



# SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2023

1. The Senate met at 11:30 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**  
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.  
*Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.*
3. **Announcement:**  
**Wedding Invitation:**  
The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator *Mustapha Saliu (Kwara Central)* as follows:



## SENATE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

July 26, 2023

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

*Mr. President,*

### Wedding Invitation

*This is to invite Distinguished Senators to a family wedding of Senator Saliu Mustapha in Ilorin, Kwara State on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July, 2023. There is an arrangement for an aircraft to depart Abuja at 9:00 am and return by 2:00 pm.*

*Please interested Senators should indicate.*

*Thanks in anticipation.*

*(Signed)  
Senator Saliu Mustapha*

4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Rising on Order 41, Senator Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar drew the attention of the Senate to the persistent high level of insecurity in Zamfara State, particularly the killing of thirty (30) persons by terrorists at Kango village, Talata Mafara Local Government Area. He stated that seven (7) Nigerian soldiers equally lost their lives while reinforcing security at the besieged community. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

*Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Order 41(2)].*

5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Rising on Orders 41 and 51, Senator Sunday Marshall Katung (*Kaduna South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the urgent need to contain the outbreak of diphtheria disease in parts of Kaduna State. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

*notes* that there is an ongoing outbreak of the deadly and highly contagious diphtheria disease in parts of Kaduna State following the index case of a four-year-old male child whose illness started on July 4 in Jema'a LGA;

*further notes* that since this index case, the Kaduna State Government has confirmed that the death toll from the diphtheria outbreak in the State has risen to 17 with 68 suspected cases identified across the State as at Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2023;

*also notes* that a breakdown shows 10 people have reportedly died from the disease in Kafanchan, Jema'a Local Government Area of Kaduna State, 3 children died in Makarfi Local Government Area, while seven others were hospitalized;

*cognizant* that diphtheria is a highly contagious, infectious disease caused by a bacterium called Coryne bacterium diphtheria rendering infected people struck with serious breathing and swallowing problems that may develop sores on the skin;

*worried* that the highly contagious nature of the disease means that without immediate and concerted efforts towards curbing it, the disease would spread at a devastating rate especially considering the communal and poor living conditions in most rural communities in Nigeria; and

*avers* that Nigeria's recent experiences with Ebola virus and the Covid19 pandemic shows why outbreaks of virus epidemics must be fought with the best biomedical and scientific tools and knowledge available.

*Accordingly resolves to:*

- (i) *urge* the Federal Ministry of Health and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control to liaise with the hierarchy of the Kaduna State Ministry of Health towards intensifying the search for active cases of diphtheria with contact tracing, risk communication activities and movement of affected cases to health facilities for management;
- (ii) *urge* the Federal Ministry of Health to liaise with the Kaduna State Ministry of Health with a view to moving health workers to the affected areas and also intensifying surveillance activities across the 23 LGAs of Kaduna State; and
- (iii) *urge* the Senate to make any further directives as deemed expedient in the circumstances.

*Debate:*

**Proposed Resolution (i):**

*Question:* That the Senate do *urge* the Federal Ministry of Health and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control to liaise with the hierarchy of the Kaduna State Ministry of Health towards intensifying the search for active cases of diphtheria, including contact tracing, risk communication activities and movement of affected cases to health facilities for management.

**Amendment Proposed:**

Immediately after the word "Control" in line 2, *insert* the words "and the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA)" (*Senator Mohammed A. Aliero — Kebbi Central*)

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

**Proposed Resolution (ii):**

*Question:* That the Senate do *urge* the Federal Ministry of Health to liaise with the Kaduna State Ministry of Health with a view to moving health workers to the affected areas and also intensifying surveillance activities across the 23 LGAs of Kaduna State — *Agreed to.*

**Proposed Resolution (iii):**

*Question:* That the Senate do *make* any further directives as deemed expedient in the circumstances

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out* the provision in proposed resolution (iii) and *insert* the following instead thereof "That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Health to liaise with all the States Ministries of Health across the country with a view to moving health workers to any affected areas and intensifying surveillance activities across all seven hundred and seventy four (774) Local Government Areas (*Senator Godiya Akwashiki — Nasarawa North*).

