



**SENATE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

Wednesday, 21st October, 2026

1. The Senate met at 11:36 a.m; recited the National Anthem and thereafter, the President of the Senate read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**

The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 20th October, 2026.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcements:**

- (a) **Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) Retreat:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Eteng, Jonah Williams (Cross River Central) as follows:



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM RESOURCES (UPSTREAM)
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone, P.M.B. 141, Garki, Abuja

20th October, 2026

His Excellency

Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio, GCON
President of the Senate,
National Assembly.

Your Excellency Sir,

**INVITATION TO ATTEND THE COMMITTEE'S RETREAT/STAKEHOLDERS
ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

The Retreat/Stakeholders Engagement Programme of the Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) under the theme, "The Petroleum Industry Act Implementation Journey: Industry Impact and the Path Forward" is scheduled to hold as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 21st October, 2026
Venue: Event Center, Transcorp Hilton, Abuja
Time: Immediately after plenary

The Retreat will be declared open by His Excellency the President of the Senate, Distinguished Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio, GCON.

All Senators are requested to proceed to the venue immediately after Plenary.

(Signed)

Senator Eteng Jonah Williams
Chairman

(b) Courtesy Visit:

The President of the Senate read a letter from the Clerk of the Senate reminding Distinguished Senators of a Courtesy Visit on the President of the Senate by the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, holding on Wednesday, 21st October 2026 at the Office of the President of the Senate, National Assembly Complex, Abuja by 3:00p.m. He urged Distinguished Senators to join him in receiving the Foreign Diplomat.

(c) Acknowledgment:

The President of the Senate acknowledged the presence of the Members of National Association of Political Science Students, University of Ibadan, Oyo State, who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

4. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Orders 41 and 51, Senator Faduyile, Francis Adedayo (*Ondo South*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Need to enforce mandatory health screening at all International Airports and other entry points to prevent the importation of Ebola and other Epidemic-prone diseases into Nigeria. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes that the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, declared in May 2026 and designated by the World Health Organization as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, now exceeds 9,000 confirmed cases and 4,400 deaths, making it the second largest Ebola outbreak in history, and that there is no approved vaccine or treatment for this strain;

also notes that the outbreak has spread to Uganda and, on 6th October, 2026 to Kenya, through a traveller who went from the DRC by road to Kampala and then flew to Nairobi, showing that infected persons can pass through third countries;

aware that the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has rated the risk of importation into Nigeria as high, and recalling that in July 2014 a single traveller brought Ebola into Nigeria through the Lagos Airport;

commends the Federal Government for the mandatory Health Declaration Form, the Presidential Task Force and the stepped-up screening at entry points;

concerned that the declaration was narrowed on 22 September 2026 to travellers from listed countries which Kenya is not included, that departure halls and many entry points lack Port Health staff and equipment, and that Port Health Services still operates under the Quarantine Act of 1926;

disturbed that Nigeria is already battling Lassa fever (1,138 confirmed cases and 268 deaths in 2026, with Ondo State the worst hit), cholera (over 65,000 suspected cases) and diphtheria (over 10,000 confirmed cases), and that its health system cannot afford another outbreak; and

convinced that protecting our entry points is cheaper than managing one imported case, and must be done in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), without travel bans or discrimination.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the NCDC and the Port Health Services, to make health screening mandatory for all arriving international passengers at every international airport, seaport and designated land borders, consisting of the Health Declaration Form, a temperature check and symptom screening, with enhanced screening for anyone who has been in or transited through an affected area in the past 21 days, regardless of nationality or country of departure, and to introduce exit screening for departing passengers during any declared emergency;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria and the Nigeria Immigration Service to fully staff and equip all entry points with trained Port Health officers, thermal scanners, protective equipment and isolation rooms, and to ensure that isolation and treatment centres are ready in all 36 States and the FCT;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to replace the Quarantine Act of 1926 with a modern public health law consistent with the IHR (2005);
- (iv) urge the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to provide adequate funds for the NCDC and Port Health Services in the 2027 Budget and release all outstanding funds;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Health (Secondary and Tertiary); Primary Healthcare and Communicable Diseases; Aviation; Interior; and Appropriations to liaise with the relevant agencies, visit the principal entry points, and report back within four weeks for further legislative action; and
- (vi) mandate its Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation of these resolutions.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the NCDC and the Port Health Services, to make health screening mandatory for all arriving international passengers at every international airport, seaport and designated land borders, consisting of the Health Declaration Form, a temperature check and symptom screening, with enhanced screening for anyone who has been in or transited through an affected area in the past 21 days, regardless of nationality or country of departure, and to introduce exit screening for departing passengers during any declared emergency — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria and the Nigeria Immigration Service to fully staff and equip all entry points with trained Port Health officers, thermal scanners, protective equipment and isolation rooms, and to ensure that isolation and treatment centres are ready in all 36 States and the FCT — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to replace the Quarantine Act of 1926 with a modern public health law consistent with the IHR (2005).

