



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 14th October, 2020

1. The Senate met at 10:40 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 13th October, 2020.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcement:**
Notice of Meeting:
The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Aliyu M. Wamakko (*Sokoto North*) as follows:



NORTHERN SENATORS' FORUM

14th October, 2020.

NOTICE OF MEETING

This is to invite Distinguished Senators of the Northern Senators' Forum to a meeting scheduled as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 14th October, 2020

Time: 2:00p.m. prompt

Venue: Conference Room 022, Senate New Building

Distinguished Senators are urged to attend.

(Signed)

Senator Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko
CHAIRMAN

4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**
Rising on Orders 42 and 52, Senator Solomon O. Adeola (*Lagos West*) drew the attention of the Senate to the urgent need to investigate the recent gas explosions in Lagos West Senatorial District which resulted to loss of lives and massive destruction of properties. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes that on September 24, 2020, a massive gas explosion occurred at Cele Bus Stop, Iju-Ishaga in Ifako-Ijaiye LGA, Lagos State;

further notes that the explosion caused serious body injuries to no fewer than 44 persons and destroyed 36 buildings including a church, an event centre and a plank market as well as 26 vehicles within a radius of 300 metres of the explosion;

regrets that the explosion believed to have been caused by the burst tyre which ignited a gas leak of a stuck 30 tonne Gas Tanker attempting to extricate itself from mud totally destroyed multi-billion naira properties and businesses of many citizens;

further notes that just about two weeks later on 10 October, 2020, a similar gas explosion occurred at Candos Road, Baruwa, Ipaja-Ayoba, Alimosho LGA when an LPG Tanker in the process of discharging gas at a gas plant, exploded from sparks of a running power generator in the plant;

regrets that in this second tragic incidence 18 lives including a father and child were lost and scores sustained injuries, while 25 houses and 16 lock up shops filled with goods worth millions of naira were burnt;

aware that Tanker Owners Association in Nigeria estimates that over 80% of all articulated vehicles such as the ones involved in this incident lack safety protocol requisite to their operations and plying of public roads;

further aware that there have been a recurrence of similar explosions in recent times in the same Senatorial District as happened in 2016, 2018 (Abule-Egba), 2019, (Abule - Egba) 2020 (Ijegan), 2020 (Ile-Epo, Oke-Odo) and Abule Ado;

worried that Nigerians living and conducting legitimate businesses in my densely populated senatorial district now live in justifiable fear of not only losing their lives or those of loved ones from these frequent explosive fire disasters but also their properties and investments; and

commends officers and men of LASEMA, Lagos State and Federal Fire Services, Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and ordinary Nigerians on their prompt roles in putting out the inferno that resulted from these explosions and mitigated its spread as well as rescued victims.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of innocent Nigerians that lost their lives in the unfortunate national tragedy;
- (ii) send a condolence letter to the people and Government of Lagos State;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to immediately send relief materials to affected victims and offset medical bills of hospitalized victims;
- (iv) urge Regulatory and Licensing Authorities like the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), State Town Planning Authority, the Fire Service and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), to review the modus operandi, safety procedures and licensing regimes of this potentially combustible business and mode of transportation of gas in Nigeria; and

- (v) mandate the Committees on Downstream Petroleum Sector; and Gas Resources to investigate the remote and immediate causes of these explosions with a view to prevent

reoccurrence and report within two (2) weeks.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of innocent Nigerians that lost their lives in the unfortunate national tragedy — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do send a condolence letter to the people and Government of Lagos State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to immediately send relief materials to affected victims and offset medical bills of hospitalized victims — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge Regulatory and Licensing Authorities like the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), State Town Planning Authority, the Fire Service and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), to review the modus operandi, safety procedures and licensing regimes of this potentially combustible business and mode of transportation of gas in Nigeria — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Downstream Petroleum Sector; and Gas Resources to investigate the remote and immediate causes of these explosions with a view to prevent reoccurrence and report within two (2) weeks — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

“(i) That the Senate do extend the same prayers to include Osun State” (*Senator Francis A. Fadahunsi — Osun East*).

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

“(ii) That the Senate do commend the officers of the Federal Fire Service for their quick response in the inferno that happened in Osun State” (*Senator Francis A. Fadahunsi — Osun East*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of innocent Nigerians that lost their lives in the unfortunate national tragedy;
- (ii) send condolence letters to the people and Government of Lagos and Osun States;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to immediately send relief materials to affected victims and offset medical bills of hospitalized victims in Lagos and Osun States;

- (iv) urge Regulatory and Licensing Authorities like the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), State Town Planning Authority, the Fire Service and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), to review the modus operandi, safety procedures and licensing regimes of

this potentially combustible business and mode of transportation of gas in Nigeria;

- (v) mandate the Committees on Downstream Petroleum Sector; and Gas Resources to investigate the remote and immediate causes of these explosions with a view to prevent reoccurrence and report within two (2) weeks; and
- (vi) commend the officers of the Federal Fire Service for their quick response in the inferno that happened in Osun State (*S/Res/032/02/20*).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

5. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Order 43, Senator Uche L. Ekwunife (*Anambra Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the flooding in Awka North and other Communities in Anambra Central where hundreds of houses were submerged and farmlands and crops swept away. She stated that the major cause is the abandonment of construction work on the major highway since 2012. She called on the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to ensure speedy completion of the affected projects; and Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to urgently provide relief material to the affected communities.

6. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Institute of Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (HB.353) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Foreign Exchange (Control and Monitoring) Act CAP F34 LFN 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 525) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) National Environmental Research and Training Institute (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (SB. 527) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry Act CAP N92 LFN 2004 (Repeal) Bill, 2020 (SB. 528) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (SB. 529) — *Read the First Time.*

7. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:

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

- a. Finian Tobias Okoro on behalf of 26 other lecturers, against the Nigeria Maritime University Okerenkoko, over the alleged termination of their appointments from the University without justifiable cause;
- b. Osotoye Segun Kayode, against the Nigeria Correctional Service, for erroneously including his name on the retirement list of senior officers of the Service;
- c. Otuma Eric Susane and five others on behalf of Okpokunou Urban Community (OUC), against Shell Petroleum Development Company and Chief Charles Ayemi-Botu for denying Okpokunou Community of Oil Contracts and accruable benefits from Shell Petroleum Development Company Operations at Okpokunou;

- d. Senator Bode Ola on behalf of Cornerstone Montessori Schools, against the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) for the alleged secret and illegal redesign/grabbing of his Plot No. E27/3277 in Apo resettlement; and

- e. Senators of Akwa-Ibom State, against the nomination of Mr. Lamido Yuguda as Director-General of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) instead of nominating Mary Uduk who was already serving as Acting Director-General of the Commission.
(Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure Ondo Central).

Question put and agreed to.

Reports Laid.

8. Executive Communication:

Confirmation of the Nominations of the following persons for Appointment as Executive Directors of the Board of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA):

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 Nominations of the following persons for Appointment as Executive Directors of the Board of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA):

No.	Name	Zone	Designation
1.	Engr. Ifeanyi Christian Kammelu	South-East	Member/Executive Director
2.	Muhammad Gambo Bizi	North-East	Member/Executive Director
3.	Prof. Abubakar Ismail	North-West	Member/Executive Director

(Senate Leader)

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to report within two (2) weeks.

9. Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC):

Report on the Screening of the Nomination of Dr. Chukwuemeka Chukwu for Appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) representing Abia State:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the Screening of the Nomination of Dr. Chukwuemeka Chukwu for Appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) representing Abia State (*Senator Kabiru I. Gaya — Kano South*).

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 of the Committee on Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the screening of the nomination of Dr. Chukwuemeka Chukwu for Appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) representing Abia State (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

**(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)
(Screening of Nominee)**

Nominee screened:

Dr. Chukwuemeka Chukwu (*Abia State*)

—

Agreed to.

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 Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the screening of the nomination of Dr. Chukwuemeka Chukwu for Appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) representing Abia State and approved his nomination.

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

Confirmation of Nominee:

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. Chukwuemeka Chukwu (*Abia State*) for appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Dr. Chukwuemeka Chukwu (Abia State) for appointment as Resident Electoral Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) accordingly confirmed.

10. 2021 Appropriation Bill, 2020 (SB. 523):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to authorize the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of Thirteen Trillion, Eighty-Two Billion, Four Hundred and Twenty Million, Five Hundred and Sixty-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Three Naira (₦13,082,420,568,233) only, of which Four Hundred and Eighty-Four Billion, Four Hundred and Eighty-Eight Million, Four Hundred and Seventy-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy-Three Naira (₦484,488,471,273) only is for Statutory Transfers, Three Trillion, Three Hundred and Forty-Four Billion, Three Hundred and Eighty Million Naira (₦3,344,380,000,000) only is for Debt Service, Five Trillion, Six Hundred and Forty-Nine Billion, Eight-Hundred and Seventy-Two Million, One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Eight Naira (₦5,649,872,137,888) only is for Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure while the sum of Three Trillion, Six Hundred and Three Billion, Six Hundred and Seventy-Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Nine Thousand, and Seventy Naira (₦3,603,679,959,070) only is for contribution to the Development Fund for Capital Expenditure for the year ending on the 31st day of December, 2021 be read the Second Time (*2nd Allotted day*) (*Senate Leader*).

Debate:

The following Senators made contributions:

- (i) Senator Ovie A. Omo-Agege
- (ii) Senator Bima M. Enagi
- (iii) Senator Mohammed A. Adamu
- (iv) Senator Babba K. Ahmad
- (v) Senator Albert B. Akpan
- (vi) Senator Gershom H. Bassey
- (vii) Senator Ezenwa F. Onyewuchi
- (viii) Senator Robert A. Boroffice
- (ix) Senator Michael O. Bamidele
- (x) Senator Mohammed S. Musa
- (xi) Senator Abdullahi K. Barkiya
- (xii) Senator Samuel O. Egwu
- (xiii) Senator Abba P. Moro
- (xiv) Senator Matthew A. Urhoghide

- (xv) Senator Solomon O. Adeola
- (xvi) Senator Suleiman A. Kwari
- (xvii) Senator Smart Adeyemi
- (xviii) Senator Francis A. Alimikhena
- (xix) Senator Olubunmi A. Adetunmbi
- (xx) Senator Danjuma T. La'ah
- (xxi) Senator Binos D. Yaroe

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) (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

- (xxii) Senator Kola A. Balogun
- (xxiii) Senator Nicholas O. Tofowomo
- (xxiv) Senator Sadiq S. Umar
- (xxv) Senator Olalekan R. Mustapha
- (xxvi) Senator Oyelola Y. Ashiru
- (xxvii) Senator Ibrahim A. Gobir
- (xxviii) Senator Clifford A. Ordia
- (xxix) Senator Michael A. Nnachi
- (xxx) Senator Sandy O. Onor

Further debate deferred to the next Legislative Day.

11. Adjournment:

And it being 2:28 p.m. the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Thursday, 15th October, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 2:28 p.m.

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