



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 4th July, 2023

1. The Senate met at 11:21 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 14th June, 2023.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

(a) **Nomination of Senate Majority Leadership:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from the Majority Caucus as follows:



10TH SENATE MAJORITY CAUCUS

July 4, 2023

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

Mr. President,

NOMINATION OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADERSHIP

In conformity with Orders 23-26 of the Senate Standing Orders 2022 (As amended), we the undersigned Senators from the Majority Party, hereby invoke the above extant provisions and nominate the following Senators into the Majority Leadership of the 10th Senate, as thus:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Senator Bamidele M. Opeyemi | - | Leader of the Senate |
| 2. Senator Mohammed A. Ndume | - | Chief Whip |
| 3. Senator Nweze D. Umahi | - | Deputy Leader of the Senate |
| 4. Senator Oyelola Yisa Ashiru | - | Deputy Chief Whip |

Your Excellency, we graciously appreciate your consideration in this respect.

(Signed)

Senate Majority Caucus

Closed Session:

Closed Session — 11:42 a.m.

Open Session — 11:58 a.m.

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in a Closed Session discussed matters of national importance and other matters relevant to the smooth running of the 10th Senate in particular and National Assembly in general.

(b) Nomination of Senate Minority Leadership:

The President of the Senate read a letter from the Minority Caucus as follows:



10TH SENATE MINORITY CAUCUS

July 4, 2023

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

Mr. President,

NOMINATION OF SENATE MINORITY LEADERSHIP

In conformity with Orders 27-30 of the Senate Standing Orders 2022 (As amended), we the undersigned Senators from the Minority Party, hereby invoke the above extant provisions and nominate the following Senators into the Minority Leadership of the 10th Senate, as thus:

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. | Senator Simon Davou Mwakwom | - | Minority Leader |
| 2. | Senator Oyewumi Kamarudeen Olalere | - | Deputy Minority Leader |
| 3. | Senator Darlington Nwokocha | - | Minority Whip |
| 4. | Senator Rufai Sani Hanga | - | Deputy Minority Whip |

Your Excellency, we graciously appreciate your consideration in this respect.

(Signed)

Senate Minority Caucus

4. Remarks by the President of the Senate:

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, HIS EXCELLENCY SENATOR GODSWILL AKPABIO, CONTO WELCOME SENATORS BACK TO PLENARY ON TUESDAY, 4TH JULY, 2023.

Let's Get the Work Started

Dear Distinguished Colleagues,

Let me welcome us back from the two-week adjournment aimed at giving us the time to settle in after the inauguration of the Tenth National Assembly. Fortunately, the period coincided with the Eid-El-Kabir celebrations by our Muslim brothers and sisters, and the country.

The enormous challenges facing our country are vividly before us as we resume plenary today.

Now is the time to get the work started to stabilise the country for speedy economic growth and prosperity that will engender sustainable development for the actualisation of the renewed hope agenda of Mr. President, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. It is against this backdrop that I call on all of us Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and by extension the National Assembly to work together at all times putting the country and citizens first. At this auspicious time, may I once more remind us that this shall be the focal point of our legislative effort. As Legislators, we have been entrusted with the responsibility of law making, oversight, representation aimed at shaping policies that would impact the lives and birth a greater future of our dreams.

As we resume work today, I urge all of us to put aside all our differences and focus on the herculean task of turning the fortunes of our country around to make Nigeria really great. As we embrace diversity that enriches our legislative body, our differences in opinions, backgrounds, and ideologies are what bring out the best in each and everyone of us as a people with a common destiny. As distinguished Senators, I have no doubt that by engaging in respectful dialogue and finding common grounds, we will work collaboratively towards greater goods that transcends partisan lines.

As always, May Almighty God inspire and guide all our counsels and actions.

Once again, I welcome you all back to plenary.

**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

5. Motions:

(a) Urgent Need to Halt the Extortion, Intimidation and Harassment of Motorists and Commuters by the Police on Public Roads:

Motion made: That the Senate notes that one of the primary functions of Police Personnel, among other things is to facilitate the free passage and movement on highways;

also notes that Section 49 (1) of the Police Act, 2020 empowers the Police to conduct stop and search operations while subsection (2) empowers them to search and detain any person or vehicle where reasonable ground for suspicion exists;

observes that Police Personnel which has as one of its primary duties to facilitate the free passage and movement of commuters and motorists on public roads have taken undue advantage by resorting to extortion, intimidation and harassment of motorists; and

believes that the continuous intimidation, harassment and torture that ordinary Nigerians experience in the hands of those security agents calls for action.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:

urge the Inspector General of Police to direct his officers and men to stop forthwith, the extortion, intimidation and harassment of motorists and commuters on the highways (*Senator Onyekachi P. Nwebonyi — Ebonyi North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to direct his officers and men to stop forthwith, the extortion, intimidation and harassment of motorists and commuters on the highways — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Additional Resolutions:

Insert Proposed Additional Resolutions as follows:

- (i) “urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to embark on training and retraining of Police personnel to be civil in the performance of their duties” (*Senator Simon D. Mwakwun — Plateau North*).
- (ii) “urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to constitute an investigative panel to investigate the intimidation and harassment of commuters on our Roads and to take appropriate disciplinary actions” (*Senator Victor C. Umeh — Anambra Central*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to direct his officers and men to stop forthwith, the extortion, intimidation and harassment of motorists and commuters on the highways;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to embark on training and retraining of Police personnel to be civic in the performance of their duties; and
- (iii) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to constitute an investigative panel to investigate the intimidation and harassment of commuters on our Roads and to take appropriate disciplinary actions. (*S/Res/001/01/23*)

- (b) ***Need for Construction of the Onne/Elеме communities axis of the East West Road:***
Motion made: That the Senate *recalls* the decision of government to seek alternative sources for funding critical national projects to increase the stock of infrastructure, without which we cannot grow our nation, through initiatives such as private sector partnership, SUKUK funds and the NNPC Road Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme;

notes that the 7km stretch of the Federal Government Trunk 'A' Road, a major economic artery in the Niger Delta region which traverses the Elеме - Ogoni corridor and also connects the South South, South East and the Western parts of this country, remains moribund;

also notes that despite government spending on the project, such critical National projects if abandoned will bring untold hardship, neglect and exacerbating the sufferings and pain on the people and the attendant loss of revenue that would have accrued to the government;

further notes the presence of critical infrastructure and industries located along that corridor which include two refineries, two petrochemical industries, an Oil and Gas Economic Free Zone, a Deep-Sea Port, NPA, Nigeria Customs Service, Nigeria Immigration Service, Naval College, the Federal Ocean Terminal, West African Container Terminal, all the IOCs and many other businesses and industries, which contribute huge sums of needed revenue for the Nation;

aware that currently, the project is transferred from the Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs to the Federal Ministry of Works & Housing and the placement of the project under the Sukuk financial system and currently to be financed through the NNPC Road Infrastructure Tax Credit Scheme;

observes that while the Chief Executive Officer of the NNPC has publicly stated that the sum of ₦1.9tn of the phase 2 of the scheme is awaiting disbursement, consideration should be given to the detrimental effects of the abandoned road on the social and economic experienced that has affected the well-being of the communities, as well as the potential risks posed to human lives and the local economy; and

acknowledges the preparedness of NNPC to commence payments to the contractors, being RCC, Gitto and Setraco which will enable them to move back to site.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:

constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee to investigate the reasons for the Non Completion of the East West Road including Eleme-Ogoni corridor to report within four (4) weeks (*Senator Barinada Mpigi — Rivers South-East*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate to constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee to investigate the reasons for the Non Completion of the East West Road including Eleme-Ogoni corridor to report within four (4) weeks — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate to constitute an *Ad hoc* Committee to investigate the reasons for the Non Completion of the East West Road including Eleme-Ogoni corridor to report within four (4) weeks. (*S/Res/002/01/23*)

Ad hoc Committee:

The President of the Senate named the following Senators as Members of the *Ad hoc* Committee on the Non Completion of the East-West Road:

| | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|----------|
| (i) | Senator Abdul N. Ahmed | - | Chairman |
| (ii) | Senator Sharafadeen A. Alli | - | Member |
| (iii) | Senator Aliyu I. Bilbis | - | Member |
| (iv) | Senator Abubakar Sadiku Ohere | - | Member |
| (v) | Senator Ngwu Osita | - | Member |
| (vi) | Senator Adams A. Oshiomhole | - | Member |
| (vii) | Senator Barinada Mpigi | - | Member |

(c) *Urgent Need to Curb the Incessant Cases of Collapse of Buildings, Bridges and other Structures in Nigeria:*

