



**SENATE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

Tuesday, 13th June, 2023

1. The Senate met at 8:07 a.m. pursuant to the proclamation by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR:



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**PROCLAMATION FOR THE HOLDING OF THE
FIRST SESSION OF THE 10TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS it is provided in Section 64(3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. (As Amended) that the person Elected as President shall have power to issue a proclamation for the holding of the First Session of the National Assembly immediately after his being sworn-in.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in exercise of the powers bestowed upon me by Section 64(3) aforesaid, and of all other powers enabling me in that behalf hereby proclaim that the First Session of the Tenth (10th) National Assembly shall hold at 08.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 13th June, 2023 in the National Assembly, Abuja.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at Abuja, this 2nd Day of June, 2023.

(Signed)
Bola Ahmed Tinubu

2. At 8.07 a.m. the Clerk to the National Assembly called the Senate to order and informed Senators-Elect that writs had been received in respect of the elections held on 25th February, 2023 in accordance with the Constitution. He then proceeded with the roll call of Senators-Elect State by State:

ABIA STATE

S/No	Name of Senator-Elect	Senatorial District
1	NWOKOCHA, Darlington	Abia Central
2	KALU, Orji Uzor	Abia North
3	ABARIBE, Enyinnaya Harcourt	Abia South

ADAMAWA STATE

4	ABBAS, Aminu Iya	Adamawa Central
5	ISHAKU, Elisha Cliff	Adamawa North
6	YAROE, Binosa Dauda	Adamawa South

AKWA IBOM STATE

7	ETIM, Bassey Aniekan	Akwa Ibom North East
8	AKPABIO, Godswill Obot	Akwa Ibom North West
9	SAMPSON, Akpan Ekong	Akwa Ibom South

ANAMBRA STATE

10	UMEH, Victor Chukwunonyelu	Anambra Central
11	NWOYE, Tony	Anambra North
12	UBAH, Patrick Ifeanyi	Anambra South

BAUCHI STATE

13	ABU AHMED, Abdul Ningi	Bauchi Central
14	KAILA, Samaila Dahuwa	Bauchi North
15	BUBA, Umar Shehu	Bauchi South

BAYELSA STATE

16	KONBOWEI, Benson Friday	Bayelsa Central
17	AGADAGA, Benson Sunday	Bayelsa East
18	DICKSON, Seriake Henry	Bayelsa West

BENUE STATE

19	EMMANUEL, Udende Memsu	Benue North East
20	ZAM, Titus Tartenger	Benue North West
21	MORO, Abba Patrick	Benue South

BORNO STATE

22	KAKA, Shehu Lawan	Borno Central
23	MONGUNO, Mohammed Tahir	Borno North
24	NDUME, Mohammed Ali	Borno South

CROSS RIVER STATE

25	JONAH, Williams Eteng	Cross River Central
26	JARIGBE, Agom Jarigbe	Cross River North
27	ASUQUO, Ekpenyong	Cross River South

DELTA STATE

28	OMUEYA, Dafinone Ede	Delta Central
29	NWOKO, Chinedu Munir	Delta North
30	EWOMAZINO, Joel Onowakpo Thomas	Delta South

EBONYI STATE

31	EMEKA, Eze Kenneth	Ebonyi Central
32	NWEBONYI, Onyeka Peter	Ebonyi North
33	UMAHI, Nweze David	Ebonyi South

EDO STATE

34	OKPEBHOLO, Monday	Edo Central
35	OSHIOMOLE, Adams Aliyu	Edo North
36	IMASUEN, Neda Bernards	Edo South

EKITI STATE

37	OPEYEMI, Bamidele Micheal	Ekiti Central
38	OLUWOLE, Fasuyi Cyril	Ekiti North
39	ADARAMODU, Adeyemi Raphael	Ekiti South

