



# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 1st July, 2020

1. The Senate met at 11:07 am. The President of the Senate read prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**

Closed Session — 11:15 a.m.

Open Session — 12:01 p.m.

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

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 30th June, 2020.

*Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved as amended.*

4. **Messages from Mr. President:**

The President of the Senate announced that he had received five (5) letters from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

(a) ***Appointment of Career Ambassador-Designate:***



**PRESIDENT  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

16<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

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

*Dear Distinguished Senate President,*

**APPOINTMENT OF CAREER AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE**

*In accordance to section 171 (1), (2)(c) & sub-section (4) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, I have the honour to forward for confirmation by the Senate, the appointment of Mr. Suleiman Sani as Career Ambassador-Designate from the FCT. Copy of his Curriculum Vitae is attached herewith.*

*It is my hope that this request will receive the usual expeditious consideration of the Senate.*

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

*Yours sincerely,  
(Signed)  
Muhammadu Buhari*

**(b) Appointment of Non-Career Ambassadors-Designate:**



**PRESIDENT  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

17<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

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

*Dear Distinguished Senate President,*

**APPOINTMENT OF NON-CAREER AMBASSADORS-DESIGNATE**

*In accordance to section 171 (1), (2)(c) & sub-section (4) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, I have the honour to forward for confirmation by the Senate, the underlisted forty-one (41) names of nominees as Non-Career Ambassadors-Designate. Copies of their Curriculum Vitae are attached herewith.*

<b>S/no.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>State</b>
1.	Eng. Umar Suleiman	Adamawa
2.	L. S. Mandama	Adamawa
3.	Oboro Effiong Akpabio	Akwa Ibom
4.	Chief Elejah Onyeagba	Anambra
5.	Abubakar D. Ibrahim Siyi	Bauchi
6.	Philip K Ikurusi	Bayelsa
7.	Hon. Tarzoor Terhemen	Benue
8.	Paul Oga Adikwu	Benue
9.	Al-Bishir Ibrahim Al-Hussain	Borno
10.	Brig. Gen. Bwala Yusuf Bukar	Borno
11.	Prof. Monique Ekpong	Cross River
12.	Oma Djebah	Delta
13.	Ominyi N. Eze	Ebonyi
14.	Yamah Mohammed Musa	Edo
15.	Maj. Gen. C. O. Ugwu	Enugu
16.	Dr. Hajara I. Salim (F)	Gombe
17.	Obiezu Ijeoma Chinyerem (F)	Imo

18.	Ali M. Magashi	Jigawa
19.	Prof. M. A. Makarfi	Kaduna
20.	Hamisu Umar Takalmawa	Kano
21.	Jazuli Imam Galandanci	Kano
22.	Amina Ado Kurawa (F)	Kano
23.	Amb. Yahaya Lawal	Katsina
24.	Dare Sunday Awoniyi	Kogi
25.	Ibrahim Kayode Laaro	Kwara
26.	Abioye Bello	Kwara
27.	Zara Maazu Umar (F)	Kwara
28.	Ademola Seriki	Lagos
29.	Henry John Omaku	Nasarawa
30.	Chief Sarafa Tunji Isola	Ogun
31.	Mrs. Nimi Akinkube (F)	Ondo
32.	Adejaba Bello	Osun
33.	Adeshina Alege	Oyo
34.	Debo Adesina	Oyo
35.	Ms. Folakemi Akinyele (F)	Oyo
36.	Shehu Abdullahi Yibaikwal	Plateau
37.	Hon. Maureen Tamuno (F)	Rivers
38.	Faruk Yabo	Sokoto
39.	Adamu M. Hassan	Taraba
40.	Alhaji Yusuf Mohammed	Yobe
41.	Abubakar Moriki	Zamfara

2. While using this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Distinguished Senate for the confirmation of career Ambassadors earlier forwarded, it is my hope that this request will also receive your usual expeditious consideration.