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

**Additional Proposed Resolutions:**

*Insert* Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- "(i) That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Health and its Agencies; Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) to immediately ensure universal childhood immunization all over the country to protect our children from vaccine preventable diseases such as diphtheria" (*Senator Ipalibo H. Banigo — Rivers West*).
- "(ii) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to increase and strengthen funding to all the vaccine production and research institutions in Nigeria" (*Senator Mohammed S. Musa — Niger East*)

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

**Resolved:**

That the Senate do:

- (i) *urge* the Federal Ministry of Health, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) to liaise with the hierarchy of the Kaduna State Ministry of Health towards intensifying the search for active cases of diphtheria, including contact tracing, risk communication activities and movement of affected cases to health facilities for management;
- (ii) *urge* the Federal Ministry of Health to liaise with the Kaduna State Ministry of Health with a view to moving health workers to the affected areas and also intensifying surveillance activities across the 23 LGAs of Kaduna State;

- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to liaise with all the States Ministries of Health across the country with a view to moving health workers to any affected areas and intensifying surveillance activities across all seven hundred and seventy four (774) Local Government Areas;
- (iv) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and its agencies; Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) to immediately ensure universal childhood immunization all over the country to protect our children from vaccine preventable diseases such as diphtheria; and
- (v) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to increase and strengthen funding to all the vaccine production and research institutions in Nigeria (S/Res/034/01/23)

6. **Executive Communication:**

**Confirmation of the Nomination for Appointment as Members of the Board of the North East Development Commission:**

*Motion made:* That the Senate do consider the Request of Mr. President, Commander - in - Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation on the confirmation of the nominations of the following persons for Appointment as Members of the Board of the North East Development Commission:

No.	Name	Position	Region (State)
(i)	General Paul Tarfa (Rtd) (Reappointment)	Chairman	North East (Adamawa)
(ii)	Hon Gambo Maikomo	Member	North East (Taraba)
(iii)	Abdullahi Abbas	Member	North West (Kano)
(iv)	Tsav Stephen Aondoana	Member	North Central (Benue)
(v)	Chief Mutiu Lawal-Are	Member	South West (Lagos)
(vi)	Hon. Samuel Ifeanyi Onuigbo	Member	South East (Abia)
(vii)	Frank Achinike Owbor	Member	South South (Rivers)
(viii)	Mohammed Goni Alkali (Reappointment)	Managing Director	North East (Borno)
(ix)	Musa Yashi (Reappointment)	Executive Director (Humanitarian Affairs)	North East (Bauchi)
(x)	Ahmed Abdulsalam Yahaya	Executive Director (Operations)	North East (Gombe)
(xi)	Dr Abubakar Garba Iliya	Executive Director (Admin & Finance )	North East (Yobe)

(Senate Leader)

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Request accordingly referred to the Committee of the Whole*

**Privileges of the Floor:**

- (i) *Motion made:* That the Senate do invoke Order 12(1)(d) to admit the Senior Special Assistant to the President on National Assembly Matters (Senate), Senator Abdullahi Gumel to the floor of the Senate to witness the screening of nominees (Senate Leader).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Senior Special Assistant to the President on National Assembly Matters (Senate), Senator Abdullahi Gumel accordingly admitted to the floor.*

- (ii) *Motion made: That the Senate do suspend Order 12 to admit the nominees for confirmation as Members of the Board of the North East Development Commission (NEDC) (Senate Leader).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Nominees for confirmation as Members of the Board of the North East Development Commission (NEDC) accordingly admitted to the floor.*

*Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the request of Mr. President for the confirmation of the nominations for appointment as Members of the Board of the North East Development Commission (Senate Leader).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

### (SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration of the Request of Mr. President for the confirmation of the nominations for appointment as Members of the Board of the North East Development Commission.

