



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 29th September, 2020

1. The Senate met at 10:37 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**

Closed Session — 10:41 a.m.

Open Session — 12:20 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 (2) of Thursday, 23rd July, 2020.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

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

The President of the Senate announced that he had received seven (7) letters from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

(a) **Confirmation of Appointment:**



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

14th September, 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 THE CHAIRMAN AND
COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION**

In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), I write to forward for confirmation by the Senate, the underlisted names of twelve (12) nominees as Chairman and Commissioners of the National Population Commission. Their Curriculum Vitae are attached herewith.

S/N	Name	State	Position
i.	Nasir Isa Kwarra	Nasarawa	Chairman
ii.	Ali Silas Agara	Nasarawa	Commissioner
iii.	Muhammed Chiso A. Dottoji	Sokoto	Commissioner
iv.	Gidado Razak Folorunso	Kwara	Commissioner
v.	Ibrahim Mohammed	Bauchi	Commissioner
vi.	Hon. Joseph Kwali Shazin	FCT	Commissioner
vii.	Ajayi Ayodeji Sunday	Ekiti	Commissioner
viii.	Garba A. G. Zakar K/Hausa	Jigawa	Commissioner
ix.	Mai Aliyu Muhammad	Yobe	Commissioner
x.	Muhammad Muttaka Rini	Zamfara	Commissioner
xi.	Hon. Engr. Bala Almu Banyar	Katsina	Commissioner
xii.	Mrs. Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin	Lagos	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

(b) **Confirmation of Appointment:**



10th September, 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 THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONERS AND NON-EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONERS OF THE FEDERAL COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMISSION

In accordance with the provision of Section 5(1)(2) of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission Act, 2018, I write to forward for confirmation by the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the appointment of the underlisted eight (8) nominees as the Chairman, Executive Vice-Chairman/Chief Executive, Executive Commissioners and Non-Executive Commissioners of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission.

S/N	Name	Position	Zone
i.	Barr. Emeka Nwankpa	Chairman	South-East
ii.	Babatunde Irukera	Executive Vice Chairman/CEO	North Central
iii.	Mrs. Yinka Osoba Apata	Executive Commissioner	South-West
iv.	Adamu Ahmed Abdullahi	Executive Commissioner	North East
v.	AVM Wakili Abdullahi Ahmed	Non-Executive Commissioner	North West
vi.	Ayang Francis Eyam	Non-Executive Commissioner	South South
vii.	Dr. Ben Nwoye	Non-Executive Commissioner	South East
viii.	Chief Theophilus S. Oyebiyi	Non-Executive Commissioner	North Central

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

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

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

(c) **Transmission of the Petroleum Industry Bill, 2020:**

PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

2nd September, 2020

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



Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**TRANSMISSION OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY BILL, 2020 FOR
CONSIDERATION AND PASSAGE INTO LAW**

Pursuant to Section 58 of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I formally request the consideration and passage into law by the Senate the Petroleum Industry Bill, 2020.

In particular, the Senate may wish to note that this Bill combines, in a single tome, aspects of significant reforms to the laws governing the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, that were previously set out in two (2) distinct draft legislation, namely the Petroleum Industry Bill, 2020 and the Petroleum Industry Fiscal Bill, 2020.

While I trust that the Senate will in their usual expeditious manner favourably consider the passage of this bill into law, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

(d) **Request for Issuance of Promissory Notes:**

**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

13th August, 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 RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL OF THE REIMBURSEMENT OF ₦148.14BN THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF PROMISSORY NOTES TO BAYELSA, CROSS RIVER, ONDO, OSUN AND RIVERS STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR FEDERAL ROAD PROJECTS EXECUTED BY THE STATES

The Senate may wish to be informed that the Federal Executive Council (FEC), at its meeting of June 3, 2020 approved the reimbursement of N148, 141,969,161.24 through the issuance of Promissory Notes to the Bayelsa, Cross River, Ondo, Osun and Rivers State Governments for Federal Road projects executed by the States. The Extract from the Conclusion of the meeting referenced EC 11 (2020) 4 is attached as Appendix 1.

