



# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

1. The Senate met at 10:52 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Closed Session:**  
Closed Session — 10:53 a.m.  
Open Session — 11:32 a.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, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

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

4. **Announcements:**
  - (a) **2020 Budget of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund:**  
The President of the Senate announced that he had received the 2020 Budget Proposal of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund.

*2020 Budget of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund accordingly referred to the Committee on Police Affairs to report within one (1) week.*

- (b) **Invitation to Burial Ceremony:**



**SENATOR OBINNA JOSEPH OGBA FICA**

Chairman Senate Committee on Sports & Youth Development

MEMBER SENATE COMMITTEE ON: Sports & Youths Development, Agriculture & Rural Development, Education (Basic & Sec.), Federal Character, Communications, Petroleum Upstream, Local & Foreign Debt, Police Affairs, Science & Tech., FERMA, Local Contents, Defence.

3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2021

*His Excellency,  
Dist. Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan,  
President of the Senate,  
National Assembly,  
Abuja.*

Your Excellency,

**NOTIFICATION OF A GLORIOUS EXIT AND INVITATION TO THE BURIAL CEREMONY  
OF OUR FATHER, LATE CHIEF OGBAOKU ODO (OMEIHEUFU 1 OF NKALAGU),  
ISHIELU L.G.A, EBONYI STATE.**

*It is with a heart filled with grief but with gratitude to God for a life spent peacefully and honourably that I, Distinguished Senator Obinna Ogba on behalf of the entire Ogbaoku Odo family, announce the journey unto glory of our dearly beloved father, late CHIEF OGBAOKU ODO (OMEIHEUFU 1 OF NKALAGU) who slept in the Lord on Thursday 10th December, 2020 at the enviable age of 105.*

*Our late father was an outstanding community leader, as a politician, he contested and won the councillorship of our Ward and left indelible marks on the sands of time. He was a farmer of great repute, a role model blessed with legendary passion and penchant for human development. Until his death, he was a custodian of traditional rite of our people and a member of Igwe's cabinet of Nkalagu Autonomous Community.*

*His funeral rites will be held at his family compound at Amanvu Nkalagu, Ishielu LGA, Ebonyi State on Saturday 27th March, 2021.*

*It is our utmost desire that as we commit his remains to mother earth, we sincerely request your esteemed presence at the event to graciously identify with us in this moment of grief and in honour of our departed father.*

*Letters of condolences and tributes can be sent latest 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, via this email: [ogbaokuodu@gmail.com](mailto:ogbaokuodu@gmail.com) or forward to suite 1.03 New Senate Building, National Assembly, Abuja.*

*Please accept the assurances of my warmest regards.*

*(Signed)*

*Senator Obinna J. Ogba*

**5. Petitions:**

- (a) Rising on Order 41, Senator Ovie A. Omo-Agege (*Delta Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to four (4) petitions from:
- (i) Emeriewen Michael Oreruerien, against the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp; and the Civil Defence, Correctional, Fire and Immigration Services Board for alleged wrongful dismissal;
  - (ii) Friday Okpomo, against the Nigeria Police Force Warri in Delta State, over alleged wrongful dismissal;
  - (iii) Association of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) disengaged casual staff, Warri Zone, against the NNPC management, over alleged wrongful disengagement;
  - (iv) Mr. Salubi Anthony Fidelis, against the University of Ibadan over non-release of result and award of degree certificate;

