



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 20th April, 2021

1. The Senate met at 10:36 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 14th April, 2021.
Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Message from Mr. President:**
The President of the Senate announced that he had received a letter from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

Confirmation of Appointment:



**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

1st April, 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 APPOINTMENT OF HON. JUSTICE SALISU GARBA ABDULLAHI AS THE CHIEF JUDGE FOR THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA

Pursuant to Section 256(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), I hereby request for the Senate's confirmation of the appointment of Hon. Justice Salisu Garba Abdullahi, the Acting Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, as the substantive Chief Judge of the Court.

2. *I trust that the Senate will favourably consider and confirm Hon. Justice Salisu Garba Abdullahi, as the substantive Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja in the usual expeditious manner.*

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

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

4. **Announcement:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Michael O. Bamidele (*Ekiti Central*) as follows:



Southern Senators' Forum

(9th Assembly)

Suite 2.01, Senate Building, National Assembly Complex, Three Arms Zone, Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +234 906 900 0800 Email: southernsenatorsforum@gmail.com

13th April, 2021

His Excellency
Senator Ibrahim Ahmad Lawan, Ph.D, CON
President of the Senate
The Senate Building
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

NOTIFICATION ON THE EMERGENCE OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF THE SOUTHERN SENATORS FORUM

It is my pleasure to explore this medium in formally notifying Your Excellency as well as all our colleagues in the 9th Senate on the emergence of the new leadership of the Southern Senators Forum for the 9th Senate.

Please be informed that on Wednesday, 24th March, 2021, Senators from the Southern States, comprising the Southwest, Southeast and Southsouth geo-political zones, held an inaugural meeting of the Southern Senators Forum in the Senate Building and unanimously elected the new leaders of the Southern Senators Forum for the 9th Senate, in line with the norms and traditions of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Southern Senators Forum is a non-statutory body that is borne out of the need to further strengthen unity, cohesion and harmonization of divergent thoughts, opinions and interests among Southern Senators on varying issues of national and international pedigree with a view to promoting peace, orderliness and stability in the smooth running of the Senate by the Senate leadership.

On this note, the composition of the new leadership is thus as follows:

- (i) *Senator Michael Opeyemi Bamidele (Ekiti Central) - Chairman*
- (ii) *Senator Stella Oduah (Anambra North) - Vice Chairman*
- (iii) *Senator Matthew Urhoghide (Edo South) - Secretary*
- (iv) *Senator Chukwuka G. Utazi (Enugu North) - Publicity Secretary*
- (v) *Senator Solomon Olamilekan Adeola (Lagos West) - Treasurer*
- (vi) *Senator Eremienyo Biobarakuma Degi (Bayelsa East) - Financial Secretary*

In line with our avowed objectives, intents and purposes, we pledge our continued unalloyed loyalty to your excellency's leadership even as we earnestly crave for your continued support and understanding.

Please accept the assurances of our best regards, sir.

Together, we shall move the 9th Senate, and indeed the Nigerian nation, forward.

(Signed)

Sen. Michael Opeyemi Bamidele

Chairman

Southern Senators Forum

5. Petitions:

Rising on Order 41, Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure (*Ondo Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to Five (5) petitions received from the Office of the President of the Senate as follows:

- (i) Adebayo Felix against the Special Duties Office over the recovery of the Contract payment for execution of a contract project on the Electrification of Orokere - Amuro in Kogi West Senatorial District, Kogi State;
- (ii) Barr. Shaibu Baba-Ohyoma, Esq against the Hon. Minister of Defence, Chief of Defence Staff, the Permanent Secretary and the Director of Joint Services Department to stop payment of ₦155,554,449 and \$735,534.37 to MGK Global Services Ltd until contract for re-equipping of the burnt Nigeria Level II Hospital in the United Nations Multi-dimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Timbuktu, Mali is executed;
- (iii) M. A. Ofeoshi, Esq. on behalf of Engr. (SPO) Anthony Obiamiwe against the Inspector General of Police requesting for investigation and prompt action against acts of harassment, criminal trespass, intimidation and threat to life of his client;
- (iv) Bulus Yanki against the Hon. Minister of Education, the Permanent Secretary and the Chairman, National Examinations Council (NECO) Governing Board to Save NECO before it collapses; and
- (v) Okwudili Abanum, Esq. on behalf of Zeroset Nigeria Ltd. against the Clerk to the National Assembly over the non-payment of the sum of Two Hundred and Twenty Eight Million, Four Hundred and Eighty Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Naira (₦228,485,750) only to his client.

