

**THE SENATE**  
**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**  
*NATIONAL ASSEMBLY*

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
LEGAL MATTERS**

**REPORT ON**

**THE**

**CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATION OF NOMINEES OF  
THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
(NHRC) GOVERNING COUNCIL  
AS CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**

**OCTOBER, 2026**

# **REPORT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL MATTERS ON THE CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC) GOVERNING COUNCIL**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Senate, at its Plenary Sitting on **Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2026**, considered the request of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for the confirmation of nominees for appointment as Chairman and Members of the Governing Council of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and referred the request to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters for further legislative action.

The nominations were made pursuant to **sections 2(2) and 2(3) of the National Human Rights Commission Act, as amended by the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act, 2010**. In particular, section 2(3) (a) and (b) provides as follows:

*(3) The Chairperson and members of the Council shall each be –*

*(a) persons of proven integrity; and*

*(b) appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate.*

Pursuant to these provisions, the President forwarded sixteen (16) names for appointment to the Governing Council of the Commission. These comprised of twelve (12) substantive nominees requiring Senate confirmation, three (3) ex-officio members who were not subject to the screening exercise, and the Executive Secretary of the Commission, who had previously been screened by the Senate, bringing the total to sixteen (16) nominees as required by the Act

Consequently, in compliance with the Senate's directive, the Committee conducted the screening of eleven (11) substantive nominees, examined their qualifications, professional experience, competence and suitability for appointment, and hereby presents its report to the Senate for consideration.

## **2.0 Screening Process**

Following the referral, the Committee received and scrutinised the curricula vitae and other accompanying documents of the nominees requiring confirmation and invited them to appear before it.

On **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2026**, the nominees appeared before the Committee. During the screening exercise, the Committee examined the nominees on their qualifications, professional experience, competence, integrity, knowledge of human rights issues and suitability for appointment to the Governing Council of the National Human Rights Commission.

### **3.0 Profiles of the Nominees**

The presidential communication identified the nominees by the offices, organisations or constituencies they represent. The Committee accordingly considered each nominee's curriculum vitae, professional background and the statutory constituency for which the nomination was made.

#### **3.1 Dr. Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman, FICMC — Chairman**

Dr. Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman, FICMC, was born on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1960, and hails from Kebbi State. She obtained her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) (Hons.) degree from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in 1981 and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1982 following her professional training at the Nigerian Law School, Lagos. She subsequently obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree, with Distinction in "Multinational Enterprise and the Law", from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, between 1986 and 1987.

Dr. Suleiman has had an extensive career spanning legal practice, corporate governance, public administration, diplomacy, peace and security, and the advancement of the rights of women and children. She served in the Ministry of Justice, Sokoto State, from 1983 to 1989; Continental Merchant Bank Nigeria Plc from 1989 to 1996; NAL Merchant Bank (Nigeria) Plc from 1996 to 1997; Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria Limited (ALSCON) from 1997 to 2001; and thereafter as Secretary to the Securities and Exchange Commission and Director, Legal Services, from 2001 to 2008.

In public service, Dr. Suleiman served as Honourable Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development from December 2008 to March 2010 and as Honourable Minister of State II, Foreign Affairs, from August 2010 to May 2011. She subsequently served as Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the ECOWAS Commission from February 2012 to March 2016, where her responsibilities included regional peace and security initiatives, conflict prevention and management, and engagement with ECOWAS Member States and international partners.

She has also undertaken service on a number of boards and institutions, including as Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission from 2021 to August 2026. She has attended several executive and professional courses at institutions including Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School. Her career reflects sustained engagement with human rights, gender equality, peacebuilding, public administration, corporate governance and international affairs.