#### Nominees recommended for confirmation:

(i)	General Paul Tarfa (Rtd) (Reappointment)	Chairman Executive Director Administration	North East (Adamawa)	—	Agreed to.
(ii)	Hon Gambo Maikomo	Member	North East (Taraba)	—	Agreed to.
(iii)	Abdullahi Abbas	Member	North West (Kano)	—	Agreed to.
(iv)	Tsav Stephen Aondoana	Member	North Central (Benue)	—	Agreed to.
(v)	Chief Mutiu Lawal-Are	Member	South West (Lagos)	—	Agreed to.
(vi)	Hon. Samuel Ifeanyi Onuigbo	Member	South East (Abia)	—	Agreed to.
(vii)	Frank Achinike Owbor	Member	South South (Rivers)	—	Agreed to.
(viii)	Mohammed Goni Alkali (Reappointment)	Managing Director	North East (Borno)	—	Agreed to.
(ix)	Musa Yashi (Reappointment)	Executive Director Humanitarian Affairs	North East (Bauchi)	—	Agreed to.
(x)	Ahmed Abdulsalam Yahaya	Executive Director (Operations)	North East (Gombe)	—	Agreed to.
(xi)	Dr Abubakar Garba Iliya	Executive Director Admin & Finance	North East (Yobe)	—	Agreed to.

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 Mr. President for the confirmation of the nominations for appointment as Members of the Board of the North East Development Commission. The nominees answered questions relating to the Development of the North East of Nigeria. Thereafter the Senate approved their nominations.

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

**Confirmation of nominations:**

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of General Paul Tarfa (Rtd) (Reappointment) North East (Adamawa) for appointment as Chairman of (North East) Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of General Paul Tarfa (Rtd) (Reappointment) (North East) (Adamawa) for appointment as Chairman of (North East) Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Hon Gambo Maikomo (North East) (Taraba) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Hon Gambo Maikomo (North East) (Taraba) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Abdullahi Abbas (North West) (Kano) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Abdullahi Abbas (North West) (Kano) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Tsav Stephen Aondoana (North Central) (Benue) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Tsav Stephen Aondoana (North Central) (Benue) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Chief Mutiu Lawal-Are (South West) (Lagos) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Chief Mutiu Lawal-Are (South West) (Lagos) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Hon. Samuel Ifeanyi Onuigbo (South East) (Abia) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Hon. Samuel Ifeanyi Onuigbo (South East) (Abia) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Frank Achinike Owbor (South South) (Rivers) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Frank Achinike Owbor (South South) (Rivers) for appointment as Member of North East Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Mohammed Goni Alkali (Reappointment) (North East) (Borno) for appointment as Managing Director of North East Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Mohammed Goni Alkali (Reappointment) (North East) (Borno) for appointment as Managing Director of North East Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Musa Yashi (Reappointment) (North East) (Bauchi) for appointment as Executive Director (Humanitarian Affairs) of North East Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Musa Yashi (Reappointment) (North East) (Bauchi) for appointment as Executive Director (Humanitarian Affairs) of North East Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Ahmed Abdulsalam Yahaya (North East) (Gombe) for appointment as Executive Director of North East Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Ahmed Abdulsalam Yahaya (North East) (Gombe) for appointment as Executive Director of North East Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

*Question:*

"Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr Abubakar Garba Iliya (North East) (Yobe) for appointment as Executive Director (Administration and Finance) of North East Development Commission?" — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Nomination of Dr Abubakar Garba Iliya (North East) (Yobe) for appointment as Executive Director (Administration and Finance) of North East Development Commission accordingly confirmed.*

**7. Motions:**

**(a) *Condemning the Disruptive Nature of 'Sit-At-Home' Demonstrations in the South East-Nigeria:***

*Motion made:* That the Senate is aware that thousands of innocent lives have been lost since this action started, and properties worth over a trillion naira have been destroyed which has resulted in investors leaving the region;

*further aware* that the "sit-at-home" civil disobedience actions in the South East have led to the disruption/destruction of economic activities as well as immeasurable financial losses for businesses, workers, and the local economy; when people are forced to stay at home and businesses remain closed, productivity declines, and income is reduced, thereby affecting livelihoods and economic growth;

