



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 30th June, 2021

1. The Senate met at 10:00 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. ~~Votes and Proceedings~~
The Senate examined the ~~Votes and Proceedings~~ of Tuesday, 29th June, 2021.
Question was put and the ~~Votes and Proceedings~~ were approved.
3. **Announcements:**
 - (a) ~~Working Retreat~~
The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Ovie A. Omo-Agege — (Delta Central) as follows:



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
~~Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution~~
National Assembly Complex,
P.M.B. 141, Garki, Abuja-Nigeria

30th June, 2021

His Excellency
The President of the ~~Senate~~
Senate Chamber
National Assembly Complex
Abuja

ANNOUNCEMENT (WORKING RETREAT)

The Programmed ~~Retreat~~ of the Senate Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution, will hold as follows:

Date: Thursday 1st - ~~Sunday 4th~~ July, 2021
Venue: Transcorp ~~Hilton~~ Hotel Abuja

Agenda: ~~Clause-by-Clause~~ Consideration of processed Bills

Members, should please ~~endeavour~~ to attend.

(Signed)
Senator Ovie Omo-Agege
 Deputy President of the Senate/Chairman

(b) **Letter of Appreciation:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Uche L. Ekwunife — (Anambra Central) as follows:



SENATOR MRS. UCHE EKWUNIFE (IYOM)
 (ADAUGO-IGBO, ANYANWU-NRI KINGDOM)
 CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

30th June, 2021

President of the Senate,
 Federal Republic of Nigeria

Sir,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

With the deepest sense of gratitude and utmost humility, I wish to ~~appreciate~~ the Senate President, Senator Ahmad Lawan, PhD, CON, Deputy President of the Senate, Principal Officers of the 9th Senate and my fellow Distinguished Senators for their show of love, individual and collective support I got in the just concluded governorship primary election of the People's Democratic Party ahead of the November 6 in Anambra State.

I am indeed overwhelmed by the outpour of solidarity and encouragement by the leadership of the Senate and every member of this hallowed chamber.

Together with the members of my campaign team, we worked extremely hard to ~~catch~~ the ticket of our great party during the keenly contested party primary last ~~weekend~~.

Even though we did not achieve our set goal the financial and moral ~~support~~ we received from my colleagues in this chamber enabled us to make a bold statement in the ~~governorship~~ contest.

The impact we made in the election shows that we are indeed very close to ~~creating~~ a society where women can seek to occupy any office in Nigeria without ~~facing~~ any form of gender discrimination. It is only a matter of time.

I make bold to say that I may not have won the nomination because of ~~gender~~ discrimination, conspiracy and huge financial inducements, but it is a matter of time we ~~shall~~ get there by God's grace.

My commitment to the vision of the 9th Senate and indeed, the overall ~~democratic~~ development of our dear nation, remains total, irrespective of party affiliation.

Thank you once again for your kindness, MR SENATE PRESIDENT and my distinguished colleagues. May God bless you all.

(Signed)
Senator Uche Ekwunife (IYOM)
 (ADAUGO-IGBO, ANYANWU-NRI KINGDOM)

(c) Change of Party Affiliation:

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Ya'u S. Alhaji — (~~Zamfara North~~) as follows:



Senator Sahabi Alhaji Ya'u
(DANMADAMIN KAURA-NAMODA)
ZAMFARA NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
DEPUTY MINORITY WHIP

30th June, 2021

The President of the Senate,
The Senate,
National Assembly,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF POLITICAL PARTY FROM THE PDP TO THE APC

I hereby inform your Excellency and my Distinguished Colleagues of my decision to move from the People's Democratic Party to the All Progressive Party.

The decision is necessitated by the endemic crises that engulfed the Zamfara State chapter of the PDP which led the National body to dissolve the State EXCO of the Party. This has negatively impacted effective representation of my constituents. Being a representative of my people and having consulted widely with them, I decided to defect from the crises ridden Party to a more formidable and peaceful Party, the APC.

While thanking you for your understanding, please accept as always, the assurances of my esteem regards.

(Signed)

Senator Sahabi Alhaji Ya'u
Senate Deputy Minority Whip

(d) Change of Party Affiliation:

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Hassan A. Lawali — (~~Zamfara North~~) as follows:



SEN. (DR.) LAWALI HASSAN ANKA (DAN'TYA)
(CIGARIN SARKIN ZAMFARAN ANKA)
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON SENATE SERVICES
SENATOR
ZAMFARA WEST SENATORIAL DISTRICT

30th June, 2021

His Excellency,
Senator Ahmed Ibrahim Lawan Ph.D. CON,
President of the Senate,
The Senate,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF POLITICAL PARTY FROM PDP TO APC

I wish to inform you of my decision to move from the People's Democratic Party to the All-Progressive Congress.