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.*

- (b) Rising on Order 41, Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure (*Ondo Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to twelve (12) petitions from:
- (i) Ammazi Edet Effiong, against Auditor General for the Federation, National Pension Commission (PENCOM) and Trust Fund Pension over the alleged short payment of his retirement benefit;
  - (ii) Alhaji M.A. Fadunmoye, Esq., on behalf of civilian teaching and non teaching staff of education units of Nigeria Police Force, against Ministry of Police Affairs, over their alleged stagnant grade level from 2007 till date;
  - (iii) Daniel Bassey, against the Commissioner of Police, Akwa-Ibom State, over alleged threat to his life and forceful confiscation of his father's land;
  - (iv) Dr. John Ndubuisi Fidelis and Alh. Usman Ibrahim, against Polaris Bank Limited, top management of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Brass LNG Investment Fund and six other companies, over alleged illegal transfer of \$446,839,828.20 from NNPC main account domiciled with the Bank;
  - (v) Pastor Bernard O. Godson, against the Nigeria Police Force, over alleged improper handling of the murder case of his son;
  - (vi) Erastus Ade Davis and Dr. Donatus Akpabio, against First Bank of Nigeria Plc, over alleged non disclosure of some NNPC account domiciled with the bank;
  - (vii) Chief Inikio Sam Sele-Dede and three others, against Shell Petroleum Limited, over alleged devastation of their community ecosystem and damage to marine life;
  - (viii) D.A. Oyawiri, over alleged embezzlement/suspension of his Federal pension for 4 years and 11 months;
  - (ix) Victor Olatoyegun, Esq., against the Executive Vice Chairman of National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure; and the Managing Director of Engineering Materials Development Institute, over alleged victimization by the two agencies;
  - (x) Chinedu Ezeh, Esq., against the Nigeria Police Force, over alleged reinstatement of AP. No. 30429 Sunday Ngwu into the Nigeria Police Force;
  - (xi) Ex-Sgt Abdullahi Kutama, against Nigerian Army, over alleged reinstatement into the Nigerian Army; and
  - (xii) Comrade Awwal Abdullahi Aliyu, against the Federal Government of Nigeria, over alleged compensation for the victims and casualties of the #EndSARS Protest.

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.*

**6. Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Order 43, Senator Philip A. Tanimu (*FCT*) drew the attention of the Senate to the exclusion of Non-Career Ambassador from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). He stated that consistently the FCT has been left out in the previous nominations of Ambassadors. He urged for the intervention of the Leadership of the Senate on the issue.

*The President of the Senate urged the Executive to include an indigene of the FCT in subsequent nominations.*

**7. Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Order 43, Senator Francis A. Alimikhena (*Edo North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Prince Tony Momoh, who died in Abuja on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021 at the age of eighty one (81). Prince Tony Momoh was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April, 1939 in Auchi, Edo State. He started his journalism career as a sub-editor at the Daily Times Newspaper in October, 1962 and rose through the ranks to become Editor and Deputy General Manager from June, 1976 to 1980. He was appointed Minister of Information and Culture from September 1986 to 1990 as well as Chairman Board of Directors of Nigeria Airways, 1991 to 1993 amongst other appointments. He stated that the death of the deceased is a great loss not only to Edo North and Edo 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.*

**8. Personal Explanation:**

Rising on Order 43, Senator Peter O. Nwaoboshi (*Delta North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Senator (Obi) Nosike Ikpo, who died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, 2021. Late Senator Ikpo, was a highly revered High Chief, and a two (2) term Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 1979 and re-elected in 1983. He stated that the deceased was a consummate community leader of high repute, a dynamo of a parliamentarian and a politician who channeled his creative energy to the service of God, humanity and nation building. He urged the Senate to observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased.

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

**9. Presentation of Bills:**

- (i) Chartered Institute of Forensic Investigative Professionals of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 615) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Federal Medical Centres (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 613) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Federal University Teaching Hospital, Lafia (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 616) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) National Unity Day Bill, 2021 (SB. 619) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Emergency Powers Bill, 2021 (SB. 620) — *Read the First Time.*

**10. Executive Communication:**

***Confirmation of the Nomination for Appointment as Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs for the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:***

***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 the following persons for appointment as Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs for the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

No.	Names	Position
(i)	Maj. General Lucky Eluonye Onyenucheya Irabor	Chief of Defence Staff
(ii)	Maj. General 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

*(Deputy Senate Leader).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committees on Defence, Army, Air Force and Navy to report within two (2) weeks.*

**11. Executive Communication:**

***Confirmation of the Nomination of Barr. Victor Chinemerem Muruako for Appointment as Chairman Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC):***

*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 Barr. Victor Chinemerem Muruako for appointment as Chairman, Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC):

*(Deputy Senate Leader).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Finance to report within two (2) weeks.*

