



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 7th May, 2024

1. The Senate met at 11:22 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 30th April, 2024.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcement:**

- (a) **Appreciation:**

The President of the Senate expressed appreciation to the Rt. Hon. Speaker, House of Representatives, the Deputy President of the Senate, Distinguished Senators and other dignitaries who attended the reception in his honour on Saturday, 4th May, 2024 at Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State. He stated that the gathering and support was overwhelming and across party line. He expressed his family's appreciation to all the dignitaries that found time to attend and those who offered prayers for the success of the occasion. He further appreciated the Executive Governor of Akwa Ibom State, His Excellency, Pastor Umo Bassey Uno for the warm reception accorded all those who attended the event.

- (b) **Acknowledgment:**

The President of the Senate acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Students of Centre for Distance Learning and Continuing Education, University of Abuja, who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

- (c) **Meeting of Constitution Review Committee:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Barau I. Jibrin as follows:



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution
National Assembly Complex,
P.M.B. 141, Garki, Abuja-Nigeria.

7th May, 2024

*His Excellency
The President of the Senate
Senate Chamber
National Assembly Complex Abuja*

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Senate Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution will meet today Tuesday, 7th May, 2024, immediately after plenary, at Committee Room 204, Senate Building, National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

(Signed)

Senator Jibrin Barau

Deputy President of the Senate/Chairman

(d) Investigative Hearing, Committee on Solid Minerals:

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Ekong Sampson as follows:



THE SENATE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Senate Committee on Solid Minerals Development

National Assembly Complex,

P.M.B. 141, Garki, Abuja-Nigeria.

7th May, 2024

His Excellency

Distinguished Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio, GCON

President of the Senate

Federal Republic of Nigeria

National Assembly, Abuja.

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATIVE HEARING

This is to inform all members of the Senate Committee on Solid Minerals Development that the Committee will commence its Investigative Hearing today, Tuesday, 7th May, 2024 at 2:00pm at Conference Room 231 second floor, Senate New Building.

All the Members are expected to be seated immediately after plenary as the President of the Senate will declare the Investigative Hearing open.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the Committee's best regards.

(Signed)

Senator Ekong Sampson

Chairman

(e) Composition of Committee: Constitution Review Committee Membership:

The President of Senate announced the inclusion of Senator Monguno Mohammed Tahir as a Member of Constitution Review Committee.

(f) Conference Committees:

The President of the Senate announced the following as Conferees:

(a) South-East Development Commission Bill, 2024:

(i)	Senator Monguno Mohammed Tahir	-	Chairman
(ii)	Senator Ndubueze Chiwuba Patrick	-	Member
(iii)	Senator Ekong Sampson	-	Member

(b) National Assembly Library and Resource Centre Bill, 2024:

(i)	Senator Nwebonyi Onyekachi Peter	-	Chairman
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| (ii) | Senator Simon B. Lalong | - | Member |
| (iii) | Senator Konbowei Benson Friday | - | Member |

4. Petitions:

- (a) Rising on Order 40, Senator Katung Sunday Marshall (*Kaduna South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his Constituent, Friday Awans against the Nigerian Railway Corporation over alleged wrongful termination of his appointment. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions [Order 40(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

- (b) Rising on Order 40, Senator Nwoko Chinedu Munir (*Delta North*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his Constituent, Kingsley Nwanji against the Energy Commission of Nigeria over alleged wrongful suspension. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions [Order 40(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

- (c) Rising on Order 40, Senator Plang Diket Satso (*Plateau Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his Constituent, Sgt Auta Bitrus and five others against the Nigeria Army over an alleged wrongful dismissal. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions [Order 40(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

- (d) Rising on Order 40, Senator Osita Ngwu (*Enugu West*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his Constituent, Dr. Groovy Ozoani against the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria over alleged undue withholding of his additional qualification license. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions [Order 40(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Orders 41 and 51, Senator Mohammed Ogoshi Onawo (*Nasarawa South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the need to provide relief materials and support to the people of Awe, Keana and Doma Local Government Areas of Nasarawa South Senatorial District in Nasarawa State who were victims of a devastating wind storm. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes that on Tuesday, 2nd April, 2024, a devastating windstorm wrecked havoc across several communities in the senatorial district. The affected areas include Keana and Aloshi communities in Keana LGA, Agbashi and Iponu communities in Doma LGA as well as Awe town in Awe LGA;