The decision is necessitated by the crisis in the State chapter of the PDP that has negatively affected representation of my constituents in the Senate.

While thanking you for your understanding accept my profound appreciation and best wishes always, please.

Thank you.

(Signed)

Senator (Dr.) Lawal Hassan Anka

(e) Change of Party Affiliation:

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Peter O. Nwaoboshi — (Delta North) as follows:



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
SENATOR PETER NWAOBOSHI
DELTA NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
Chairman, Senate Committee on Niger Delta

June 29, 2021

His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Ahmad Lawan
President of the Senate
National Assembly Complex,
FCT, Abuja.

NOTICE OF SWITCH OF POLITICAL PARTY MEMBERSHIP
FROM THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP) TO
THE ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS (APC)

I write to respectfully notify Your Excellency, and indeed the Senate, that I have formally joined the All Progressives Congress (APC). This decision and action is due to divisions at all levels of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) that sponsored my election into the Senate. The PDP in its entirety is imploding under huge yokes of factionalisation, arbitrariness, intolerance, tyranny, and gross failure of leadership in ways that have made it impossible for my membership to continue in the party.

This communication is made pursuant to Section 68 (1)(g) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) for your information, guidance and record purposes.

While assuring Mr. President of my highest esteem, be further assured of my commitment to the 9th Senate's Legislative Agenda under your calm, steady leadership and absolute support for the APC-led Federal Government of His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

Senator Peter Nwaoboshi

4. Petitions:

- (a) 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) Jaiyeola B.T. Esq., against Madonna University, Elele over an alleged complaint of high handedness and the act of ineptitude;
 - (ii) Manasseh Ehile, Esq., against Naval Officer Albert Abraham and his team over an alleged abduction, aiding forcible entry, harassment, intimidation and illegal dredging of sand at Fowowawo village, near Magbon-etido, Obafemi/Owode Local Government Area, Ogun State;
 - (iii) Danlami Sule and Emeka Okafor against the Nigerian Incentive-based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) Microfinance Bank over an alleged fraudulent administration of the COVID-19 relief facility;
 - (iv) Comrade Dakpos Daniel Damijo and two others against the Acting Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and Senator Godswill Akpabio over an alleged misappropriation of NDDC funds; and
 - (v) Francis Olayemi Adebayo against Nigeria Customs Service over an alleged confiscation and auctioning of his car.

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. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Order 43, Senator Barau I. Jibrin (*Kano North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the mandate given to the Committee on Appropriations to lay the Report on 2021 Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2021 on Wednesday, 30th June, 2021. He stated that the Committee could not complete work on the Report due to the need to harmonise with the House of Representatives. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to lay the Report on Tuesday, 6th July, 2021.

The Committee was mandated to lay the Report on 6th July, 2021 and also give quick consideration to Referrals.

6. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Order 43, Senator Biodun, C. Olujimi (*Ekiti South*) drew the attention of the Senate to Senator Uche L. Ekwunife's participation in the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) Primary Election in her quest to become the Governor of Anambra State. She informed the Senate that Senator Ekwunife came third in the Primaries. She commended the support given to her by the women and progressive men in the Senate. She also commended her exploits with assurances that the Senate is very proud of her.

The President of the Senate on behalf of the Senate congratulated Senator Uche L. Ekwunife on her exploits in the primary election.

7. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) National Commission for Peace, Reconciliation and Mediation (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 759) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Federal Eye Centre Ochadamu, Kogi State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 760) — *Read the First Time.*

- (iii) Abduction, Wrongful Restraints and Confinement Bill, 2021 (SB. 762) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Domestication & Enforcement) Bill, 2021 (SB. 763) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Recovery of Public Property (Special Provisions) Act Cap R4 LFN 2004 (Repeal) Bill, 2021 (SB. 764) — *Read the First Time.*

8. Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:

Report on the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Customary Court Act, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 315):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters on the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Customary Court Act, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (*Senator Micheal O. Bamidele — Ekiti Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. Committee on Police Affairs:

Report of the 2021 Budget of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs on the 2021 Budget of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund (*Senator Dauda H. Jika — Bauchi Central*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid and presented.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(1):