**12. Executive Communication:**

***Confirmation of the Nomination for Appointment as Non-Career Ambassadors-Designate:***

*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 the following persons for appointment as Non-Career Ambassadors-Designate:

No.	Names	State
(i)	General Abayomi G. Olonisakin (Rtd)	Ekiti
(ii)	Lt. General 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

*(Deputy Senate Leader).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs to report within two (2) weeks.*

**13. Executive Communication:**

***Confirmation of the Nomination of Larry Obinna Collins Chukwu for Appointment as Commissioner for the Nigerian Law Reform 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 Larry Obinna Collins Chukwu for appointment as Commissioner for the Nigerian Law Reform Commission:

*(Deputy Senate Leader).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters and to report within two (2) weeks.*

**14. Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions:**

***Report on the Confirmation of the Nomination for Appointment of Managing Director and Executive Directors of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON):***

*Motion made:* That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the confirmation of the nomination for appointment of the following persons as Managing Director and Executive Directors of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON):

No.	Names	Position
(i)	Ahmed Lawan Kuru	Managing Director
(ii)	Eberechukwu F. Uneze	Executive Director
(iii)	Aminu Ismail	Executive Director

*(Senator Uba Sani — Kaduna Central).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Laid and Presented.*

*Motion made:* That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report *(Deputy Senate Leader)*.

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### (SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the confirmation of the nomination of the following persons for appointment as Managing Director and Executive Directors of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON):

(i)	Ahmed Lawan Kuru	Managing Director	—	<i>Agreed to.</i>
(ii)	Eberechukwu F. Uneze	Executive Director	—	<i>Agreed to.</i>
(iii)	Aminu Ismail	Executive Director	—	<i>Agreed to.</i>

Chairman to report progress.

#### (SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the confirmation of the nomination for appointment of Managing Director and Executive Directors of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) and approved the nominations.

*Question:* That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

#### Confirmation of nominations:

*Question:*

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Ahmed Lawan Kuru for appointment as Managing Director, Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON)?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Ahmed Lawan Kuru for appointment as Managing Director, Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Eberechukwu F. Uneze for appointment as Executive Director, Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON)?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Eberechukwu F. Uneze for appointment as Executive Director, Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

*“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Aminu Ismail for appointment as Executive Director, Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON)?” — Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Aminu Ismail for appointment as Executive Director, Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) accordingly confirmed.*

**15. Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions:**

***Report on the Confirmation of the Nomination for Appointment of Managing Director and Executive Director of the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC):***

*Motion made:* That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the confirmation of the nomination for appointment as Managing Director and Executive Director of the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) (*Senator Uba Sani — Kaduna Central*):

No.	Names	Position
(i)	Bello Hassan	Managing Director
(ii)	Mustapha Muhammad Ibrahim	Executive Director

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Report Laid and Presented.*

*Motion made:* That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

**(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)**

Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the confirmation of the nomination of the following persons for appointment as Managing Director and Executive Director of the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC):

(i)	Bello Hassan	Managing Director	—	<i>Agreed to.</i>
(ii)	Mustapha Muhammad Ibrahim	Executive Director	—	<i>Agreed to.</i>

Chairman to report progress.

**(SENATE IN PLENARY)**

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions on the confirmation of the nomination for appointment of Managing Director and Executive Director of the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) and approved the nominations.

*Question:* That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

**Confirmation of nominations:**

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Bello Hassan for appointment as Managing Director, Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC)?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Bello Hassan for appointment as Managing Director, Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mustapha Muhammad Ibrahim for appointment as Executive Director, Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC)?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Mustapha Muhammad Ibrahim for appointment as Executive Director, Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) accordingly confirmed.*

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

*Motion made:* The Senate notes with deep concern the general state of insecurity in Nigeria;

*notes* with sadness reports of killings, and kidnappings in Ondo State, Edo State, Oyo State, Imo State, Kaduna State, Zamfara State, Niger State, Nasarawa State, Kebbi State and in other parts of the Country;

*aware* of reports of kidnappings and killings in Ibarapa axis and other parts of Oyo State consequent upon which eviction notice was given to Fulani herdsmen on 16th January, 2021, sequent to which houses and cars belonging to Fulani herdsmen were burnt in Igangan, Ibarapa North LGA of Oyo State;

