



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 20th July, 2023

1. The Senate met at 11:36 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 19th July, 2023.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

- (a) **Meeting:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Francis A. Fadahunsi (*Osun East*) as follows:



SENATE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA Ad-hoc Committee on Abuse of Firearms by Officials of the Nigeria Customs Service

July 20, 2023

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

Mr. President,

MEETING

This is to inform Distinguished members of the Adhoc Committee to investigate the Abuse of Firearms by officials of the Nigeria Customs Service that there will be a meeting as follows:

*Date: Thursday, 20th July, 2023
Venue: Room 3.23, 3rd floor, Senate new wing
Time: Immediately after plenary*

Please endeavor to attend.

(Signed)

Senator Francis A. Fadahunsi
Chairman

(b) **Notification:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Darlington Nwokocha (*Abia Central*) as follows:

July 16th, 2023

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

Mr. President,

NOTIFICATION OF THE DAY OF TRIBUTES AND FINAL BURIAL RITES
OF HIS EXCELLENCY, CHIEF (DR) PRINCE VINCENT OGBULAFOR

On behalf of the good people of *Abia Central Senatorial District*, I write to kindly notify His Excellency, the President of the Senate, and my Distinguished Colleagues of the scheduled Day of Tributes and Final Burial Rites of His Excellency, Chief (Dr) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor who transited to eternal glory at the age of 73 on October 6th, 2022.

Chief Prince Vincent Ogbulafor during his lifetime contributed immensely to Nigeria's democratic growth and played glowing roles in the sustenance of unity, peace, and progress of Nigeria. He served as the first National Secretary of the PDP, former National Chairman of the PDP, and a former Federal Minister on Economic Matters and Special Duties among other key positions of responsibilities to the nation.

The Final Burial Rites are scheduled as follows:

1. **DAY OF TRIBUTES**

Date: Thursday, July 20, 2023.

Venue: International Conference Center (ICC), Herbert Macauley Way, Abuja, Nigeria.

Time: 1:00 pm.

2. **FINAL BURIAL MASS/INTERMENT**

Date: Friday, July 28, 2023.

Venue: Holy Cross Catholic Church, Olokoru, Umuahia, Abia State.

Time: 11:00 am Prompt.

His Excellency, the President of the Senate may kindly wish to announce the notice for the attention of the Distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a special invitation in honour of a patriotic statesman and a revered member of my Senatorial District.

Accept the assurances of my highest regards, please.

(Signed)

Senator Darlington Nwokocha
Senate Minority Whip,
Representing *Abia Central Senatorial District*.

4. **Petitions:**

(a) Rising on Order 40, Senator Ekong Sampson drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from one of his constituent, Engineer Aniekan Paddy Ukpe against the Managing Director of Nigerian Railway Corporation over alleged wrongful termination of appointment. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Order 40(3)]

- (b) Rising on Order 40, Senator Barinada Mpigi (*Rivers South-East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from the people of Eteo Community in Elemé Local Government Area, Rivers State, against the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) over alleged oil spill that caused serious devastation on the environment in the community. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Order 40(3)]

- (c) Rising on Order 40, Senator Abiru, M. Adetokunbo (*Lagos East*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Seaman Fireman Ewato Flaubert Oluwadolapo against the Nigerian Navy over alleged unlawful detention and dismissal from the Nigerian Navy. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Order 40(3)]

5. Closed Session:

Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into Closed Session to deliberate on matters relevant to the workings of the Senate (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Closed Session — 11:51 a.m.

Open Session — 1:29 p.m.

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in a Closed Session discussed issues affecting the smooth running of the Senate in particular and the National Assembly in general.

The Closed Session also resolved to constitute an Adhoc Committee to look into the Internal Security of the National Assembly Complex.

Ad hoc Committee:

The President of the Senate named the following Senators as Members of *Ad hoc* Committee on Internal Security of the National Assembly:

(i)	Senator Mohammed D. Goje	—	Chairman
(ii)	Senator Mohammed S. Musa	—	Member
(iii)	Senator Kenneth E. Eze	—	Member
(iv)	Senator Sunday M. Katung	—	Member
(v)	Senator Fadeyi O. Olubiyi	—	Member
(vi)	Senator Elisha Cliff Ishaku	—	Member
(vii)	Senator Allwell H. Onyesoh	—	Member
(viii)	Senator Peter N. Jiya	—	Member
(ix)	Senator Sunday S. Karim	—	Member

6. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Nigeria Maritime Zone Act (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 02) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 03) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Environmental Impact Assessment Bill, 2023 (SB. 04) — *Read the First Time.*

- (iv) Development Planning and Project Continuity Bill, 2023 (SB. 05) — *Read the First Time.*

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.