ENUGU STATE

40	CHIZOBA, Chukwu	Enugu East
41	OKECHUKWU, Ezea	Enugu North
42	OSITA, Ngwu	Enugu West

FCT

43	KINGIBE, Ireti Heebah	FCT Senate
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GOMBE STATE

44	GOJE, Mohammed Danjuma	Gombe Central
45	DANKWAMBO, Ibrahim Hassan	Gombe North
46	SIYAKO, Yaro Anthony	Gombe South

IMO STATE

47	ONYEWUCHI, Ezenwa Francis	Imo East
48	CHIWUBA, Ndubueze Patrick	Imo North
49	IZUNASO, Osita Bonaventure	Imo West

JIGAWA STATE

50	ABDULHAMID, Mallam-Madori Ahmed	Jigawa East
51	HUSSAINI, Babagida Uba	Jigawa North West
52	KHABEEB, Mustapha	Jigawa South West

KADUNA STATE

53	USMAN, Lawal Adamu	Kaduna Central
54	KHALID, Ibrahim Mustapha	Kaduna North
55	KATUNG, Sunday Maeshal	Kaduna South

KANO STATE

56	RUFAI Sani Hanga	Kano Central
57	BARAU, Ibrahim Jibrin	Kano North
58	ABDURRAHMAN, Kawu Suleiman	Kano South

KATSINA STATE

59	YARADUA, Abdulaziz Musa	Katsina Central
60	ZANGON DAURA, Nasir Sani	Katsina North
61	MOHAMMED, Dandutse Muntari	Katsina South

KEBBI STATE

62	ALIERO, Adamu Mohammed	Kebbi Central
63	ABDULLAHI, Yahaya Abubakar	Kebbi North
64	GARBA, Musa	Kebbi South

KOGI STATE

65	OHHERE, Sadiku Abubakar	Kogi Central
66	JIBRIN, Isah	Kogi East
67	KARIMU, Sunday Steve	Kogi West

KWARA STATE

68	SALIU, Mustapha	Kwara Central
69	SULEIMAN, UMAR Sadiq	Kwara North
70	YISA, Ashiru Oyelola	Kwara South

LAGOS STATE

71	ESHILOKUN, Sanni Wasiu	Lagos Central
72	ADETOKUNBO, Abiru Mukhail	Lagos East
73	OLURANTI, Adebule Idiat	Lagos West

NASARAWA STATE

74	AKWASHIKI, Godiya	Nasarawa North
75	OGOSHI, Onawo Mohammed	Nasarawa South
76	ALIYU, Wadada Ahmed	Nasarawa West

NIGER STATE

77	MUSA, Mohammed Sani	Niger East
78	SANI, Bello Abubakar	Niger North
79	JIYA, Peter Ndalikali	Niger South

OGUN STATE

80	SALISU, Shuaib Afolabi	Ogun Central
81	OLUGBENGA, Daniel Justus	Ogun East
82	Olamilekan, Adeola Solomon	Ogun West

ONDO STATE

83	ADEGBONM, Ire Adeniyi Ayodele	Ondo Central
84	OLAJIDE, Ipinsagba Emmanuel	Ondo North
85	FOLORUNSHO, Jimoh Ibrahim	Ondo South

OSUN STATE

86	OLUBIYI, Fadeyi Oluwole	Osun Central
87	FADAHUNSI, Adenigba Francis	Osun East
88	OYEWUMI, Kamorudeen Olalere	Osun West

