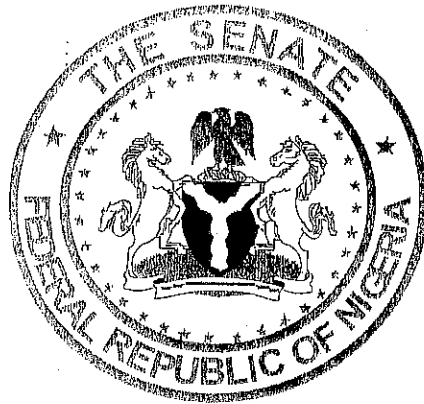


COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, CODE OF CONDUCT AND PUBLIC PETITIONS

REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, CODE OF CONDUCT AND PUBLIC PETITIONS IN RESPECT OF ORDER 1(B) OF THE SENATE STANDING ORDERS 2023 AS AMENDED RAISED BY SENATOR ADARAMODU, ADEYEMI RAPHAEL (EKITI SOUTH) WHERE HE DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE SENATE TO THE INCIDENT OF THURSDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 2025, WHEN SENATOR NATASHA AKPOTI-UDUAGHAN WHILE PROTESTING REALLOCATION OF HER SEAT IN THE SENATE CHAMBER; AND HE FELT THAT THE OUTBURSTS BY SENATOR NATASHA AKPOTI-UDUAGHAN AND THE OUTCRY BY SOME SECTIONS OF THE PUBLIC WERE UNCALLED FOR OVER THE MATTER, AND URGED THE SENATE TO BE GUIDED BY THE STANDING ORDERS IN ALL THINGS

Presented by Dist. Sen. Neda B. Imasuen
March, 2025

Senate Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions



SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, CODE OF CONDUCT AND PUBLIC PETITIONS

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1.0 Introduction

The Senate may recall that on Tuesday, 25th February, 2025 Distinguished Senator Adeyemi Raphael Adaramodu (Ekiti South) rose on **Order 1(b)**, Standing Orders of the Senate 2023 as amended, and drew the attention of the Senate to the incident of Thursday, 20th February, 2025, when Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan while protesting the reallocation of her seat in the Senate Chamber; and he felt that the outbursts by Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan and the outcry by some sections of the public were uncalled for over the matter, and urged the Senate to be guided by the Standing Orders in all things.

Accordingly, the Senate referred the motion to the Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions for detailed investigation and further legislative action. The motion was referred to the Committee vide the Senate Votes and Proceedings NO. 60 of Tuesday, 25th February, 2025.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

1.	Senator Neda B. Imasuen	Chairman
2.	Senator Khalid M. Ibrahim	Vice-Chairman
3.	Senator Adegbonmire A. Ayodele	Member
4.	Senator Fadeyi O. Olubiyi	Member
5.	Senator Umar Shehu Buba	Member
6.	Senator Samalla Dahuwa Kaila	Member
7.	Senator Yaro Anthony Siyako	Member
8.	Senator Ndubueze, C.Patrick	Member
9.	Senator Orji Uzor Kalu	Member
10.	Senator Onyesoh A. Heacho	Member
11.	Senator Mpigi Barinada	Member
12.	Senator Banigo I. Harry	Member
13.	Senator Titus T. Zam, Ph.D	Member
14.	Senator Onawo M. Ogoshi	Member
15.	Senator Isah Jibrin	Member
16.	Senator Nasiru Sani Z. Daura	Member
17.	Senator Rufai Hanga	Member
18.	Senator Tony Nwoye	Member
19.	Senator Sampson Ekong	Member
20.	Senator Ireti Kingibe	Member
21.	Senator Sunday M. Katung	Member
22.	Senator Aminu Iya Abbas	Member
23.	Senator Shuaib Afolabi Salisu	Member
24.	Senator Osita Ngwu	Member
25.	Senator Binos Yaroo	Member
26.	Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, CFR	Member
27.	Senator Seriake Dickson	Member
28.	Senator Mustapha Khabeeb	Member
29.	Senator Kelvin Chukwu	Member
30.	Senator Ede Dafinone	Member

Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 31. | Senator Joel Onowakpo Thomas | Member |
| 32. | Senator Nwaebonyi Onyeka | Member |
| | Christian N. Onwusonye | Clerk to the Committee |

3.0 COMMITTEE ACTION

Following the Senate resolution and referral, the Committee met and resolved that in addressing this matter, it would consider the following instruments:

- a) The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);
- b) Senate Standing Orders 2023 (as amended); and
- c) The principle of equity, fairness and justice.

The Committee also resolved to invite:

1. The complainant, **Distinguished Senator Adeyemi Raphael Adaramodu;**
2. The respondent: **Distinguished Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan**

4.0 TESTIMONIES/SUBMISSIONS

The Committee listened to the Oral and received documentary testimonies from the complainant, the eye witnesses accounts of those present at the plenary.

4.1 THE COMPLAINANT, **DISTINGUISHED SENATOR ADEYEMI RAPHAEL ADARAMODU;**

Testifying before the Committee, Distinguished Senator Adeyemi Raphael Adaramodu stated as follows:

1. That he is the spokesperson and image maker of the Nigerian Senate;
2. That he was saddened and shocked with the flagrant disregard of Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan of the rules of the Senate proceedings as enshrined in the Standing Orders of Senate 2023 as amended;
3. That contrary to Section 6 (1) (2) of the Standing Orders of the Senate as amended, Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan refused the lawful instructions of the presiding officer to move to her newly assigned seat before raising her Order 10 to the Senate even though the rule states that

a Senator must speak from his/her assigned seat. That all efforts to get Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan to move to her newly assigned seat fell on deaf ears as Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan continued shouting on top of her voice and pointing her fingers at the presiding officer, insisting on staying on her old seat, thereby disrespecting the Senate and the presiding officers against the rules of the Senate. This action lowered the prestige, integrity and the esteem of the entire Senate as her actions were deemed disdainful, disgraceful and unparliamentary.

4. That as the image maker of the Senate, he received calls both internationally and locally on the issue and it became very cumbersome for him to explain the disdainful conduct of Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan of what is happening in the Senate to the various concerned callers;
5. That there was almost a breakdown of law and order in the Chamber caused by Distinguished Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan who vehemently rejected her new allocated seat in the Chamber;
6. Senator Adaramodu further stated that the Standing Orders of the Senate is a statute that outlines and harmonizes behavior of the Senators conduct of Senate business in the Chamber;
That it was a daunting task for him to explain the conduct of Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan that almost caused a break-down of law and order in the chamber.
7. That Order 6 (1) and (2) of the Senate Standing Orders 2023 as Amended stated how a Senator shall be allocated or reallocated a seat in the Chamber;
8. That the essence of the seating arrangement as captured in the Standing Order is to maintain decorum in the Chamber and it is only the President of the Senate that has the power to allocate or to reallocate seats to Senators;
9. That the refusal of Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan to take her newly allocated seat tantamount to a rebellion against the Senate Standing Order which regulates the conduct and decorum of Senators in the Chamber;
10. That for not sitting on her proper seat denied her the privilege of speaking on a point of Order that she wanted to raise on that day because the Standing Orders of the Senate 2023 as Amended expressly stated that "A Senator may only speak from the seat allocated to him/her provided that the President of the Senate may change the allocation from time to time";
11. That the Senate President directed her to go to her new seat and she would be recognized from there before she could speak but she vehemently

refused in the presence of the entire Senate and the Senate presiding officers, visitors in the gallery. Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan continued to shout that she was not afraid of the Senate President or anybody;

12. That it was due to the bad image that Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan created in the eyes of the public that compelled Senator Adaramodu to move the point of order, calling on the Senate to revisit the incident with a view to instilling discipline in the conduct of Senate affairs. Senator Adaramodu relied on the combined order 1 (b), 41 and 51 of the Senate Standing Orders and his prayers were unanimously adopted by more than two-third of the Senate and his motion was referred to the Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions for further legislative action;
13. That Senator Adaramodu stood by the motion he laid on the floor of the Senate in this regard.