#### **3.2 Huwaila Muhammad Ibrahim — Member**

Huwaila Ibrahim Muhammad is a Nigerian legal practitioner, company secretary, mediator and advocate for women and children. She obtained the West African School Certificate/GCE O' Level in 1994, attended the University of Maiduguri and obtained her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree in 2002. She was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2003 and subsequently obtained a Master's degree in Business and Commercial Law in 2007. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Mediators

and Conciliators and an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, United Kingdom.

She commenced her professional career with Ayodele Gafar & Co., Solicitors and Advocates, Kano, and subsequently worked with Ibrahim Elfilig & Co., Solicitors and Advocates, Jalingo; Mamman Lawal & Co.; the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Yola; and Femis Summonu & Associates. She also served in justice sector reform programmes in Kano and Jigawa States.

Since 2014, she has practised with HMI Legal Consult, Kano, as a legal practitioner, alternative dispute resolution expert, notary public and corporate consultant. Her professional engagements include legislative drafting, justice sector reform, gender-based violence prevention, child protection, access to justice and criminal justice reform. Her CV records participation in the drafting and technical review of the Kano State Muslim Code of Personal Status, Kano State Child Protection Bill, Kano State Disability Bill and related legislative initiatives.

She has held leadership positions in professional and civil society organisations, including the International Federation of Women Lawyers, Nigerian Bar Association Women Forum, Coalition Against Rape and Violence, Women Peace and Security Network and Kano State Civil Society Forum. Her work reflects sustained advocacy for the rights of women, children and vulnerable persons.

### **3.3 Edmund Chinonye Obiagwu, SAN (Legal Defence and Assistance Project) — Member**

Chinonye Edmund Obiagwu, SAN, was born on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 1963, and hails from Nimo in Njikoka Local Government Area of Anambra State. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) (Hons.) degree from the University of Ibadan in 1991 and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1992. He had earlier obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Philosophy from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, in 1986.

Mr. Obiagwu is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and senior legal practitioner with extensive experience in human rights litigation, public interest law, legal aid, criminal justice and civil society advocacy. His career includes work with the Civil Liberties Organisation and the Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP), where he has undertaken and supervised litigation and advocacy on human rights, constitutionalism, criminal justice and access to justice.

His professional experience includes extensive involvement in national and international human rights work. He has served on committees and working groups concerned with child rights, criminal justice reform and access to justice, including the National Working Group on the Reform of Criminal Justice Administration in Nigeria. He has also served in leadership roles within the Nigerian Bar Association Human Rights Institute.

His professional work spans commercial litigation, maritime, banking, energy, oil and gas, intellectual property and public law, while his public-interest work has focused substantially on

the protection of vulnerable persons, legal aid, prison and criminal justice reform, and the enforcement of fundamental rights.

### **3.4 Ogunji Chidozie Kingsley (Nigerian Bar Association) — Member**

Ogunji Chidozie Kingsley is a legal practitioner from Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State. He attended the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, from 1991 to 1997, proceeded to the Nigerian Law School, Lagos, from 1998 to 1999, and completed the National Youth Service Corps programme in Abia State from 2000 to 2001.

He has been actively involved in the Nigerian Bar Association and other professional bodies. His professional experience includes service as Social Secretary of the Nigerian Bar Association, Aba Branch, from 2005 to 2007; Chairman, Social/Dinner Committee, from 2005 to 2007; Chairman, Bar Centre Management Committee, from 2007 to 2013; Chairman, Human Rights Committee, from 2011 to 2013; Vice Chairman of the Aba Branch from 2011 to 2013; and Chairman of the Branch from 2013 to 2015.

At the national level, he served as a member of the Nigerian Bar Association National Executive Committee from 2013 to 2015, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Bar Association Constitution Amendment Committee in 2015, and has remained involved in the Eastern Bar Forum and the national structures of the Nigerian Bar Association. His professional and association experience demonstrates sustained engagement with legal practice, professional administration and human rights activities within the organised Bar.

