Committee on Power to brainstorm with relevant stakeholders in a roundtable on the constraints of the NESI with a view to addressing them in the interest of the Nigerian economy. Report of the proceedings of the roundtable held on Monday, 9th December, 2019 including recommendations for the way forward has already been laid and is awaiting consideration;

alarmed that the COVID-19 Pandemic has further impacted negatively on the NESI as the DisCos reported 50% loss of their average monthly average revenue collection for the months of March and April 2020 respectively even as the Federal Government continues to harp on the need for stable electricity supply especially during the Pandemic;

further alarmed that if the negative impact of COVID-19 on the NESI continuous without any emergency financial intervention from the Federal Government, DisCos already facing dwindling revenues in the wake of the Pandemic may not be able to meet their remittance obligations to the market as set by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) in December, 2019 Tarrif Order.

This will also affect the financial obligations of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) which is expected to have a cost reflective tariff change of ₦3.7/kWh to ₦8.3/kWh by 1st July, 2020. The financial obligations of GenCos and Gas-to-Power suppliers will also be negatively impacted while banks that lend to oil and gas producers may face deteriorating credit quality making it harder for operators to access the much needed funds for investment; and

aware that in the past under the power sector recovery plan, the Federal Government through the Central Bank of Nigeria and other international money lending institutions extended some financial intervention to the power sector but the actual adequacy or impact of such facilities remains uncertain due to either lack of proper oversight by the industry regulator or poor compliance with code corporate governance for the industry on the part of the regulator and market participants. These interventions were not properly spread across the power value chain particularly the distribution segment of the power sector.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) commend the Federal Government for the proactive initiative to establish the ₦1.7trn COVID-19 Crisis Intervention Fund to cater for issues that are critical to effective management of the Pandemic and to stimulate gradual return to normal socio-economic activities in the country;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to include the Nigerian Electric Power Sector in the disbursement of the proposed ₦1.7bn COVID-19 Crisis Intervention Fund in order to ameliorate the financial hazards and operational challenges such as the enumeration of metering of actual consumers and recent problem arising from the Pandemic;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to suspend the planned tariff increase which is scheduled to take effect from 1st July, 2020 bearing in mind increased hardship resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Power to investigate all Federal Government interventions in the Power sector since the privatization of the sector to date with a view to ascertaining the adequacy of such interventions and their desired impact, and to report within four (4) weeks;
- (v) mandate the Committee on Power to investigate all market participants in the power value chain and ascertain the level of corporate governance compliance in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) and to report within four (4) weeks;
- (vi) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to allow operators in the Power sector access to foreign exchange for procurement of equipment and materials like what is done in the aviation and oil industry; and
- (vii) urge the Federal Government to consider additional tariff support to cushion the effect of rate shock over a fixed period to allow time required for TCN and Discos to access funds and implement performance improvement investments that will support increased tariffs to certain classes of customers especially during the pandemic (*Senator Gabriel T. Suswam — Benue North East*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do commend the Federal Government for the proactive initiative to establish the ₦1.7trn COVID-19 Crisis Intervention Fund to cater for issues that are critical to effective management of the Pandemic and to stimulate gradual return to normal socio-economic activities in the country — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to include the Nigerian Electric Power Sector in the disbursement of the proposed ₦1.7bn COVID-19 Crisis Intervention Fund in order to ameliorate the financial hazards and operational challenges such as the enumeration of metering of actual consumers and recent problem arising from the Pandemic — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to suspend the planned tariff increase which is scheduled to take effect from 1st July, 2020 bearing in mind increased hardship resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Power to investigate all Federal Government interventions in the power sector since the privatization of the sector to date with a view to ascertaining the adequacy of such interventions and their desired impact, and to report within four (4) weeks — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Power to investigate all market participants in the power value chain and ascertain the level of corporate governance compliance in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) and to report within four (4) weeks — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vi):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to allow operators in the power sector access to foreign exchange for procurement of equipment and materials like what is done in the aviation and oil industry — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to consider additional tariff support to cushion the effect of rate shock over a fixed period to allow time required for TCN and Discos to access funds and implement performance improvement investments that will support increased tariffs to certain classes of customers especially during the pandemic — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) commend the Federal Government for the proactive initiative to establish the ₦1.7trn COVID-19 Crisis Intervention Fund to cater for issues that are critical to effective management of the Pandemic and to stimulate gradual return to normal socio-economic activities in the country;

- (ii) urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to include the Nigerian Electric Power Sector in the disbursement of the proposed ₦1.7bn COVID-19 Crisis Intervention Fund in order to ameliorate the financial hazards and operational challenges such as the enumeration of metering of actual consumers and recent problem arising from the Pandemic;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to suspend the planned tariff increase which is scheduled to take effect from 1st July, 2020 bearing in mind increased hardship resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Power to investigate all Federal Government interventions in the power sector since the privatization of the sector to date with a view to ascertaining the adequacy of such interventions and their desired impact, and to report within four (4) weeks;
- (v) mandate the Committee on Power to investigate all market participants in the power value chain and ascertain the level of corporate governance compliance in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) and to report within four (4) weeks;
- (vi) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to allow operators in the power sector access to foreign exchange for procurement of equipment and materials like what is done in the aviation and oil industry; and
- (vii) urge the Federal Government to consider additional tariff support to cushion the effect of rate shock over a fixed period to allow time required for TCN and Discos to access funds and implement performance improvement investments that will support increased tariffs to certain classes of customers especially during the pandemic (*S/Res/157/01/20*).

18. Adjournment:

And it being 3:03, the President of the Senate, adjourned the Senate till Thursday, 28th May, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 3:03 p.m.

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