2. The approval by FEC was subsequent to the recommendation of an Inter-Ministerial Committee which reviewed the requests for reimbursement made by the State Governments for the projects. The Committee reviewed the documents submitted and carried out physical inspection and verification of the projects in the respective States before making its recommendation to FEC. The summary of the amounts approved for each of the five (5) States is stated in the table below:

S/N	Beneficiary	Amount (₦)
1.	Bayelsa State	38,404,564,783.40
2.	Cross River State	18,394,732,608.85
3.	Ondo State	7,822,147,577.08
4.	Osun State	4,567,456,673.63
5.	Rivers State	78,953,067,518.29
	TOTAL	148,141,969,161.24

3. In view of the foregoing, I wish to request the Senate to kindly approve, through its Resolution, the request for the reimbursement of the total sum of N148, 141,969, 161.24 through the issuance of Promissory Notes to the five (5) aforementioned State Governments for the Federal Road Projects executed on behalf of the Federal Government, as detailed in Paragraph 2 above.

4. The Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning shall provide any information that may be required by National Assembly in its consideration of this request.

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5. While looking forward to the expeditious consideration and approval of the Senate, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

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

**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

13th August, 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 appointment of Amb. Muhammad Haruna Manta and Yusufu Yunusa from Niger and Yobe States respectively, as Non-Career Ambassadors Designate. Copies of their Curriculum Vitae are attached herewith.

The Senate is kindly requested to recall my earlier submission of Air Commodore Peter Ndabake Gana (Rtd) and Alh. Yusuf Mohammed, from Niger and Yobe States respectively, who were not confirmed and to kindly substitute Air Commodore Peter Ndabake Gana (Rtd) with Amb. Muhammad Haruna Manta, Niger State and also Alh. Yusuf Mohammed, with Yusufu Yunusa, Yobe 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*

(f) **Confirmation of Appointment:**

**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

25th August, 2020

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*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 THE CHAIRMAN, DIRECTOR-

**GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE NATIONAL
PENSION COMMISSION**

In accordance with the provision of Section 19(3) Pension Reform Act, 2014, I write to forward for confirmation by the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the appointment of the underlisted six(6) nominees as Chairman, Director-General and Commissioners of the National Pension Commission. Their Curriculum Vitae are attached herewith.

S/N	Name	Zone/State	Position
i.	<i>Dr. Oyindasola Oluremi Oni</i>	<i>North Central</i>	<i>Chairman</i>
ii.	<i>Aisha Dahir Umar</i>	<i>North East</i>	<i>Director-General</i>
iii.	<i>Hannatu Hanney Musa Musawa</i>	<i>North West</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>
iv.	<i>Clement Oyedele Akintola</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>
v.	<i>Ayim C. Nyerere</i>	<i>South East</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>
vi.	<i>Charles Efe Sylvester Emukowhate</i>	<i>South South</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>

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*

(g) Confirmation of Appointment:

**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

31st August, 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 (8) JUSTICES OF THE COURT
OF APPEAL AS JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA**

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Pursuant to section 231 (2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), and upon the advice of the National Judicial Council, I hereby present for confirmation by the Senate, the appointment, of the underlisted Eight (8) Justices of the Court of Appeal as Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, according to their ranking of seniority at the Court of Appeal.

S/N	Name	Zone/State
i.	<i>Hon. Justice M. Lawal Garba</i>	<i>North West</i>
ii.	<i>Hon. Justice Helen M. Ogunwumiju</i>	<i>South West</i>
iii.	<i>Hon. Justice Addu Aboki</i>	<i>North West</i>
iv.	<i>Hon. Justice I. M. M. Saulawa</i>	<i>North West</i>
v.	<i>Hon. Justice Adamu Jauro</i>	<i>North East</i>

vi.	<i>Hon. Justice Samuel C. Oseji</i>	<i>South South</i>
vii	<i>Hon. Justice Tijjani Abubakar</i>	<i>North East</i>
viii	<i>Hon. Justice Emmanuel A. Agim</i>	<i>South South</i>

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

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

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

5. Remarks by the President of the Senate:

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, DISTINGUISHED SENATOR AHMAD IBRAHIM LAWAN, PhD, CON, AT SENATE RESUMPTION, SENATE CHAMBER, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX, THREE ARMS ZONE, ABUJA, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020.