OYO STATE

89	AKINTUNDE, Yunus Abiodun	Oyo Central
90	BUHARI, Abdulfatai	Oyo North
91	ALLI, Sharafadeen Abiodun	Oyo South

PLATEAU STATE

92	SATSO, Plang Diket	Plateau Central
93	NWADKWON, Simon Davou	Plateau North
94	NAPOLEON, Binkap Bali	Plateau South

RIVERS STATE

95	ONYESOH, Allwel Heacho	Rivers East
96	MPIGI, Barinada	Rivers South East
97	BANIGO, Ipalibo Harry	Rivers West

SOKOTO STATE

98	IBRAHIM, Lamido	Sokoto East
99	WAMMAKO, Magatakarda Aliyu	Sokoto North
100	TAMBUWAL, Waziri Aminu	Sokoto South

TARABA STATE

101	MANU, Haruna	Taraba Central
102	ISA, Shaibu Lau	Taraba North
103	JIMKUTA, David S. U.	Taraba South

YOBE STATE

104	GAIDAM, Alhaji Ibrahim	Yobe East
105	LAWAN, Ahmad Ibrahim	Yobe North
106	MOHAMMED, Bomai Ibrahim	Yobe South

ZAMFARA STATE

107	BILBIS, Aliyu Ikra	Zamfara Central
108	YA'U, Sahabi Alhaji	Zamfara North
109	ABUBAKAR, Abdulaziz Yari	Zamfara West

3. Election of the President of the Senate:

Senator-elect Mohammed A. Ndume (*Borno South*) nominated Senator-elect Godswill O. Akpabio (*Akwa Ibom North West*). The nomination was seconded by Senator-elect Adeola S. Olamilekan (*Ogun West*).

Senator-elect Godswill O. Akpabio (*Akwa Ibom North West*) accepted his nomination.

Senator-elect Elisha C. Ishaku (*Adamawa North*) nominated Senator-elect Abdulaziz Y. Abubakar (*Zamfara West*). The nomination was seconded by Senator-elect Jimoh I. Folorunsho (*Ondo South*).

Senator-elect Abdulaziz Y. Abubakar (*Zamfara West*) accepted his nomination.

In the absence of further nominations, the Clerk to the National Assembly declared nominations closed.

Thereafter, the Clerk to the National Assembly conducted election into the Office of the President of the Senate:

<u>Name</u>		<u>No. of Votes</u>
Senator-elect Godswill O. Akpabio (<i>Akwa Ibom North West Senatorial District</i>)	—	63
Senator-elect Abdulaziz Y. Abubakar (<i>Zamfara West Senatorial District</i>)	—	46
Abstention	—	00
Absent	—	00
Total	—	<u>109</u>

The Clerk to the National Assembly stated that Senator-elect Godswill O. Akpabio (*Akwa Ibom North West*) having polled the higher number of votes, is hereby declared the winner and returned as the President of the Senate, pursuant to Order 3 of the Senate Standing Orders 2022 (as amended).

4. Oaths of Allegiance, Membership of the Senate and Office of the President of the Senate:

The Clerk to the National Assembly called on Senator-elect Mohammed A. Ndume and Senator-elect Adeola S. Olamilekan to conduct the President-elect of the Senate to the Table to take and subscribe to the Oaths as required by law.

Thereafter, the President-elect of the Senate, Senator Godswill O. Akpabio (*Akwa Ibom North West*) took the Oaths as required, after which he took his seat as the President of the Senate for the 10th Assembly.

5. Election of the Deputy President of the Senate:

Senator-elect Nweze D. Umahi (*Ebonyi South*) nominated Senator-elect Barau I. Jibrin (*Kano North*). The nomination was seconded by Senator-elect Mustapha Saliu (*Kwara Central*).

Senator-elect Barau I. Jibrin (*Kano North*) accepted his nomination.

In the absence of further nominations, the Clerk to the National Assembly declared nominations closed.

Thereafter, the Clerk to the National Assembly returned Senator-elect Barau I. Jibrin (*Kano North*) unopposed into the position of the Deputy President of the Senate.

6. Oaths of Allegiance, Membership of the Senate and Office of the Deputy President of the Senate:

The Clerk to the National Assembly also called on Nweze D. Umahi (*Ebonyi South*) and Senator-elect Mustapha Saliu (*Kwara Central*) to conduct the Deputy President of the Senate-elect to the Table to take and subscribe to the Oaths as required by law.

Thereafter, the Deputy President-elect of the Senate, Senator Barau I. Jibrin (*Kano North*) took the Oaths as required, after which he took his seat as the Deputy President-elect of the Senate for the 10th Assembly.