- (v) Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 06) — *Read the First Time.*
- (vi) Bitumen Development Commission Bill, 2023 (SB. 07) — *Read the First Time.*
- (vii) Constituency/Special Projects (Budgetary Provisions) Bill, 2023 (SB. 08) — *Read the First Time.*
- (viii) Nigerian Railway Corporation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 09) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ix) Dishonoured Cheques (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 10) — *Read the First Time.*
- (x) Nigerian Content in Programme, Contracts, Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (SB. 11) — *Read the First Time.*

7. Motions:

- (a) ***Urgent Need to Protect Local Meter Manufacturers in the ongoing National Mass Metering Programme of the Federal Government:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the Duty of Industry Procurement Regulators in every developing Economy, first and foremost, is to protect its Local Manufacturers and would only try to augment importation of goods and services where there is a clear-cut gap between local production and consumption;

also notes that the members of Association of Meter Manufacturers of Nigeria (AMMON) are capable of producing world standard smart meters, hence the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) under Phase 1 of the Mass Metering Programme of the Federal Government, issued the Association, after a competitive Bidding Process a "Letter of No Objection" to award 4 million meters in 2022;

aware that the Central Bank of Nigeria also in 2020 undertook to fund the National Mass Metering Programme (NMMP) Phase 1 but after 8 months of Awards to Local Manufacturers, withdrew funding, which affected the workability of the Programme;

also aware that the World Bank has approved a loan of One Hundred and Fifty-Five Million US Dollars only (\$155,000,000) for the National Mass Metering Programme;

worried that the Ongoing World Bank funded NMMP Phase 2 seeks to promote foreign companies participation against competent and prequalified Local Meter Manufacturers will ultimately result in the loss of jobs and revenue. A deliberate policy to prioritize Local Manufacturing will catalyze job creation and economic growth;

informed that the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) on behalf of the World Bank closed Bidding Advertisement on July 11, 2023 and further extended it to July 25, 2023 for the supply and installation of 1.2 million Smart Meters to the 11 Distribution Companies in Nigeria;

cognizant that the Bidding Criteria put in place which can only be satisfied by foreign companies have totally marginalized and eliminated the participation of the 35 Local Meter Manufacturers;

also cognizant that the current Bidding Criteria do not only negate some policy initiatives that will facilitate the establishment of a Local Metering Industrial Base with its impact in terms of generating employment opportunities for Nigerians, it also enables loss of revenue to the nation by granting these foreign companies additional concession of a Custom duty waiver of 45%;

alarmed that if the bidding process continues as it is, the outcome would be disastrous to members of the Association of Meter Manufacturers of Nigeria who have invested billions of Naira in the Sector and currently employs 10,000 workers directly and more than 30,000 workers indirectly; and

concerned that if the Federal Government and other Stakeholders do not make urgent Intervention, the Ongoing World Bank funded NMMP Phase 2 would ultimately encourage foreign company participation, loss of jobs and funds, to the detriment of Local Manufacturers and causing economic retrogression.

Accordingly resolves to

- (i) urge the Federal Government to immediately suspend the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) Tender for World Bank funded National Mass Metering Programme (NMMP) Phase 2 in order to undertake comprehensive Review of the Procurement Criteria to prioritize local Manufacturing and Assembling in line with Local Content and Backward Integration Policy that catalyzes local capacity building, employment generation and economic growth for Nigeria; and
- (ii) also urge the Transmission Company of Nigeria and other stakeholders to negotiate and engage the African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIM) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) for alternative Loan if World Bank loan conditions do not favour local economic growth at this critical time of massive unemployment and devaluation of Naira (*Senator Umeh, Victor Chukwunonyelu – Anambra Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to immediately suspend the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) Tender for World Bank funded NMMP Phase 2 in order to undertake comprehensive Review of the Procurement Criteria to prioritize local Manufacturing and Assembling in line with Local Content and Backward Integration Policy that catalyzes local capacity building, employment generation and economic growth for Nigeria — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Transmission Company of Nigeria and other stakeholders to negotiate and engage the African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIM) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) for alternative Loan if World Bank loan conditions do not favour local economic growth at this critical time of massive unemployment and devaluation of Naira — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert additional proposed resolution as follows:

That the Senate do urge Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to explore the CBN Intervention Funds as an alternative to African Export-Import Bank (Afrexim)/ African Development Bank (AfDB) in accessing the fund for metering components for

Nigerians (*Senator Patrick I. Ubah— Anambra South*)

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to immediately suspend the TCN Tender for World Bank funded NMMP Phase 2 in order to undertake comprehensive Review of the Procurement Criteria to prioritize local Manufacturing and Assembling in line with Local Content and Backward Integration Policy that catalyzes local capacity building, employment generation and economic growth for Nigeria;
 - (ii) urge the Transmission Company of Nigeria and other stakeholders to negotiate and engage the African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIM) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) for alternative Loan if World Bank loan conditions do not favour local economic growth at this critical time of massive unemployment and devaluation of Naira; and
 - (iii) urge Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to explore the CBN Intervention Funds as an alternative to African Export-Import Bank (Afrexim)/ African Development Bank (AfDB) in accessing the fund for metering components for Nigerians (*S/Res/028/01/23*).
- (b) *Need to Halt the Proposed Increase in Electricity Tariff by the Eleven (11) Successor Electricity Distribution Companies "Discos" who have filed an application for Rate Review with the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission:*

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

- (c) *Need to Revive and Revamp Enugu Coal Mines:*

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 its 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.

8. Adjournment:

And it being 2:27 p.m., the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Tuesday, 25th July, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 2:27 p.m.

Godswill Obot Akpabio, CON

President,

Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.