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

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

(c) *Appointment of Non-Career Ambassador-Designate:*



**PRESIDENT**  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

29<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**APPOINTMENT OF NON-CAREER AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE**

*In accordance to section 171 (1), (2)( c) & sub-section (4) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, I have the honour to forward for confirmation by the Senate, the appointment of Mr. Kevin Peter and Safiya Ahmad Nuhu from Adamawa and Kano States respectively, as Non-Career Ambassadors Designate. Copies of their Curriculum Vitae are attached.*

*The Senate is kindly requested to recall my earlier submission of Mr. L. S. Mandama and Amina Ado Kurawa from Adamawa and Kano States respectively, vide letter dated 17th June, 2020, and replace Mr. L. S. Mandama with Mr. Kevin Peter, Adamawa State and Amina Ado Kurawa with Safiya Ahmad Nuhu, Kano State.*

*While hoping that this request will receive the usual expeditious consideration of the Senate, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

*Yours sincerely,  
(Signed)*

**Muhammadu Buhari**

(d) **Confirmation of Appointment:**



**PRESIDENT  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

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

*Dear Distinguished Senate President,*

**CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE  
MOBILIZATION ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION**

*In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I am pleased to present to the Senate for confirmation, the appointment of Engr. Usman Mahmud Hassan as Commissioner representing Kaduna State in the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission.*

*While hoping that the Senate will consider and confirm the nominee in the usual expeditious manner, please accept Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

*Yours sincerely,  
(Signed)*

**Muhammadu Buhari**

(e) *Confirmation of Appointment:*



**PRESIDENT**  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

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

*Dear Distinguished Senate President,*

**CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER OF THE**  
**FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

*In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I am pleased to present to the Senate for confirmation, the appointment of Idahagbon Williams Omoregie Henry as Commissioner representing Edo, Ekiti and Ondo States in the Federal Civil Service Commission.*

*While hoping that the Senate will consider and confirm the nominee in the usual expeditious manner, please accept Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

*Yours sincerely,*  
*(Signed)*

**Muhammadu Buhari**

**5. Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Phillip A. Tanimu (*FCT*) drew the attention of the Senate to the announced Executive communication on Career Ambassadorial Designate for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), and thanked Mr. President, Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation. He however observed that the Forty-One (41) nominees of Non-Career Ambassadors-Designate did not include FCT. He urged the Senate, being the FCT House of Assembly to intervene.

**6. Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Chukwuka G. Utazi (*Enugu North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the recent declaration of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a polio free nation by the World Health Organisation (WHO) the landmark event took place on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. He congratulated and felicitated with the Government and good people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, particularly the Federal Ministry of Health, National Center for Disease Control, National Primary Health Care Development Agency, State Governments, Traditional Rulers, heads of religious bodies, development partners and all medical personnel for their respective contributions that led to the declaration of Nigeria as a polio free nation. He urged Government at all levels, relevant Ministries, Agencies and Stakeholders to sustain immunization of all infants and children to forestall reversal of this success. He further urged the Federal Ministry of Health to adopt guidelines and other measures to prevent the transmission of polio into Nigeria by foreign tourists or Nigerian travellers.

*The Senate congratulated the Federal Government of Nigeria on the landmark achievement.*

**7. Petition:**

Rising on Rule 41, Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure (*Ondo Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to petitions from:

- (i) Dr. Danladi Farouk Idris, against the Managing Director and Top Level Management Staff of Bank of Industry for illegal investment of grants ranging to several billions of Naira annually with some identified commercial banks without TSA approval by the Presidency meant for financing cottage and Small Scale industrial projects across the States of the Federation: A call for Senate for full scale investigation for corrective action (2016 -2019);
- (ii) Chief F. O. Okoye and Ezinna A. E. Ekenobi of Nigerian Union of Pensioners on unfair Labour Practices in First Bank vis-a-vis the plight of First Bank Pensioners;
- (iii) J. U. Ayogu, Esq of J. U. Ayogu & Co. on behalf of Creditors of the Liquidated NITEL & MTEL, against the Managing Director of United Bank for Africa (UBA) for deliberate denial of payment of over ₦42.4 billion due to liquidator of NITEL and MTEL as claim for overcharges of Bank interests and other charges for settlement of liabilities due to many creditors of the liquidated NITEL and MTEL, an action which has resulted into the premature deaths of many creditors of the liquidated companies;
- (iv) Alege Omotayo Segun, against the Federal Civil Service Commission and Federal Ministry of information and Culture, letter of appeal to restore my regularised appointment and proper placement by Federal Civil Service Commission;
- (v) Mr. Jackson Honmane of Aiyetoro Community against Guarantee Petroleum Company Limited on behalf of Aiyetoro Community to save their soul from the recent OML 95 Ororo Well Oil Spill of 12th of April, 2020 and Fire Outbreak 15th May, 2020 in Ondo State Sea, caused by Guarantee Petroleum Company Limited;
- (vi) Abudu Tolorunju and Eniola Ademola Adeolu on behalf of Ereke Larada & Ereke Larada Sea-Side Community, requesting for adequate compensation from Guarantee Petroleum Company Limited 'Oil Spillage' noticed on 17th April, 2020 and fire outbreak on 15th May, 2020 both at Ororo OML 95 Ojumole Offshore, Ilaje Local Government, Ondo State;
- (vii) Prince Taiwo Aiyedatiwa on behalf of Abereke Community, against Guarantee Petroleum Company Limited, to save their soul from the recent Guarantee Petroleum Company Limited fire outbreak which was accompanied by Oil Explosion at its Ororo Oil Wellhead in Oil Mining Lease (OML) 95 in shallow water offshore in Ilaje Local Government of Ondo State;
- (viii) Prince Aiyemobuwa Shegun and Gbale Afolabi on behalf Ilaje Awarawa Ejalonibu Federation of Cooperative Fishing Unions Limited, against Chevron on the damage to Fishing Properties as a result of Ojumole on 18th April, 2019 Oil well Fire Out Break and Explosion (Owned by Chevron);
- (ix) Abiodun Alosun, a Community Leader, against the Managing Director and top Management of Nigerchem Nigeria Limited and Mining, Quarrying, Civil Explosives Nig. Limited over bombs Explosions in Akure-Owo Road at Eleyowo Community in Ilu-Abo, Ondo State which led to destruction of properties ranging to several millions of naira loss to Possibilities Church of all Nation and Auta Aina Secondary School Akure, Ondo State: A call for Senate investigation and compliance.

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.*

**8. Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Kola A. Balogun (*Oyo South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Senator Isiaq Abiola Ajimobi on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 after a brief illness at the age of 70. He stated that late Senator Ajimobi made great strides in the world of business for almost three (3) decades before delving into politics in 2003. He noted that he was elected a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria representing Oyo South Senatorial District on the platform of Alliance for Democracy. He further noted that he served as a Deputy Minority Leader of the Senate and later Oyo State Governor between 2011 and 2019. He urged the Senate to observe one minute silence and send a letter of condolence to the family, people and Government of Oyo State.

*One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.*

**9. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Hassan I. Hadejia (*Jigawa North-East*) drew the attention of the Senate to the dangerous security situation currently claiming lives and property in Guri and Kirikasamma Local Government Areas of Jigawa State. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

*Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Rule 42(2)].*

**10. Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Ifeanyi P. Ubah (*Anambra South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the creation of five (5) new Zonal Headquarters for the Nigerian Police with Zone 13 situated in Ukpo, Dunukofia Local Government Area of Anambra State to be in charge of Ebonyi, Enugu and Anambra States Police commands. He stated that the Zone 13 in Ukpo, will strengthen Anambra and the entire Southeast's capacity to tackle prevailing security challenges. He further observed that the Federal Government intervention on the Enugu-Onitsha expressway being constructed by RCC will facilitate seamless movement and connection between the five (5) States in the Southeast. He noted that 48% work has been achieved in the Second Niger bridge project which would further open up economic gateway and foster sustainable development in the Southeast. He appreciated President Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR), Mohammed Adamu, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and Senator Ahmad Lawan, the President of the Senate on behalf of Anambra State people for their unparalleled contributions which will harness economic prosperity that will bring about total eradication of criminal activities, community uprising and restiveness in the South East.

