



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 19th July, 2023

1. The Senate met at 11:16 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 18th July, 2023.
Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Message from Mr. President:**
The President of the Senate announced that he had received a letter from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

*Distinguished Senator Godswill O. Akpabio
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

18th July, 2023

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

In accordance with Section 5(b) of the North East Development Commission Establishment Act 2017, (the Act) I write to present for confirmation by the Senate, the appointment of a Chairman, Members and Executive Management of the Board of the North East Development Commission.

S/N	NAME	POSITION	REGION (State)
1.	General Paul Tarfa (Rtd) (Reappointment)	Chairman	North East (Adamawa)
2.	Hon Gambo Maikomo	Member	North East (Taraba)
3.	Abdullahi Abbas	Member	North West (Kano)
4.	Tsav Stephen Aondoana	Member	North Central (Benue)
5.	Chief Mutiu Lawal-Are	Member	South West (Lagos)
6.	Samuel Ifeanyi Onuigbo	Member	South East (Abia)

7.	Frank Achinike Owbor	Member	South South (Rivers)
8.	Mohammed Goni Alkali (Reappointment)	Managing Director	North East (Borno)
9.	Musa Yashi (Reappointment)	Executive Director Humanitarian Affairs	North East (Bauchi)
10.	Ahmed Abdulsalam Yahaya	Executive Director (Ops)	North East (Gombe)
11.	Dr Abubakar Garba Iliya	Executive Director Admin & Finance	North East (Yobe)

The Senate is invited to note that two representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Budget & National Planning will complete the membership of the Board, as stipulated by the Act.

While hoping that the request will receive the usual expeditious consideration of the Senate, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Bola Ahmed Tinubu

4. **Announcements:**

(a) **New Islamic Year:**

The President of the Senate congratulated Muslims on the New Islamic Year, today being 1st of Muharram, 1445 after Hijrah. He prayed for Allah's guidance and protection for the Nation.

(b) **Notice of Meeting:**



SENATOR OYEWUNMI, KAMORUDEEN OLALERE

Osun West Senatorial District

19th July, 2023

President of the Senate

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform members of the 3rd National Assembly in the 10th Senate that there will be a meeting immediately after plenary today, in Room 4.08.

(Signed)

Senator Oyewunmi, Kamorudeen Olalere

(c) **Meeting:**

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



AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON EAST-WEST ROAD

July 19, 2023

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

Mr. President,

MEETING

This is to inform all members of the Ad Hoc Committee on East-West Road that the meeting of the Committee is scheduled as follows:

Date: 19th July, 2023

Venue: Room 3.19

Time: 2pm

(Signed)

Senator Abdul A. Ningi

CHAIRMAN

5. Petition:

Rising on Order 40, Senator Nwoko Chinedu Munir (*Delta North*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Matthew Edaghesse and Co., on behalf of Mr. Fidelis Omhonria over the shooting of his two (2) children by men of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), which led to the death of one of them.

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)] to report within four (4) weeks.

6. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Order 42, Senator Nweze D. Umahi (*Ebonyi South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Senator Elder Anyim Udeh (MON), who represented the people of Ebonyi South Senatorial District in the 6th Senate. He stated that the remains of Senator Udeh will be laid to rest on Friday, 28th July, 2023 at Akaeze, Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

He urge the Senate to observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased, send a delegation to attend the burial ceremony and assist the family financially.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Orders 41 and 51, Senator Yar'Adua Abdulaziz Musa (*Katsina Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Urgent Need to Investigate the Abuse of Firearms by Officers of Nigeria Customs Service in Katsina State. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

aware that the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) is authorized to carry firearms in the course of their duties. This is aimed at assisting the service to effectively counter activities of smugglers who have recently become emboldened in their attack on customs personnel in many cases using sophisticated weapons;

worried that some officers of the NCS who should be civil and professional in their engagements and handling of firearms have had a series of shootings of innocent citizens;

recalls that on 14th August, 2021, the former Governor of Katsina State, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari, threatened to sue the NCS over the killing of residents during border drills in the State. During this same period, the House of Representatives invited the former Comptroller General of Customs Col. Hamid Ali (Rtd) to appear before it to explain the circumstances leading to that unfortunate incident;

disturbed by the recurring killings of innocent people by customs operatives in Katsina, the

House of Representatives on 3rd February, 2022 ordered the NCS to pay ₦390 million as compensation to families of 10 victims that were killed and 13 others injured in Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina State;

further disturbed that on 13th July, 2023, the Chief of Staff to the Katsina State, Governor Alhaji Jabiru Tsauri had a narrow escape from a harrowing assault from (NCS) officials;

worried that officers of the NCS at a location near Gorar Yammama highway shot indiscriminately at the vehicle conveying the Chief of Staff to the governor with other aides and close family members;

concerned that officials of the NCS are yet to apprehend or arrest the erring officers or bring them to book for the unfortunate incident;

recalls that in September 2021, personnel of the NCS shot at the convoy of the former Katsina State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Alhaji Umar Gwajo-Gwajo while driving from Daura to Mia'adua Local Government Area of Katsina State; and

