



**SENATE OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
ORDER PAPER**

Wednesday, 14th June, 2023

1. Prayers
2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
3. Oaths
4. Announcements (if any)
5. Petitions

**ORDERS OF THE DAY  
MESSAGES**

1. Message to Mr. President C-in-C:  
Deputy President of the Senate.  
-That the Senate do send a message to Mr. President C-in-C informing him that a quorum of the Senate has assembled and that the Presiding Officers of the 10<sup>th</sup> Senate, National Assembly have been elected as follows:
  1. Sen. Godswill Akpabio (*Akwa Ibom North-West*) - President of the Senate;
  2. Sen. Barau, I. Jibrin (*Kano North*) - Deputy President of the Senate.
2. Message to Honourable Speaker and the Deputy Speaker:  
Deputy President of the Senate.  
-That the Senate do send a congratulatory message to the Honourable Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives on their election; and that the Senate had elected its Presiding Officers.
3. Message to International Parliamentary Bodies:  
Deputy President of the Senate.  
-That the Senate do send a message to the following International Parliamentary Bodies informing them that a quorum of the Senate of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Assembly has assembled and is ready to receive any communication.
  - i. African Union (AU);
  - ii. Common Wealth Parliamentary Association (CPA);
  - iii. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU);
  - iv. ECOWAS Parliament;
  - v. Pan African Parliament; and
  - vi. Association of Senate, Shoora and Equivalent Council in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA).

**MOTION**

1. Urgent need to ameliorate/cushion the negative impact(s) of the removal of subsidy on petroleum products on Nigerians.

Sponsor: Sen. Asuquo Ekpenyong (*Cross River South*)

*The Senate:*

*Aware that the Nigerian economy has, over time, been heavily burdened and encumbered by two major subsidy regimes which include the fuel subsidy regime and the foreign exchange subsidy regime;*

*Notes that with a debt of about ₦77 trillion, the Former Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed, said that "Fuel subsidy cost was a very high one; we have been funding it from borrowing";*

*Informed that the discontinuation of petroleum subsidy would potentially unlock a minimum of ₦6 trillion of revenue into the federation account annually while at the same time putting an end to the years of plundering of the nation's resources;*

*Worried that given the vulnerability of the poor and indeed all citizens, especially in a difficult time like this, and the pervading fear of the unavoidably high cost of goods, Nigerians are inadvertently subjected to harsh economic realities;*

*Again aware that there have been calls on the government to implement appropriate palliatives in the form of public transportation and freight of agricultural produce, ensure transparent and effective communication, and improve access to foreign exchange;*

*Concerned that by keeping the information on planned and implemented social safety net to itself, government may continue to arm the labour unions and indeed all Nigerians with the desire to cause social unrest;*

*Believes that aggressive sensitization of the public on the gains and palliatives to cushion the effect of the attendant increases in the price of petrol will determine the success of the policy shift; and*

*Opines that in furtherance of the primary purpose of government which is the security and welfare of the people as enshrined in Section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (As Altered), the government needs to announce and continuously engage Nigerians on its plans to protect them from the harsh realities of the subsidy removal,*

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- i. Urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to very quickly activate measures aimed at ameliorating the negative effects and impacts of the removal of petroleum products subsidy on Nigerians, especially the poor and vulnerable;*
- ii. Urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to periodically engage Nigerians, informing the citizens of progress made in boosting the nation's domestic refining capacity and making products available and affordable, while giving assurances on the continued commitment of the Federal Government towards the ameliorating the harsh impacts of removal of subsidy of petroleum products;*
- iii. Urge the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning; Ministry of Petroleum Resources; Federal Ministry of Information and Culture; National Orientation Agency (NOA); Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Agency (NMDPRA) to aggressively sensitize Nigerians on the far-reaching, immediate, medium and long-term benefits of removal of subsidy on petroleum products and such measures, programmes and policies aimed at ameliorating the negative impacts and suffering of Nigerians at this hard time; and*
- iv. Constitute an Ad-Hoc Committee with a mandate to interface with critical stakeholders and indeed Nigerians across the country to collate opinions and suggestions on people-oriented and home-grown measures, programmes and policies which would ameliorate the excruciating, hard and negative effects and impacts of removal of subsidy on petroleum products and report back to the Senate within four (4) weeks.*