### **3.5 Oluwakemi Asiwaju-Okenyodo (Partners West Africa) — Member**

Kemi Asiwaju-Okenyodo is a Nigerian lawyer, security and justice sector reform specialist and civil society leader from Imeko Afon Local Government Area of Ogun State. She obtained her LL.B (Hons.) degree from the University of Lagos in 1997 and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1999. She has also undertaken professional training in monitoring and evaluation, peacekeeping, post-conflict situations and related fields.

She has over two decades of experience in security and justice sector reform, governance, police accountability, human rights, gender justice and citizen engagement in Nigeria and West Africa. She has served as Executive Director of Partners West Africa-Nigeria: Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative, a position she has held since 2016, where she provides leadership on programmes relating to rule of law, security sector governance, accountability and citizen participation.

Her previous engagements include work with the CLEEN Foundation, Open Society Justice Initiative and other national and international organisations. She has served as a consultant and expert on policing reform, gender and armed forces, election security, criminal justice, violence prevention and accountability.

Her research and programme experience has focused particularly on police reform, access to justice, security sector accountability, prevention of violent extremism, gender inclusion and the strengthening of democratic institutions.

### **3.6 Professor Adedeji Adekunle (Juritrust Center for Socio-Legal Research and Documentation) — Member**

Professor Adedeji Adekunle was born on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1961, and hails from Ogun State. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) (Hons.) degree in 1982, was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1983 and obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree from the University of Lagos in 1985. His professional experience includes a distinguished career in legal research, legislative drafting, public law, criminal justice and legal education.

Professor Adekunle served for many years at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, where he held several senior positions, including Director of Research, Director of Studies and Director-General from 2014 to 2019. He also served as Special Assistant to the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice and as Chief of Staff in the Ogun State Government. His academic career includes teaching and examining responsibilities in a number of Nigerian universities.

He has undertaken numerous national and international assignments relating to criminal justice reform, legislative drafting, counter-terrorism, freedom of information, anti-corruption, migration, de-radicalisation and the implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act. He has served on several committees and expert groups concerned with law reform and justice sector development.

Professor Adekunle is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, Nigerian Society of International Law and Nigerian Association of Law Teachers, and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Mediation and Conciliation of Nigeria. His professional experience includes over sixty publications comprising monographs, edited books, journal articles and book chapters.

### **3.7 Ayo Adewuyi (Nigerian Television Authority) — Member**

Adewuyi Adebola Ayobami was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1962, and hails from Osun State. He obtained a Diploma in Television Journalism in 1987, a Higher National Diploma in Mass Communication in 1996 and a Master's degree in Public Administration in 2007. He is an experienced broadcast journalist, editor and media administrator whose career has been substantially associated with the Nigerian Television Authority.

His professional experience includes service as Governor's Office Correspondent, Oyo State; State House Correspondent; National Assembly Correspondent; Media Assistant to the Wife of the Vice President; Media Assistant to the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; General Manager, NTA Channel 5 Abuja; Director of News; and Executive Director News of the Nigerian Television Authority.

In those capacities, he has been involved in news policy formulation, editorial management, coordination of national news coverage, staff supervision and the coverage of major national and international events. He has attended professional courses in broadcast management, crisis communications, leadership, policy and strategy, election reporting and television journalism.

He is a member of professional bodies including the Nigerian Guild of Editors, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Society of Nigerian Broadcasters and Nigerian Union of Journalists. His career reflects substantial experience in public broadcasting, media management, public communication and national affairs.

### **3.8 Mohammed Adelodun (Nigerian Bar Association) — Member**

Mohammed Adelodun is a Nigerian legal practitioner and commercial lawyer. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Ilorin between 2000 and 2004, obtained his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) (Hons.) degree from the University of East London between 2006 and 2012, attended the Nigerian Law School between 2012 and 2013 and was thereafter called to the Nigerian Bar. He subsequently obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree in Energy and Environmental Law from the University of Birmingham between 2020 and 2023.

