



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 1st August, 2023

1. The Senate met at 11:29 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Monday, 31st July, 2023.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

(a) **Notice:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi (Kebbi North) as follows:



**THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE COLLAPSE OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN NIGERIA

31st July, 2023

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

Your Excellency,

NOTICE TO ALL SENATORS

You will recall that the Senate at its sitting on Wednesday, 19th July, 2023, resolved to "Constitute an Ad hoc Committee to Come up with a compendium of all the affected Roads and Erosion Sites across the Country " among other prayers.

Consequently, the Committee met and resolved to receive inputs from all Distinguished Senators. Senators are requested to meet and make their submission on a State by State basis as follows:

- (i) State;
- (ii) Senatorial District;
- (iii) Name and Location of Road(s);
- (iv) Location of Erosion Site(s); and
- (v) Any other relevant details.

Submissions should be made to the Clerk of the Ad hoc Committee in Room 4.1, Senate Wing, White House.

While thanking you for the opportunity to serve in this regard, the Committee will appreciate your quick response to enable it commence its assignment.

(Signed)

Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi, Ph.D. OON, CON
Chairman

(b) **Minutes of Meeting:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Abdul A. Ningi (*Bauchi Central*) as follows:



NORTHERN SENATORS FORUM (NSF)
National Assembly Complex
MINUTES OF MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Northern Senators Forum (NSF) met on Thursday, 27th July, 2023 and the following have been elected as leaders of the forum: — Read in 12

1. Chairman: *Senator Abdul Ahmed Ningi*
2. Deputy Chairman: *Senator Sunday Marshal Katung*
3. Secretary: *Senator Sadiq Suleiman Umar*
4. Treasurer: *Senator Ishaku Elisha Abbo*
5. Publicity Secretary: *Senator Kawu Suleiman A.*

TRUSTEES

Senator Jibrin I. Barau (Deputy Senate President)
Senator Simon Davou Mwadkwon (Minority Leader)
Senator Mohammed D. Goje
Senator Muhammed Adamu Aliero
Senator Yahaya Abdullahi Abubakar
Senator Tambuwal Aminu Waziri
Senator Wammako Magatakarda Aliyu
Senator Ahmad I. Lawan (Former Senate President)

(Signed)

Senator Sadiq Suleiman Umar

4. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Insurance Bill, 2023 (SB. 15) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Nigeria Building and Road Research Institute Bill, 2023 (SB. 57) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Factoring, Assignments and Receivables Financing Bill, 2023 (SB. 59) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) South West Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 68) — *Read the First Time.*

- (v) Federal University Osogbo (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 69) — *Read the First Time.*
- (vi) Explosives Act (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 70) — *Read the First Time.*
- (vii) Federal Polytechnic Onueke, Ebonyi State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 71) — *Read the First Time.*
- (viii) Corporate Bodies (Members Emolument) Act (Repeal) Bill, 2023 (SB. 72) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ix) Elite Sheriffs Corps Of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 73) — *Read the First Time.*
- (x) National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (SB.74) — *Read the First Time.*
- (xi) Nigerian Maritime University Okerenkoko (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 75) — *Read the First Time.*

5. Motion:

Urgent Need to Lift the Restriction Order Placed on Supply of Fuel to Border Communities:

Motion made: The Senate notes that Federal Government, on the 6th of November, 2019 through the Comptroller-General of Customs directed that "no petroleum product is permitted to be discharged in any filling station within a radius of 20 kilometres to the border" of Nigeria nationwide;

also notes that this directive was to checkmate smuggling of Nigerian petroleum products, mostly Premium Motor Spirit, PMS, to the neighbouring countries where there were a thriving market for Nigerian petrol because of subsidy that was on petrol until the May 29, 2023, inaugural announcement by the Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, His Excellency, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu removing the subsidy;

aware that this policy had brought untold hardship and major losses to businesses of the residents and indigenes of the affected border communities, which later made the Nigeria Customs to relax the policy slightly by given licence to two or three petrol stations in each of the Local Government Areas that border these neighbouring countries. But that remedy was just a drop of water in an ocean considering the mass population of the people affected in these border towns and communities;

also aware that the suspension order by the Federal Government since 2019 has negatively impacted on the socio-economic activities with attendant hardships to lives and livelihood of people living in the border towns and communities across Yewa land in Ogun State, particularly in Idiroko axis, as only less than five licensed independent petroleum marketers are allowed to dispense the commodity to over five hundred thousand residents of the area with over one hundred and fifty dispersed towns and villages;