*aware also* that in January, 2021, gunmen invaded Kaduna communities, killed the traditional head of Baranje Village, Dogara Yahaya and another resident in Baranje village near Buruku in Chikun Local Government Area of the State. Similarly, armed bandits killed one person after failed attempt to kidnap him at Ungwan Sada in Giwa Local Government Area, a herder was also killed by armed bandits along Kangimi axis on the Kaduna-Jos Road in Igabi Local Government Area;

*further aware* that on Friday, 29th of January, 2021, gunmen clad in military uniform intercepted some vehicles at Idon village in Kajuru Local Government Area on Kaduna-Kachia Road in Kaduna State, abducting no fewer than 19 travellers and taking them into the forest. Just like the dangerous Kaduna-Kachia road, there are still reports of kidnappings on the Kaduna-Abuja expressway;

*notes* that in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, on Saturday, 24th of January, 2021, armed men attacked Rachael orphanage in Naharati, Abaji Area Council, kidnapped seven children of age range 10 to 13 years and also kidnapped a staff member of the orphanage. Like this abduction, there are also pockets of reports of abductions in Abuja;

*notes also* that in Ondo State, kidnappers often operate freely on Akure-Owo road, Owo-Akungba road, Akure-Ilesha expressway, Ise Akoko-Isua Akoko Road and other parts of the State. Recently, gunmen killed a first class traditional ruler, the Olufon of Ifon, Oba Isreal Adeusi;

*notes further* that mass killings and banditry in Kebbi State hitherto localized in four (4) Local Government Areas in Zuru Emirate have extended to Shanga (Yawuri Emirate) and Koko-Besse, Bagudo and Maiyama Local Government Areas (Gwandu Emirate);



*notes again* that in Nasarawa State, on Monday, 4th of January, 2021, gunmen killed the former Education Secretary of Nasarawa Local Government Area of the State Malami Salihu and Kidnapped 20 people along Mungi Sharp Corner, Buga Gwari, Gadabuke area of Toto Local Government Area;

*further aware* that in Ogun State, on Monday, 1st February, 2021, suspected hoodlums set ablaze the house of Seriki Fulani in Eggua, Yewa North LGA, killing one person and scores of cows;

*notes* that in Delta State, in January, 2021, gunmen killed 3 mobile policemen, carted away AK-47 rifles and 120 rounds of ammunition in Ughelli, Ughelli North Local Government Area of the State;

*notes also* that in Niger State, between 6th December and 12th December, 2020, gunmen invaded and launched multiple attacks in Ogu and Tegina communities in Rafi Local Government Area, 19 persons were kidnapped and a Pastor with the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), Jeremiah Ibrahim was killed in Chukuba, Shiroro Local Government Area of the State;

*further notes* that in Zamfara State, killings and kidnappings have continued unabated. On Friday, 8th of January, 2021, armed kidnappers invaded Kaudari village in Maru Local Government Area and kidnapped six children from one family;

*aware* that in Imo State, unrest ensued on 25th of January, 2021 at Orlu when armed members of Eastern Security Network (ESN) clashed with security agents, which led to many killings and burning of properties;

*aware also* that in Abia State, few days ago, armed members of Eastern Security Network (ESN) invaded the camp of Fulani herdsmen in Isiukwuato, chasing them away and killing dozens of cows;

*aware* that in Edo State, kidnappers often operate freely on Benin-Auchi road as well as Benin Bypass with the recent kidnapping of Chief Dennis Abuda, a US based Nigerian who was returning to the US after the yuletide on the 31st January, 2021 and was killed afterwards after ransom has been collected from his family;

*concerned* that security challenges have led to issuance and counter-issuance of eviction notices by some ethnic entrepreneurs and groups posing as ethnic nationalists and champions;

*further observes* that even though many perpetrators of killings, kidnappings and banditry in Nigeria are illegal immigrants, they are harboured and nourished by Nigerian informants, collaborators and arm suppliers;

*concerned* that many Nigerians have injected ethnic sentiments into insecurity issues and this is capable of plunging the Nation into ethno-religious crises of ominous proportions;