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. Petitions:

- (i) Rising on Order 41, Senator Kola A. Balogun (*Oyo South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Ibadan Food Stuff Sellers Association, against the Nigerian Customs Service over the unfortunate night invasion of the Bodija International Market Ibadan and the alleged forceful breakage into the Rice Traders' shops by men of the Nigerian Customs, Ikeja Units, Lagos State, between 31st March and 1st April, 2021 . He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

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

- (ii) Rising on Order 41, Senator Istifanus D. Gyang (*Plateau North*) drew the attention of the Senate to Two (2) petitions from:
- (a) Mr. Pewe Philip Kimdel against the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting plc. over the wrongful termination of his appointment; and
- (b) T.V Ramnap & Co. on behalf of Mr. Clement Sargwak against the Chairman of Code of Conduct Tribunal, Justice Danladi Umar, over alleged brutal assaults and violent attack on his client.

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 (4) weeks.

7. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Order 43, Senator Aishatu A. Dahiru (*Adamawa Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Dr. Mahmud Tukur on 9th April, 2021 at the age of 82. She stated that Dr. Mahmud Tukur was the first Nigerian Director of Institute of Administration, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and was later the first Vice Chancellor of Bayero University Kano. She urged the Senate to observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the Deceased.

8. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Order 43, Senator Bulus K. Amos (*Gombe South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the communal clash that erupted between the Waja and Lunguda Communities, Balanga Local Government Area of Gombe State on Monday 12th April, 2021 and on Tuesday 13th April, 2021, which took a dangerous dimension that led to the loss of lives of about 30 people and destructions of properties including food stuff worth about 100,000 metric tonnes. He urged the Senate to observe a minute silence in honour of those killed.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the Deceased.

9. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Order 43, Senator Akon E. Eyakenyi (*Akwa Ibom South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of a great nationalist, elder Statesman, defender of truth and justice, and accomplished politician, Senator Etang Edet Umoyo on 13th February, 2021 at the age of 71. She stated that late Senator Umoyo worked with several reputable companies in Nigeria before he was appointed a Commissioner in 1983 by the then Cross River State Government and later represented Akwa Ibom South Senatorial District in the Third Assembly. She urged the Senate to observe a minute silence in his honour.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the Deceased.

10. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Orders 42 and 52, Senator Isa Jibrin (*Kogi East*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Urgent Need for the Rehabilitation of communities affected by rainstorm in Olamaboro Local Government Area of Kogi State through the Provision of Relief Materials, Residential, Educational, Health and Other Facilities. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes that Olamaboro LGA with its headquarters in Okpo covers about 1,123 km² and has a population of about 213,900, with farming as the major occupation of the people;

worried that with the commencement of the rain, over 200 residential buildings were destroyed across many communities in the LGA following a heavy downpour on 9th April, 2021;

further worried that apart from destruction of residential buildings, the devastating rainstorm also ravaged crops, farmlands, schools, worship houses, clinics and businesses in several communities in the LGA;

bothered that many victims of the disaster sustained varying degrees of injury and are receiving medical attention at various health centres within the LGA and neighbouring LGAs;

concerned that the disaster creates a serious humanitarian crisis as families were rendered homeless and their means of livelihood and properties worth millions of naira destroyed by the rainstorm, thereby creating a situation of internal displacement; and

appreciates that for ease of intervention, the major affected communities are Ogugu Central, Ogene-Oforachi, Emodida, Iyono, Emagaba No.1, Emenega, Emonoja-Aludu, Egahimotu and Adupi-Emoriko in Ogugu District, in addition to many others within Okpo and Imane communities;

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Special Duties, to liaise with the National Emergency Management Agency, to urgently supply relief and rehabilitation materials to the communities affected, to mitigate the sufferings of the victims; and
- (ii) equally mandate the Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Investment Programme (SIP), to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, to provide minimal seed capitals for the victims in the affected communities, to facilitate their various economic activities.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Motion made: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Special Duties, to liaise with the National Emergency Management Agency, to urgently supply relief and rehabilitation materials to the communities affected, to mitigate the sufferings of the victims — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Motion made: That the Senate do equally mandate the Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Investment Programme (SIP), to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, to provide minimal seed capitals for the victims in the affected communities, to facilitate their various economic activities — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Special Duties, to liaise with the National Emergency Management Agency, to urgently supply relief and rehabilitation materials to the communities affected, to mitigate the sufferings of the victims; and
- (ii) equally mandate the Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Investment Programme (SIP), to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, to provide minimal seed capitals for the victims in the affected communities, to facilitate their various economic activities (S/Res/087/02/21).

11. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Order 42, Senator Binos D. Yaroe (*Adamawa South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the need to prevent the incessant conflict between the Waja and Lunguda Communities in Gombe and Adamawa States, respectively. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Order 42(2)].

12. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Federal College of Agriculture Kirikasamma, Jigawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 382) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Dishonoured Cheques Act Cap D11 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 687) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Federal University of Agriculture Mpu, Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB.690) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Compulsory Free Universal Basic Education Act Cap C52 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 691) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Public Complaints Commission Act Cap P37 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (SB.692) — *Read the First Time.*

13. Committee on National Identity and National Population:

Report on the Confirmation of the Nomination of Muhammad Dattijo Usman for Appointment as Federal Commissioner, National Population Commission:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on National Identity and National Population on the confirmation of the nomination of Muhammad Dattijo Usman for appointment as Federal Commissioner representing Niger State in the National Population Commission (*Senator Saidu A. Alkali — Gombe North*).

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 (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration of the the Report of the Committee on National Identity and National Population on the confirmation of the nomination of Muhammad Dattijo Usman for appointment as Federal Commissioner representing Niger State in the National Population Commission.

Nominee recommended:

Muhammad Dattijo Usman

—

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 National Identity and National Population on the confirmation of the nomination of Muhammad Dattijo Usman for appointment as Federal Commissioner representing Niger State in the National Population Commission and approved the nomination.

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

Confirmation of nomination:

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Muhammad Dattijo Usman for appointment as Federal Commissioner representing Niger State in the National Population Commission?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Muhammad Dattijo Usman for appointment as Federal Commissioner representing Niger State in the National Population Commission accordingly confirmed.

14. Nursing and Midwifery (Registration Etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 304):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nursing and Midwifery (Registration Etc.) Act Cap N143 LFN, 2004 and Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2021 be read the Second Time (*Senator Hassan Mohammad — Zamfara Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary) to report within Four (4) weeks.

15. Critical Infrastructure Protection (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB: 610):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Critical Infrastructure Protection, Coordination Committee, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Task Force and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2021 be read the Second Time (*Senator Mohammed S. Musa — Niger East*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Establishment and Public Service to report within Four (4) weeks.

16. Integrated Data Management Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 102):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Integrated Data Management Commission as the body responsible for comprehensive collation, harmonization of certificates issued by corporate statutory regulatory bodies, graduation based on compliance with enabling laws regulating corporate entities in Nigeria and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2021 be read the Second Time (*Senator Yusuf A. Yusuf Taraba Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Establishment and Public Service to report within Four (4) weeks.

17. National Livestock (Protection, Control and Management etc) Bureau (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB.471):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to provide for the National Livestock (protection, control and management etc.) Bureau for the purpose of livestock identification, traceability registration, cattle rustling control and for Other Related Purposes, 2021 be read the Second Time (*Senator Muhammad E. Bima Niger South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to report within Four (4) weeks.

18. Motions:

(a) *Fire Incidence in Namu Central Yam Market in Plateau State:*

Motion made: The Senate notes with serious concern the fire incident that razed the Namu Yam market in Plateau State in the early hours of Sunday, 28th March, 2021 where foodstuff, yam seedlings, and other valuables worth millions of Naira were destroyed, hence, resulting in severe economic loss;

notes that the Namu Central Yam Market is situated in Qua'anpan Local Government Area of Plateau State and the market is one of the sources of revenue to both the State and the Local Governments and serves as major income to both the farmers and traders in Plateau State;

further notes that the Namu Yam Market is known for quality Yams and seedlings not only in Plateau State but across the country. The market is a major supplier of both yams for immediate consumption as well as seedlings for planting. For more than four (4) decades, Namu yam market has been Supplying yams not only to Plateau State but also to other major commercial towns like Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Kano, Maiduguri, Sokoto, etc;

aware that the cause of the fire was linked to a spark from a grinding engine in the market, which spread and destroyed most of the yams and other valuables. Furthermore, the dry grasses used to preserve yam heaps at the market made it easy for the fire to rage quickly and has affected hundreds of farmers and traders;