**11. Presentation of Bills:**

- (i) National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 171) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund Act CAP A11 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 451) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (SB. 458) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Act, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 463) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) National Institute of Management Act, No. 14 2003 (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 464) — *Read the First Time.*

**12. Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do receive the Reports of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters on the following:

- a. Criminal Code Act CAP C38 LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 02);
- b. Sexual Harassment Bill, 2020 (SB. 77); and
- c. Alleged Court Invasion by Officers of the Department of the State Security Services (DSS) on Friday, 6th December, 2019 (*Senator Michael O. Bamidele — Ekiti Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Reports Laid.*

**13. Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do receive the Reports of the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND on the following:

- a. Federal College of Education Mutum Biyu (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 101);
- b. Federal College of Education Giwa, Kaduna State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB.121); and
- c. Federal College of Education (Technical) Ibokun (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB.134) (*Senator Babba Kaita Ahmad — Katsina North*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Reports Laid.*

**14. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do receive the Reports of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- a. Alhaji Bashir Abdullahi and Five (5) others, against MTN Group Limited and Airtel Nigeria for alleged unbearable noise and discomfort caused by Telecommunication Mast mounted at No. 20 Oke-Agbe Street, Garki, Abuja;
- b. Hon. Julius Ibere and Nwojiji Abraham on behalf of Izzi Development Union (IDU), against the Federal Ministry of Education for siting the newly approved Federal College of Education in Ebonyi South Senatorial District instead of Ebonyi North Senatorial District;
- c. Two (2) petitions from Okuzo Leaders of Thought and Oba Patriotic Union respectively, against Rev. Uche U. Ibeabuchi who was seen as unqualified to be nominated for Appointment as a representative of Anambra State in the Federal Character Commission (FCC); and
- d. CSP Ebereuche Mike (Rtd), against the National Pension Commission (PENCOM) for the poor retirement benefits/pension of retired Nigeria Police Officers (*Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Reports Laid.*

**15. Motions:**

- (a) ***Herdsmen attack on Echori and Itakpa Communities in the Benue South Senatorial District of Benue State: Urgent Need for Legislative Intervention:***

*Motion made:* That the Senate notes with grave concern the recent twin attacks by suspected Fulani herdsmen on two communities of Echori and Itakpa of Obi Local Government Area of Benue South Senatorial District of Benue State on the 10th of May, 2020 and 1st of June, 2020 respectively;



*notes further* with sadness that two persons, Innocent Joseph and Tony Ogbu Alapa and 11 Persons, 1. Christian Abe Igo; 2. Sunday Atubu; 3. Steven Okwute; 4. Okwu Joshua; 5. Ogo Imuila Ogbu; 6. Friday Adekpe ala; 7. Mrs. Cecilia Onah; 8. Onah Ogaga AKA Orisha; 9. Linus Udor; 10. Sunday Okarike; and 11. Enokela Ameh were mowed down by the marauders;

*saddened* that this is one in a series of attacks and kidnappings carried out by the herdsmen in Communities in Benue South Senatorial District leaving in their wakes loss of lives and wanton destruction of properties; and

*more saddened* that as at today, no single person out of the perpetrators of the heinous attacks has been apprehended.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Nigeria Police and other relevant Security Agencies to carry out a comprehensive investigation into these dastardly attacks with a view to arresting the perpetrators;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to mount comprehensive surveillance at the affected areas to proactively detect and deter further future attacks;
- (iii) urge the Nigeria Police and other relevant Security Agencies as a matter of national emergency necessity to review their operational mechanism with a view to being more proactive;
- (iv) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development through National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately mobilize relief materials to those persons displaced by these recent attacks in Echori and Itakpa Communities; and
- (v) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased persons (*Senator Patrick A. Moro — Benue South*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution (i):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Nigeria Police and other relevant Security Agencies to carry out a comprehensive investigation into these dastardly attacks with a view to arresting the perpetrators — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (ii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to mount comprehensive surveillance at the affected areas to proactively detect and deter further future attacks — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (iii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Nigeria Police and other relevant Security Agencies as a matter of national emergency necessity to review their operational mechanism with a view to being more proactive. — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (iv):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development through National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately mobilize relief materials to those persons displaced by these recent attacks in Echori and Itakpa Communities — *Agreed to.*

**Proposed Resolution (v):**

*Question:* That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased persons  
— *Agreed to:*

**Resolved:**

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Nigeria Police and other relevant Security Agencies to carry out a comprehensive investigation into these dastardly attacks with a view to arresting the perpetrators;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to mount comprehensive surveillance at the affected areas to proactively detect and deter further future attacks;
- (iii) urge the Nigeria Police and other relevant Security Agencies as a matter of national emergency necessity to review their operational mechanism with a view to being more proactive;
- (iv) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development through National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately mobilize relief materials to those persons displaced by these recent attacks in Echori and Itakpa Communities; and
- (v) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased persons (*S/Res/003/02/20*).