Question: That the Senate do approve:

i.	Personnel Cost	—	₦ 988,279,006.05
ii.	Overhead Expenditure	—	₦ 10,027,610,310.25
iii.	Capital Expenditure	—	₦ 63,757,712,600.00
iv.	Total Budget recommended by the Committee is	₦74,773,601,916.30	— <i>Agreed to.</i>

Proposed Resolution(2):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigeria Police Trust Fund (NPTF) to expedite action on the implementation of the 2021 budget for the enhancement of policing and tackling the security challenges for the benefit of the nation and its citizenry — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

1. That the Senate do approve:

i.	Personnel Cost	—	₦ 988,279,006.05
ii.	Overhead Expenditure	—	₦ 10,027,610,310.25
iii.	Capital Expenditure	—	₦ 63,757,712,600.00
iv.	Total Budget recommended by the Committee is	₦74,773,601,916.30	

2. The Senate do urge the Nigeria Police Trust Fund (NPTF) to expedite action on the implementation of the 2021 budget for the enhancement of policing and tackling the security challenges for the benefit of the nation and its citizenry (*S/Res/007/03/21*).

10. Committee on Appropriations:

~~Report~~ *on the 2021 Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2021 (SB. 754)*

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:

~~Report~~ *on the Firearms Act CAP F28 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (SB. 549):*

~~Motion~~ *made:* That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters on the Firearms Act CAP F28 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (Senator Micheal O. Bamidele — Ekiti 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~~

~~Question~~ *put and agreed to.*

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

~~CONSIDERATION~~ OF A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FIREARMS ACT, CAP F28, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 TO INCREASE THE IMPOSITION OF FINES FOR OFFENCES; PROVIDE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF FIREARMS ILLEGALLY IMPORTED INTO THE COUNTRY OR IN POSSESSION OF INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT VALID LICENSE WITH A VIEW TO CURTAILING THE CIRCULATION OF ILLEGAL FIREARMS IN THE COUNTRY; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2021

Clause 1: Amendment of the Principal Act.

The Firearms Act Cap F28, LFN 2004 (in this Bill, referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill.

~~Committee's Recommendation:~~

~~That~~ the provision in Clause 1 be retained (Senator Michael O. Bamidele — Ekiti Central) — ~~Agreed to.~~

~~Question~~ *that Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.*

Clause 2: Amendment of Section 27 of the Principal Act.

Section 27 (1)(c)(v) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting the words "one thousand naira", with "two million naira" as follows —
to a fine of one million Naira or imprisonment for a term of two years or to both such fine and imprisonment (Senator Michael O. Bamidele — Ekiti Central).

Amendment Proposed

~~Leave out~~ the words "two million Naira" and "two years" in Clause 2 and ~~insert~~ the words "five million Naira" and "three years" instead thereof (Senator Matthew A. Urhoghide — Edo South).

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

~~Question~~ *that Clause 2 as amended do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.*

Clause 3: ~~Amendment~~ of Section 28 of the Principal Act

Section 28 of the principal Act is amended by inserting the word "thousand" after the word "hundred" as follows —

The holder of any licence or permit granted in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall produce same, and if so required any firearm or ammunition to which such licence or permit relates, upon the request of a police officer, and ~~he~~ shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of one hundred thousand naira or imprisonment for six months.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the ~~provision in~~ Clause 3 be retained (*Senator Michael O. Bamidele — Ekiti Central*) — Agreed to.

Question: ~~the~~ Clause 3 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 4: ~~Amendment~~ of Section 35 of the Principal Act

~~Section 35 (2)~~ of the principal Act is amended by substituting the words "one ~~million~~" with "three million", as follows —

A proclamation under subsection (1) of this section, may require the surrender of ~~firearms~~ and ammunition within a specified time and to a specified authority, and any person neglecting to make such surrender, or being in possession of or dealing in any firearm or ammunition during the period that such proclamation is in force, is guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty of three million naira or imprisonment for three years, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the ~~provision in~~ Clause 4 be retained (*Senator Michael O. Bamidele — Ekiti Central*) — Agreed to.

Question: ~~the~~ Clause 4 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 5: ~~Amendment~~ of Section 38 of the Principal Act.

~~Section 38~~ of the principal Act is amended as follows —

"The provisions of this Bill shall not apply to any member of the armed forces of the Federation, Nigeria Police Force and other law enforcement agencies, in relation to any firearm or ammunition issued to him for official purposes, and an officer of such Armed Forces, the Nigeria Police Force and other law enforcement agencies shall, if the Inspector-General of Police is satisfied that he is required to purchase or acquire a firearm or ammunition therefor for his own use in his capacity as such officer, be entitled without payment of any fee to the grant of a licence thereof."