7. Oaths of Allegiance and Membership (Senators-Elect):

The following Senators-elect took and subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and Membership as required by law:

1	Nwokocha, Darlington	Abia Central
2	Kalu, Orji Uzor	Abia North
3	Abaribe, Enyinmaya Harcourt	Abia South
4	Abbās, Aminu Iya	Adamawa Central
5	Ishaku, Elisha Cliff	Adamawa North
6	Yaroe, Binos Dauda	Adamawa South
7	Etim, Basseyy Aniekan	Akwa Ibom North East
8	Sampson, Akpan Ekong	Akwa Ibom South
9	Umeh, Victor Chukwunonyelu	Anambra Central
10	Nwoye, Tony	Anambra North
11	Ubah, Patrick Ifeanyi	Anambra South
12	Ahmed, Abdul Ningi	Bauchi Central
13	Kaila, Samaila Dahuwa	Bauchi North
14	Buba, Umar Shehu	Bauchi South
15	Konbowei, Benson Friday	Bayelsa Central
16	Agadaga, Benson Sunday	Bayelsa East
17	Dickson, Seriake Henry	Bayelsa West
18	Emmanuel, Udende Memsā	Benue North East
19	Zam, Titus Tartenger	Benue North West
20	Moro, Abba Patrick	Benue South
21	Kaka, Shehu Lawan	Borno Central
22	Monguno, Mohammed Tahir	Borno North
23	Ndume, Mohammed Ali	Borno South
24	Jonah, Williams Eteng	Cross River Central
25	Jarigbe, Agom Jarigbe	Cross River North
26	Asuquo, Ekpenyong	Cross River South
27	Omueya, Dafinone Ede	Delta Central
28	Nwoko, Chinedu Munir	Delta North
29	Ewomazino, Joel Onowakpo Thomas	Delta South
30	Emeka, Eze Kenneth	Ebonyi Central
31	Nwebonyi, Onyeka Peter	Ebonyi North
32	Umahi Nweze David	Ebonyi South
33	Okpebholo, Monday	Edo Central
34	Oshiomole, Adams Aliyu	Edo North
35	Imasuen, Neda Bernards	Edo South
36	Opeyemi, Bamidele Micheal	Ekiti Central
37	Oluwole, Fasuyi Cyril	Ekiti North
38	Adaramodu, Adeyemi Raphael	Ekiti South
39	Chizoba, Chukwu	Enugu East
40	Okechukwu, Ezea	Enugu North
41	Osita, Ngwu	Enugu West
42	Kingibe, Ireti Heebah	FCT

43	Goje, Mohammed Danjuma	Gombe Central
44	Dankwambo, Ibrahim Hassan	Gombe North
45	Siyako, Yaro Anthony	Gombe South
46	Onyewuchi, Ezenwa Francis	Imo East
47	Chiwuba, Ndubueze Patrick	Imo North
48	Izunaso, Osita Bonaventure	Imo West
49	Abdulhamid, Mallam-madori Ahmed	Jigawa East
50	Hussaini, Babagida Uba	Jigawa North West
51	Khabeeb, Mustapha	Jigawa South West
52	Usman, Lawal Adamu	Kaduna Central
53	Khalid, Ibrahim Mustapha	Kaduna North
54	Katung, Sunday Marshal	Kaduna South
55	Rufai, Sani Hanga	Kano Central
56	Abdurrahman, Kawu Suleiman	Kano South
57	Yaradua, Abdulaziz Musa	Katsina Central
58	Zangon Daura, Nasir Sani	Katsina North
59	Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari	Katsina South
60	Aliero, Adamu Mohammed	Kebbi Central
61	Abdullahi, Yahaya Abubakar	Kebbi North
62	Garba, Musa	Kebbi South
63	Ohere, Sadiku Abubakar	Kogi Central
64	Jibrin, Isah	Kogi East
65	Karimu, Sunday Steve	Kogi West
66	Saliu, Mustapha	Kwara Central
67	Suleiman, Umar Sadiq	Kwara North
68	Yisa, Ashiru Oyelola	Kwara South
69	Eshilokun, Sanni Wasiu	Lagos Central
70	Adetokunbo, Abiru Mukhail	Lagos East
71	Oluranti, Adebule Idiat	Lagos West
72	Akwashiki, Godiya	Nasarawa North
73	Ogoshi, Onawo Mohammed	Nasarawa South
74	Aliyu, Wadada Ahmed	Nasarawa West
75	Musa, Mohammed Sani	Niger East
76	Sani, Bello Abubakar	Niger North
77	Jiya, Peter Ndalikali	Niger South
78	Salisu, Shuaib Afolabi	Ogun Central
79	Olugbenga, Daniel Justus	Ogun East
80	Olamilekan, Adeola Solomon	Ogun West
81	Adegbonm, Ire Adeniyi Ayodele	Ondo Central
82	Olajide, Ipinsagba Emmanuel	Ondo North
83	Folorunsho, Jimoh Ibrahim	Ondo South
84	Olubiyi, Fadeyi Oluwole	Osun Central
85	Fadahunsi, Adenigba Francis	Osun East
86	Oyewumi, Kamorudeen Olalere	Osun West
87	Akintunde, Yunus Abiodun	Oyo Central
88	Buhari, Abdulfatai	Oyo North
89	Alli, Sharafadeen Abiodun	Oyo South
90	Satso, Plang Diket	Plateau Central
91	Nwadkwon, Simon Davou	Plateau North
92	Napoleon, Binkap Bali	Plateau South
93	Onyesoh, Allwel Heacho	Rivers East
94	Mpigi, Barinada	Rivers South East
95	Banigo, Ipalibo Harry	Rivers West
96	Ibrahim, Lamido	Sokoto East
97	Wammako, Magatakarda Aliyu	Sokoto North
98	Tambuwal, Waziri Aminu	Sokoto South