*One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.*

**(b) International Day of Parliamentarianism:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate notes that the International Day of Parliamentarianism was established on June 30, 1889 by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution A/RES/72/278 and aimed at recognising the role of parliaments in national plans and strategies and in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at national and global level;

*further notes* that the day celebrates parliaments and is also an opportunity for parliaments to take stock, identify challenges, and ways to address them effectively;

*aware* that every country in the world has some form of representative government with 79 bicameral and 114 unicameral chambers of parliaments with over 46,000 members;

*further aware* that 30th June, 2020 is the 131st anniversary of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the celebration of the third edition of International Day of Parliamentarianism;

*concerned* that despite the parliament being the most important arm of government in a democracy due to its representativeness, it is the most vilified and misunderstood arm of government; and

*further concerned* that parliaments all over the world are needed more than ever to put in place legislations to respond to the health and economic crisis occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, protect vulnerable people and help scrutinize government's actions and spending.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) congratulate the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the community of parliamentarians the world over, on this occasion of the International Day of Parliamentarianism; and
- (ii) urge Parliamentarians in Nigeria both at the States and Federal levels to use this opportunity to take stock and reposition themselves as the pivots of democracy and nation-building in the country (*Senator Ifeanyi P. Ubah — Anambra South*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution (i):***

*Question:* That the Senate do congratulate the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the community of parliamentarians the world over, on this occasion of the International Day of Parliamentarianism — *Agreed to*.

***Proposed Resolution (ii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge Parliamentarians in Nigeria both at the States and Federal levels to use this opportunity to take stock and reposition themselves as the pivots of democracy and nation-building in the country — *Agreed to*.

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) congratulate the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the community of parliamentarians the world over, on this occasion of the International Day of Parliamentarianism; and
- (ii) urge Parliamentarians in Nigeria both at the States and Federal levels to use this opportunity to take stock and reposition themselves as the pivots of democracy and nation-building in the country (*S/Res/004/02/20*).

*The Senate congratulated Parliamentarians all over the world on this anniversary.*

**(c) *Urgent need for Completion and Take-off of the Federal Government Aquaculture Project at Idah, Kogi State:***

*Motion made:* That the Senate do commend the efforts of the Federal Government at diversifying the Nigerian economy, in view of the increasing unfavourable climate in the world oil market;

*notes* that Agriculture forms one of the core spindles around which the Government's diversification programme revolves, and rightly so, given the enormous agricultural potentials in the country;

*further notes* that the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) was established in 2001 to undertake well-focused research and development in biotechnology, in priority areas of food and agriculture, health, industry, environment and other strategic sectors for national development, and draw up programmes and policies for biotechnology utilization, research, and development in Nigeria;

*concerned* that according to NABDA, the demand for fish in Nigeria is currently about 3.2 million tonnes annually. Of this, 1.1 million tonnes is produced locally, while about 1.0 million tonnes is imported, leaving a deficit of about 1.1 million tonnes;

*further concerned* that inadequate supply of quality fingerlings and fish feeds, and low quality pressed pellets produced locally, constitute the major challenges of aquaculture in Nigeria;

*cognizant* that in fulfilling its mandate, outcomes of research and development of NABDA are disseminated, propagated and reproduced by 34 Centres it has established across the country, as the centres have the scope, capacity and immediate access and contacts to host communities;

*further cognizant* that of the 34 Centres of NABDA, four are designated as Aquatic Bioresource Centres with focus on aquaculture. These are located at Idah (Kogi State), Pategi (Kwara State), Tūnari (Taraba State), and Adiado (Cross River State), with Idah as the pioneer Centre established in 2015;

*realized* that for proper take-off and functioning of the Idah Centre, a high-tech fingerling production equipment with capacity to produce 500,000 fingerlings per batch and 3 million fingerlings per year, was imported and has been at the Centre since 2018;

*further realized* that the imported equipment represents a world class Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS), with the filtration, aeration, oxygenation, sterilization and decarbonizing units;

*recalls* that a 500 kg/hr fish feed extruder line with all the machinery, comprising the grinder, mixer, pre conditioner extruder, cutter, dryer, cooler, packaging machine, and a boiler has been equally procured and delivered to the Centre;

*regrets* that the various machinery and equipment at the Idah Centre have not been installed since 2018, thereby inhibiting the take-off of the Project;

*further regrets* that apart from the non-installation of the machinery and equipment, rainstorm has damaged parts of the buildings at the Centre, which calls for immediate attention to avoid further mishap; and .

