



**SENATE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER**

Thursday, 20th March, 2025

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- 1. National Anthem**
 - 2. Prayers**
 - 3. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings**
 - 4. Oaths**
 - 5. Announcements (if any)**
 - 6. Petitions**
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**BUSINESS OF THE DAY
PRESENTATION ON BILLS**

- 1. E-Health Bill, 2025 (SB. 758) - First Reading**
Sen. Barau, Jibrin (*Kano North*).
 - 2. Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 756) - First Reading**
Sen. David, S. U Jimkuta (*Taraba South*).
 - 3. Federal Institute of Science, Technology and Innovation Obusa, Benue State (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 757) - First Reading**
Sen. Moro, Abba Patrick (*Benue South*).
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**ORDERS OF THE DAY
MOTION**

- 1. Proclamation of State of Emergency in Rivers State.**

Sponsor: Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).

The Senate:

Notes with serious concern that Rivers State has been experiencing serious political crises and disturbances which presently constitute grave threats to peace, order, good governance, security and safety to the State and her citizenry;

Also notes that the State has been at a standstill since the crises started with the good people of Rivers State not being able to enjoy the dividend of democracy;

Observes that the magnitude of the crises has overwhelmed the State Government as parties involved have not allowed good sense to prevail and bring about peace in the State hence Federal Government attempt to restore peace, security and good governance;

Worried that there is a clear and present danger of the crises as some militants had threatened fire and brimstone with security report of disturbing incidents of vandalization of oil pipelines;

Convinced that there is the need to provide adequate and extra ordinary measures to restore good governance, peace, order and security in Rivers State;

Aware that the President, Commander-in-Chief has published and transmitted copies of the official Gazette of the Government of the Federation containing the proclamation including the details of the emergency to the President of the Senate, in accordance with Section 305 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended);

Concludes that this matter is of serious concern to the Senate and the generality of Nigerians.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. Invoke* the powers conferred on it by Section 305 (2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) and approve the Proclamation of State of Emergency in Rivers State;
- ii. Subject* all regulations made therein to the approval and oversight of the National Assembly Joint Ad-hoc Committee; and
- iii. Also urge* the Federal Government to institute a reconciliation mechanism including setting up a peace and reconciliation Committee comprising of the National Assembly, the Executive and other relevant Stakeholders to be appointed by the President C - in - C to engage critical stakeholders involved in the crisis with a view to ensuring that peace, good governance and security is restored in Rivers State.

CONSIDERATION OF A BILL

1. A Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment the Federal University of Science and Technology Epe, Lagos State and to make comprehensive provisions for its due management and administration and for other related matters, 2025 (SB. 739) - *Second Reading*
Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).

MOTION

1. Urgent Need to address systemic abuse and ineffective implementation of the Federal Character Principle in Nigeria's Public Sector.

Sponsor: Sen. Osita, Ngwu (*Enugu West*)

The Senate:

Notes the persistent challenges in achieving balance and equity within Nigeria's public service due to limited recruitment opportunities, skewed promotions based solely on years of service, and insufficient avenues for worker mobility outside the public sector;

Also notes that the Federal Character Principle, entrenched in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) mandates fair representation in federal appointments to reflect the linguistic, ethnic, religious, and geographic diversity of the nation;

Aware that Section 14(3) & (4) of the Constitution, which unequivocally stipulate that "no predominance of persons from a few states or from a few ethnic or sectional groups" should exist within the federal government or its agencies;

Also aware that despite a focus on geographical quotas, imbalances persist between institutions, often relocating problems rather than resolving them, while certain regions remain underrepresented;

Observes with concern that the process of addressing public sector disparities has been undermined by institutional inertia and a lack of accountability, particularly as recruitment at senior levels is influenced more by internal preferences than by merit and fairness

Also observes that the quota system has, in many cases, created confusion between merit-based recruitment and equitable state representation, to the detriment of discipline, morale and institutional efficiency;

Highlights the constitutional criteria for equitable distribution of employment which requires that each state contributes its proportionate quota of 2.75% of the national workforce; and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to account for 1.00% of the workforce; while catchment areas are to address localized recruitment for junior staff up to 75% of positions;

Regrets that against the spirit of Order 96(27)(b) of the Senate Standing Orders 2023 (as amended) and Sections 62, 88, 89, 14(3)-(4) and the Third Schedule Part I C8(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) which bestowed on its Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs the power of legislative oversight in matters connected to the implementation and monitoring of the policy, it is deemed that various federal institutions including NNPC and its subsidiaries, NUPRC, NAFDAC, NPA, PENCOM, NDIC, FUTA, NLN, SMEDAN, ECN, SMDF, NNRA have consistently failed to adhere to federal character mandates, often bypassing regulations in their recruitment exercise (evidences abound);

Also regrets that the contempt emanating from the foregoing, if unchecked, will continually erode the efficacy of Section 14(d) & (e) of the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, 2017, Part I(1)-(2) of the Subsidiary Legislation 23 of 1997 and Sections 11(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2011; and

Concerned that the Federal Character Commission (FCC), whilst constitutionally empowered, remains hindered by chronic underfunding, political interference and limited enforcement capabilities,

Accordingly resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs to Conduct thorough investigative hearings on all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government with a view to immediately ascertaining their degrees of compliance with the provisions of Sections 14(3) and 14(4) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), ensuring fair and equitable representation across all regions and ethnic groups in appointments, promotions, and recruitment and report back in four (4) weeks.

BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

1. Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 500) - *Concurrence*
Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).
 2. Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurial and Corporate Governance Bill, 2025 (HB. 1681) - *Concurrence*
Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).
 3. Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 1371) - *Concurrence*
Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No.	Committee	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Public Accounts	Thursday, 20 th March, 2025 (Public Hearing)	3.00pm	Hearing Room 4 White House
2.	Power	Thursday, 20 th March, 2025	2.00pm	Meeting Room 439 Senate New Building
3.	Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions	Thursday, 20 th March, 2025 (Screening Exercise)	2.00pm	Meeting Room 107 Senate New Building
4.	Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petition	Thursday, 20 th March, 2025	2.00pm	Meeting Room 120 Senate New Building
5.	Gas	Tuesday, 25 th March, 2025	2.00pm	Conference Room 231 Senate New Building
6.	Interior	Tuesday, 25 th March, 2025	2.30pm	Meeting Room 221 Senate New Building