PROTOCOL

Distinguished Colleagues, I heartily welcome us all back from our Annual Recess. This Recess unlike the previous ones, was observed in the period of COVID-19 Pandemic. All of us were largely involved in different undertakings to provide interventions and reliefs to the myriad of challenges brought about by the pandemic in our various Senatorial Districts. I commend us all for being responsive.



You will recall that all distinguished Senators have donated Fifty percent (50%) of their salaries to the national efforts at fighting the pandemic for the entire period of the COVID-19 Pandemic in our country. I must also commend us all for this show of compassion and empathy.

The pandemic is still very much with us. We therefore need to continue to work with the Health authorities in the education, enlightenment and sensitization of our people, on the need to observe the protocols established by the Presidential Task Force (PTF) and other relevant authorities.

Let me take this opportunity to commend PTF and our health workers at all levels of government for the great job they have been doing since the outbreak of the pandemic in our country.

I also commend our various committees for undertaking oversights during the Recess. These oversights are necessary activities of this Senate to ensure that the Executive implements government programmes and projects with efficiency and effectiveness. Also worthy of our commendation is the engagement of our Joint Committee on Finance and National Planning with Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning on the 2020-2022 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and fiscal Strategy Paper (MTEF/FSP) during the Recess. The Committee interacted with over 300 MDAs over the issues of Revenue Generation and Remittances to the Federal Government. The Joint Committee will present its report to the Senate Plenary today for consideration. This is a precursor to the presentation of the 2021 Budget Estimates by the Executive Arm of Government soon. I am aware that the executive will be presenting the 2021 Budget Estimates by next week.

Similarly, our Joint Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), Petroleum Resources (Upstream) and Gas have had some preliminary engagements with the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, the Nigerian National Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB). The PIB has been conveyed to the Senate for consideration.

The COVID-19 Pandemic had disrupted our budgetary plans, requiring the review of the 2020 Budget. We must carry out oversights to ensure that the revised 2020 Budget is properly implemented. The oversights are even more imperative as the Revised 2020 Budget is targeted at addressing the specific challenges occasioned by COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Senate needs to pay particular attention to the implementation of the Federal Government Economic Sustainability Plan. This strategic Plan is an essential means of revamping our economy, as it provides interventions in the Mass Agricultural Programme, Infrastructure, Mass Housing Programme, Investments in Healthcare Infrastructure, amongst others.

We were confronted with an over \$14billion revenue gap and the grim reality of an unwholesome overdependence on Oil. We cannot overemphasize the need to focus on other important sectors like Agriculture, Solid Minerals, and Steel Development and manufacturing, with a view to diversifying our economy. We need to work with relevant stakeholders to prevent our economy going into recession, stimulate the economy, save and create more jobs through a sustainable multiplier effect.

Distinguished Colleagues, the Senate will provide a one month window for Budget defense by Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Like last year, the month of October, 2020 will be dedicated for this exercise. Subsequent months of November and December will be dedicated to the internal processing of the budget by National Assembly. The various MDAs are therefore advised to ensure that they avail themselves the opportunity of the budget defense window to appear with all relevant and necessary information to defend their Budget Estimates.

Distinguished Colleagues, our 1999 Constitution as amended needs to be reviewed from time to time to improve the quality of governance and ensure stability in our polity. The Senate Committee on the Review of the Constitution has already invited Memoranda from citizens and organizations alike. The Senate will ensure speedy work on the review exercise. Also, the Electoral Reform Amendment Bills will be treated with despatch. We must ensure that we make amendments that will enhance free, fair, transparent and credible elections in our country.

Distinguished Colleagues, the security situation in our country is not what we want it to be. We want a security situation that guarantees protection of lives and property of citizens. Today, our country is bedeviled by multifaceted security challenges. We therefore need to continuously seek enduring measures to arrest the situation.

