



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 21st November, 2023

1. The Senate met at 11:42 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 16th November, 2023.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

(a) **Appointments of Minority Leader and Minority Whip:**

The President of the Senate announced the following:

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| 1. | Senator Patrick Abba Moro | — | Minority Leader |
| 2. | Senator Osita Ngwu | — | Minority Whip |

(b) **Composition of Committees' Chairmen and Vice Chairmen**

The President of the Senate announced the composition of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Standing Committees as follows:

1. **STEEL DEVELOPMENT:**

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| 1. | Senator Chiwuba Patrick Ndubueze | — | Chairman |
| 2. | Senator Natasha Akpoti Uduaghan | — | Vice Chairman |

2. **TOURISM:**

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| 1. | Senator Shuaibu Isa Lau | — | Chairman |
| 2. | Senator Ireti Heebah Kingibe | — | Vice Chairman |

3. **INTER-PARLIAMENTARY:**

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| | Senator Jimoh Ibrahim Folorunsho | — | Chairman |
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4. **STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

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| 1. | Senator Binos D. Yaroo | — | Chairman |
| 2. | Senator Francis Adenigba Fadahunsi | — | Vice Chairman |

5. **NATIONAL ATOMIC AND NUCLEAR ENERGY:**

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| 1. | Senator Ya'u Alhaji Sahabi | — | Chairman |
| 2. | Senator Ibrahim Mustapha Khalid | — | Vice Chairman |

6. **YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

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| | Senator Adeyemi Raphael Adaramodu | — | Chairman |
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7. **SPORTS DEVELOPMENT:**
 1. Senator Suleiman Abdurrahman Kawu — Chairman
 2. Senator Ned Munir Nwoko — Vice Chairman
8. **NIGER DELTA AFFAIRS:**
 1. Senator Emmanuel Olajide Ipinsagba — Chairman
 2. Senator Amos Yohanna — Vice Chairman
9. **ARTS, CULTURE AND CREATIVE ECONOMY:**
 1. Senator Onawo Mohammed Ogoshi — Chairman
 2. Senator Ezea Okechukwu — Vice Chairman
10. **DEFENCE:**

Senator Joel Onowakpo Thomas — Vice Chairman
11. **PETROLEUM DOWNSTREAM:**
 1. Senator Ifeanyi Patrick Ubah — Chairman
 2. Senator Emmanuel Olajide Ipinsagba — Vice Chairman
12. **SOLID MINERALS:**
 1. Senator Ekong Sampson Akpan — Chairman
 2. Senator Mustapha Khabeeb — Vice Chairman
13. **NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NDDC):**

Senator Osita Ngwu — Vice Chairman
14. **ESTABLISHMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE MATTERS:**

Senator Katung Sunday Marshal — Vice Chairman
15. **LAND, HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT:**
 1. Senator Aminu Tambuwal — Chairman
 2. Senator Victor Umeh — Vice Chairman
16. **ARMY:**
 1. Senator Cyril Fasuyi Oluwole — Chairman
 2. Senator Yar'Adua Musa Abdulaziz — Vice Chairman
17. **COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION IN AFRICA & NEPAD:**

Senator Nasiru Sani Zangon Daura — Chairman
18. **WATER RESOURCES:**

Senator Kenneth Emeka Eze — Vice Chairman
19. **INDUSTRIES:**

Senator Isa Shuaibu Lau — Vice Chairman
20. **NATIONAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS:**

Senator Akobundu Augustine Okwudiri — Vice Chairman
21. **NAVY:**
 1. Senator Gbenga Daniel — Chairman
 2. Senator Abdurrahman Suleiman Kawu — Vice Chairman
22. **POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT:**

Senator Adebule Idiat Oluranti — Chairman
23. **PUBLIC PROCUREMENT:**

Senator Haruna Manu — Vice Chairman

24. **LOCAL CONTENT:**
 Senator Natasha Akpoti Uduaghan — Chairman
25. **FCT AREA COUNCIL:**
 1. Senator Jimkuta David S.U. — Chairman
 2. Senator Saliu Mustapha — Vice Chairman
26. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs):**
 1. Senator Mohammed Danjuma Goje — Chairman
 2. Senator Chiwuba Patrick Ndubueze — Vice Chairman
27. **TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND TETFUND:**
 Senator Patrick Abba Moro — Vice Chairman
28. **DRUGS AND NARCOTICS:**
 Senator Umar Sadiq Suleiman — Vice Chairman
29. **WORKS:**
 Senator Mpigi Barinada — Chairman
30. **ICT AND CYBERSPACE:**
 Senator Nasiru Sani Zangon Daura — Vice Chairman