Motion made: That the Senate *notes* that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (As amended) provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government;

also notes that iron rods, cement, and steel bars also known as reinforcements are very important components used in the construction of buildings, bridges, roads, and other structural engineering works;

aware that in the past 15 months, there has been an astronomical increase across board in the prices of these materials per tonne ranging from ₦45,000.00 per tonne in the early 2000's to its current price of ₦530,000.00 per tonne;

also aware that this has led to structural failures in construction as the challenges of affordability have led some developers to resort to cutting cost by purchasing substandard materials which is resulting in the high spate of building collapse and other poor job execution in the country, a situation that has now assumed a worrisome dimension as many lives are lost and huge investments wasted;

worried by the report by the Building Collapse Prevention Guild, an umbrella body of all construction professionals in the country as well as the Nigerian Society of Engineers that there are thousands of buildings across the country waiting to collapse due to the usage of inferior materials in construction which can be attributed to the rising cost of reinforcement materials in buildings, construction sector, inadequate personnel, and lack of targeted intervention by the government;

informed that the revamping and operationality of the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL), the Nigerian Iron Ore Mining Company, Itakpe, the Delta Steel Company, amongst others should be one of our utmost national priorities as getting them operational would meet the local demand of steel consumption;

conscious of an urgent need to address the myriad of challenges in the steel industry as a total overhaul will make the product more affordable and will in turn address the menace of building collapse, structural defects and substandard construction prevalent in the country to avert losses, both in human lives and properties occasioned by the avoidable malaise; and

also conscious that it is the responsibility of government at all levels to protect lives and properties and respond to the myriad of planning and environmental challenges facing its citizens by ensuring that the issue of building collapse is controlled and eventually eliminated.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to explore the modalities of liaising with stakeholders in the construction industry to address factors necessitating affordability and quality challenges of reinforcement materials, etc;
- (ii) urge the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) and other regulatory bodies to sanitize the building and construction materials sector to get rid of sub-standard goods in the market as the raining season is upon us;
- (iii) urge the Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB); and the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) to ensure proper supervision of workmen and to further carry out sensitization campaigns to enlighten the public on the need to use quality materials and professionals in the construction of buildings;
- (iv) urge the Council for the Regulation of Engineers in Nigeria (COREN), the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON) and other professional bodies to investigate, publish periodic report and penalize their members involved in cases of building collapse;
- (v) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to liaise with the Building Collapse Prevention Guild to carry out assessment of buildings prone to collapse by way of "Integrity Test" of suspected structures in order to alert residents and avert the impending loss of lives and properties;
- (vi) urge the Federal Government to as a matter of national concern to fix Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and make it functional while encouraging investments in the steel sector as savings from the oil subsidy removal can be productively reinvested in this direction; and

- (vii) mandate the Committees on Works; Housing; and Solid Minerals, Steel Development and Metallurgy (when constituted) to ensure implementation and report within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Senator Abubakar Sadiku Ohere — Kogi Central*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to explore the modalities of liaising with stakeholders in the construction industry to address factors necessitating affordability and quality challenges of reinforcement materials etc — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) and other regulatory bodies to sanitize the building and construction materials sector to get rid of sub-standard goods in the market as the raining season is upon us — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB); and the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) to ensure proper supervision of workmen and to further carry out sensitization campaigns to enlighten the public on the need to use quality materials and professionals in the construction of buildings.

Amendment Proposed:

Immediately after "(NSE)" in line 2, insert the words "and other government agencies" instead thereof: (Senator Mohammed T. Monguno — Borno North).

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

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Council for the Regulation of Engineers in Nigeria (CORE), the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCO) and other professional bodies to investigate, publish periodic report and penalize their members involved in cases of building collapse — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(v):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to liaise with the Building Collapse Prevention Guild to carry out assessment of buildings prone to collapse by way of "Integrity Test" of suspected structures in order to alert residents and avert the impending loss of lives and properties — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(vi):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to as a matter of national concern to fix Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and make it functional while encouraging investments in the steel sector as savings from the oil subsidy removal can be productively reinvested in this direction — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(vii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Works; Housing; and Solid Minerals, Steel Development and Metallurgy (when constituted) to ensure implementation and report within six (6) weeks for further legislative action — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to explore the modalities of liaising with stakeholders in the construction industry to address factors necessitating affordability and quality challenges of reinforcement materials etc;
- (ii) urge the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) and other regulatory bodies to sanitize the building and construction materials sector to get rid of sub-standard goods in the market as the raining season is upon us;
- (iii) urge the Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB) and the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) and other government agencies to ensure proper supervision of workmen and to further carry out sensitization campaigns to enlighten the public on the need to use quality materials and professionals in the construction of buildings;
- (iv) urge the Council for the Regulation of Engineers in Nigeria (COREN), the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON) and other professional bodies to investigate, publish periodic report and penalize their members involved in cases of building collapse;
- (v) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to liaise with the Building Collapse Prevention Guild to carry out assessment of buildings prone to collapse by way of "Integrity Test" of suspected structures in order to alert residents and avert the impending loss of lives and properties;
- (vi) urge the Federal Government to as a matter of national concern to fix Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and make it functional while encouraging investments in the steel sector as savings from the oil subsidy removal can be productively reinvested in this direction; and
- (vii) mandate the Committees on Works; Housing; and Solid Minerals, Steel Development and Metallurgy (when constituted) to ensure implementation and report within six (6) weeks for further legislative action. (S/Res/003/01/23)