observes that since there is no longer subsidy on our petroleum product as proclaimed by the President, there is no longer any justification for the restriction order because the price of petrol across the international border has also gone up in line with the new price regime across Nigeria; and

concerned that the residents of our border areas are now suffering from the double jeopardy of insufficient supply of the product to the area on one hand and price hike on the other hand in addition to the hitherto crippling of economic activities.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Comptroller General of Customs to lift the subsisting restriction order placed on supply of petroleum products to the affected border communities because the removal of Subsidy by the Nigerian government has substantially put paid to the smuggling of the PMS products, therefore the products should be allowed to circulate freely without restrictions;
- (ii) also urge the Comptroller General of Customs to intensify preventive and enforcement measures to combat smuggling of all kinds; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Customs, Excise and Tariff; and National Security and Intelligence (when constituted) to ensure compliance and report back in four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Comptroller General of Customs to lift the subsisting restriction order placed on supply of petroleum products to the affected border communities because the removal of Subsidy by the Nigerian government has substantially put paid to the smuggling of the PMS products, therefore the products should be allowed to circulate freely without restrictions.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after the word "Customs" in line 1 insert the words "and the National Security Adviser (NSA) to review and" (Senator TAMBUNWAL, Waziri Aminu — Sokoto South).

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

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do also urge the Comptroller General of Customs to intensify preventive and enforcement measures to combat smuggling of all kinds — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Customs, Excise and Tariff; and National Security and Intelligence (when constituted) to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks for further legislative action — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Comptroller General of Customs and the National Security Adviser (NSA) to review and lift the subsisting restriction order placed on supply of petroleum products to the affected border communities because the removal of Subsidy by the Nigerian government has substantially put paid to the smuggling of the PMS products, therefore the products should be allowed to circulate freely without restrictions;
- (ii) also urge the Comptroller General of Customs to intensify preventive and enforcement measures to combat smuggling of all kinds; and

- (iii) mandate the Committees on Customs, Excise and Tariff; and National Security and Intelligence (when constituted) to ensure compliance and report back in four (4) weeks for further legislative action (S/Res/039/01/23).

6. Ministerial Screening:

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

Motion made: That the Senate do resume consideration of 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: (2nd Allotted Day).

S/No.	Names	State
(i)	H. E. David Umahi	Ebonyi
(ii)	Mr. Adebayo Olawale Edun	Ogun
(iii)	H. E. Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai, CON	Kaduna
(iv)	Arch. Ahmed Musa Dangwa	Katsina
(v)	Chief Uche Geoffrey Nnaji	Enugu
(vi)	Stella Erhuvwuoghene Okotete	Delta
(vii)	Mr. Dele Alake	Ekiti
(viii)	Mr. Adekola Adebayo Adelabu	Oyo
(ix)	Mr. Muhammad Idris	Niger
(x)	Professor Ali Pate	Bauchi
(xi)	Dr. Doris Anite Uzoka	Imo
(xii)	Mr. Lateef Fagbemi SAN	Kwara
(xiii)	Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo	Akwa Ibom
(xiv)	Hannatu Musawa	Katsina

(Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Privileges of the Floor:

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

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; former Hon. Members and Government Officials 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; former Hon. Members and Government Officials 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 resume consideration of the Request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation for the confirmation of the 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) H. E. David Umahi (*Ebonyi*)
- (ii) Mr. Adebayo Olawale Edun (*Ogun*)

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) H. E. Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai, CON (*Kaduna*)
- (iv) Arch. Ahmed Musa Dangiwa (*Katsina*)

Suspension of Sitting:

Motion made: Pursuant to Order 1 (a) and (b), that the Senate do suspend sitting for thirty (30) minutes (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Sitting:

4:00 p.m.

Resumption of Sitting:

4:30 p.m.

- (v) Chief Uche Geoffrey Nnaji (*Enugu*)
- (vi) Stella Erhuvwuoghene Okotete (*Delta*)
- (vii) Mr. Adekola Adebayo Adelabu (*Oyo*)
- (viii) Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo (*Akwa Ibom*)
- (ix) Hannatu Musawa (*Katsina*)

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. Nine (9) 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.*

7. Adjournment:

And it being 6:42 p.m. the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 2nd August, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 6:42 p.m.

Godswill Obot Akpabio, CON

President,

Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.