



# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

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1. The Senate met at 10:42 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**  
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.  
*Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.*
3. **Personal Explanation:**  
Rising on Order 43, Senator Surajudeen A. Basiru (*Osun Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the death of Senator Adebayo Salami, on 7<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021 in the United States of America (USA) after a brief illness. Senator Salami represented Osun Central Senatorial District from 1999 to 2003, was a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Osun State and a strong pillar of the Osogbo Solidarity Group who contributed immensely to the community. He stated that the death of the deceased is a great loss not only to Osun Central Senatorial District and Osun State but to the nation as a whole. He urged the Senate to observe a minute silence in his honour.  
*One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.*
4. **Presentation of Bills:**
  - (i) Compulsory Free Universal Education Act CAP C52 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 44) — *Read the First Time.*
  - (ii) Legal Aid Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 560) — *Read the First Time.*
  - (iii) Critical Infrastructure Protection Bill, 2021 (SB. 610) — *Read the First Time.*
  - (iv) University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Boards, etc) Act CAP U15 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (SB.617) — *Read the First Time.*
  - (v) Institute of Information and Communications Technology, Ogoja (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 621) — *Read the First Time.*
5. **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. Mr. Kingsley Torru on behalf of Riverman Technologies Limited against the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) for non-payment of the Sum of ₦9,375, 616,700 for contract executed; and

- b. Mr. Olaniyan Shehu Muhib and other affected staff of Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) against the Institute for non-implementation of the directive of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) as regards the staff of the Institute whose appointments were terminated in March, 2019 (*Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Reports Laid.*

**6. Executive Communication:**

***Confirmation of the Nomination of Engr. Wakil Bukar for Appointment as Commissioner for Federal Civil Service Commission:***

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on the confirmation of the nomination of Engr. Wakil Bukar for appointment as Commissioner for Federal Civil Service Commission.

*(Deputy Senate Leader).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Establishment and Public Service to report within two (2) weeks*

**7. Executive Communication:**

***Confirmation of the Nomination of Mr. Aghughu Arhotomhenia Adolphus for Appointment as Auditor-General for the Federation:***

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on the confirmation of the nomination of Mr. Aghughu Arhotomhenia Adolphus for appointment as Auditor-General for the Federation.

*(Deputy Senate Leader).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Public Accounts to report within two (2) weeks*

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

***Report of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:***

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

- a. DSC Ibrahim Maigari against the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) for alleged threat to his life, conspiracy to eliminate him, assault, intimidation, torture and unwarranted long detention (*Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Presented.*

*Debate:*

*Report referred back to the Committee for further legislative action.*

- b. Bambo Adesanya, SAN on behalf of Rites Foods Limited against Seven-Up Bottling Company Plc and Ziad Maalouf for allegedly threatening the internal security of the nation and existence of Rites Foods Limited, Ososa, Ogun State (*Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Presented.*

*Debate:*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do appreciate and commend the managements of 7-Up Bottling Company Plc and Rites Foods Limited for accepting an amicable resolution of the matter, through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) adopted by the Senate, thereby saving the Soft Drink Sector from a major devastation that would have rocked the industry, nation and its people — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do strongly advise the managements of 7-Up Bottling Company and Rites Foods Limited to intensify efforts and improve their marketing strategies and techniques in order to achieve increase in their market share in the industry, thus leading to engagement of more Nigerians in their employment to boost the economy of the nation — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) appreciate and commend the managements of 7-Up Bottling Company Plc and Rites Foods Limited for accepting an amicable resolution of the matter, through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) adopted by the Senate, thereby saving the Soft Drink Sector from a major devastation that would have rocked the industry, nation and its people; and
  - (ii) strongly advise the Management of 7-Up Bottling Company and Rites Foods Limited to intensify efforts and improve their marketing strategies and techniques in order to achieve increase in their market share in the industry, thus leading to engagement of more Nigerians in their employment to boost the economy of the nation (*S/Res/063/02/21*).
- c. Senators from Akwa-Ibom State against the nomination of Mr. Lamido Yuguda as Director-General of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) instead of nominating Mary Uduk who was already serving as Ag. Director-General at the Commission (*Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Presented.*

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

*Question:* That based on the observations raised in the debate, the appointment of Mr. Lamido A. Yuguda as D.G., Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) be sustained while the Ag. D.G., Mary Uduk, be allowed to retire as substantive D.G. with immediate effect.