In this regard, the Senate will continue to provide the necessary legislative intervention at all times to improve the situation. There can never be any more important government function than the protection of lives and property of its citizens.

Distinguished Colleagues, the Senate has recorded some achievements in the preceding year. These achievements can be attributed to the bi-partisanship, patriotism, unity of purpose and our commitment to the Nigerian people. I commend us all for being a Senate that focuses on the national interests and working for Nigeria. I am sure we are all determined to continue on this path of serving our people.

Distinguished Colleagues, as we settle down to start our duties, I pray that God Almighty will continue to guide us. Amen.

God bless us all.

Welcome back once more.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you for your kind attention.

(Signed)

SENATOR AHMAD IBRAHIM LAWAN, PhD, CON
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

6. Announcements:

(a) Notice of Meeting:

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe (*Abia South*) as follows:



SENATOR ENYINNAYA H. ABARIBE
ABIA SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

29th September, 2020

The President of the Senate
The Senate
National Assembly
Three Arms Zone
Abuja FCT

Your Excellency,

NOTICE OF MEETING

This is to inform all Senators of the ~~Minority~~ that there will be a meeting as follows:

Date: 29th September, 2020

Time: 2pm (immediately after ~~Plenary~~)



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Venue: *Hearing Room 1, White House*

(Signed)

Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe
Minority Leader

(b) Notice of Meeting:

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Solomon O. Adeola (*Lagos West*) as follows:

SENATOR SOLOMON O. ADEOLA
LAGOS WEST SENATORIAL DISTRICT

29th September, 2020

The President of the Senate
The Senate
National Assembly
Three Arms Zone
Abuja FCT

Your Excellency,

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that there will be a joint meeting of the Senate Committees on Finance; and National Planning today at 2pm in Hearing Room 204, New Senate Building.

All members of the two Committees must endeavour to attend.

(Signed)

Senator Solomon O. Adeola
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance

(c) **Notification of Death:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from the Family of Senator Rose Okoji Oko (Cross River North) as follows:

28th September, 2020

H. E. Distinguished Sen. Ahmad Lawan
President of the Senate
National Assembly Complex
Abuja

Your Excellency,

NOTIFICATION OF FINAL RITES FOR LATE SENATOR ROSE OKO

Kindly refer to our letter of 24th March, 2020 where we conveyed the news of the passing of our Mother, late Senator Rose Okoji Oko who until her passing was the Senator representing Cross River Northern Senatorial District.

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Subsequent to our earlier communication regarding the customary Valedictory session in honour of the deceased, we write to inform the Senate that the dates chosen by the Families for the final obsequies are November 5th and 6th 2020 at Ijegu, Yala LGA, Cross River State.

Please accept as always, the assurances of the Family's highest esteem.

Respectfully,

(Signed)

Daniel Oko (Son)

7. Petitions

Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ayo P. Akinyelure (Ondo Central) drew the attention of the Senate to the following Petitions:

- (i) Mr. Idris Ahmed Aliyu and Others, against the Director General of Standard Organisation of Nigeria and his friends on alleged fraudulent misappropriation of funds and abuse of office;
- (ii) Taraba State Tiv Youth Forum, against alleged planned genocide and eviction of the Tiv People of Taraba State by the Jukun and the silence of Senator Emmanuel Bwacha, the Senator representing the southern Senatorial District of Taraba State;

