



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 9th February, 2021

1. The Senate met at 10:58 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings(2) of Monday, 21st December, 2020.
Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Messages from Mr. President:**
The President of the Senate announced that he had received six (6) letters from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

(a) **Confirmation of Appointment:**



**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

12th January, 2021

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE NOMINATION OF MR.
AGHUGHU ARHOYOMHENLA ADOLPHUS AS AUDITOR-GENERAL
FOR THE FEDERATION**

Pursuant to section 86(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), I hereby present for the confirmation by the Senate, Mr. Aghughu Arhoyomhenla Adolphus for appointment as Auditor-General for the Federation. Copy of his CV is attached herewith.

I hope 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

(b) Confirmation of Appointment:



PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

18th January, 2021

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
FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMISSION**

In accordance with provision of Section 5(3) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, I write to forward, for confirmation by the Senate, the appointment of Barr. Victor Chinemerem Muruako as Chairman for the Fiscal Responsibility Commission. The nominee's CV is attached.

It is my hope that the Distinguished 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

(c) Confirmation of Appointment:



PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

27th January, 2021

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF AND SERVICE CHIEFS
FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

In compliance with the provisions of Section 18(1) of the Armed Forces Act, Cap. A20 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, I hereby forward for confirmation by the Senate, the appointment of the under listed officers as Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

S/NO.	NAME	POSITION
i.	Maj. Gen. Lucky Eluonye Onyenuche Irabor	Chief of Defence Staff
ii.	Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Attahiru	Chief of Army Staff
iii.	Rear Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo	Chief of Naval Staff
iv.	Air Vice Marshal Isiaka O. Amao	Chief of Air Staff

I hope that the Distinguished Senate will consider and confirm the nominees in the usual expeditious manner.

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**

3rd February, 2021

*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
FOR THE NIGERIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION**

In accordance with the provision of Section 2(2) of the Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act, LFN, 2004, I write to forward for confirmation by the Senate the appointment of Larry Obinna Collins Chukwu as Commissioner representing South-East, at the Nigerian Law Reform Commission. The nominee's CV is attached herewith.

It is my hope that the Distinguished 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

3rd February, 2021

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
FOR THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

In accordance with the provision of Section 154(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), I write to forward for confirmation by the Senate the appointment of Engr. Wakil Bukar as Commissioner representing Bauchi, Borno and Yobe States, at the Federal Civil Service Commission. The nominee's CV is attached herewith.

It is my hope that the Distinguished 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

(f) *Confirmation of Appointment:*

PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

4th February, 2021

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 with 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 under-listed five (5) names of nominees as Non-Career Ambassadors-Designate. Copies of their Curriculum Vitae are attached herewith.

S/NO	NAME	STATE
i.	Gen. Abayomi G. Olonisakin, (Rtd)	Ekiti
ii.	Lt. Gen. Tukur Y. Buratai, (Rtd)	Borno
iii.	Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete E. Ibas, (Rtd)	Cross River
iv.	Air Marshal Sadique B. Abubakar, (Rtd)	Bauchi
v.	Air-Vice Marshal Muhammad S. Usman, (Rtd)	Kano

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

4. **Petitions:**

Rising on Order 41, Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure (*Ondo Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to Fifteen (15) petitions received from the Office of the President of the Senate as follows:

- (i) Alh. Manman Idris and Dr. Nwabueze John Chidima, against Access Bank Plc over allegation of stolen funds running into several Trillions of Naira and domiciled in Access Bank Plc;
- (ii) Augustine O. Wokocha and Abdul Wasiu K. BawanAllah, against Dr. Muheeba F. Dankaka, Chairman Federal Character Commission for alleged brazen breach of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended); Federal Character Commission (Establishment) Act and gross abuse of Office;
- (iii) Dr. Ibrahim Ayuba, against the Executive Chairman and the Director of Human Capital Management Department of Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) for operating with syndicates and obtaining gratifications ranging between ₦2million - ₦3million from candidates seeking employment in the Service;
- (iv) Alh. Bello Usman Yahaya, against the Executive Chairman and the Director of Procurement of Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) for adopting in most cases selective bidding method instead of open competitive bidding for award of contract running into several Billions of Naira annually from 2017 to date, contrary to the provisions of the Public Procurement Act;
- (v) Ajiboso Comfort Iyabo against Federal Ministry of Education for the unjust stoppage of her salary;
- (vi) Barr. Asuquo Benjamin against Sinopec - Addax Petroleum Co. Ltd for deliberate non-compliance with 2000/2001 Fiscal Incentive Package Agreement executed with Federal Government of Nigeria which has led to over unaccounted ₦1.2 Trillion Naira revenue loss due to Federal Government of Nigeria;
- (vii) Ifeanyi Nwosu and Gertrude E. Basorun against the Director General of SMEDAN over attempted forceful eviction of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises at Idu Industrial Development Centre, Idu Yard;
- (viii) P. A Okache Esq, on behalf of Basawa, Jama'a Bomo, Angwuwan Dan Sa'a, Maganda, Maganda Tsakiya, Angwuwan Naibi and other communities in Sabon Gari Local Government Area of Kaduna State, against the Federal Government of Nigeria over the non-payment of compensation by the Federal Government upon the compulsory acquisition of their farmlands in 1973, for the construction of the Nigeria Army Barracks;

- (ix) Bone A. Nwordu against Shell Petroleum Development Co. Ltd., over attack on a passenger speed boat carrying travelers from Igbomotoru Community to Yenegoa, Bayelsa State;
- (x) Franklin Onyebuchi Ekpe against the Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology, over alleged injustice being meted out on him by the Institute;
- (xi) Pastor Niyi Adebajo on behalf of RCCG against Cortil Construzioni Nigeria Ltd., over alleged Rehabilitation of Ife-Ifewara (Osun State) Road: an appeal for urgent reversal of the reimbursement of ₦151,508, 901.22 made to Cortil Construzioni Nigeria Ltd for road construction and paid for, by the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God as social responsibility to the good people of Osun States;
- (xii) KIPS Engineering Ltd., and 9 others, against the Management of Project Development Institute, Enugu (PRODA), on their criminal, unethical and unpatriotic activities to deny legitimate contractors payment for jobs dully executed;
- (xiii) Barr. Edwin Ejike, against Real World Trading Co. Limited, over alleged evasion of taxes due to the Federal Government since incorporation in 2017;
- (xiv) Chief Adedoyin Oni, against Benin Electricity Distribution Co., over failure to replace damaged transformer; and
- (xv) Olukunle Edun, Esq & Nyerhovwo Orhe, against the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), over the unlawful use of Policemen to destroy and confiscate the property belonging to Gateway Estates Ltd in Warri and Effurun, Delta State.

He urged the Senate to look into the matters.

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

5. REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, DISTINGUISHED SENATOR AHMAD IBRAHIM LAWAN, PH.D., CON, AT THE RESUMPTION OF SENATE, 9TH FEBRUARY, 2021.

PROTOCOL

Distinguished Colleagues, Happy New Year 2021, I welcome us back from a well deserved Christmas and New Year break.

Let me remind us that before we embarked on our break last year, we passed the 2021 Appropriation Bill. This was pursuant to our Legislative Agenda of ensuring that the Federal Government operates a January to December Budget cycle.

That is the second consecutive time that the Ninth National Assembly will pass the Budget in record time in December. I commend the resolve and high sense of duty and patriotism of the Senate, and indeed the National Assembly.

Distinguished Colleagues, this year, the Senate, and indeed the National Assembly has very crucial and critical Legislations that need equal commitments and dedication, as the Appropriation Bill 2021. The Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) 2020, the Electoral Act 2016 Amendment, and the 1999 Constitution Amendment Bills amongst others.

Distinguished Colleagues, we are all aware that the PIB is a critical Legislation that our Country needs, to enhance transparency and accountability in the Nigerian Petroleum Industry.

Equally important the legislation will make the Industry more competitive and therefore attract more investments.

There is no gain saying the fact that increase in investments will boost our revenues from oil and gas. The PIB is going to create an All-Winners environment. This will also bolster our economy for the benefit of all. The Senate Joint Committee working on the PIB has done so much work during the Recess. The Committee had organised a Retreat in Lagos and a Public Hearing in Abuja. I am optimistic that the Committee will conclude its interventions before the end of next month, March. It is our desire that the report of the Committee is considered before the end of April this year.