*further concerned* that if the present spate of insecurity across the Nation is not curtailed, it will lead to food insecurity and famine as many farmers can no longer access their farmlands;

*observes* that the Nation is entering a very dangerous phase in its governance trajectory characterized by manufactured conflicts, fuelled by ethnic and religious entrepreneurs with divisive rhetorics, and amplified by irresponsible social media activists and platforms;

*notes* that it is the responsibility of leaders at all levels to address the security challenges of Nigeria; the local actors and authorities should not absolve themselves of responsibility;

*further notes* that President Muhammadu Buhari has nominated new Service Chiefs for Senate's consideration and hopes the new Service Chiefs will rejig and reinvigorate the security architecture for optimal efficiency and maximum effectiveness;

*condemns* extra judicial killings, banditry, robbery, kidnappings and other forms of violent behavior in Nigeria; and

*maintains* that Section 43 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended) is sacrosanct, as every citizen of Nigeria has the right to live and acquire properties in any parts of the country.

**Extension of Time:**

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR to direct the National Security Adviser and the newly nominated Service Chiefs and the Inspector General of Police to devise a proposal to rejig the nation's security architecture and disposition of forces for more effective counter measures against the current security challenges, particularly in the rural areas;
- (ii) urge the State Governors to re-invigorate rural governance and convene state-wide inter-communal conclaves and dialogues to promote local conflict resolution and inter-ethnic harmony;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to immediately embark on an operation to checkmate proliferation of firearms and enforce the laws against illegal possession of firearms by arresting, disarming and punishing anyone in illegal possession of arms;
- (iv) urge the State Governors to implement the National Livestock Transformation Plan which is a modern scheme designed to eliminate transhumance in order to prevent farmer-herder conflicts and activate highly productive livestock sector in Nigeria;
- (v) urge the Security Agencies to actively deploy drones and helicopters to monitor forests and ungoverned areas in Nigeria, to identify illegal camps of armed bandits;
- (vi) urge the Federal Government to adequately equip the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) to police and monitor our borders using technology to check illegal immigrants, and checkmate smuggling of fire arms and light weapon; and
- (vii) urge the Federal Government to resuscitate and inaugurate the National Task Force (Commission) to combat the proliferation of Light Weapons, Small Arms and Ammunition (*Senator Robert A. Boroffice — Ondo North*).

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR to direct the National Security Adviser and the newly nominated Service Chiefs and the Inspector General of Police to device a proposal to rejig the nation's security architecture and disposition of forces for more effective counter measures against the current security challenges, particularly in the rural areas — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the State Governors to re-invigorate rural governance and convene state-wide inter-communal conclaves and dialogues to promote local conflict resolution and inter-ethnic harmony — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to immediately embark on an operation to checkmate proliferation of firearms and enforce the laws against illegal possession of firearms by arresting, disarming and punishing anyone in illegal possession of arms — *Agreed to.*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the State Governors to implement the National Livestock Transformation Plan which is a modern scheme designed to eliminate transhumance in order to prevent farmer-herder conflicts and activate highly productive livestock sector in Nigeria — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (v):***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Security Agencies to actively deploy drones and helicopters to monitor forests and ungoverned areas in Nigeria, to identify illegal camps of armed bandits — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (vi)***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to adequately equip the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) to police and monitor our borders using technology to check illegal immigrants, and checkmate smuggling of fire arms and light weapon — *Agreed to.*

***Proposed Resolution (vii)***

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to resuscitate and inaugurate the National Task Force (Commission) to combat the proliferation of Light Weapons, Small Arms and Ammunition — *Agreed to.*

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

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“urge the Federal Government to review the ECOWAS protocol on free movement of people in West Africa to checkmate infiltration of criminal elements into Nigeria” (*Senator Chukwuka G. Utazi — Enugu North*).

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

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

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“observe a one minute silence for all the departed as a result of insurgency, kidnapping and other forms of criminalities across the country” (*Senator Solomon O. Adeola — Lagos West*).