*notes* that the "sit-at-home" protests disrupts the education of students, leading to missed classes and delays in academic progress; such prolonged disruptions have long-term effects on students' learning outcomes and educational development;

*disturbed* that disruption of essential public services, such as healthcare, transportation, and waste disposal, continues to have severe impact during "sit-at-home" protests which adversely affect the well-being and safety of the general population living in the South East;

further disturbed that the "sit-at-home" protests have continued to lead to acts of violence and clashes with law enforcement agencies which has led to uncountable loss of lives of innocent people, security agents and the protesters. As this increases the potential for criminal elements to take advantage of the situation to engage in looting or other unlawful activities while the people stayed at home; and

worried that if the activities of Simon Ekpa, who is issuing the illegal "sit at home" orders is not checked, he may succeed in corrupting the minds of Nigerian youths and turning them against the government which is tantamount to treasonable felony.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) condemn the "sit at home" in totality as well as the nefarious activities of Simon Ekpa who is the gang leader;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to collaborate with the Finnish Government with a view to extraditing Simon Ekpa for possible prosecution; and
- (iii) invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs (when appointed) and relevant stakeholders to carry out thorough investigation as well as bring other sponsors of the act to book. (Senator Izunaso, Osita Bonaventure — Imo West)

#### 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 (Order 8(3)). (Senate Leader).

Question put and agreed to.

Debate:

#### Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do condemn the "sit at home" in totality as well as the nefarious activities of Simon Ekpa who is the gang leader — Agreed to.

#### Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to collaborate with the Finnish Government with a view to extraditing Simon Ekpa for possible prosecution — Agreed to.

#### Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs (when appointed) and relevant stakeholders to carry out thorough investigation as well as bring other sponsors of the act to book. — Agreed to.

#### Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert the Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- "(i) That the Senate do urge the Federal Government of Nigeria and Governments of the States of the South East region to make use of technology in tracking the activities of those criminals with a view to curbing their activities and bringing them to book" (Senator Darlington Nwokocha — Abia Central).
- "(ii) That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of those killed in the dastardly acts" (Senator Ifeanyi P. Uba — Anambra South).

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

*Resolved:*

That the Senate do:

- (i) condemn the "sit at home" in totality as well as the nefarious activities of Simon Ekpa who is the gang leader;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to collaborate with the Finnish government with a view to extraditing Simon Ekpa for possible prosecution;
- (iii) invite the Minister of Foreign Affairs (when appointed) and relevant stakeholders to carry out thorough investigation as well as bring other sponsors of the act to book;
- (iv) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria and Governments of the States of the South East region to make use of technology in tracking the activities of those criminals with a view to curbing their activities and bringing them to book; and
- (v) observe a minute silence in honour of those killed in the dastardly acts (S/Res/035/01/23).

*A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.*

- (b) ***Urgent Need to prioritise the Implementation of Item No. 262 in the Appropriation Act, 2023 (Nigeria Customs Service Capital Cost 2023 Budget Proposal-Detailed Breakdown Annex iii) being construction of Nigerian Customs Service Academy and Nigerian Customs Training School, Bauchi as a One Stop, Customs Academy and Training School, shop in Nigeria;***

*Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*

- (c) ***Urgent Need to Resettle the Displaced People of Gwer-West, Makurdi and Guma Local Governments to their ancestral habitat and to avert imminent humanitarian crisis in Benue State;***

*Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*

- (d) ***Need to Investigate the Incessant and Nefarious Acts of Crude Oil Thefts in the Niger Delta and the Actors.***

*Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*

- (e) ***Urgent Need to Lift the Restriction Order placed on Supply of Fuel to Border Communities;***

*Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*

- (f) ***Urgent Need for the Federal Government of Nigeria to direct the Contractor to fully commence and complete the construction works of the Second Runway at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja within 24 months;***

*Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.*

**8. Adjournment:**

And it being 2:51 p.m., The President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

*Adjourned accordingly at 2:51 p.m.*

**Godswill Obot Akpabio, CON**

*President,*

*Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*