(d) ***The Need for the Federal Government to Address the General Insecurity and Incessant Attacks on Plateau State and other parts of the country:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes the general insecurity and continued attacks on communities in Plateau State, a State known for its hospitality, peace and tourism and other parts of the country;

also notes that the past decade has seen recurrent crises across the State, especially in rural areas, where insecurity has become a major issue that any administration in the State has to contend with. There is no respite; the cycle of killings and kidnappings has continued unabated, despite all efforts by successive administrations at the State and Federal levels to tame the ugly trend;

aware that as a result of this, many lives have been lost and properties destroyed, affecting the livelihood of innocent people. The economy of the affected parts of the State, Plateau North and Central, is lying prostrate, occasioned by incessant attacks coupled with the number of people being killed in the barbaric acts;

further notes that the marauders behind the attacks, who can be classified as terrorists because of the clandestine nature of their operations in recent times, have stepped up their nefarious activities in Plateau communities.

The attack, which started in Plateau North, precisely in Bassa, Barkin-Ladi, Jos North, and Riyom Local Government Areas of the State, has spread to Plateau Central, especially Bokkos and Mangu Local Government Areas;

observes that in Mangu and Bokkos, within the past month, no fewer than 300 people have been brutally murdered by those terrorists. Plateau North has lost count of casualties because, in recent times, there is no day that one or two communities will not be under attack by those elements;

informed that the attacks on communities in Mangu Local Government have continued unabated from April 2023 to date as many villages and communities have witnessed this ugly incident where people killed are in large numbers, farms mulled for no reason, and houses set ablaze and destroyed;

also informed that as a result of those frequent attacks, many people had been forced to flee their homes; either their houses were burned or they fled for fear of further attacks and as a result, there is serious humanitarian crises;

observes that many of the Secondary School students in the affected areas could not participate in the just-concluded WAEC examination. Both students in secondary and primary schools in those areas are presently hibernating in IDP camps; and

also observes that this continued and incessant attacks on the Plateau Central and other parts of Plateau State are taking toll on the economy while agriculture is at an ebb, which might result to food crisis, if urgent steps are not taken to curb the ugly trend.

The Senate accordingly resolves to:

- (i) commend President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the appointment of new Service Chiefs in line with the yearnings of Nigerians and his readiness to tackle the insecurity in different parts of the country;
- (ii) urge the Service Chiefs to carry out on the spot assessment of insecurity in the troubled parts to give our people a sense of belonging and also serve as impetus for the military operations in those affected Local Government Areas;
- (iii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to cushion the hardship of the IDPs by providing them with basic amenities, especially building materials to rebuild their homes; and
- (iv) urge the Chief of Defence Staff to, as a matter of urgency, establish joint security posts in strategic Local Government Areas in the States (*Senator Diket Satso Plang — Plateau Central*).

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.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution(i):

Question: That the Senate do commend President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the appointment of new Service Chiefs in line with the yearnings of Nigerians and his readiness to tackle the insecurity in different parts of the country — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Service Chiefs to carry out on the spot assessment of insecurity in the troubled parts to give our people a sense of belonging and also serve as impetus for the military operations in those affected Local Government Areas — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to cushion the hardship of the IDPs by providing them with basic amenities, especially building materials to rebuild their homes — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution(iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Chief of Defence Staff to, as a matter of urgency, establish joint security posts in strategic Local Government Areas in the States — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“urge State Governments to deploy available vigilante resources at the Local Government Areas to assist the Armed Forces in tackling the insecurity in the country”
(*Senator Musa Garba — Kebbi South*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) commend President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the appointment of new Service Chiefs in line with the yearnings of Nigerians and his readiness to tackle the insecurity in different parts of the country;
- (ii) urge the Service Chiefs to carry out on the spot assessment of insecurity in the troubled parts to give our people a sense of belonging and also serve as impetus for the military operations in those affected Local Government Areas;
- (iii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to cushion the hardship of the IDPs by providing them with basic amenities, especially building materials to rebuild their homes;
- (iv) urge the Chief of Defence Staff to, as a matter of urgency, establish joint security posts in strategic Local Government Areas in the States; and
- (v) urge State Governments to deploy available vigilante resources at the Local Government Areas to assist the Armed Forces in tackling the insecurity in the country. (*S/Res/004/01/23*)

7. Adjournment:

And it being 2:46 p.m. the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 5th July, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

Senate adjourned accordingly at 2:46 p.m.