



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

Tuesday, 20th May, 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 OF BILLS

1. Nigerian Content in Programmes, Contracts, Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (NOPCESTI) (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 1167) - *First Reading*
Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).
 2. National Institute for Cardiovascular Disease, Research and Treatment Bill, 2025 (HB. 868) - *First Reading*
Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).
 3. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (SB. 793) - *First Reading*
Sen. Barau, Jibrin (*Kano North*).
 4. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (SB. 794) - *First Reading*
Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).
 5. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (SB. 795) - *First Reading*
Sen. Musa, Mohammed Sani (*Niger East*).
 6. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (SB. 799) - *First Reading*
Sen. Simon, Bako Lalong (*Plateau South*).
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service
Confirmation of Nomination
Sen. Oluwole, Fasuyi Cyril (*Ekiti North*)
-That the Senate do Receive and Consider the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the confirmation of the nomination of Hon. Dr. Nnanna Uzor-Kalu representing South East for appointment as Commissioner in the National Assembly Service Commission (NASC).
2. Report of the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND
Federal University of Information and Communication Technology Ikare-Akoko (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 289)
Sen. Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari (*Katsina South*)
-That the Senate do Receive and Consider the Report of the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND

on the Federal University of Information and Communication Technology Ikare-Akoko (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 289).

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

1. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Assembly Service Pension Board Act, No. 62, 2023, to among others revert to the contributory pension scheme, reconstitute the membership of the Board, provide the template for payment of gratuity and establish a fund for the scheme and for related matters, 2025 (SB. 463) - *Second Reading*
Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).
 2. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act and Enact the Proceeds of Crime 2025 to Establish an agency to manage the disposal of properties reasonably suspected to have been derived from unlawful activities and for related matters, 2025 (SB. 343) - *Second Reading*
Sen. Adebule, Idiat Oluranti (*Lagos West*).
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BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

1. African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Domestication and Enforcement) Bill, 2025 (HB. 1350) - *Concurrence*
Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).
 2. Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 1612) - *Concurrence*
Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*).
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MOTION

1. Urgent need to investigate with an intention to halt the continuous unwholesome practices of chemical ripening of fruits among fruit sellers in Nigeria.

Sponsor: Sen. Ani, Anthony Okorie (*Ebonyi South*)

The Senate:

Aware that ripening of fruits is a natural physiological process that makes fruits sweeter, more palatable, edible, nutritious, softer and attractive. Fruit ripening is a highly regulated irreversible process that involves highly coordinated, complex biochemical and physiological changes;

Also aware that artificial ripening of fruits involves the external application of chemicals and other agents to achieve faster and more uniform ripening of fruits;

Informed that among the widely used artificial ripening agents, are ethylene and methyl jasmonate which have been reported to be non-toxic for human consumption; however, they are relatively expensive. In many developing countries, low-cost chemicals such as calcium carbide, ethylene glycol, and ethephon are reported to be commonly used to artificially trigger the ripening processes of fruits;

Also informed that the cosmetic quality of artificially ripened fruits will increase but organoleptic qualities (taste, colour and smell), nutrition value and shelf life are depreciated when fruits are subjected to treatment without considering maturity status;

Worried that nutrition experts and regulatory agencies such as NAFDAC, Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, etc, have warned against fruit ripening with calcium carbide, describing it as a harmful practice that endangers human lives;

Also worried that Calcium carbide contains impurities such as arsenic, lead particles, phosphorus, etc., that cause several health hazards such as cancer, heart, kidney and liver failure, neurological disorders, intestinal problems, skin damage, mouth ulcers, etc;

Saddened that the practice of ripening of fruits with dangerous chemicals have been on the increase among fruit sellers in Nigeria;

Also saddened that many of these fruit sellers are ignorant of the health hazards posed by the consumption of artificially ripened fruit but driven by the incremental profit made as most customers prefer to patronize the artificially ripened fruits due to its enhanced cosmetic appearance not knowing that they are buying poison; and

Notes that the use of some of these chemicals has been banned in many countries of the world, but they are still being used indiscriminately in Nigeria,

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. Urge* NAFDAC, Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security and Federal Competition and Consumer protection Commission to investigate the practice of chemical ripening of fruits in Nigeria;
- ii. Also urge* NAFDAC, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, and FCCPC to increase the level of awareness by continuous sensitization and public enlightenment on the hazardous implications of chemical ripening of fruits;
- iii. Further urge* NAFDAC and Nigerian Custom Service to ensure that imported fruits especially apples are not preserved with harmful chemicals; and
- iv. Equally urge* NAFDAC and FCCPC to commence regular visits to fruits markets to check the practice of chemical ripening of fruits.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No.	Committee	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Public Procurement	Tuesday, 20 th May, 2025	2.00pm	Meeting Room 221 Senate New Building
2.	Federal Capital Territory (FCT)	Tuesday, 20 th May, 2025	2.00pm	Meeting Room 328 Senate New Building
3.	Public Accounts	Tue. 20 th - Thur. 22 nd May, 2025 (Public Hearing)	3.00pm	Hearing Room 4 White House
4.	Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs	Tue. 20 th & Thu. 22 nd May, 2025 (Investigative Hearings)	2.00pm	Meeting Room 211 Senate New Building
5.	States and Local Government Administration	Wednesday, 21 st May, 2025	3.00pm	Meeting Room 117 Senate New Building
6.	Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)	Wednesday, 21 st May, 2025	3.00pm	Meeting Room 117 Senate New Building
7.	Interior	Wednesday, 21 st May, 2025	3.00pm	Meeting Room 221 Senate New Building
8.	Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs	Mon. 26 th - Thu. 29 th May, 2025 (Investigative Hearings)	2.00pm	Meeting Room 211 Senate New Building