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Proposed Resolution (iii) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do urge the National Assembly in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, to immediately repeal and re-enact the Quarantine Act of 1926 to be in tandem with the modern public health laws and consistent with the International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005" (*Senator Aliero, Adamu Mohammed — Kebbi Central*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to provide adequate funds for the NCDC and Port Health Services in the 2027 Budget, and release all outstanding funds.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Proposed Resolution (iv) and *insert* the following instead thereof:

"That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to immediately release emergency fund from the Service Wide Vote in order to curtail the spread of Ebola menace in the country" (*Senator Aliero, Adamu Mohammed — Kebbi Central*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Health (Secondary and Tertiary); Primary Healthcare and Communicable Diseases; Aviation; Interior; and Appropriations to liaise with the relevant agencies, visit the principal entry points, and report back within four weeks for further legislative action — *Negated*.

Proposed Resolution (vi):

Question: That the Senate do mandate its Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation of these resolutions — *Agreed to*.

Additional Proposed Resolution:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:

"That the Senate do urge the Federal Ministry of Health and other relevant Government Health Agencies to ensure that all public and private centres such as Hotels, Institutions, Schools, Ministries, Event Centres etc., put in place, adequate health measures to prevent easy contact of the Ebola virus" (*Senator Plang, Diket Satso — Plateau Central*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the NCDC and the Port Health Services, to make health screening mandatory for all arriving international passengers at every international airport, seaport and designated land borders, consisting of the Health Declaration Form, a temperature check and symptom screening, with enhanced screening for anyone who has been in or transited through an affected area in the past 21 days, regardless of nationality or country of departure, and to introduce exit screening for departing passengers during any declared emergency;

- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria and the Nigeria Immigration Service to fully staff and equip all entry points with trained Port Health officers, thermal scanners, protective equipment and isolation rooms, and to ensure that isolation and treatment centres are ready in all 36 States and the FCT;
- (iii) urge the National Assembly in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, to immediately repeal and re-enact the Quarantine Act of 1926 to be in tandem with the modern public health laws and consistent with the International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005;
- (iv) urge the Federal Government to immediately release emergency fund from the Service Wide Vote in order to curtail the spread of Ebola menace in the country;
- (v) mandate its Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation of these resolutions; and
- (vi) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and other relevant Government Health Agencies to ensure that all public and private centres such as Hotels, Institutions, Schools, Ministries, Event Centres etc., put in place, adequate health measures and put in place sanitizers to prevent easy contact of the Ebola virus (S/Res/34/04/2026).

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Orders 41 and 51, *Senator Joel, Onowakpo Thomas — (Delta South)* drew the attention of the Senate to the Demise of His Excellency, Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan, CON, Former Governor of Delta State (2007-2015). He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes with profound grief and a deep sense of loss the passing of His Excellency, Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan, CON, former Governor of Delta State, distinguished medical practitioner, statesman and public servant, who passed away on 19th October 2026, leaving behind a legacy of service to humanity and significant contributions to the political, social and economic development of Delta State;

recalls that Dr. Uduaghan was born on 22nd October 1954 in Abigborodo, Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State, and trained as a medical doctor at the University of Benin, where he obtained his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery Degrees, subsequently pursuing a professional career in medicine before venturing into public administration;

also recalls that his public service career commenced at the executive level when he was appointed Commissioner for Health in Delta State in 1999, a position he held until 2003, before serving as Secretary to the Delta State Government from 2003 to 2007, and subsequently as Governor of Delta State from 29th May, 2007 to 29th May, 2015;

acknowledges that his professional background in medicine profoundly influenced his approach to governance, particularly his emphasis on healthcare delivery, human welfare and the expansion of access to essential medical services for vulnerable segments of the population;

recognizes that one of the defining features of his administration was the introduction and implementation of free maternal healthcare and under-five healthcare programmes, aimed at reducing the financial burden of medical treatment on pregnant women, nursing mothers and young children, thereby promoting maternal and child health and improving access to essential healthcare services;

also recognizes his administration's efforts to strengthen tertiary healthcare through the development of the Delta State University Teaching Hospital at Oghara, including investments in medical infrastructure, specialised services and institutional capacity, with a view to expanding access to advanced medical treatment within the State and reducing the need for patients to seek certain specialised services outside the country;

notes that these healthcare initiatives reflected his conviction that the wellbeing of citizens constitutes a fundamental responsibility of government and that public investment in preventive, maternal, child and specialised healthcare is essential to human development;

acknowledges that his administration pursued an extensive programme of educational development, including the rehabilitation and remodelling of public primary and secondary schools, the construction and renovation of classrooms, the improvement of school facilities and the expansion of educational opportunities for children and young people across the State;

also acknowledges the introduction of educational support initiatives, including the EDUMARSHAL programme aimed at encouraging school attendance, efforts to reduce the burden of school-related fees and levies, support for public examination costs and scholarship opportunities for academically outstanding students, thereby promoting access to education and investing in the future workforce of Delta State;

