



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

**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Cooperative Societies Act (Repeal & Enactment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 828) - *First Reading*  
Sen. Barau, Jibrin (*Kano North*).
  2. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (SB. 805) - *First Reading*  
Sen. Kawu, Suleiman Abdulrahman (*Kano South*).
  3. National Assembly Financial Management Bill, 2025 (SB. 820) - *First Reading*  
Sen. Karimi, Sunday Steve (*Kogi West*).
  4. Federal College of Agriculture Shani, Borno State (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 829) - *First Reading*  
Sen. Ndume, Mohammed Ali (*Borno South*).
  5. Federal Housing Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 830) - *First Reading*  
Sen. Adebule, Idiat Oluranti (*Lagos West*).
  6. Federal Technical College Ngwo, Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 831) - *First Reading*  
Sen. Osita, Ngwu (*Enugu West*).
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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CONSIDERATION OF BILLS**

1. A Bill for an Act to Regulate and Formalize the Employment of Domestic Workers, Apprenticeships, Interns and other informal sector employees and to empower the National Directorate of Employment to issue License and monitor privately owned Employment Agencies in Nigeria and for other related matters, 2025 (SB. 629) - *Second Reading*  
Sen. Musa, Mohammed Sani (*Niger East*).
2. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Health Sciences Funtua, Katsina State and to make comprehensive provisions for its due management and administration and for other related matters, 2025 (SB. 690) - *Second Reading*  
Sen. Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari (*Katsina South*).

3. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Education Gumel, Jigawa State and to make comprehensive provisions for its due management and administration and for other related matters, 2025 (SB. 239) - *Second Reading*  
Sen. Hussaini, Babangida Uba (*Jigawa North West*).

#### PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. Report of the Committee on Health (Secondary & Tertiary)  
*Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 (Amendment) Bill, 2025*  
Sen. Banigo, Ipalibo Harry (*Rivers West*)  
-That the Senate do Receive and Consider the Report of the Committee on Health (Secondary & Tertiary) on the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
2. Report of the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND  
*Federal University of Education (Technical) Gombe (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 221)*  
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 Education (Technical) Gombe (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 221).

#### 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.	States and Local Government Administration	Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2025	3.00pm	Meeting Room 117 Senate New Building
2.	Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)	Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2025	3.00pm	Meeting Room 117 Senate New Building
3.	Interior	Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2025	3.00pm	Meeting Room 221 Senate New Building
4.	Public Procurement	Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2025	3.00pm	Meeting Room 324 Senate New Building
5.	Federal Capital Territory (FCT)	Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May, 2025 (Budget Deliberation Meeting)	3.00pm	Meeting Room 301 Senate New Building
6.	Public Accounts	Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup> & Thur. 22 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2025 (Public Hearing)	3.00pm	Hearing Room 4 White House
7.	Joint Committee on Army & Air Force	Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2025	2.00pm	Meeting Room 107 Senate New Building
8.	Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs	Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2025 (Investigative Hearings)	2.00pm	Meeting Room 211 Senate New Building
9.	Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs	Mon. 26 <sup>th</sup> – Thu. 29 <sup>th</sup> May, 2025 (Investigative Hearings)	2.00pm	Meeting Room 211 Senate New Building