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

Rising on Orders 41 and 51, Senator Alli, Sharafadeen Abiodun (*Oyo South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the need to accord a State Burial to the Late Taiwo Akinkunmi, OFR aka "Mr. Flag", the designer of the Nigerian National Flag. He also canvassed for his immortalization and thereafter sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes with grief, but with gratitude to Almighty Allah the sudden death of Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi, OFR, a national hero and the designer of the Nigerian National Flag whose contribution to the nation's history and identity is immeasurable;

also notes that Late Taiwo Akinkunmi played a pivotal role in creating the iconic symbol that represents our great nation and has been a source of pride for all Nigerians since independence;

aware that in recognition of his noble contribution, the 7th Assembly, through a Resolution passed by the Senate urged the Federal Government to put him on regular monthly emolument, which was graciously approved by the Federal Government and he was paid till he passed away;

also aware that the Nigerian National Flag which was designed by the Late Mr. Akinkunmi is not just a piece of cloth; it represents the hopes and dreams of an entire nation. It is a powerful symbol of our unity in diversity, our resilience, and our commitment to a shared future. Immortalizing and granting him a state burial will be a demonstration of the respect and honor that Nigeria accords to her heroes, living or dead;

Accordingly resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi;
- (ii) mourn the loss of Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi and express the Senate condolences to his family and loved ones;

- (iii) urge the Federal Government to immortalize the memory of Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi, OFR "Mr. Flag," by establishing a fitting and enduring tribute in his honor. This may include naming a prominent national monument, institution, or public space after him, and creating an educational program that informs present and future generations about his significant role in Nigeria's history;
- (iv) also urge the Federal Government to accord Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi a state burial, befitting his role as a national hero and symbol of our unity and pride; and
- (v) further urge the Federal Government to support initiatives that document his life story and achievements for historical preservation and education, including the production of literature, documentaries, and exhibits that highlight his contributions to our nation.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate observe a minute silence in honour of Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do mourn the loss of Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi and express the Senate condolences to his family and loved ones — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to immortalize the memory of Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi, OFR "Mr. Flag," by establishing a fitting and enduring tribute in his honor. This may include naming a prominent national monument, institution, or public space after him, and creating an educational program that informs present and future generations about his significant role in Nigeria's history — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to accord Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi a state burial, befitting his role as a national hero and symbol of our unity and pride — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to support initiatives that document his life story and achievements for historical preservation and education, including the production of literature, documentaries, and exhibits that highlight his contributions to our nation — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi;
- (ii) mourn the loss of Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi and express the Senate condolences to his family and loved ones;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to immortalize the memory of Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi, OFR "Mr. Flag," by establishing a fitting and enduring tribute in his honor. This may include naming a prominent national monument, institution, or public space after him, and creating an educational program that informs present and future generations about his significant role in Nigeria's history;
- (iv) also urge the Federal Government to accord Mr. Taiwo Akinkunmi a state burial, befitting his role as a national hero and symbol of our unity and pride; and

- (v) further urge the Federal Government to support initiatives that document his life story and achievements for historical preservation and education, including the production of literature, documentaries, and exhibits that highlight his contributions to our nation (*S/Res/074/01/23*).

One minute accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

5. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) National Food Safety and Management Council (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 34) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Federal College of Forestry, Wawa Zange, Dukku, Gombe State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 222) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Federal University of Education Numan, Adamawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 270) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Niger Delta Development Commission (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 271) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) Documentation and Protection of Domestic Workers and Employees Bill, 2023 (SB.272) — *Read the First Time.*

6. Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA):

Report on the Confirmation of the Nomination for Appointments as Managing Director and Members of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) on the confirmation of the nomination of the following persons for appointments as Managing Director and Members of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) (*Senator Hussaini, Babagida Uba — Jigawa North West*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid and presented.

Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Consideration of the Report of the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) on the confirmation of the nomination of the following persons for appointments as Managing Director and Members of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA).

Nominees recommended for confirmation:

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|--------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| (i) | Engr. Dr. Chukwuemeka Chijioke Agbasi | — | <i>Agreed to</i> |
| (ii) | Engr. Ibi Terna Manasseh | — | <i>Agreed to</i> |
| (iii) | Dr. Kenneth Ugbala | — | <i>Agreed to</i> |
| (iv) | Sen. Timothy Adudu | — | <i>Agreed to</i> |
| (v) | Babatunde Daramola | — | <i>Agreed to</i> |
| (vi) | Hon. Preye Oseke | — | <i>Agreed to</i> |
| (vii) | Aminu Adamu Papa | — | <i>Agreed to</i> |
| (viii) | Engr. Abubakar Bappa | — | <i>Agreed to</i> |
| (ix) | ACM Shehu Mohammed | — | <i>Agreed to</i> |
| (x) | Yusuf Lawal Othman | — | <i>Agreed to</i> |

(Senate Leader).

Question put and 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 Report of the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) on the confirmation of the nomination for appointments as Managing Director and Members of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and thereafter approved the nominations.

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

Confirmation of Nominees:

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Engr. Dr. Chukwuemeka Chijioke Agbasi for appointment as Managing Director of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Engr. Dr. Chukwuemeka Chijioke Agbasi for appointment as Managing Director of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) accordingly confirmed.