***Amendment Proposed:***

*Leave out* the Proposed Resolution and *insert* the following instead thereof:  
“that consequence upon the withdrawal of the Petition by the petitioners, the petition is hereby withdrawn” (*Senator James E. Manager — Delta South*).

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

*Resolved:*

that consequence upon the withdrawal of the petition by the petitioners, the petition is hereby withdrawn (*S/Res/064/02/21*).

- d. Osotoye Segun Kayode against the Nigeria Correctional Service for erroneously including his name on the retirement list of Senior Officers of the Service (*Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Presented.*

*Debate:*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do commend the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) for accepting responsibility for the error and for agreeing to reinstate Osotoye Segun Kayode with effect from the date he was mistakenly retired and to promote and pay him all his entitlements so as to be at par with his colleagues — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Board of Customs, Immigration, Civil Defence, Fire and Correctional Services to approve the recommendation of the Comptroller-General for the reinstatement of Osotoye Segun Kayode together with the payment of all his outstanding entitlements and promotions accordingly — *Agreed to.*

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) commend the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS) for accepting responsibility for the error and for agreeing to reinstate Osotoye Segun Kayode with effect from the date he was mistakenly retired and to promote and pay him all his entitlements so as to be at par with his colleagues; and
- (ii) urge the Board of Customs, Immigration, Civil Defence, Fire and Correctional Services to approve the recommendation of the Comptroller-General for the reinstatement of Osotoye Segun Kayode together with the payment of all his outstanding entitlements and promotions accordingly (*S/Res/065/02/21*).
- e. Finian Tobias Okoro on behalf of 26 other Lecturers of the Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko whose appointments were allegedly terminated by the University without justifiable cause (*Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Presented.*

*Debate:*

*Report referred back to the Committee for further legislative action.*

**9. Motions:**

- (a) ***The need to regulate the manufacturing, importation and use of Syringes and Needles to protect the lives and safety of Nigerians as well as the economy of the country:***  
*Motion made:* The Senate is aware that syringes and needles are essential medical products used for the administration of drugs parentally (Intravenous, Intramuscular, Subcutaneous) to save human lives. It is also used for the collection of blood samples for purpose of laboratory tests and some surgical procedures;

*aware also* that if not sterilized and of the right quality, the use of syringes and needles could cause disease and even death to the patient. Hence, instead of being a life saving instruments they become a danger to the patient;

*further aware* that syringes and needles manufacturing is a very strategic industry for national development particularly in the Health Sector and is also of great importance in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) on Good Health (SDG 3) and good Job/Economic Growth (SDG 8). The syringes manufacturing industry is a developing sector in Nigeria and has seven (7) existing manufacturing factories across the nation;

*notes* that investment in the sub-sector is estimated to be about 64 Billion Naira with a potential market value of about 100 Billion Naira that could be created locally, engaging about 3000 Nigerians directly and saving Nigeria about 150 Million Dollars in foreign exchange requirement per annum;

*notes* that the estimated requirement of syringes and needles in the country is 1.5 to 2 billion units per annum;

*notes* that certified and approved local manufacturers of syringes and needles in Nigeria by National Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control (NAFDAC) have capacity to produce 1.6 billion units per annum with a potential to produce 2.4 billion units per annum if provided with favorable business environment;

*worried* that despite this capacity, an estimated over 1 billion units per annum of syringes and needles are being imported into the country making the country to lose huge foreign exchange;

*further worried* that majority of the imported syringes and needles are substandard, unsterilized (used and re-washed syringes from Asian continent) hence endangering the lives, health and safety of Nigerians;

*concerned* that despite the introduction of 75% import duties on imported syringes and needles, the Customs Department is not enforcing this, enabling mass importation of cheap substandard and unsterilized syringes and needles. This action is killing the local manufacturers making them to layoff staff and preventing them from contributing effectively to the economy;

*concerned further* that the plan to establish and implement a Backward Integration Policy (BIP) to fill the gap between need and local production by the Ministry of Trade and Investment has not been given the desired necessary action. This has contributed to the indiscriminate importation and killing of the local manufacturing efforts; and

*more concerned* that the Federal Ministry of Health does not have an effective policy on the procurement and utilization of syringes and needles by the federally owned hospitals and agencies. This has led to federally owned hospitals to sometimes procure and use substandard syringes and needles in their centers.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) mandate the Committees on Health (Secondary and Tertiary); Trade and Investment; and Customs, Excise and Tariff to conduct investigation on the state of manufacturing, importation and policy guideline for syringes and needles in Nigeria by inviting the Federal Ministry of Health, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment, Nigeria Customs Service, manufacturers of syringes, needles and any other relevant persons or body; and

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary) to invite the Federal Ministry of Health to provide explanation on the policy for the procurement and utilization of syringes and needles by Federal Government owned hospitals and agencies of the Ministry (*Senator Yahaya I. Oloriegbe — Kwara Central*).