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

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR to direct the National Security Adviser and the newly nominated Service Chiefs and the Inspector General of Police to devise a proposal to rejig the nation's security architecture and disposition of forces for more effective counter measures against the current security challenges, particularly in the rural areas;
  - (ii) urge the State Governors to re-invigorate rural governance and convene state-wide inter-communal conclaves and dialogues to promote local conflict resolution and inter-ethnic harmony;
  - (iii) urge the Federal Government to immediately embark on an operation to checkmate proliferation of firearms and enforce the laws against illegal possession of firearms by arresting, disarming and punishing anyone in illegal possession of arms;
  - (iv) urge the State Governors to implement the National Livestock Transformation Plan which is a modern scheme designed to eliminate transhumance in order to prevent farmer-herder conflicts and activate highly productive livestock sector in Nigeria;
  - (v) urge the Security Agencies to actively deploy drones and helicopters to monitor forests and ungoverned areas in Nigeria, to identify illegal camps of armed bandits;
  - (vi) urge the Federal Government to adequately equip the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) to police and monitor our borders using technology to check illegal immigrants, and checkmate smuggling of fire arms and light weapon;
  - (vii) urge the Federal Government to resuscitate and inaugurate the National Task Force (Commission) to combat the proliferation of Light Weapons, Small Arms and Ammunition;
  - (viii) urge the Federal Government to review the ECOWAS protocol on free movement of people in West Africa to checkmate infiltration of criminal elements into Nigeria; and
  - (ix) observe a one minute silence for all the departed as a result of insurgency, kidnapping and other forms of criminalities across the country (*S/Res/061/02/21*).
- (b) ***Proper constitution of the Delta State House of Assembly by restoring Ethiope West State Constituency (1) with Code SC/11/DT, by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and order of the Federal High Court: Motion made:*** The Senate notes that the Delta State House of Assembly has 29 elected members which is less than three (3) or four (4) times the numbers of seats which Delta State has in the National Assembly, and hence does not conform with the combined effects of the provisions of sections 6, 36, 91 and 112 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

*reminded* that Ethiope West State Constituency (1) with Code SC/11/DT in Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State was duly created and approved by the National Assembly as a separate and distinct State Constituency to be represented by an elected member in the Delta State House of Assembly and this constituency has been duly stated and identified in gazettes of the Federal Government under different captions, including " ... Know your Senatorial District, Federal Constituencies and Electoral Wards in Delta State ... "

*further reminded* that Ethiope West State Constituency (1) was/is made up of the following Electoral Wards: Jesse Ward I, Jesse Ward II, Jesse Ward III, Jesse Ward IV, Mosogar Ward I, and Mosogar Ward II; Observes that Ethiope West State Constituency (1) consisting of Jesse Ward I, Jesse Ward II, Jesse Ward III, Jesse Ward IV, Mosogar Ward I and Mosogar Ward II satisfies the requirements of section 113 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and this justifies its creation, and approval by the National Assembly;

*worried* that despite Ethiope West State Constituency (1) being a duly created and approved State Constituency by the National Assembly pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) wilfully, negligently, unlawfully or arbitrarily omitted or removed this State Constituency (1) with code no SC/11/DT from the "Approved List of State Constituencies previously Suppressed" addressed to the Clerk of National Assembly on 2nd June, 2004;

*concerned* that this singular wilful, negligent, unlawful or arbitrary act by INEC has created a real and continuing political suppression and oppression of the electorate, stakeholders and the good people of Ethiope West State Constituency (1);

*cognizant* that to stop the continuing suppression of their constitutionally guaranteed right to proper parliamentary representation, representatives of the electorate, stakeholders and the good people of Ethiope West State Constituency (1) lawfully took their grievances to the Federal High Court, Holden in Warri and challenged the actions of INEC in Suit No. FHC/WR/CS/21/2015 for omitting/removing their constituency from the "Approved List of State Constituencies previously suppressed" addressed to the Clerk of the National Assembly on 2nd June 2004;

*aware* that in a well-considered judgment delivered by Hon. Justice M. Shitu Abubakar on 25th March, 2015, the Federal High Court upheld the arguments of the representatives of the electorate, stakeholders and the good people of Ethiope West State Constituency (1), and granted their reliefs: The Judgment and Judgment Order of the Court are attached herewith;