- (iii) Kingsley Torru of Riverman Technologies Ltd. on alleged protracted outstanding payment of ₦9,375,616,100 (\$29.3 Million) for real time gas monitoring and measuring project due from Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR);
- (iv) Alloy James Momoh, against the Director of Bureau of Public Procurement and the Permanent Secretaries and Directors of Procurement of various Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) for alleged non-advertisement of some key projects for open competitive bidding in line with the Public Procurement Act, an action predicated to award projects to their syndicate contractors to enrich themselves illegally, conniving with the Director General of Bureau of Public Procurement to the detriment of other qualified Nigerian contractors with several billions of naira lost over the years without following Procurement Act;
- (v) Dr. Donatus Nwafa Johnson, against Managing Director/CEO and top Management Staff of Niger Delta Development Commission for alleged gross misappropriation of Public Funds and Extra Non-Budgetary Expenditure of over ₦60 billion in 2019 Appropriation year particularly to defraud the Federal Government of Nigeria without meaningful development in the Niger Delta Region;
- (vi) Timothy Olufemi Adu, appeal against UBA Plc. on alleged forceful resignation from the Bank.
- (vii) Benson Ibezim, Esq., against alleged false accusation and victimization written by desperate opportunist, against Dr. Nkenke, Ojeme Karen;
- (viii) Monima Daminabo, over alleged denial of due payment for services rendered to the National Assembly;
- (ix) Prince, Sir (Dr.) CAC. Josephs, (KSJI), against the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH) Enugu, over alleged wrongful retirement;

- (x) Gyang Zi, Esq., against the Comptroller General, Nigeria Customs Service, over alleged wrongful disengagement and request for re-instatement on behalf of ASC 1 Choji D. D with service No: 39348 into the Nigerian Customs Service;
- (xi) S. O. A. Adesina, Esq., against the Nigerian Navy, over alleged unpaid salaries of Ex-Ordinary Seamen (STWD) Lamidi W. A. Official No: 57636;
- (xii) O. B. Ige of Directorate for Citizens Rights Ministry of Justice Vs NIPOST, over alleged non-payment of salaries, wrongful retirement from service and shortfall in pension payment; and
- (xiii) High Chief Sobomabo Jackrich, Chairman, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) COVID-19 Palliatives Distribution Committee, against the Interim Management Committee of NDDC, demand for investigation over alleged misappropriation and diversion of ₦6.2 billion Palliatives Money: call for suspension of NDDC Interim Management Committee (IMC) from Office for free and fair investigation.

He urged the Senate to look into the matters.

Petitions laid and referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions to report within four (4) weeks.

8. Point of Order

Rising on Section 17 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, (as amended) and Section 17(2) of the Pension Reform Act, 2014, Senator Enyinnaya H. Abaribe (*Abia South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the letter from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation requesting the confirmation of a nominee as the Director General of National Pension Commission (NPC). He informed the Senate that the last Director General of the Commission did not complete her tenure and any nomination should be from the same zone of the previous Director General in line with section 17(2) of the Act. He stated that the nomination is in breach of the Act and the Constitution.

Point of Order noted by the Senate.

9. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Philip T. Aduda (*FCT*) drew the attention of the Senate to the letter from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation requesting the confirmation of the nominees as Ambassadors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the exclusion of indigenes of the Federal Capital Territory which had been the practice since 1999. He urged the Senate to intervene.

Point of Order noted by the Senate.

10. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Mohammed S. Musa (*Niger East*) drew the attention of the Senate to the urgent need to intervene and compel the Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs), Transmission Company and their regulatory authority to provide and ensure safety measures around our electrical facilities and installations. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes that over the years, Nigerians have to live with incidents of Electrocution and Electrical injuries at both homes and work places largely not as a result of unknown engineering principles, but system protection equipment failures, absence of protection devices in some cases, poor and aging transmission lines and poles, aging distribution networks, lack of fencing of Transformers, pitiable response to complaints of damaged facilities and lines by operators and managers of the Transmissions Company (TCN) and Distribution Companies (DISCOs) as well as non-compliance to safety rules and guidelines, non-enforcement of safety standards by regulatory agencies, unrelenting existence of inferior materials, schemes and distribution systems, unwillingness of the Discos to improve on obsolete assets inherited;

further notes that a lot of the industrial and domestic accidents are not the product of unknown engineering principles, but are mostly caused by the failure or wrong application of these principles as most of the operators have relegated Health & Safety Standard to mostly the issue of tariff;

observes that because of the frequency and alarming rate of the incidences at both rural and urban cities, there is no exact figures of incidents and deaths, but available estimated records have shown high increase. However, as some reports show, we have a continuously growing accidents; for the period from 2018 to first and second quarters 2019, 1,085 incidences occurred, 126 injuries and about 259 deaths were recorded;