further notes that the preliminary assessments indicate that over 100 buildings, including residential homes, places of worship, and other vital infrastructure like schools and health facilities have been destroyed by the ferocious winds. This unfortunate incident has displaced a lot of people in the affected communities, unfortunately, lives were also lost;

aware that I personally visited the affected areas between Monday, 15th April, 2024 and Wednesday, 17th April, 2024 to assess the level of destruction to residential houses, places of workshop, public infrastructure among others;

further aware that other eminent personalities, including my distinguished colleague, Senator Ahmed Aliyu Wadada, personally visited the affected communities to make cash donations;

conscious that the destruction caused by the windstorm could have grave economic implications for the livelihood of the affected communities, I appealed on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to swiftly intervene;

worried that this natural disaster has left a trail of devastation in its wake, displacing numerous families, and causing significant damage to the socio-economic fabric of the affected communities;

regrets, economic trees, vital for the livelihoods of many residents, have been uprooted, exacerbating the already precarious situation faced by the local population; and

mindful that in the light of this unfortunate incident, I urge that the Senate take swift and decisive action to ameliorate and provide immediate relief and support to the affected communities of Nasarawa South Senatorial District.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) commiserate with the victims of the unfortunate windstorm;
- (ii) urge the Senate to observe one (1) minute silence in honour of the people who lost their lives during the windstorm;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send immediate relief materials to the affected victims in Awe, Alosi, Keane, Agbasi and Iponu communities of Nasarawa South Senatorial District; and
- (iv) further urge the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons and other relevant agencies to come to the aid of the victims by immediately sending relief materials and provide the needed support.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate commiserate with the victims of the unfortunate windstorm — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate urge the Senate to observe one (1) minute silence in honour of the people who lost their lives during the windstorm — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send immediate relief materials to the affected victims in Awe, Alosi, Keane, Agbasi and Iponu communities of Nasarawa South Senatorial District — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate urge the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons and other relevant agencies to come to the aid of the victims by immediately sending relief materials and provide the needed support — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) commiserate with the victims of the unfortunate windstorm;
- (ii) urge the Senate to observe one (1) minute silence in honour of the people who lost their lives during the windstorm; and

- (iii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send immediate relief materials to the affected victims in Awe, Alosi, Keane, Agbasi and Iponu communities of Nasarawa South Senatorial District; and
- (iv) urge the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons and other relevant agencies to come to the aid of the victims by immediately sending relief materials and provide the needed support (S/Res/113/01/24).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of deceased.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Order 41, Senator Yisa Ashiru Oyclola (*Kwara South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Senator Rafiu Adebayo Ibrahim, on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. He informed the Senate that Senator Rafiu Ibrahim represented the good people of Kwara South Senatorial District in the 8th Assembly and had also served in the 7th House of Representatives between 2011-2015. 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)].

7. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Order 42, Senator Ndume Mohammed Ali (*Borno South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the condition of the newly renovated chamber. He observed that the quality of work done was below standard despite the time and resources invested in the project. He also stated that the sitting arrangement of Senators has raised some concerns with some ranking Senators dissatisfied and suggested that it be looked into.

By the leave of the Senate, Point of Order noted.

8. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Judicial Office Holders (Salaries & Allowances) Bill, 2024 (SB. 419) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Nigerian Council for Psychologists (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 610) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) African Union Development Commission- New Partnership for Africa's Development (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (SB. 413) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (SB. 414) — *Read the First Time.*
- (v) National Hospital Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (SB. 418) — *Read the First Time.*

9. National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (SB.267):

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration and Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2024 be read the Second Time (*Senator Suleiman, Umar Sadiq — Kwara North*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Education (Basic and Secondary) to report within two (2) weeks.

10. **Federal University of Applied Sciences, Manchok, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (SB.13):**

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Applied Sciences, Manchok, Kaduna State and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2024 be read the Second Time (*Senator Katung, Sunday Marshall -- Kaduna South*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND to report within two (2) weeks.

11. **Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act Cap R7 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 (Repeal and Enactment) Bill 2024 (HB.471) - Concurrence:**

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act Cap R7 laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and enact the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission to grant the commission enforcement powers in the monitoring of accruals to and disbursement of revenue from the federation account and bring the Act in conformity with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and for Other Matters Related Therewith, 2024 be read the Second Time (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on National Planning and Economic Affairs; Finance; and Appropriations to report within four (4) weeks.