His professional career includes service with the Federal Judicial Service Commission from 2008 to 2009 and legal practice from 2014 to date with Y.C. Malkyau & Co., where he served as a Partner and Head of Corporate Commercial Practice Group. His practice covers dispute resolution, corporate commercial transactions, banking, oil and gas, energy, environmental law and regulatory matters.

He has participated in significant commercial transactions and litigation and has served on committees of the Nigerian Bar Association and other professional bodies. His curriculum vitae also records his appointment as a Notary Public of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 2023. His experience combines litigation, commercial advisory work, corporate transactions, professional regulation and legal practice in sectors with significant public and environmental implications.

### **3.9 Eze Anaba (Nigeria Guild of Editors) — Member**

Eze Charles Anaba is a Nigerian journalist, editor and media professional with extensive experience in the private media sector. He obtained a Higher National Diploma in Mass Communication from Ogun State Polytechnic and subsequently obtained a Master of Arts degree in Mass Communication from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom.

He has had a long career with Vanguard Media Limited, rising through reporting and editorial responsibilities to become Editor of Vanguard Newspapers. His professional experience includes service as Reporter, Assistant News Editor, Deputy Editor/News Editor/Saturday Editor and Editor. His curriculum vitae also identifies him as President of the Nigerian Guild of Editors.

Mr. Anaba has specialised experience in law and human rights journalism. He served as Law and Human Rights Editor, reporting on the judiciary, constitutional and legal reform issues and

human rights violations. He also served as Editor of "The Other Voice", a Vanguard Newspapers platform concerned with democratic participation and civil society advocacy.

His public and national assignments include membership of the National Study Group on the Death Penalty, the National Consultative Committee on Justice Sector Reform, the Board of Governors of the Trust for Africa and international observer assignments. He has also undertaken advocacy and consultancy work relating to child rights, freedom of information, media freedom and human rights.

### **3.10 Maupe Ogun-Yusuf (Channels Television) — Member**

Esther Maupe Ogun-Yusuf is a Nigerian broadcast journalist, programme presenter and news reporter with extensive experience in the media industry. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Lagos between 2000 and 2005 and a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and Development Studies from the University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom, between 2007 and 2008.

Her professional career includes service with Channels Television Network, where she has served as a News Anchor/Producer/Journalist from 2009 to the present. She has anchored and produced major news and current affairs programmes and has covered significant national and international events, including elections, United Nations engagements, public policy events and interviews with senior public officials and other newsmakers.

Her professional experience includes substantial experience in research, news writing, programme production, interviewing, public speaking and international reporting. She has also participated in professional training and fellowships relating to journalism, public relations, media, elections and international affairs.

She has served on professional panels and received a number of recognitions and awards in journalism and broadcasting. Her career reflects sustained experience in electronic media, public communication, current affairs reporting and the presentation of issues of national and public interest.

### **3.11 Patience Patrick Udoh — Member**

Patience Patrick Udoh, born on 20<sup>th</sup> October (year not supplied), is a legal practitioner with approximately twenty-two years of post-call experience. She obtained an LL.B from the University of Calabar in 2004 and attended the Nigerian Law School in 2005. She also obtained a Diploma in Computer Studies from Emeraude Computer Training College, Port Harcourt, in 2003.

She commenced her professional career with Ifedayo Adedipe & Co. in 2006 and served at the Ministry of Justice, Ado-Ekiti, during her National Youth Service between 2006 and 2007. She subsequently worked with B. Ayorinde & Co., Libra Law Office, Matrix Solicitors and AELEX, where she rose to Senior Associate. In May 2015, she established BNTS Barristers & Solicitors

& Legal Consultants. Her practice includes civil, criminal and commercial litigation, constitutional law, fundamental rights enforcement, administrative law, corporate practice, arbitration and mediation.