aware that in December 2019 alone, about six inmates serving various prison terms at Ikoyi Correctional Centre, Lagos, died of electrocution following electricity surge that led to an explosion of cables while several inmates were also injured;

further aware that even this year 2020, many incidences of electrocution were recorded in most

parts of the country and Abuja, the Federal Capital of Nigeria was not spared considering the most recent incident that cut short the life of a young and promising boy named Suleiman (Ramadan) whose sad event occurred on 25th September, 2020;

worried that the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) which is the regulatory authority in the power sector lamented in its report for the second quarter of 2019 that no fewer than three persons were electrocuted every week, but despite the report, no concrete measure was taken to address the disastrous trend which when it happened, put the entire families of the deceased victims in a state of mourning;

further worried that as we speak today, in several places across the country, there are many old and broken down wooden and concrete electricity poles, some with naked wires dangling overhead, it only takes a serious rainfall or heavy wind to blow off some of the poles, and in such a situation, inhabitants of the affected areas live in constant fear of instant death;

regrets that Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission's second quarter report that was released at the tail end of 2019, underpins the systemic rot in the power sector and it calls to mind the legendary disregard for the sanctity of human life here, where Nigerians die cheaply from a myriad of avoidable occurrences; and

concerned that if these catastrophic and avoidable incidents are not addressed and the Senate and indeed the National Assembly do not rise to the occasion and mandate the Regulatory Commission to get tougher with all those industry operators, the incidences of electrocution will be second to insurgency in casualty figures.

Accordingly resolves to:

(i) mandate the relevant Committee to urgently interface with the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) with a view to compel the operators to invest seriously in their equipment, giving them a firm deadline to replace all the worn-out wires, poles, fence all transformers, provide adequate transformer installation and earthing system, and other basic equipment;

(ii) urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to investigate and report to the relevant Committee the statistics of Nigerians killed by electrocution from the installations of the power companies from 2010 to-date;

(iii) urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to penalize the Power Firms to pay heavy compensation to the injured and the families of the deceased that have suffered as a result of the negligence of the DISCOs; and

(iv) invite the Chairman, Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission and the CEOs of the DISCOs to appear before the relevant Committee with a view to furnish the Senate on how they can articulate a coherent and coordinated strategy for developing useful safety programs and reforms to decrease the threat of electrocution and other electrical injuries in Nigeria which are on the high side.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the relevant Committee to urgently interface with the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) with the view to compel the operators to invest seriously in their equipment, giving them a firm deadline to replace all the worn-out wires, poles, fence all transformers, provide adequate transformer installation and earthing system, and other basic equipment.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word “Commission” in line 2, *insert* the words “and Nigerian Electricity Management Agency (NEMSA)” (*Senator Philip T. Aduda — FCT*).

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

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to investigate and report to the relevant Committee the statistics of Nigerians killed by electrocution from the installations of the power companies from 2010 to-date — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to penalize the Power Firms to pay heavy compensation to the injured and the families of the deceased that have suffered as a result of the negligence of the DISCOs — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do invite the Chairman, Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission and the CEOs of the DISCOs to appear before the relevant committee with a view to furnish the Senate on how they can articulate a coherent and coordinated strategy for developing useful safety programs and reforms to decrease the threat of electrocution and other electrical injuries in Nigeria which are on the high side — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) mandate the relevant Committee to urgently interface with the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and Nigerian Electricity Management Agency (NEMSA) with the view to compel the operators to invest seriously in their equipment, giving them a firm deadline to replace all the worn-out wires, poles, fence all transformers, provide adequate transformer installation and earthing system, and other basic equipment;

- (ii) urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to investigate and report to the relevant Committee the statistics of Nigerians killed by electrocution from the installations of the power companies from 2010 to-date;
- (iii) urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to penalize the Power Firms to pay heavy compensation to the injured and the families of the deceased that have suffered as a result of the negligence of the DISCOs; and
- (iv) invite the Chairman, Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission and the CEOs of the DISCOs to appear before the relevant committee with a view to furnish the Senate on how they can articulate a coherent and coordinated strategy for developing useful safety programs and reforms to decrease the threat of electrocution and other electrical injuries in Nigeria which are on the high side (*S/Res/022/02/20*).