*convinced* that the immediate completion of the Centre, through installation of the machinery and equipment, and the repair of the buildings, will adequately position the Centre to serve as a source of high quality fingerlings and fish feeds in the Country, which will be a major boost to the on-going economic diversification efforts into Agriculture. Meanwhile, the foreign exchange currently spent on importation of fingerlings and fish feeds would be conserved as part of the import substitution strategy of the government.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA) to ensure immediate installation of the machinery and equipment, and equally address the repairs of the damaged buildings, to actualize the take-off of the project at Idah; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Science and Technology to interface with the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and NABDA, to ensure expeditious take-off of the Centre, and report within four (4) weeks (*Senator Jibrin Isah — Kogi East*).

*Debate:*

**Proposed Resolution (i):**

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the National Biotechnology Development Agency to ensure immediate installation of the machinery and equipment, and equally address the repairs of the damaged buildings, to actualize the take-off of the project at Idah — *Agreed to.*

**Proposed Resolution (ii):**

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Science and Technology to interface with the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and NABDA, to ensure expeditious take-off of the Centre, and report within four (4) weeks — *Agreed to.*

**Resolved:**

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the National Biotechnology Development Agency to ensure immediate installation of the machinery and equipment, and equally address the repairs of the damaged buildings, to actualize the take-off of the project at Idah; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Science and Technology to interface with the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and NABDA, to ensure expeditious take-off of the Centre, and report within four (4) weeks (*S/Res/005/02/20*).

(d) ***The need to review the domestic legal framework against Illicit Financial Flows and to consider the creation of a Tax Amnesty for the voluntary repatriation of funds to Nigeria:***

*Motion made:* That the Senate, aware that the Nigerian economy and its socio-economic development have deeply suffered from the unabated cross-border financial draining of the nation's revenue by Illicit Financial Flows (IFF). IFFs are widely understood as the cross-border transfers of capital that are illegally earned, transferred or utilized, IFFs often consist of commercial money laundering, tax evasion and proceeds of corruption and criminal activities;

*alarmed* that according to a 2014 Global Financial Integrity Report, Nigeria lost a minimum of US\$140 billion to illicit financial flows between 2000 and 2014, mainly to crude oil and commercial activities mispricing. This enormous economic loss to the country was not abated, as Nigeria was ranked among the global top 30 countries of illicit financial outflows by dollar value, with US\$8.3 billion in illicit financial outflow from Nigeria in 2015;

*further alarmed* that the Tax Justice Network and the International Monetary Fund estimated that developing countries, including Nigeria, have lost over US\$200 billion per year to illicit financial flows as multinational corporations neglect, fail and/or refuse to pay taxes in these countries where they generate substantial amounts of profit. Nigeria loses approximately US\$15 billion annually to offshore tax evasion. This has resulted in a consistently low tax revenue as a percentage of GDP, as low as 5.7% in 2017. Such statistics are alarming, especially when compared to the 17.2% average of 26 African countries in the same year;

*concerned* that this incessant financial drain on the Nigeria's economy continues to have negative implications for domestic resource mobilization and long-term economic growth and development. IFFs continue to pose serious obstacles to development, as approximately 5% of the IFFs from Africa can be attributed to corruption, while 95% of IFFs come from commercial and criminal activities. These unrecorded and untaxed cross-border financial transfers, could have been mobilized as part of government revenue and injected into Nigeria's formal economy towards sustained development and economic growth;

*concerned* also that statistics show that the amount of revenue lost annually by Nigeria is more than the sums provided as development aid. For example, the net official development aid received by Nigeria in 2017 was US\$3,358,790,000. Additionally, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has donated over US\$526.7 million in humanitarian assistance to Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin, since 2017. Neither of the above figures match the estimated US\$15 and US\$18 billion Nigeria loses to IFFs annually. It is therefore unsurprising that Nigeria continues to struggle with growing inequality, poor infrastructure and lacking service delivery;