12. **Fire Service Act, CAP. F29, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (Repeal and Enactment) Bill 2024 (HB.211) - Concurrence:**

Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Fire Service Act, CAP. F29, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and enact the Federal Fire and Rescue Service (Establishment) Bill; and for Related Matters, 2024 be read the Second Time (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Interior to report within two (2) weeks.

13. **Motions:**

(a) ***Urgent Need to revive and complete the stalled Centenary City Project, Abuja to realize it's economic and development potential:***

Motion made: The Senate notes that the Abuja Centenary Economic City project commenced in 2014 through a public-private partnership to develop a modern city in the mold of Dubai to commemorate 100 years of Nigeria's amalgamation celebration;

also notes that the original vision for the Abuja Centenary Economic City project was for it to serve as a potential economic hub, with plans to create over 150,000 construction jobs, 250,000 permanent well-paying jobs, residential accommodation for over 200,000 residents, and facilities to attract over 500,000 daily visitors among others;

further notes that the original estimated investment for the Abuja Centenary Economic City project was 18.5 billion United States Dollars as of 2014, equivalent to the size of Nigeria's national budget at today's exchange rate;

aware that the Abuja Centenary City was designated as a free trade zone under the regulatory oversight of the Nigerian Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA), without prejudice to other statutory agencies like the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Abuja Investment Company (AIC) and Abuja Infrastructure Investment Centre (AIIC);

observes that significant progress has been made on the similarly ambitious \$6 billion Eko Atlantic City development project in Lagos. A 25Km² land reclamation project with varied completed residential towers, an 8-lane boulevard, marinas, water treatment facilities, and power infrastructure among others;

also observes that the Abuja Centenary City project has stalled for almost ten years since its commencement, with developmental estimates of less than 7% of road construction and other critical infrastructure as adjudged by the report of the independent investigation assessment. (November 2023). This falls drastically short of expectations and the original vision of the project's conception;

concerned that there is ambiguity in regulatory and implementation issues between the concerned stakeholders leading to neglect of the Abuja Centenary Economic City designs blueprint; and

recognizes that reviving and completing the Abuja Centenary City project will have immense benefits for Nigeria including job creation, elevating Nigeria's profile as an attractive destination for foreign investment, tourism and events, and overall national development.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) Constitute an Ad hoc Committee to urgently investigate the factors impeding the completion of the Centenary's City Abuja project;
- (ii) mandate the Committee to review the original public-private partnership agreement and recommend amendments, if necessary, to facilitate smooth and expeditious completion of the project within a defined timeframe; and
- (iii) Urge the Federal Government to prioritize the revival of the Abuja Centenary City project by providing appropriate support, resolving regulatory issues, and addressing any other impediments, given its beneficial potential to the economy and people of Nigeria after 10 years of stalled progress (*Senator Yisa, Ashiru Oyelola — Kwara South*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do constitute an Ad hoc Committee to urgently investigate the factors impeding the completion of the Centenary's City Abuja project— *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee to review the original public-private partnership agreement and recommend amendments, if necessary, to facilitate smooth and expeditious completion of the project within a defined timeframe— *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to prioritize the revival of the Abuja Centenary City project by providing appropriate support, resolving regulatory issues, and addressing any other impediments, given its beneficial potential to the economy and people of Nigeria after 10 years of stalled progress — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) constitute an Ad hoc Committee to urgently investigate the factors impeding the completion of the Centenary's City Abuja project;
- (ii) mandate the Committee to review the original public-private partnership agreement and recommend amendments, if necessary, to facilitate smooth and expeditious completion of the project within a defined timeframe; and
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to prioritize the revival of the Abuja Centenary City project by providing appropriate support, resolving regulatory issues, and addressing any other impediments, given its beneficial potential to the economy and people of Nigeria after 10 years of stalled progress (S/Res/114/01/24).