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Engr. Ibi Terna Manasseh for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Engr. Ibi Terna Manasseh for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) accordingly confirmed.

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Dr. Kenneth Ugbala for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Dr. Kenneth Ugbala for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) accordingly confirmed.

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Sen. Timothy Adudu for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Sen. Timothy Adudu for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) accordingly confirmed.

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Babatunde Daramola for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Babatunde Daramola for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) accordingly confirmed.

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Hon. Preye Oseke for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)?” — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Nomination of Hon. Preye Oseke for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) accordingly confirmed.

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Aminu Adamu Papa for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)?” — Resolved in the Affirmative.

Nomination of Aminu Adamu Papa for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) accordingly confirmed.

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Engr. Abubakar Bappa for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)?” — Resolved in the Affirmative.

Nomination of Engr. Abubakar Bappa for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) accordingly confirmed.

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of ACM Shehu Mohammed for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)?” — Resolved in the Affirmative.

Nomination of ACM Shehu Mohammed for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) accordingly confirmed.

Question:

“Will the Senate confirm the nomination of Yusuf Lawal Othman for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)?” — Resolved in the Affirmative.

Nomination of Yusuf Lawal Othman for appointment as Member of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) accordingly confirmed.

7. Dishonoured Cheques (Offences) Act, 1977 (Repeal and Enact) Bill, 2023 (SB.10):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal and Enact the Dishonoured Cheques (Offences) Act, 1977 to make it an offence anywhere in Nigeria to induce the delivery of property or service or to purport to settle a lawful obligation by means of cheque which when presented within a reasonable time is dishonoured on the grounds of no funds or insufficient funds were standing to the credit of the drawer of the cheque or on other grounds provided in this Act and for Related Matters, 2023 be read the Second Time (*Senator Karimi, Sunday Steve — Kogi West*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to report within two (2) weeks.

8. Electronic Transactions Bill, 2023 (SB. 94):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Facilitate the use of information in electronic form for conducting transactions in Nigeria and for Connected Purposes, 2023 be read the Second Time (*Senator Saliu, Mustapha — Kwara Central*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions to report within two (2) weeks.

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) (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

9. Motions:

(a) *Urgent Need to Commence Revision of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria which has Remained Unrevised for Almost Two Decades:*

Motion made: The Senate notes that the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN) is an alphabetical compilation of laws operative in Nigeria which are updated on a regular basis;

also notes that the compilation of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria is carried out under the authority of the Attorney General of the Federation, subject to the approval of the National Assembly through an Act;

informed that the last and extant compilation of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria was in 2004 which reckoned with all statutes existing in the Federation as of 31st December, 2002;

also informed that the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 was subsequently approved by the National Assembly through the Revised Edition (Laws of the Federation of Nigeria) Act, 2007 which repealed the Revised Edition (Laws of the Federation of Nigeria) Act 1990;

aware that the statutes in the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 were enacted in different years before and after Nigeria's independence even though they are all cited as "LFN 2004", which consists of 16 volumes, with each volume being made up of several statutes organised in an alphanumeric order;

also aware that there was an attempt to revise the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria in 2010 but this effort had no legal framework of the National Assembly approving it;

worried that the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 has not been revised nineteen (19) years after, with the implication that the several laws enacted in Nigeria from 1st January, 2003 till date remain excluded from the compilation;

also worried that the continued non-revision of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 has not only left numerous statutes out of the compilation, but also retained many repealed statutes with the attendant confusions and other negative impacts;

concerned that the non-compilation of the several federal statutes leads to dearth of knowledge of many existing laws on the part of Nigerians, especially students, lecturers, researchers, lawyers, legislators, and judges amongst others; and

convinced that revision of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 is long overdue and as such will be in the interest of democratic governance in Nigeria to commence the revision process without further delay.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to immediately interface with the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation to initiate the process of revising the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and

- (ii) give such further directives as deemed expedient and appropriate in the circumstances (*Senator Kaka, Shehu Lawan — Borno Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate mandate the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to immediately interface with the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation to initiate the process of revising the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do give such further directives as deemed expedient and appropriate in the circumstances — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to immediately interface with the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation to initiate the process of revising the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and
- (ii) give such further directives as deemed expedient and appropriate in the circumstances (*S/Res/075/01/23*).
- (b) ***Urgent Need to designate and upgrade the Margaret Ekpo International Airport Calabar to A Regional Trade Cargo Airport to boost non-oil export trade into ECOWAS, ECCAS and the Gulf of Guinea Trade Area:***

Consideration of Motion deferred to another legislative day.

- (c) ***Compelling Need to Tackle the Challenge of Out of School Children in Nigeria:***

Consideration of Motion deferred to another legislative day.

10. Adjournment:

And it being 2:28 p.m. the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 22nd November, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Senate adjourned accordingly at 2:28 p.m.

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