4.2 TESTIMONY BY THE CHAIRMAN, RULES AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE, Distinguished Senator Titus Tartenger Zam

Distinguished Senator Zam stated as follows:

1. That contrary to claims of deliberate suppression, the motion followed standard legislative procedure;
2. That on 7th February, 2024 when Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan raised a point of Order pursuant to Order 41 and 51, seeking investigation into corruption and inefficiency at Ahjaokuta Steel Company and NIOMCO, she requested immediate presentation of her motion, but due to a scheduled security briefing involving Service Chiefs, the National Security Adviser (NSA), the Ministers of Defence, Police Affairs, and Interior, as well as Inspector General of Police, the Senate deferred the motion to the next legislative day by the security briefing continue until 13th February, 2024; and the motion was eventually debated and resolved on 27th February, 2024;
3. That the allegation of Senator Natasha Uduaghan that her motion was debated because the Deputy President of the Senate presided that day was not true; that motions appearing in the Order Paper undergo approval by the Senate President and her motion had been approved by the Senate President for consideration under Orders 41 and 51 on 7th February, 2024;
4. That scheduling of motions follows procedural rules and is subject to time constraints during Plenary Session;

5. That motions and legislative measures appearing on the Order Paper are not automatically deliberated upon on the same day; that legislative priorities and time constraints influence the deliberation of motions;
6. The Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan's motion was deferred on multiple occasions before it was finally debated because such occurrences are common in parliamentary proceedings and do not reflect bias or attempt to suppress any Senator's legislative contributions;
7. That since assuming office as Senator for Kogi Central, Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduagan has sponsored three (3) bills – one of which is at the Committee stage, while the other two have passed the first reading; and she also moved a motion on the passing of the Ohinoyi of Ebiraland, Dr. Abdulrahman Ado Ibrahim;
8. That the Rules and Business Committee plays a key role in structuring the legislative agenda and assures the public that due process was followed in the handling of Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan's motion; and
9. That the Senate remain committed to transparency, accountability, and fairness in legislative proceedings.

4.3 TESTIMONIES OF SOME CHAMBER STAFF

Muktar Usman Daudawa (DDSAA Senate Chamber)

Muktar Usman Daudawa testified as follow:

1. That on Wednesday, 19th February, 2025, after adjournment of the Senate Session, he was informed by the Chief Whip of the Senate, Senator Mohammed Tahir Monguno that the leadership had directed him to effect some adjustments of seats on the minority side due to movement of two (2) Senators, name: Senator Onyebuchi F. E. and Senator Ned Nwoko Munir to the majority party;
2. That the Chief Whip reminded him to effect the readjustment in line with the ranking as it has been the tradition of the Senate;
3. That the readjustment affected about ten (10) Senators, Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan inclusive; and the reallocation was approved by the Chief

Whip and some chamber staff were instructed to guide the affected Senators to their new seats the following seating day;

4. That all the Senators were guided to their new seats and they complied but Senator Natasha was shown to her new seat but she refused and insisted that she would not go anywhere and removed the name tag on her old seat and sat down and shouting and all efforts by other Senators to calm her proved abortive;
5. That she was advised by Chief Whip to go to her new seat to enable her speak on a point of order but she insisted on raising a point of order on her old seat but was equally advised by the President of the Senate to move to her new seat to be recognized to speak, but she refused and was consequently ruled out of order; that she started shouting in the Chamber which was unparliamentary; all entreaties by some Distinguished Senators to make her remain calm fell on deaf ears, and she left the Chamber on her own when the session was in progress.

4.4. The testimonies of Muktar Usman Daudawa were corroborated by Sandra Davou, Maikawuwa Abari Karshi, Mercy Rasheed Salimanu and Udeme Igbenedion.