The President of the Senate announced the membership of the Ad hoc Committee on Centenary City Project, as follows:

(i)	Senator Barau I. Jibrin	-	Chairman
(ii)	Senator Olamilekan Adcola Solomon	-	Member
(iii)	Senator Ngwu Osita	-	Member
(iv)	Senator Onyesoh Allwel Heacho	-	Member
(v)	Senator Zam Titus Tartenger	-	Member
(vi)	Senator Mohammed Bomai Ibrahim	-	Member
(vii)	Senator Tambuwal Waziri Aminu	-	Member

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) (*Deputy Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

(b) ***Urgent Need to expedite the completion of Wudil-Gaya-Duste Dual Carriage Road on Kano Maiduguri Road:***

Motion made: The Senate notes that the Kano-Maiduguri expressway, a critical artery for transporting people and agricultural goods across several states including Jigawa, Bauchi, Yobe, and Borno, was awarded a dualization contract by the federal government 17 years ago under Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's administration. However, successive administrations have failed to complete this vital project;

also notes that in 2018, the President Buhari-led administration's commitment to improving road transportation led to the award of so many road contracts to restore many of the dilapidated roads in the country. Among these projects was the renewed contract for the dualization of the Kano-Maiduguri Road;

aware that a major transportation upgrade is on the horizon! A brand new two-lane highway will be built, along with improvements to the existing road. To tackle this ambitious project, it's been divided into five manageable sections. The first section focuses on the Kano-Wudil-Shuarin Road, while subsequent sections cover progressively connect Shuarin to Azare, Azare to Potiskum, Potiskum to Maiduguri, and finally, Maiduguri to Benishek;

also aware that Section one is the most extensive, spanning roughly 202.73 kilometers. It involves constructing a brand new, up-to-standard two-lane carriageway. This new highway begins in Kano and travel through Wudil and Gaya local government areas (both in Kano State) before reaching its endpoint in Shuarin, Jigawa State;

cognizant that as an international route linking Nigeria to Chad, Niger, and Cameroon, the Kano-Maiduguri road facilitates cross-border trade. A functional road will lower transportation costs, encourage regional trade partnerships, and attract foreign investment;

also cognizant that Dantata and Sawoe Construction Company Nigeria Limited was awarded the contract for Section 1. Unfortunately, despite initial work, the project appears to be behind schedule. A large section of the road remains incomplete, stretching from Wudil and Gaya in Kano State all the way to the Jigawa State border;

worried that the unfinished section between Wudil and Gaya in Kano State is particularly dangerous. Only one lane of the planned dual carriageway is complete, forcing drivers to navigate a single lane in both directions. This significantly increases the risk of accidents;

also worried that the unfinished section between Wudil and Gaya in Kano State poses a grave danger to drivers. With only one lane completed on a planned two-lane road, it forces vehicles traveling in both directions to navigate a single lane. This is a recipe for disaster, and immediate action is required to finish construction and ensure driver safety;

disturbed that in a concerning development, all the way back in July 2023, the House of Representatives took action due to the stalled progress on Section 1 of the Kano-Maiduguri road. Following a motion by Yusuf Shittu Galambi highlighting the long delay (the project was originally approved in October 2006), a committee was established to investigate the contractor's abandonment of the project. However, it's now May 2024, and there's still no official word from the government regarding the steps taken or planned to address this critical issue. This lack of transparency is deeply worrying for the communities affected by the unfinished road;

also disturbed that while the other four sections of the road stand completed, Section 1 remains in a shocking state of disrepair. This unfinished stretch poses a constant threat to commuters; and

shocked that this section of the Kano-Maiduguri Expressway has become a notorious hotspot for accidents. These crashes are not just statistically frequent, they are devastatingly tragic. Hundreds of lives have been lost here, and the human cost is immeasurable. The material damage is staggering as well, with accidents causing millions of naira in property loss. Just last month, in April 2024, a horrific accident claimed the lives of 21 people. The victims were burned beyond recognition, a stark reminder of the severity of these incidents. To make matters worse, this dangerous environment provides a haven for criminals who prey on unsuspecting travelers.

Accordingly resolves to:

Mandate the Committee of Works to interact with the Honorable Minister of Works, to address the crux of this motion and any other thing which, in his opinion, can facilitate achieving the objectives (*Senator Kawu, Suleiman Abdulrahman --- Kano South*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution:

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Works to interact with the Honorable Minister of Works, to address the crux of this motion and any other thing which, in his opinion, can facilitate achieving the objectives.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the word “and” in line 2, and *insert* the words “which also include Benisheik Maiduguri section; and” thereof (*Senator Mohammed Danjuma Goje — Gombe Central*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Works to interact with the Honorable Minister of Works to address the crux of this motion, which also include the Benisheik/Maiduguri section; and any other thing which, in his opinion, can facilitate achieving a speedy completion of the road (*S/Res/115/01/24*).

14. Adjournment:

And it being 2:22 *p.m.* the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 8th May, 2024 at 10:00 *a.m.*

Senate adjourned accordingly at 2:22 p.m.

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