Committee's Recommendation:

That the ~~provision in~~ Clause 5 be retained (*Senator Michael O. Bamidele — Ekiti Central*) — Agreed to.

Question: ~~the~~ Clause 5 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 6: ~~Insertion~~ of new Section 39 in the Principal Act.

A new Section 39 is hereby inserted after the existing Section 38 of the Principal Act, as follows —

Power to Seize and ~~Destroy~~ Confiscated and Illegal Firearms

- (1) It shall be lawful for any officer of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Customs Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and officers of other law enforcement agencies to seize and confiscate any illicit and illegal firearms imported into the country without any valid import documents or firearms in possession of any individual, corporate bodies and other organisations, without a valid licence.
- (2) The head of ~~the agency or~~ organisation responsible for the seizure, shall create a place for safe custody of the firearms in question and designate an officers ~~(record keeping)~~ who shall record the details of the firearms in question ~~into a register~~, containing the following information, namely —
 - (a) ~~make, model, number~~ and serial number of the firearm;
 - (b) country of manufacture;
 - (c) ~~country of import~~ and
 - (d) ~~person on whom~~ the firearm was found and the country of citizenship.
- (3) After the confiscation or seizure of illegal firearms imported into the country or in possession of any individual, corporate bodies and other organisations, the agency responsible for the confiscation/seizure, shall within Fourteen (14) days deposit the confiscated and seized firearms with the Office of the National Security Adviser, who shall act as the Central Coordinating Body for all illicit and illegal firearms confiscated or seized by any law enforcement agency.
- (4) Upon receipt of the confiscated or seized illicit or illegal firearms referred to in subsection (3) of this section, the Office of the National Security Adviser shall in collaboration with the Armed Forces assess and separate the firearms that are —
 - (a) of military serviceable grades to be deployed to the military; and
 - (b) serviceable but not of military grades to be deployed for use by ~~Civilian Joint Task Force~~ (JTF) and Registered Vigilantes under ~~its approval~~ and supervision of the Office of the National Security Adviser.
- (5) In accordance with subsection (4) of this section, arrangement shall be put in place by the Office of the National Security Adviser for the physical ~~destruction~~ of the unserviceable firearms during a destruction ceremony.
- (6) The Office of the National Security Adviser shall fix the date of destruction as well as the location of the destruction and ensure the presence of media coverage and independent observers at the destruction in compliance with international best practices on destruction of weapons most especially, the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) developed by the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA).

- (7) The destruction ceremony referred to, in subsection (6) of this section, shall be conducted by the Office of the National Security Adviser within a maximum period of Two (2) months ~~after seizure~~ except where there is a valid court order preventing the said destruction.
- (8) The firearms subject to seizure ~~and destruction~~ in this Bill includes, small arms and light weapons, ~~ghost guns or homemade~~ firearms, relinquished during —
- (a) Amnesty programme;
 - (b) operations by security ~~agencies, and~~
 - (c) collection programme by ~~security agencies~~ or recovered in crime or identified as ~~security requirements~~ of the Armed Forces.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 6 be retained (*Senator Michael O. Bawole — Ekiti Central*) —
Agreed to.

Question that Clause 6 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 7: Insertion of new Section 40 in the Principal Act.

A new Section 40 is hereby inserted after the new section 39, as follows —

Offences

- (1) Any person who tampers with the firearms seized or confiscated pursuant to Section 39 of this Bill is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a minimum sentence of 10 years imprisonment.
- (2) Any person who assists, encourages ~~and or conspires~~ with the record keeper or any person in charge of the firearms to steal, remove or deals with seized or confiscated firearms is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a minimum sentence of Ten (10) years imprisonment.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 7 be retained (*Senator Michael O. Bawole — Ekiti Central*) —
Agreed to.

Question that Clause 7 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 8: Insertion of new Section 41 in the Principal Act.

A new Section 41 is hereby provided for the Principal Act to read as follows —

Recycling and reusing waste materials from ~~destroyed~~ firearms

- (1) The Minister in charge of Defence shall develop a policy for recycling and reusing waste materials such as metal, wood and plastic derived from destruction of firearms seized pursuant to the provision of this Bill in order to generate revenue and produce objects with practical artistic and symbolic value.
- (2) The revenue generated through recycling and reusing waste materials from destruction of seized firearms shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue account of the Federation.