further worried that the overwhelming losses suffered by the farmers and traders have rendered the business community penurious leading to serious social crises which if not urgently addressed, can lead to a breakdown of law and order;

observes that farmers, traders, and other stakeholders are overwhelmed in their efforts to ameliorate their condition and their determination to address the challenge cannot be successful without the intervention of the government;

further observes that it is the constitutional responsibility of the Federal Government of Nigeria to provide for the security and welfare of the people of this country as a whole, and Qua'anpan Local Government Area of Plateau State, in particular;

concerned that the consequence of this episode is that there might be yams/yams seedling shortage resulting in price hike and economic activities will dwindle worsening the already economic challenges in the country; and

further concerned that the extent of destruction of yams and other valuable properties calls for urgent national intervention to give a practical demonstration to the Federal Government of Nigeria's constitutional responsibility to the people of affected communities.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development; National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant government Agencies to immediately provide relief materials to the traders as well as respond to the huge financial losses resulting from the fire outbreak, to provide succor to all those affected; and
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to carry out any other immediate action which will improve the condition of living of the people in the affected community, resulting from the fire outbreak (*Senator Nora L. Daduot — Plateau South*).

Debate:

Propose Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development; National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant government Agencies to immediately provide relief materials to the traders as well as respond to the huge financial losses resulting from the fire outbreak, to provide succor to all those affected; — *Agreed to.*

Propose Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to carry out any other immediate action which will improve the condition of living of the people in the affected community, resulting from the fire outbreak — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development; National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant government Agencies to immediately provide relief materials to the traders as well as respond to the huge financial losses resulting from the fire outbreak, to provide succor to all those affected; and
 - (ii) urge the Federal Government to carry out any other immediate action which will improve the condition of living of the people in the affected community, resulting from the fire outbreak (*S/Res/088/02/21*).
- (b) ***Need for Liberalization of Cement Policy in Nigeria:***
Motion made: That Senate is aware that Cement is of strategic importance to our infrastructures such as roads, bridges, drainages as well as in the construction of residential and public buildings;

notes that Cement is one of the few building materials in which Nigeria is self-sufficient. As at 2018, the installed capacity of cement producers was about 47.8MMT which is far above the estimated (2018) consumption of about 20.7MMT. Yet, the prices of cement in Nigeria (N380) is about 240% higher than global average;

cognizant that Cement takes a large share of domestic expenditure, and the price of such commodity significantly impacts the government's ability to provide much-needed infrastructural works required for the growth of our economy;

further cognizant that the recent increase in price of Cement (from N2,600 - N3,800) slowed down the amount of construction work being embarked upon thus negatively affecting labour engagement and almost collapsed the procurement plan of the government in 2020 Appropriation Act;

mindful that the Nigerian cement market is oligopolistic in nature with three players (Dangote Cement (60.6%); Lafarge Africa Plc (21.8%) and BUA Group (17.6%) largely dominating the scene therefore making it susceptible to price fixing practices;

convinced that if the status quo persists, the negative consequences of high prices on the economy will outweigh the benefits of producing cement locally;

worried that the significant rise in cement prices in the country and the low purchasing power of Nigerians may result in substandard building constructions and non-completion of planned infrastructural works;

strongly believes that there is an urgent need to encourage more local production of cement to satisfy the demands of Nigeria with a steady growth rate of approximately 3% per annum; a housing deficit of 30 million units and less engagement of over 10.5 million workforce of the building and construction industry; and

further strongly believes that unfavourable government policies such as imposition of multiple taxes, erratic power supply, government ban on importation in violation of ECOWAS Trade liberalization Scheme (ETLS) and subsequent lifting of importation in favour of few producers have negative implications on the growth of our infrastructures.

Accordingly resolves to:

urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to provide more industrial incentives and industrial protections such as offering concessionary loans and larger tax incentives for new entrants in order to boost production of cements, reduce price and encourage more valuable producers in Nigeria (*Senator Oyelola Y. Ashiru — Kwara South*).

Debate:

Propose Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to provide more industrial incentives and industrial protections such as offering concessionary loans and larger tax incentives for new entrants in order to boost production of cements, reduce price and encourage more valuable producers in Nigeria — *Agreed to*.

Resolved:

That the Senate do urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to provide more industrial incentives and industrial protections such as offering concessionary loans and larger tax incentives for new entrants in order to boost production of cements, reduce price and encourage more valuable producers in Nigeria (*S/Res/089/02/21*).

19. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 21st April, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
(*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:06 p.m.

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