99	Manu, Haruna	Taraba Central
100	Isa, Shaibu Lau	Taraba North
101	Jimkuta, David S. U.	Taraba South
102	Gaidam, Alhaji Ibrahim	Yobe East
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105	Bilbis, Aliyu Ikra	Zamfara Central
106	Ya'u, Sahabi Alhaji	Zamfara North
107	Abubakar, Abdulaziz Yari	Zamfara West

8. **Remarks by President of the Senate:**



**President of the Senate
Federal Republic of Nigeria**

Distinguished Senators of the Republic of Nigeria, other Principal Officers, let me in a special way recognize the immediate past Senate President, our dear brother, Distinguished Senator Ahmad Lawan.

To God be the glory, the Creator of the universe, He alone is the supreme; we give all the glory and honour; majesty, dominion, power; and we bow before God Almighty. We acknowledge his inestimable control of the affairs of man, including the transfer of power.

Today marks a historic moment for all of us as we embark on a new chapter in the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. My speech is on my behalf and also on behalf of my Deputy Senate President of the 10th Senate, Distinguished Senator Jibrin Barau. We are both very happy to have been given this opportunity and we show gratitude to Almighty God.

We also thank God on your behalf and especially congratulate all of you. We have just been sworn in as Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for being able to wade through the very difficult elections that we passed through. I described that last election as the first cashless election in Nigeria that is 2023 elections. In some States we have some tsunamis and in others we have some of our colleagues returning. I congratulate the thirty (30) returning Senators and seventy-nine (79) new Senators.

Let me also thank the Clerk to the National Assembly, Clerk of Senate and all the staff of the Senate and the National Assembly in general for their valuable time and hardwork, dedication to duties, commitments and contributions to the Nigerian Federation.

I do not know how Senator Ndume put it, whether he says 'first among equal or one among equal' but I just want to say that I will continue to be one amongst you. I will work you, for you and beside you. I will be President of the Senate that will stand for all including Distinguished Senator Yari; and we can attest that democracy took roots right here in this Chamber today. So, let me congratulate you for a hard fight.

I extend my hand of fellowship to you, we have already discussed and we agreed to work very closely together. I take it that single Senator here voted for me. What has happened today is historic. This is the first time in the Nigerian Senate that you have eight political parties seated in one Chamber. What that means is that as soon as you pass through the door to enter this red Chamber you have become a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and no longer of your political party and I will treat you so.

I am humbled to be so honoured by my colleagues and extremely delighted that despite the fact that the invitations were very few, my dear wife Ekaete Unoma Akpabio, is in the crowd to witness this historic occasion together with my last daughter. I hope she will not admire any Senator here.

But I will not mind to be a father-in-law to a Senator if there is anyone here who is not married.

So, my dear wife congratulations for being a great woman with great virtue, an exemplary woman and one that loves Nigeria and humanity. May God continue to prosper and bless you and grant you peace.