worried that the inability to checkmate this recurring abuse of firearms by officials of the NCS might lead to loss of innocent lives and possibly reprisal attacks by angered civilians.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) condemn the indiscriminate shooting by officers of the Nigeria Customs Service on 13th July, 2023 in Katsina State;
- (ii) urge the Nigeria Customs Service to fish out the erring officers and investigate the incident that led the Customs operatives to open fire on unarmed civilians; and
- (iii) urge the Nigeria Customs Service to improve on the training of its personnel in handling of firearms, especially fire discipline when dealing with Nigerian citizens.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do condemn the indiscriminate shooting by officers of the Nigeria Customs Service on 13th July 2023 in Katsina State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigeria Customs Service to fish out the erring officers and investigate the incident that led the Customs operatives to open fire on unarmed civilians — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Nigeria Customs Service to improve on the training of its personnel in handling of firearms, especially fire discipline when dealing with Nigerian citizens — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“That the Senate do constitute an Ad-hoc Committee to holistically investigate incessant shooting of Nigerians by Customs personnel across Nigeria’s border Communities and investigate other unwholesome acts by men of the Nigeria Customs Service” (*Senator Ishaku Elisha Cliff — Adamawa North*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) condemn the indiscriminate shooting by officers of the Nigeria Customs Service on 13th July, 2023 in Katsina State;
- (ii) urge the Nigeria Customs Service to fish out the erring officers and investigate the incident that led the Customs operatives to open fire on unarmed civilians;
- (iii) urge the Nigeria Customs Service to improve on the training of its personnel in handling of firearms, especially fire discipline when dealing with Nigerian citizens; and
- (iv) constitute an Ad-hoc Committee to holistically investigate incessant shooting of Nigerians by Customs personnel across Nigeria's border Communities and investigate other unwholesome acts by the Nigeria Customs Service (*S/Res/025/01/23*).

The President of the Senate announced the following Senators as members of the Ad-Hoc Committee to investigate the abuse of firearms by officials of the Nigeria Customs Service as follows:

(i)	Sen. Fadahunsi Adenigba Francis	Chairman
(ii)	Sen. Isa Shuaibu Lau	Member
(iii)	Sen. Abdulrahman Kawa Sulaiman	Member
(iv)	Sen. Nwoye Tony	Member
(v)	Sen. Sulaiman Umar Sadiq	Member
(vi)	Sen. Sampson Akpan Ekong	Member
(vii)	Sen. Olajide Ipinsagba Emmanuel	Member
(viii)	Sen. Muhammed Dandutse Muntari	Member
(ix)	Sen. Yar'adua Abdulaziz Musa	Member
(x)	Sen. Napoleon Binkap Bali	Member
(xi)	Sen. Olamilekan Adeola Solomon	Member

8. **Motions:**(a) ***Collapse of Road Infrastructure in Nigeria:***

Motion made: That the Senate observes the near collapse of the entire road infrastructure in Nigeria;

concerned that so many Federal Roads are in a very deplorable conditions that hardly any part of the country can boast of a motorable road;

aware that some of these Federal Roads have been awarded for either construction or rehabilitation only to be abandoned by the contractors after moving to site;

observes that trillions of naira have been spent on road construction and rehabilitation in Nigeria since democracy returned to Nigeria in 1999 with minimal impact on our roads;

also observes that the collapse of the road infrastructure has virtually cut off many parts of Nigeria, with its attendant negative impact on trade and commerce;

further observes that the collapse has led to a decline in agricultural activities, adversely affecting the movement of agricultural produce from rural areas and across the country, resulting in a slide in the country's agricultural output and economy especially now that the country needs to diversify its economy; and

notes with sadness concomitant loss of lives as a result of the bad state of the roads, as evidenced by the chilling statistics reeled out by the Federal Road Safety Commission which is a price too high and too prohibitive to pay.

Accordingly resolves to:

Constitute an Adhoc Committee to come up with a compendium of all the affected Federal Roads and erosion sites across the country either awarded but abandoned by contractors or have not been awarded at all, to be forwarded to the Executive Arm for urgent intervention (*Senator Barau, I. Jibrin — Kano North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do set up an Adhoc Committee to come up with a compendium of all the affected Federal Roads and erosion sites across the country either awarded but abandoned by contractors or have not been awarded at all, to be forwarded to the Executive Arm of Government for urgent intervention — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

- “(i) That the Senate do encourage other sources of funding roads development in the country vis a vis:
- (a) concession; and
 - (b) capital market (*Senator Ahmed Wadada Aliyu — Nasarawa West*)

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

- (ii) That the Senate do commend the Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari for finding alternative funding arrangements to fund Road Infrastructure in the country. The alternative funding arrangement are as follows:
- (a) SUKUK where over ₦200 billion is raised annually;
 - (b) Presidential Initiative on Infrastructure Development where the Sovereign Wealth Funds are used;
 - (c) Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL)/Tax Credit; and
 - (d) Central Bank Nigeria (CBN) Intervention etc., (*Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero — Katsina Central*)