4.5. **TESTIMONIES OF BRIG GEN. ETIDO E. EKPO (SERJEANT-AT-ARM)**

In his written submission to the Committee, Brig Gen. Etido E. Ekpo testified as follows:

1. That Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan after being sworn in as a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, began to display unbridled and uncouth behavior amongst her Distinguished Colleagues, thereby creating constant conflict and disharmony;
2. That from his investigation, Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan had openly engaged in verbal altercations with Senator Godiya Akwashiki and Senator Patrick Ndubueze in which the President of the Senate and the entire leadership intervened in the interest of peace and harmony; and
3. That by her unethical conduct and verbal attacks, Senator Natasha Uduaghan has succeeded in creating frosty and unfriendly relationship with a number of her colleagues both in the Chamber, Committee/Meeting rooms as well as the precincts of the National Assembly.

5.0 **THE RESPONDENT, DISTINGUISHED SENATOR NATASHA AKPOTI-UDUAGHAN**

Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan despite notice to appear neglected, refused and opted not to show up at the Committee hearing.

6.0 OBSERVATIONS/FINDINGS

After carefully examining the documents available and hearing out the matter, the Committee observed as follows:

1. That Senator Natasha Uduaghan has violated Order 6 (1) and (2) of the Senate Standing Orders 2023 as Amended by vehemently refusing to relocate to her newly allocated seat in the Senate Chamber and insisting to raise a point of order from a seat not allocated to her, thereby causing commotion and disruption of the Senate proceedings violating Order 66(2) of the Senate Standing Orders by refusing to leave the chamber when ordered to do so by the presiding officer.
2. That her behavior on the 20th of February 2025 was unethical and unbecoming of a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by refusing to uphold the moral sanctity of the Senate and the hallowed chamber;
3. That her refusal to appear before the Committee to explain herself despite being served with the notice of the Hearing published in the Senate Order paper and read out to Senate indicating time and place of the Committee meeting was disdain and disrespectful to the Committee and the Senate as a whole;
4. That her allegations that the President of the Senate is frustrating her legislative functions by not allowing her motions and bills to be considered in the Chamber is frivolous because the President of the Senate approved her motion on the investigation of alleged corruption and inefficiency at Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and National Iron Mining Company (NIOMCO) for consideration and it was considered accordingly; and equally she had sponsored three (3) Bills that are at various stages of legislative processes.

7.0 ON THE PETITION LAID ON THE FLOOR BY SENATOR NATASHA AKPOTI-UDUAGHAN ON MARCH 5TH, 2025 ACCUSING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT, THE COMMITTEE OBSERVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That based on **Order 40 (4)** of the Senate Standing Orders 2023 as amended, which states clearly that no Senator may present to the Senate a petition signed by him or herself, the petition submitted by Distinguished Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan ran contrary to this order, as she signed her own petition;

2. That under Order 40 (7) of the Senate Standing Orders 2023 as amended which states that "Senate should not receive or deliberate on any matter to which actions are pending in any court of law";
The Petition of Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan being a matter before a law court of competent jurisdiction, the Committee, therefore cannot deliberate on the petition;
3. The Committee noted that Distinguished Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan went to court to seek an interim order preventing the Senate and its Committee from exercising its constitutional duties as enshrined in Section 88 (1) of the Nigerian Constitution 1999 as amended, the Committee felt duty bound to exercise its constitutional functions.
It is noted that legislative investigation is part of law-making. It is adjunct of the legislative process, accordingly, any investigation carried in the exercise of those powers are constitutional and competent;
4. It is interesting to note that while on the one hand, Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan sought in breach to restrain the Senate from doing its constitutional duties under Sec. 88 (1), of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended, she also brought a petition to the Senate arguing, that her petition on Sexual Harassment has merit which must be accepted and acted upon by the Senate. Accordingly, the petition was referred to the Senate Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions for action. The Distinguished Senator cannot on the one hand seek to prevent the Senate from doing its duties on a petition based on a motion brought against her and on the other hand insist that her petition on Sexual Harassment to the Senate be acted upon through the Ethics Committee. He who comes to equity must come with clean hands. It is important to note that the motion of Senator Adaramodu seeking investigation on the conduct of Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan was referred to the Senate Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions when there was no case pending in court on the issue of seat allocation.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