*notes* that in its judgment, the Federal High Court unequivocally declared that the Delta State House Assembly as it currently stands is not properly constituted in line with the provisions of sections 6, 36, 91 and 112 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and ordered INEC to restore Ethiope West Constituency (1) as a state constituency with an elected member in the State House of Assembly;

*further notes* that the Federal High Court also declared that INEC does not have the discretion or power whatsoever to suppress the existing Ethiope West State Constituency (1) with code SC/11/DT having been lawfully approved by the National Assembly, hence the suppression is illegal, unlawful, null and void;

*recognizes* that, amongst others, the Federal High Court equally directed INEC to immediately restore and conduct election to fill the seat for Ethiope West State Constituency (1) in the Delta State House of Assembly and the electoral area covered by this constituency shall be the present Jesse Ward I, Jesse Ward II, Jesse Ward III, Jesse Ward IV, Mosogar Ward I and Mosogar Ward II; and

*observes* that the INEC is yet to comply with this unambiguous decision, declarations and directives of the Court made since the 25th day of March, 2015.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) approve the immediate restoration of Ethiope West State Constituency (1) with code SC/11/DT comprising of Jesse Ward I, Jesse Ward II, Jesse Ward III, Jesse Ward IV, Mosogar Ward I, and Mosogar Ward II in line with the decision, declarations and directives of the Federal High Court;
- (ii) urge INEC to immediately restore Ethiope West State Constituency (1) with code SC/11/DT comprising of Jesse Ward I, Jesse Ward II, Jesse Ward III, Jesse Ward IV, Mosogar Ward I and Mosogar Ward II;
- (iii) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission to comply with this resolution ahead of the next General Election and election of the members of the next Delta State House of Assembly in compliance with section 115 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), by restoring Ethiope West State Constituency (1) in Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State consistent with the orders of the Federal High Court; and
- (iv) Seek the concurrence of the House of Representatives to this resolution in line with Section 115 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) (*Senator Ovie A. Omo-Agege — Delta Central*).

*Debate:*

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

*Question:* That the Senate do approve the immediate restoration of Ethiope West State Constituency (1) with code SC/11/DT comprising of Jesse Ward I, Jesse Ward II, Jesse Ward III, Jesse Ward IV, Mosogar Ward I, and Mosogar Ward II in line with the decision, declarations and directives of the Federal High Court — *Agreed to*.

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge INEC to immediately restore Ethiope West State Constituency (1) with code SC/11/DT comprising of Jesse Ward I, Jesse Ward II, Jesse Ward III, Jesse Ward IV, Mosogar Ward I and Mosogar Ward II — *Agreed to*.

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

*Question:* That the Senate do urge the Independent National Electoral Commission to comply with this resolution ahead of the next General Election and election of the members of the next Delta State House of Assembly in compliance with section 115 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), by restoring Ethiope West State Constituency (1) in Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State consistent with the orders of the Federal High Court — *Agreed to*.

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

*Question:* That the Senate do Seek the concurrence of the House of Representatives to this resolution in line with Section 115 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) — *Agreed to*.

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) approve the immediate restoration of Ethiope West State Constituency (1) with code SC/11/DT comprising of Jesse Ward I, Jesse Ward II, Jesse Ward III, Jesse Ward IV, Mosogar Ward I, and Mosogar Ward II in line with the decision, declarations and directives of the Federal High Court;
- (ii) urge INEC to immediately restore Ethiope West State Constituency (1) with code SC/11/DT comprising of Jesse Ward I, Jesse Ward II, Jesse Ward III, Jesse Ward IV, Mosogar Ward I and Mosogar Ward II;
- (iii) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission to comply with this resolution ahead of the next General Election and election of the members of the next Delta State House of Assembly in compliance with section 115 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), by restoring Ethiope West State Constituency (1) in Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State consistent with the orders of the Federal High Court; and
- (iv) Seek the concurrence of the House of Representatives to this resolution in line with Section 115 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) (*S/Res/062/02/21*).

17. **Adjournment:**

And it's being 3:10 p.m. the President of Senate adjourned till Thursday, 11th February, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

*Adjourned accordingly at 3:10 p.m.*

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