She served as a civil society representative on the Lagos State Judicial Panel of Inquiry on Restitution for Victims of Police Brutality and Other Related Abuses between 2020 and 2021. She has participated in human rights advocacy and the professional activities of the Nigerian Bar Association, including committee service within its Lagos Branch. In 2024, she delivered human rights training to Nigerian Navy personnel in Port Harcourt and recruits at the Nigerian Navy Basic Training School, Onne, Rivers State.

She previously served as National Treasurer and Lagos State Treasurer of the Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria. She has represented corporate organisations, financial institutions and individuals in proceedings before various courts, including the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Her professional background encompasses human rights advocacy, access to justice, dispute resolution and institutional accountability.

#### 4.0 Response to Questions

In response to questions put to them by Members of the Committee, the nominees demonstrated knowledge of human rights issues and addressed matters relating to the mandate and independence of the Commission, access to justice, protection of vulnerable persons, enforcement of human rights, detention and correctional conditions, security sector accountability, gender and child rights, freedom of expression and other contemporary human rights concerns.

#### 5.0 Observations/Findings

The Committee, after scrutinising the documents submitted, screening the nominees and deliberating on their suitability, observed as follows:

1. That the substantive Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission, who is a member of the Governing Council by virtue of his office and had previously been screened by the Senate for his present appointment, was not subjected to a fresh screening exercise by the Committee.
2. That the representatives of the **Federal Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs and Interior** are *ex-officio*, non-voting members of the Governing Council of the National Human Rights Commission and, by virtue of their statutory status under the National Human Rights Commission Act, as amended, are not required to undergo Senate confirmation. This position is consistent with the constitutional distinction recognised under **section 154(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)**, which exempts *ex-officio* members of the bodies to which that provision applies from Senate confirmation.

3. That eleven (11) substantive nominees presented themselves before the Committee for screening and were assessed on their educational qualifications, professional experience, competence, integrity and understanding of the mandate and functions of the National Human Rights Commission.
4. That the nominee representing the **Manufacturers Association of Nigeria** was unavoidably absent from the screening exercise.
5. That consequent upon the nominee's unavoidable absence and the resulting inability to complete the screening process, the **full complement of the Governing Council of the National Human Rights Commission has not been constituted as required by the Act.**
6. That, in line with the enabling law and the **Paris Principles**, appointments to the Governing Council of the National Human Rights Commission should be open, transparent and consultative to safeguard the independence, credibility and effectiveness of the Commission.
7. That the curricula vitae and accompanying documents of the nominees screened disclose considerable experience in human rights advocacy, legal practice, public service, correctional administration, security and justice sector reform, academia, gender and child rights, and the print and electronic media.
8. That record checks and investigations by the relevant security agencies did not reveal any adverse report against the nominees.
9. That the Committee is satisfied with the qualifications, competence, professional experience and suitability of the eleven (11) substantive nominees and considers them fit and proper persons for appointment as Chairman and Members of the Governing Council of the National Human Rights Commission.

## 6.0 Recommendation

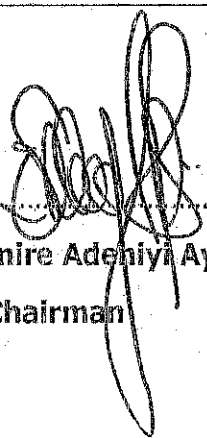
The Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters, having screened and after a careful scrutiny of the CVs and other accompanying documents of the nominees and being satisfied about their exposure, experience in human rights issues, performance, qualifications and competence, hereby recommends:

***"That the Senate do approve the confirmation of the nominations of the following persons for appointment as Chairman and Members of the Governing Council of the National Human Rights Commission:"***

| S/N | NAME                                  | DESIGNATION |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.  | Dr. Salamatu Hussaini Suleiman, FICMC | Chairman    |