11. 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 Alleged Illegal Arrest, Detention, Rape, Torture and Extra - Judicial Killing of Miss Ifeoma Abugu by Operatives of the Special Anti-robbery Squad, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes with grief and sadness, the recent extra-judicial killing of 28 year old Miss Ifeoma Abugu sometime in the second week of September, 2020 by Operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Federal Capital Territory Police Command, Abuja which sad event was widely reported in electronic and print media;

recalls that on the 10th day of September, 2020, SARS Operatives FCT Police Command, Abuja reportedly arrested the late Miss Abugu in place of her fiancé, Mr. Afam Agwunwa contrary to section 7 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and whisked her away from her fiancé's apartment at Wumba village, Lokogoma, Abuja where she was allegedly detained, raped, tortured and extra-judicially killed while in their custody, FCT Police Command, Abuja;

further recalls that since the extra-judicial killing of Miss Abugu by SARS operatives in the second week of September, 2020, the FCT Police Command has to the disappointment of relatives and concerned family members of the deceased engaged in a blame game in a desperate bid to either exonerate the SARS operatives who were involved in the illegal arrest, torture and killing of the deceased or callously blame the incident on alleged drug overdose or other causes attributed to the deceased;

notes that until her untimely and gruesome murder by Operatives of SARS, the deceased, Miss Abugu had through dint of hard work and sheer determination received her tertiary education at the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT) and had reportedly concluded her National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) as well as her marriage introduction with her fiancé, Mr. Afam Ugwunwa at her country home, Ugbaike, Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area of Enugu State;

observes that the gruesome murder of Miss Abugu has once again brought to national limelight, reported cases of misconduct ranging from harassment, extortion, assault, rape and extra-judicial killings attributed to men and officers of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in the recent past;

further observes that before this unfortunate gruesome murder of Miss Abugu, there has been persistent complaints by the general public including reports in print and electronic media on the atrocities of operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) that border on high-handedness and allegations of human rights violations including illegal arrests, detention and extra-judicial killing of Nigerians under very questionable and controversial circumstances;

recalls that sometime in 2018, the Federal Government in response to public outcry and media reports on the unlawful activities of SARS set up a Presidential Panel on the Reform of SARS and the report of the Panel formed the basis for the Presidential directives on the overhaul of the activities of SARS to ensure that the special squad is intelligence-driven, human rights sensitive and restricted to the prevention and detection of heinous crimes such as armed robbery and kidnapping, and apprehension of offenders linked to the stated offences;

notes that in spite of all efforts to reform SARS, the notorious squad has remained brutal in its operations, having little or no regard to the observance of human rights of suspects contrary to its scope of activities and the Presidential directives regarding its operations and has rather veered away from its core mandate to participate in debt recovery, recovery of premises and other civil matters;

further notes that the sad and unfortunate arrest of Miss Ifeoma Abugu allegedly in place of her fiancé Mr. Afam Agwunma and her subsequent detention, rape and extra-judicial killing by SARS operatives and the entire disposition and contradictory official response of the FCT Police Command to this unfortunate incident as widely reported smacks of total disregard for extant laws and regulations relevant to their operations including section 7 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and the Presidential Directive on the re-organization of SARS; and

convinced that there is an urgent need for the Senate to investigate the alleged illegal arrest, detention, rape, torture and extra-judicial killing of Miss Ifeoma Abugu by operatives of the Special Anti-robbery Squad, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja in order to ensure that justice is