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) constitute an Ad-hoc Committee to come up with a compendium of all the affected Federal Roads and erosion sites across the country either awarded but abandoned by contractors or have not been awarded at all, to be forwarded to the Executive Arm of Government for urgent intervention;
- (ii) That the Senate do encourage other sources of funding roads development in the country vis a vis:
 - (a) concession; and
 - (b) capital market.
- (iii) That the Senate do commend the Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari for finding alternative funding arrangements to fund Road Infrastructure in the country. The alternative funding arrangement are as follows:
 - (a) SUKUK where over ₦200 billion is raised annually;
 - (b) Presidential Initiative on Infrastructure Development where the Sovereign Wealth Funds are used;
 - (c) Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL)/Tax Credit; and

(d) Central Bank Nigeria (CBN) Intervention etc., (S/Res/026/01/23).

The President of the Senate announced the following Senators as members of the Adhoc Committee on Road Infrastructure as follows:

(i)	Sen. Abdullahi Yahaya	Chairman
(ii)	Sen. Ndubueze Chiwuba Patrick	Member
(iii)	Sen. Adetokunbo, Abiru Mukhail	Member
(iv)	Sen. Tambuwal, Waziri Aminu	Member
(v)	Sen. Ohere, Abubakar Sadiku	Member
(vi)	Sen. Asuquo, Ekpenyong	Member
(vii)	Sen. Hussaini, Babangida Uba	Member
(viii)	Sen. Aliero, Adamu Mohammed	Member
(ix)	Sen. Binus D. Yaroe	Member
(x)	Sen. Saliu Mustapha	Member
(xi)	Sen. Victor C. Umeh	Member

By the Leave of the Senate, all roads and erosion menace requests are recommended to be forwarded to the Adhoc Committee for consideration.

(b) ***Age Requirement Precondition for employment in Nigeria: Urgent Need for Intervention:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes the public uproar over the unabated violation of Chapter 4, Section 42 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), which guarantees every citizen the rights to freedom from discrimination;

cognizance that the Black's Law Dictionary, Ninth Edition, defines discrimination as a differential treatment, especially, a failure to treat all persons equally when no reasonable distinction can be found between those favoured and those not favoured, while the International Labour Organisation defines employment discrimination in economic terms, as a violation of human right that entails a waste of human talents with detrimental effects on productivity and economic growth, and generates socio-economic inequalities that undermine social cohesion and solidarity and act as a brake on the reduction of poverty;

pathetic that a graduate in Nigeria who could not get a job upon graduation and decided to go back to school with the hope that a higher qualification, vis-a-vis a second or Masters Degree could give him a better employment opportunity is thrown into a career paradox when upon completion of his Masters Degree he comes out to find that he is now above the age of employment and therefore not employable by the sole reason of his age;

ironical that a graduate in this country can serve in the National Youth Service Corps Program at age 30 but cannot be gainfully employed thereafter on the fact that he/she is above 30 years, a situation that is a flagrant breach of his or her fundamental human rights; and

notes further that the circumstances described in the foregone presents the predicament of the Nigerian youth who has the requisite qualification, knowledge, skills and is ready to work but disqualified or excluded on the sole and unjustifiable ground that he/she is above the age limit by reason of his/her birth and this sad situation has led many to commit age fraud by going all way out to falsify their age to remain within the age limit of employability to the Nigerian Civil Service, and of course all other employer of labour in the country.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Labour, Employment and Productivity to immediately draw up policies that relate to equality of opportunity and treatment in access to employment at all levels; and

- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Labour, Employment and Productivity, and other relevant Agencies, to prohibit and discourage public and private employers in Nigeria, from putting up job adverts with inherent undertone calculated to deprive any qualified Nigerian of being gainfully employed merely by reason of his/her age (*Senator Moro, Abba Patrick — Benue South*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Labour, Employment and Productivity to, immediately draw up policies that relate to equality of opportunity and treatment in access to employment at all levels — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do also urge the Federal Ministry of Labour, Employment and Productivity, and other relevant Agencies to prohibit and discourage public and private employers in Nigeria, from putting up job adverts with inherent undertone calculated to deprive any qualified Nigerian of being gainfully employed merely by reason of his/her age — *Negatived.*

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

“That the Senate do urge the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) and the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF) to revise the extant Guidelines for Appointment, Promotion and Discipline with a view to removing impediments and restrictions on account of age” (*Senator Yahaya A. Abdullahi — Kebbi North*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Labour, Employment and Productivity to, immediately draw up policies that relate to equality of opportunity and treatment in access to employment at all levels; and
- (ii) urge the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) and the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF) to revise the extant Guidelines for Appointment, Promotion and Discipline with a view to removing impediments and restrictions on account of age (*S/Res/027/01/23*).
- (c) ***Urgent Need to Protect Local Meter Manufacturers in the ongoing National Mass Metering Programme of the Federal Government:***

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

- (d) ***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.

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

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

- (f) ***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.

9. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 20th July, 2023 at 11.00 a.m.
(*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1:53 p.m.

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

