



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Monday, 31st July, 2023

1. The Senate met at 12:41 p.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.

2. **Special Plenary**

Motion made: Pursuant to Order (7) that the Senate do sit this day Monday, 31st July, 2023 to deliberate on the request of Mr. President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for the Confirmation of Nominees for Appointments as Ministers of the Government of the Federation (*Senate Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 27th July, 2023.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Motion:**

Urgent Need to Avert the Impending Strike by the Nigeria Labour Congress:

The Senate:

notes that the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has given the Federal Government a seven-day ultimatum to reverse what the union termed as "anti-poor policies" or face an indefinite nationwide strike from Wednesday, 2nd August, 2023;

also notes that the NLC has directed all its affiliates and state councils to immediately begin mobilization of workers and other Nigerians, including civil society allies, for a long-lasting strike and mass protests;

aware that the labour movement in a statement signed by its National President accused the Federal Government of failing to meet up with the demands it presented to it following the removal of the subsidy on petrol, which caused an astronomical rise in the pump price of the commodity;

disturbed that the strike would cripple the country and movement would be severely curtailed because commercial transport operators would withdraw their services, while markets, schools and healthcare facilities would be forced to shut down;

further disturbed that the action could heat up the polity when it occurs, and the gains from the strike are far below the costs to either of the parties in conflict;

reflects that the strike threat by the NLC, if not averted, could plunge Nigeria into deeper economic woes, dislocate businesses, hunger, frustration, more hardship that would lead to unquantified financial losses and reduce Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

further aware that NLC strike is also a bad reputation for the Nigerian economy and the educational system because it portrays the country in a bad light to the external world and discourages foreigners from coming to do business or study in Nigeria; and

concerned that the society always bears the brunt of strikes, such as increase in crime rate and social vices like armed robbery, oil bunkering, prostitution, cyber scams, etc.

Accordingly resolves to:

mandate the Leadership of the Senate to interface between the Nigeria Labour Congress and the Federal Government in order to avert the impending strike by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) (*Senator Abdulrahman Kawu Suleiman — Kano South*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Leadership of the Senate to interface between the Nigeria Labour Congress and the Federal Government in order to avert the impending strike by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do mandate the Leadership of the Senate to interface between the Nigeria Labour Congress and the Federal Government in order to avert the impending strike by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) (*S/Res/038/01/23*).

5. Ministerial Screening:

Confirmation of the Appointments as Ministers of Government of the Federation:

Motion made: That the Senate do consider the Request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for the confirmation of the following nominees for appointments as Ministers of Government of the Federation:

S/No.	Names	State
(i)	Sen. Abubakar S.Kyari	Borno
(ii)	Abubakar Eshiokepeka Momoh	Edo
(iii)	Nyesom Ezenwo Wike	Rivers
(iv)	Engr. Prof. Joseph Terlumun Utsev	Benue
(v)	Sen. John Owan Enoh	Cross River
(vi)	Hon.(Bar) Bello Muhammad	Sokoto
(vii)	Mohammed Badaru Abubakar	Jigawa
(viii)	Amb. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar	Bauchi
(ix)	Sen. Abubakar Sani Danladi	Taraba
(x)	Barr. Uju-Ken Ohanenye	Anambra
(xi)	Hon. (Dr). Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo	Ondo
(xii)	Hon. Nkeiruka C. Onyejeocha, OON	Abia

- (xiii) Dr. Betta C. Edu Cross River
 (xiv) Imaan Sulaiman Ibrahim Nassarawa

(Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Privileges of the Floor:

- (i) **Admission of Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters (Senate), Senator Abdullahi Gumel; Non-Serving Senators; and former Hon. Members:**

Motion made: That the Senate do invoke Rule 12 to admit the Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters (Senate), Senator Abdullahi Gumel; Non-Serving Senators; Hon. Members; and former Hon. Members to the Floor of the Senate (Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters (Senate), Senator Abdullahi Gumel; Non-Serving Senators; Hon. Members; and former Hon. Members accordingly admitted to the Floor of the Senate.

- (ii) **Admission of Ministerial nominees:**

Motion made: That the Senate do suspend Rule 12 to admit the Ministerial nominees and their entourage to the Floor of the Senate (Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Ministerial nominees and their entourage accordingly admitted to the Floor of the Senate.

Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for the confirmation of nominees for appointments as Ministers of Government of the Federation.

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE) (Screening of Ministerial Nominees)

Nominees screened:

- (i) Abubakar Eshiokpekha Momoh (Edo)
 (ii) Nyesom Ezenwo Wike (Rivers)

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 {Rule 8 (3)} (Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

- (iii) Engr. Prof. Joseph Terlumun Utsev (Benue)
 (iv) Sen. Abubakar S. Kyari (Borno)
 (v) Sen. John Owan Enoh (Cross River)
 (vi) Hon. (Barr) Bello Muhammad (Sokoto)
 (vii) Mohammed Badaru Abubakar (Jigawa)
 (viii) Amb. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar (Bauchi)
 (ix) Sen. Abubakar Sani Danladi (Taraba)
 (x) Barr. Uju-Ken Ohanenye (Anambra)
 (xi) Hon. (Dr). Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo (Ondo)

- (xii) Hon. Nkeiruka C. Onyejeocha, OON (*Abia*)
- (xiii) Dr. Betta C. Edu (*Cross River*)
- (xiv) Imaan Sulaiman Ibrahim (*Nasarawa*)

Chairman to report progress.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate, in the Committee of the Whole, considered the Request of the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for the confirmation of nominees for appointments as Ministers of the Government of the Federation. Fourteen (14) Nominees were screened and they answered questions on topical issues but their approvals were deferred. Further consideration of the Request deferred to the next legislative day.

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

6. Adjournment:

And it being 6:01 *p.m.* the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Tuesday, 1st August, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 6:01 p.m.

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