given to the family of the deceased and to also establish the status of SARS reforms in the light of recent public outcry over atrocities perpetrated by SARS Operatives.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) condemn the recent extra-judicial killing of Miss Ifeoma Abugu by Operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, FCT Police Command and further condole with the family of the deceased, the people of Enugu North Senatorial District and the good people of Enugu State in general;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to investigate the circumstances that led to the arrest, detention and extra-judicial killing of Miss Ifeoma Abugu by Operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, FCT Police Command, and to report their findings and recommendations within 2 weeks; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to investigate the status of the Presidential Directive on the Re-organization of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad in the light of recent public outcry over atrocities perpetrated by the SARS and to report their findings and recommendations within two (2) weeks.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do condemn the recent extra-judicial killing of Miss Ifeoma Abugu by Operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, FCT Police Command and further condole with the family of the deceased, the people of Enugu North Senatorial District and the good people of Enugu State in general — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Police Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to investigate the circumstances that led to the arrest, detention and extra-judicial killing of Miss Ifeoma Abugu by Operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, FCT Police Command, and to report their findings and recommendations within 2 weeks — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Police Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to investigate the status of the Presidential Directive on the Re-organization of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad in the light of recent public outcry over atrocities perpetrated by the SARS and to report their findings and recommendations within two (2) weeks — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) condemn the recent extra-judicial killing of Miss Ifeoma Abugu by Operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, FCT Police Command and further condole with the family of the deceased, the people of Enugu North Senatorial District and the good people of Enugu State in general;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to investigate the circumstances that led to the arrest, detention and extra-judicial killing of Miss Ifeoma Abugu by Operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, FCT Police Command, and to report their findings and recommendations within 2 weeks; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal

Matters to investigate the status of the Presidential Directive on the Re-organization of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad in the light of recent public outcry over atrocities perpetrated by the SARS and to report their findings and recommendations within two (2) weeks (*S/Res/023/02/20*).

One minute silence accordingly observed in his honour.

12. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Suleiman A. Kwari (*Kaduna North*), drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of the 18th Emir of Zazzau and the Chairman, Kaduna State Council of Chiefs, Alhaji (Dr.) Shehu Idris CFR on Sunday, 20th September, 2020 and who was buried on the same day according to Islamic rites. He stated that the late Emir of Zazzau was born on the 20th of February, 1938 in Zaria and went on to receive his education at the foremost Katsina Teachers College where he trained as a teacher. He said that the late Emir was an educationist, administrator and a respected leader who served the nation as Pro-Chancellor in various Universities. He further stated that the late Emir within his 45 years reign had been an advocate of peace and a great mobilizer of his subjects, other traditional and religious leaders to maintain peace within the Zazzau Emirate Council, Kaduna State and Nigeria in general. He therefore urged the Senate to observe a minute silence in honour of the late Emir.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

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13. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Olalekan R. Mustapha (*Ogun East*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Senator Buruji Kashamu which sad event occurred on Saturday, 8th August, 2020 at Lagos Hospital as a result of complication from COVID-19. He stated that Late Senator Buruji Kashamu represented Ogun East Senatorial District in the 8th Senate and was the Vice Chairman, Committee on States and Local Government. He urged the Senate to observe a minute silence in his honour.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

14. Presentation of Bills:

(i) Chartered Institute of Public Administration of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (HB. 329).

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

(ii) Nigerian Mineral Development Corporation (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 505).

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

(iii) Donkey Slaughter Regulation and Export Certification Bill, 2020 (SB. 496).

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

(iv) 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (SB. 499).

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

(v) Presidential Inauguration Bill, 2020 (SB. 296).

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

15. Committee on Finance:

Report on the 2021 - 2023 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy

Paper (FSP):

Presentation and Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria Act CAP F5 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 196):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB.197):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

18. Federal College Of Education Omuo-Ekiti, Ekiti State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB.296):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

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19. Motions:

(a) *Need to investigate Pre-Shipment Inspection of export activities in Nigeria with respect to Non Repatriation of Crude Oil Export Proceeds in line with Pre-Shipment Inspection of Export Act CAP-P26 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004. Visa-a- Vis challenges posed by global COVID-19 Pandemic:*

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(b) *Urgent need to rescue South East Amalgamated Market Traders Association businesses from total collapse and extinction from shipping lines, most in particular PIL:*

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(c) *Urgent need for effective response to the current flood disaster in the country:*

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

20. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 30th September, 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.