*further concerned* that there are at least 12 Nigerian institutions and agencies with responsibilities that align with tackling IFFs and related crimes. Yet, Nigeria continues to be menaced by weak regulatory structures and the complicity of other financial secrecy jurisdictions, among others. With estimates that 60% of IFFs from Nigeria are predominantly committed by multinational corporations, these challenges continue to drive the cross-border siphoning of the country's revenue, to the direct and/or indirect benefit of foreign economies;

*observes* that international information sharing and domestication of relevant policies has become a global priority, in order to ensure cross-border cooperation to tackle this global threat to national revenue generation and its negative economic and developmental impacts;

*further observes* that this global awareness has prompted governments to develop measures and policies aimed at eradicating the perpetuation of IFFs, such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD), Common Reporting Standard (CRS); a set of principles for the cross-border implementation of financial information automatic exchange between countries, to assist tax authorities track offshore holdings of tax payers;

*notes* that in an effort to ensure the domestication and implementation of the above international legal framework, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) published the Income Tax (Common Reporting Standard) Regulations, 2019. Through this framework, Nigeria aims to commence the implementation of a standardized automatic exchange of information this year, in order to curb future revenue losses due to tax evasion;

*further notes* that although Nigeria is taking steps to curtail IFFs, especially from tax evasion, billions of dollars have already been lost to IFFs. A CBN Financial Stability Report (2014) estimated that 35% of illicit financial flows out of Nigeria could be attributed to oil bunkering. Until the recent economic recession, the oil sector accounted for 95% of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings and 80% of Nigeria's total budgetary revenue. It has therefore become imperative to recover some of these funds so as to increase short-term national revenues, particularly to alleviate the pressures of the current COVID-19 pandemic, while implementing mechanism to prevent further IFFs;

*aware* that international best practices and examples from countries such as South Africa and Italy, have shown that a carefully formulated funds and asset repatriation scheme, that consists of specific time frames; an effective legislative framework that enforces anti-money laundering and anti-corruption measures; competent enforcement authorities; adequate resources and cooperation (both international and domestic), could have multiple benefits for a country. This could provide an avenue for Nigeria to repatriate lost resources, provide relevant authorities with otherwise unavailable information about illicit cross-border transfer channels and potentially deter future IFF practices; and

*convinced* that in order to foster the repatriation of Nigerian offshore funds, the Nigerian government could introduce an appealing, yet legally acceptable offshore repatriation framework, with legal and economic incentives to taxpayers and Multinational Corporation to repatriate such resources. Such a framework, could allow Nigeria reclaim billions of lost revenue, which could be injected into the economy to boost economic growth. In light of the recent global crisis, it is critical that Nigeria enhances its national revenue to revive the economy and support its citizens and local businesses, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) mandate the Committees on Finance; Anti-Corruption & Financial Crimes; Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to:
  - a. investigate the phenomenon of illicit financial flows; and
  - b. appraise the Federal Government's current policy framework to curb the continuous loss of Nigeria's revenue to illicit financial flows;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Finance; National Planning; Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes; Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to appraise the Federal Inland Revenue Service's (FIRS) current framework for tracing, identifying, preventing and sanctioning cross-border tax evasion and other illicit financial outflows;
- (iii) invite the Hon. Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning; and the Executive Heads of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS); Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC); Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN); Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC); Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU); the Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM); Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and any other relevant institution, to address the Committee on the continuous loss of government revenue to illicit financial flows and to present reports on the measures being sought to curb revenue losses, particularly the coordinated implementation of the automatic exchange of information standard, in order to prevent further revenue leakages and curb tax evasion and money laundering activities; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Finance to advise the Senate on a holistic legislative framework on how to repatriate lost revenue due to IFFs, mitigate future unabated illicit financial flows and provide an efficient strategy for the re-investment of these repatriated resources into the Nigerian economy (*Senator Gershom H. Basse — Cross River South*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution (i):***

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Finance; Anti-Corruption & Financial Crimes; Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to:

- a. investigate the phenomenon of illicit financial flows; and
- b. appraise the Federal Government's current policy framework to curb the continuous loss of Nigeria's revenue to illicit financial flows — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (ii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Finance; National Planning; Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes; Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to appraise the Federal Inland Revenue Service's (FIRS) current framework for tracing, identifying, preventing and sanctioning cross-border tax evasion and other illicit financial outflows — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (iii):***

*Question:* That the Senate do invite the Hon. Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning; and the Executive Heads of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS); Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC); Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN); Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC); Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU); the Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM); Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and any other relevant institution, to address the Committee on the continuous loss of government revenue to illicit financial flows and to present reports on the measures being sought to curb revenue losses, particularly the coordinated implementation of the automatic exchange of information standard, in order to prevent further revenue leakages and curb tax evasion and money laundering activities — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (iv):***

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Finance to advise the Senate on a holistic legislative framework on how to repatriate lost revenue due to IFFs, mitigate future unabated illicit financial flows and provide an efficient strategy for the re-investment of these repatriated resources into the Nigerian economy — *Agreed to.*

***Resolved:***

That the Senate do:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Finance; Anti-Corruption & Financial Crimes; Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to:
  - a. investigate the phenomenon of illicit financial flows; and
  - b. appraise the Federal Government's current policy framework to curb the continuous loss of Nigeria's revenue to illicit financial flows;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Finance; National Planning; Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes; Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to appraise the Federal Inland Revenue Service's (FIRS) current framework for tracing, identifying, preventing and sanctioning cross-border tax evasion and other illicit financial outflows;
- (iii) invite the Hon. Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning; and the Executive Heads of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS); Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC); Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN); Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC); Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU); the Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM); Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and any other relevant institution, to address the Committee on the continuous loss of government revenue to illicit financial flows and to present reports on the measures being sought to curb revenue losses, particularly the coordinated implementation of the automatic exchange of information standard, in order to prevent further revenue leakages and curb tax evasion and money laundering activities; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Finance to advise the Senate on a holistic legislative framework on how to repatriate lost revenue due to IFFs, mitigate future unabated illicit financial flows and provide an efficient strategy for the re-investment of these repatriated resources into the Nigerian economy (*S/Res/006/02/20*).



16. **Electric Power Sector Reform Act, 2005 (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 01) - Concurrence:**  
*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*
17. **FCT Health Insurance Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (HB. 60) - Concurrence:**  
*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*
18. **Pharmacy Council of Nigeria Act CAP. P17, LFN, 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 334)- Concurrence:**  
*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*
19. **Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc. Bill, 2020 (HB. 44) - Concurrence:**  
*Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.*
20. **Adjournment:**  
*Motion made:* That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 7th July, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.  
*(Senate Leader).*  
  
*Adjourned accordingly at 2:00 p.m.*

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

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#### CORRIGENDA

The Votes and Proceeding of Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 were corrected in items 6 and 7 as follows:

6. **Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:**  
That the Senate do receive the Reports of the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND on the following:
- a. Federal College of Education Mutum Biyu (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 101);
  - b. Federal College of Education Giwa, Kaduna State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB.121); and
  - c. Federal College of Education (Technical) Ibokun (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB.134).
- Presentation of Reports deferred to another Legislative Day.*
7. **Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:**  
That the Senate do receive the Reports of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- a. Alhaji Bashir Abdullahi and Five (5) others, against MTN Group Limited and Airtel Nigeria for alleged unbearable noise and discomfort caused by Telecommunication Mast mounted at No. 20 Oke-Agbe Street, Garki, Abuja;
- b. Hon. Julius Ibere and Nwojiji Abraham on behalf of Izzi Development Union (IDU), against the Federal Ministry of Education for siting the newly approved Federal College of Education in Ebonyi South Senatorial District instead of Ebonyi North Senatorial District;
- c. Two (2) petitions from Okuzo Leaders of Thought and Oba Patriotic Union respectively, against Rev. Uche U. Ibeabuchi who was seen as unqualified to be nominated for Appointment as a representative of Anambra State in the Federal Character Commission (FCC); and
- d. CSP Ebereuche Mike (Rtd), against the National Pension Commission (PENCOM) for the poor retirement benefits/pension of retired Nigeria Police Officers.

*Consideration of Reports deferred to another Legislative Day.*