After due consideration of the matter as revealed by Senator Adeyemi Raphael Adaramodu, Senator Titus Tartenger Zam, Chamber staff and the Sergeant-At-Arm, the Committee recommends as follows:

1. That the Senate do suspend Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan for Six (6) months for her total violation of the Senate Standing rules 2023 as Amended for bringing the Presiding officer and the entire Senate in general to public opprobrium;

2. That for the Senate to consider lifting the suspension, or reducing the tenure of suspension Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan shall submit a written apology to the Senate before the reconsideration by the Senate;
3. That the Senate do suspend Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan with effect from (6th March, 2025) from all legislative activities forthwith;
4. That her office be locked up for the duration of her suspension and hand over all Senate properties in her possession to the Clerk of the National Assembly;
5. That for the duration of her suspension she cannot come or be seen within the vicinity of the National Assembly including her staff;
6. That her salaries and allowances including those of her Legislative Aides be suspended and withdrawal of all Security details for the duration of her suspension and;
7. That for the period of her suspension she be barred from representing herself to the public locally and internationally as a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

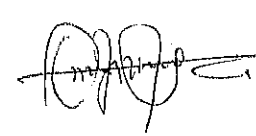
9.0 CONCLUSION

Mr. President, my most Distinguished and respected Colleagues, on behalf of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions, we appreciate the Senate President and our Distinguished Colleagues for the opportunity granted us to serve Nigerians through the Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions.

Respectfully submitted for consideration and approval.

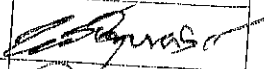
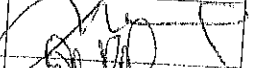

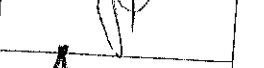
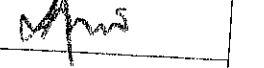




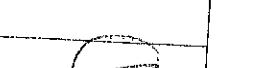

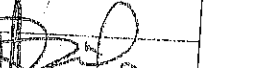
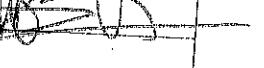
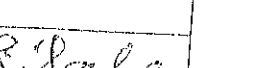
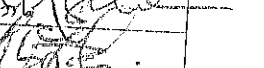

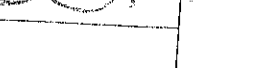


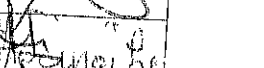


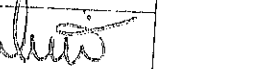
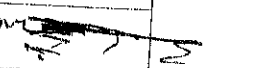
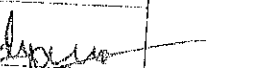
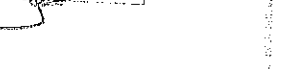


Dist. Senator Neda B. Imasuen
Chairman



Christian N. Onwusonye
Clerk to the Committee

ENDORSEMENT

S/N	NAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE
1.	Senator Neda B. Imasuen	Chairman	
2.	Senator Khalid Ibrahim M.	Vice-Chairman	
3.	Senator Adebomire A. Ayodele	Member	
4.	Senator Fadeyi O. Olubiyi	Member	
5.	Senator Umar Shehu Buba	Member	
6.	Senator Samaila Dahuwa Kaila	Member	
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37 Sen. Ede IAFINONE ✓

27.	Senator Seriake Dickson	Member	
28.	Senator Mustapha Khabeeb	Member	
29.	Senator Kelvin Chukwu	Member	

38 Sen. Joel Orowakpo - ✓

Christian N. Onwusonye
Clerk to the Committee