The country is at a crossroads; we are grappling with a lot of difficulties. We have just inherited an economy that requires renewal and revitalization. I thank our dear President, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, and the Vice President, Kashim Shettima, GCON, for the steps they have taken so far, which has given a lot of hope to the entire Nigerian Federation and even the West African sub-region as a whole.

I promise I will continue to be one amongst you. And I will work with you, for you and beside you. I will be a Senate President that will stand for all including Distinguished Senator Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar.

I extend my hand of fellowship to you, we have already discussed here that we agreed to work very closely together. I take it that single Senator here voted for me. What has happened today is historic. This is the first time in the Nigerian Senate that you have eight political parties seated in one Chamber. What that means is that as soon as you pass through the door to enter this red Chamber you have become a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and no longer of your political party and I will treat you so.

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I assure Mr. President, that no matter what when the Senate is called we are here to do national duties. This is Senate is about Nigeria and Nigerians so long as the policies that come to these Chambers concern the empowerment and our upliftment of Nigerians, we shall dwell and deliberate and then have robust debate on them through Public Hearings. We will work closely with the Executive Arm of Government whilst maintaining the normal independence of the legislature.

I therefore thank the President for the choice of Senator Godswill Akpabio and Senator Barau Jibrin; and also thank the party, the All Progressive Congress (APC) for zoning system that brought all of us and especially my colleagues, brothers and sisters in the 10th Senate for voting for us across party lines. This is the way we shall continue to be together. Whatever will

happen here we will think Nigeria, I will dwell on Nigeria, and I will make a very big difference. I assure you that my reputation precedes me, my track record is there for all to see, and we will bring about uncommon changes in the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

I must say that today should not really be a speech making day, it should just be a day for all of us to thank God that none of us was consumed by the COVID. Mine is to pray for you as you have honored me and my brother, Senator Jibrin, that God will also continue to honor you and God will be there for you and your families. Something that I always feel in my heart; may none of us never be a next item in the 10th Senate. Can we say amen? Amen!

I do feel very bad whenever we come for Sittings and they will say we have to adjourn and stand off for one minute silence and 32 second later, they will say may he/her soul rest in peace. The next thing they will say Clerk, next item. So, I thought we are all next items. So the first prayer I have for you for this great honour today is that may you never be a next item, may your family never see tragedies. That is all my prayer to God Almighty.

I also assure you that we shall tackle the enormous responsibilities facing headlong; we will look into the existing laws and work closely with the House of Representatives to realign them, to ensure that they are fit for purpose and suit the current realities of the artificial intelligence that the world is facing today. We will try our best to also make laws that will move forward and encourage foreign direct investment into the country. The current administration has brought the acronym of RENEWED HOPE, and I think this Senate will join in ensuring a total renewed hope for Nigerians where there seem to have been no hope.

I had the opportunity of serving as a Governor and I want my people who worked with me that I do not still believe in political motivated infrastructure. Therefore the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will ensure very serious oversight functions; we shall carry out very serious oversight functions to make sure we do not waste the resources of the country. We will put members of the executive on their toes particularly the ministers, when they are appointed, we will follow project by project and also do our best in terms of appropriation. We will not have any delay.

I must commend the last 9th Senate because we had a difficult time in the 8th Senate, when we used to have delays in budgets for almost seven months. But this time around, the 9th Senate did so well, we were able to get Nigeria back to the era of January to December budget system. And I think the 10th Senate will maintain that tradition. I hope I am speaking your minds? Yes.

That will enable us plan well and start well for the country, so the Executive must also assist us to make sure that they send the budget on time and the ministers and the MDAs and other parastatals that ought to defend the budget will have to suspend foreign trips and come down to do so, so we can act timeously and make sure that we maintain that tradition.

So, I paid gratitude to my predecessor distinguished Senator Ahmed Lawan for the achievements, the number of laws passed were unprecedented, and particularly the SDGs and numerous projects strewn around the country that were completed. Unlike in the 8th Senate, when we had what they called budgetary approval, and then they say no cash backings and so we had a lot of abandoned projects. I do hope that this current administration will also work closely with us to give us 98 to 100 per cent releases and not just approval without cash back off. So we will work closely with the Executive in that direction for the benefit of the constituents.