*Debate:*

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

*Question:* That the Senate mandate the Committees on Health (Secondary and Tertiary); Trade and Investment; and Customs, Excise and Tariff to conduct investigation on the state of manufacturing, importation and policy guideline for syringes and needles in Nigeria by inviting the Federal Ministry of Health, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment, Nigeria Custom Service, manufacturers of syringes, needles and any other relevant persons or body — *Agreed to*.

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

*Question:* That the Senate mandate the Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary) to invite the Federal Ministry of Health to provide explanation on the policy for the procurement and utilization of syringes and needles by Federal Government owned hospitals and agencies of the Ministry.

***Amendment Proposed:***

*Leave out* the Proposed Resolution (ii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

“mandate the Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary) to invite the Federal Ministry of Health to provide explanation on the policy for the procurement and utilization of syringes and needles by Federal, State and privately owned hospitals and agencies” (*Senator Robert A. Boroffice — Ondo North*).

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

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Health (Secondary and Tertiary); Trade and Investment; and Customs and Excise to conduct investigation on the state of manufacturing, importation and policy guideline for syringes and needles in Nigeria by inviting the Federal Ministry of Health, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control (NAFDAC), Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment, Nigeria Custom Excise, Manufacturers of syringes, needles and any other relevant persons or body; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary) to invite the Federal Ministry of Health to provide explanation on the policy for the procurement and utilization of syringes and needles by Federal, State and privately owned hospitals and agencies (*S/Res/066/02/21*).
- (b) ***CBN's decision to stop Financial Institutions from transacting in Cryptocurrencies and matters arising therefrom:***

*Motion made:* The Senate notes that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has issued a directive stopping all financial institutions from transacting in Cryptocurrencies; a follow up of its earlier directives in January, 2017 and February, 2018 which forbade banks to use, hold, trade and/or transact in Cryptocurrencies;

*further notes* that the decision of the CBN is said to have been predicated on the need to safeguard the Nigerian economy from the adverse effects of the Cryptocurrency regime which are unregulated digital or virtual currencies that are issued by anonymous entities and secured by cryptography;

*observes* that cryptography is a method of encrypting and hiding codes that prevent oversight, accountability and regulation upon which the CBN says its use in Nigeria violates and contravenes existing law as only the CBN is authorized by law to issue legal tender;

*concerned* that Cryptocurrency by nature is anchored on anonymity, obscurity and concealment of its patrons and actors making it difficult if not impossible to trace, track and uncover those that may deploy it for ignoble and illegal usage such as money laundering, terrorism financing, drug purchase, cybercrime, etc.;

*aware* that the action and directive of the CBN has attracted sharp reactions from Nigerians and has become a topical subject of national discuss; and

*realized* that Cryptocurrency is both an opportunity and a threat, hence the Senate has a responsibility to ensure that the nation and citizens do not miss out on the opportunities that it offers and in the same vein, mitigate and prevent likely consequential effects on the nation's economy and security.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

mandate the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to conduct a Public Hearing on the opportunities and threats of the Cryptocurrency on the nation's economy and security and to report within two weeks (*Senator Istifanus D. Gyang — Plateau North*).

*Debate:*

***Proposed Resolution:***

*Question:* That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to conduct a Public Hearing on the opportunities and threats of the Cryptocurrency on the nation's economy and security and to report within two weeks.

***Amendment Proposed:***

*Leave out* the Proposed Resolution and *insert* the following instead thereof:

“mandate the Committees on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions; ICT and Cybercrime; and Capital Market to invite the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to brief the Committees on the opportunities and threats of the Cryptocurrency on the nation's economy and security and to report within two weeks” (*Senator Hassan I. Hadejia — Jigawa North East*).

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

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions; ICT and Cybercrime; and Capital Market to invite the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to brief the Committees on the opportunities and threats of the Cryptocurrency on the nation's economy and security and to report within two weeks (*S/Res/067/02/21*).

**10. Adjournment:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 16th February, 2021 at 10.00 a.m. (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

*Adjourned accordingly at 1:11 p.m.*

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