Distinguished Colleagues, the amendment to the Electoral Act 2016 is crucial to improving the integrity, transparency and confidence of citizens in our electoral processes. Our Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has been working assiduously with its counterpart in the House of Representatives to ensure that the Bill is given the necessary scrutiny. We will endeavour to complete the Legislative process before the end of the second quarter of this year.

The Review of the 1999 Constitution is another legislative intervention that the Senate is equally committed to. There are many issues that Nigerians have built consensus on and require Constitutional amendments, in order to engender Unity of our people, and efficiency in governance. Our Judiciary also needs some legislative interventions to improve on its service to Nigerians. The Senate Committee on the Review of the Constitution has been working to ensure that the necessary legislative processes are completed very soon.

Distinguished Colleagues, our Country like many others is experiencing the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. We therefore need to continue to treat the situation as a National Emergency. The National Assembly made special provisions in the 2020 Budget, which runs up to 31st March, 2021, and the 2021 Budget as well. We need to ensure that the funds are properly utilized for the prevention and management of the pandemic.

It is equally important for the Senate to engage with Executive Arm of Government on the selection, procurement, distribution and administration of the COVID-19 Vaccines. We must ensure that the selections of the vaccine for our people follow the appropriate and due Scientific processes, with National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) giving approval only after exhaustive tests before the final selection and approval.

We must ensure that the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) responsible for this exercise develop verifiable processes and timelines on how Nigerians would be vaccinated.

I commend our Committees on Health and Primary Health Care for working hard, even during the period of the Recess.

There is no doubt that the issue of insecurity remains a major concern to all of us. Indeed, every Nigerian is concerned with pervasive security challenges our Country faces. Insurgency, Banditry, Kidnapping and Militancy remain serious threats to a secured and safe Nigeria. We will continue to work with the Executive arm of government to mitigate and end these challenges.

Distinguished Colleagues, the very recent emergence of inter-ethnic and inter-tribal conflicts in some parts of our Country is worrisome. The Senate calls for calm. The situation also calls for leadership at all levels of government. Leaders must unite to fight and defeat criminality in the Country. Leaders must also unite to fight any divisive and centrifugal sentiments, and tendencies.

Political leaders are problem solvers. As parliamentarians we should search for possible legislations to address the issues that tend to create tensions amongst our people. We are going to consult and partner with all arms and tiers of governments, in our quest to finding lasting solutions to these ugly developments.

Let me take the opportunity to appeal to citizens to always use the Social Media for enhancing unity and brotherhood amongst Nigerians. Surely, the Social Media platforms can play very positive roles of engendering understanding amongst our diverse people.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our resolve and commitment to providing legislative interventions, oversight the other arms of Government and representing our people will continue to be our main goals. As we race to achieve our Legislative Agenda, we will be guided by observance and adherence to due diligence at all times.

Once again, you are welcome back and Happy New Year.

God bless you all.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, DISTINGUISHED SENATOR AHMAD IBRAHIM LAWAN, Ph.D., CON.

6. Demise of Hon. Ossy Prestige:

Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi (*Kebbi North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Hon. Ossy Prestige (*Aba North and South Federal Constituency of Abia State*) who died on Monday, 8th February, 2021 after a brief illness. He urged the Senate to observe a minute silence and suspend the day's proceedings in his honour.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the Deceased and all Senate proceedings suspended.

7. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Chartered Institute of Forensic Investigative Professionals of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 615) — *Read the First Time.*

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

- (ii) Federal Medical Centres (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 613) — *Read the First Time.*

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

- (iii) Federal University Teaching Hospital, Lafia (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 616) — *Read the First Time.*

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

- (iv) National Unity Day Bill, 2021 (SB. 619) — *Read the First Time.*

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

- (v) Open Rearing and Grazing Regulation Bill, 2021 (SB. 618) — *Read the First Time.*

Presentation of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. Motions:**(a) General Insecurity in Nigeria:**

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(b) The need for National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control to move swiftly to regulate formulation and distribution of cosmetics:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

(c) Urgent need to promote the establishment and sustainable development of Cottage Industries in the 774 LGAs of the country for the creation of job opportunities, reduction of poverty and rural-urban drift

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 10th February, 2021 at 10.00 a.m (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 11:35 a.m.

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