So I assure my colleagues that yes, indeed, God has given us this opportunity every generation according Frank Faman, must out of absolute obscurity discover their mission and when they do so, they either fulfil the mission or they betray the mission. This 10th Senate we have

discovered our mission, which is mission to renewed hope in Nigeria, the mission to ensure we revitalize the Nigerian Economy working closely with the executive; we will not betray the people of Nigeria and we will not betray that intention.

To my dear brothers, Government is continuum and the Senate is no less. We shall therefore further strengthen the legislative space in continuation of the laudable effort made by the 9th Senate that I just referred to. Some the issue that will concern us will be gender matters; we do not have a lot of women in the Senate. I am not suggesting that you give your spaces to women in the 11th Senate, but we ought to have more women in here but we have only three women here in this Senate. I congratulate them, and pray that next time we shall have more women but not my seat may be any other person or who should wishes to.

So, we shall pay particular attention to issues relating to persons with disabilities and the vulnerable in our dear society. We will engage in any legislative action that will bring about empowerment and stop our youth from being recruited by banditry and unknown gunmen, Boko Haram and all that. We will pay attention to insecurity, we will work closely with the executive to ensure that we can sleep with our two eyes closed and we can also travel by rail, road to any part of the country without fear or hindrance.

We will expand legislation to improve the revenue stream in the country. Our current President have a track record in that respect. When he became a Governor in Lagos state in 1999 I think Lagos was not getting more than ₦600,000,000 or thereabout in a month, but today with the program he put in place Lagos is getting ₦50 to 61 billion every month as internally generated revenue.

Nigeria can do so; we can improve the revenue of this country so that tackle most of the debt we have stream all over the place. The President has already said that Nigeria must produce what it consume and consume what it produces, and therefore we will do everything to assist him to make sure that; that dream become a reality for the prosperity of this great nation. We must tackle issues that relate to revenue. We shall have a seriously forward looking Senate that will emphasis on economic viability, social acceptability, tackle environmental issues and bring about sustainable growth.

We must therefore as a body, rise to partner with the Government of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to provide the legislative framework and legal environment for him to handle his programs he espouses for the country. Like he say; elections are over, governance has started. For the 10th Senate we are going to hit the ground running and we will make sure that our constituents are proud of us every step of the way.

Distinguished Senators our rules as representative of our individual political parties notwithstanding, there is every reason do us to support good policies and programs of the Federal Government and also look at what the States are doing; because if the States are not doing well there is no amount of work at the federal level that will have meaning.

To the Nigerian people, I say this, your dreams, your aspirations and your well-being will be at the heart of everything that we do in this Chambers. I therefore urge you to continue to pray for but remain faithful, because we are steadfast and we will remain united as Nigerians to ensure that your welfare is not taken for granted, particularly the mandate that you have given to us is not abused in any way.

Finally, I plead with you distinguished Senators to permit me to offer special commendations to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, for the bold step he has so far taken particularly in the issue of subsidy. If it requires legislative backing we shall give. We must begin to produce our own fuel in Nigeria, we must begin to encourage production of diesel and others in this country. If the stories so far are true that we used to have sixty-nine million barrels a month, and we are now having about thirteen or fifteen million barrels that

will show that we were subsidizing all the consumption going on in our neighboring countries which we can no longer continue with our very lean resources. So we applaud the Federal Government for such steps.

Distinguish Senator Barau on your behalf I thank my brothers. I will not speak today maybe another day; my heart is full of joy. Please send me the addresses of where ever you are doing your receptions; I want to go round one by one to celebrate with you and I wish your families as blessed journey back home without any incident of accident. Congratulations and welcome to the Uncommon 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I now invite the Deputy Senate President of the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, distinguished Senator Jibrin Barau who was returned unopposed while I went through a very difficult situation, to now move a motion for the adjournment of today's proceedings?

9. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 14th June, 2023 at 10.00 a.m. (Senator Barau I. Jibrin — Kano North).

Adjourned accordingly at 11:30 a.m.

Godswill Obot Akpabio, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