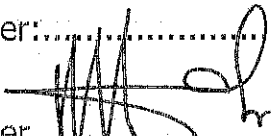
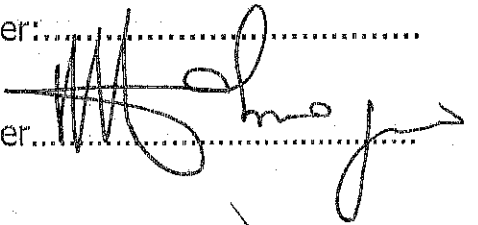
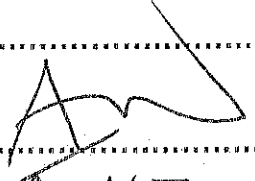
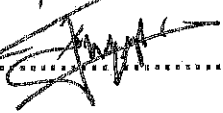
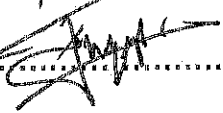
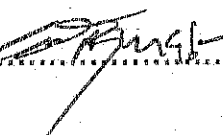
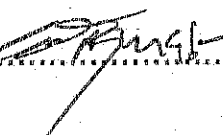
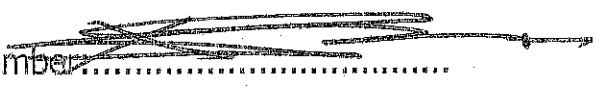
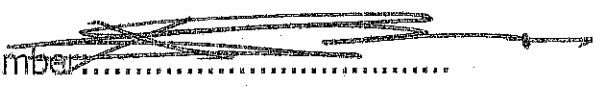
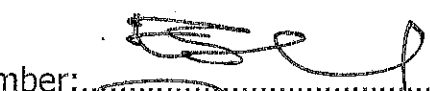
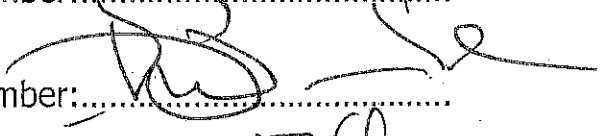
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|-----|----------------------------------|--------|
| 2.  | Huwaila Muhammad Ibrahim         | Member |
| 3.  | Mr. Chinonye Edmund Obiagwu, SAN | Member |
| 4.  | Mrs. Oluwakemi Asiwaju-Okenyodo  | Member |
| 5.  | Prof. Adedeji Adekunle, SAN      | Member |
| 6.  | Mr. Ogunji Chidozie Kingsley     | Member |
| 7.  | Mr. Mohammed Adelodun            | Member |
| 8.  | Mr. Adewuyi Adegbola Ayobami     | Member |
| 9.  | Mrs. Esther Maupe Ogun-Yusuf     | Member |
| 10. | Mr. Eze Charles Anaba            | Member |
| 11. | Mrs. Patience Patrick Udoh       | Member |

**I SO MOVE.**

  
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**Senator Adegbonmire Adeniyi Ayodele, SAN**  
**Chairman**

## ENDORSEMENT PAGE

### Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters Membership

1. Senator Adegbonmire Adeniyi Ayodele, SAN - Chairman:.....
2. Senator Simon Bako Lalong - V/Chairman:.....
3. Senator Michael Opeyemi Bamidele, CON - Member:.....
4. Senator Mohammed Tahir Monguno - Member:.....
5. Senator Henry Seriake Dickson - Member:.....
6. Senator Aminu Waziri Tambuwal - Member:.....
7. Senator Jiya Peter Ndalikali - Member:.....
8. Senator Imaseun Neda Bernards - Member:.....
9. Senator Nwebonyi Onyeka Peter - Member:.....
10. Senator Kaka Shehu Lawan - Member:.....
11. Senator Ali Sharafadeen Abiodun - Member:.....
12. Senator Khalid Ibrahim Mustapha - Member:.....
13. Senator Osita Izunasa - Member:.....
14. Senator Ekong Sampson - Member:.....
15. Senator Emmanuel Udende - Member:.....
- Barr. Fatima Abba-Jiddum - Committee Clerk:.....