observes that these educational interventions were underpinned by the recognition that sustainable development requires not merely the provision of physical infrastructure but also the cultivation of knowledge, skills, innovation and human capital necessary for economic growth and social advancement;

recognizes that infrastructural development constituted a major priority of his administration, particularly through road construction and rehabilitation, improvements in transportation infrastructure and the development of Asaba International Airport, which was conceived to enhance connectivity, facilitate the movement of people and goods, promote commercial activities and strengthen the position of Delta State as an important economic destination;

also recognizes that his administration pursued improvements in other transport facilities; including the expansion and upgrading of existing aviation infrastructure, as part of a broader strategy to improve mobility, stimulate investment and support economic activities within the State;

acknowledges his Delta Beyond Oil agenda, which sought to reduce Delta State's traditional dependence on crude oil revenue through the promotion of agriculture, tourism, small and medium-scale enterprises, investment and other productive sectors of the economy, with the objective of building a more diversified, resilient and sustainable economic base for present and future generations;

notes that the Delta Beyond Oil vision reflected an important development principle: that the wealth derived from natural resources must be translated into lasting economic opportunities, productive capacity, employment and improved living standards, rather than leave the State excessively vulnerable to fluctuations in oil revenue;

further acknowledges his administration's emphasis on youth empowerment and the development of sporting talent, recognising sport as an instrument of discipline, opportunity, social integration and national pride;

observes that under his leadership, Team Delta emerged overall champion at the 2009 National Sports Festival in Kaduna and again at the 2012 National Sports Festival in Lagos, while finishing second at the 2011 edition hosted by Rivers State, achievements which reinforced Delta State's reputation as one of Nigeria's leading centres of sporting excellence;

further notes that his administration supported sporting development through incentives for athletes, the promotion of grassroots participation and the strengthening of sports administration, thereby creating opportunities for young people to develop their talents and represent the State at national and other competitive levels;

recognises that his administration operated during a challenging period in the Niger Delta, characterised by militancy, insecurity, disruptions to economic activities and longstanding grievances relating to resource control, environmental degradation and community development;

acknowledges his efforts to promote peace, reconciliation and stability through dialogue and sustained engagement with traditional rulers, community leaders, youth groups, religious leaders and other stakeholders, recognising that enduring peace in the Niger Delta requires not only security measures but also inclusive development, mutual trust and constructive engagement between government and communities;

further recalls his use of football and public viewing centres as instruments of social interaction and community engagement, reflecting his belief that shared interests and sporting activities could help bridge divisions, encourage peaceful coexistence and provide opportunities for interaction among people from different backgrounds;

observes that his leadership style, widely associated with humility, accessibility, compassion and a practical approach to governance, earned him the popular appellation, "The Talk and Do Governor," reflecting the public perception of his determination to translate policy intentions and commitments into practical action;

further observes that his eight years in office represented a period in which healthcare, education, infrastructure, economic diversification, youth development, sport and peace building featured prominently in the developmental agenda of Delta State, even as the long-term sustainability and impact of individual programmes remain matters for continued assessment and institutional preservation;

acknowledges that Dr. Uduaghan's contributions extended beyond the immediate execution of projects and programmes to the articulation of a development vision that sought to connect public investment with human welfare, economic resilience, social stability and the long-term prosperity of the people;

notes with profound sadness that his passing, shortly before his 72nd birthday, constitutes a significant loss to his immediate family, the Itsekiri people, the Government and people of Delta State, the medical profession, the political community and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, particularly in view of his years of public service and his contributions to governance and development; and

also notes that the death of a former Governor who devoted several decades to professional and public service provides an occasion for reflection on the enduring responsibilities of leadership, the importance of institutional continuity and the duty of government to preserve achievements that advance the welfare of citizens.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the late Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan, CON, in recognition of his years of service to Delta State and the Nigerian nation;
- (ii) commiserate with the Uduaghan family, the Itsekiri nation, the Government and people of Delta State, and all those affected by his passing;

- (iii) convey a condolence of the Senate to the Family, Government and people of Delta State;
- (iv) urge the Government of Delta State to preserve the records of significant public programmes and development initiatives undertaken during his administration, as part of the State's institutional and developmental history; and
- (v) pray Almighty God to grant his soul eternal rest and give his family, friends and the people of Delta State the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of the late Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan, CON, in recognition of his years of service to Delta State and the Nigerian nation — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do commiserate with the Uduaghan family, the Itsekiri nation, the Government and people of Delta State, and all those affected by his passing — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do convey a condolence of the Senate to the Family, Government and people of Delta State — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Government of Delta State to preserve the records of significant public programmes and development initiatives undertaken during his administration, as part of the State's institutional and developmental history — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do pray Almighty God to grant his soul eternal rest and give his family, friends and the people of Delta State the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the late Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan, CON, in recognition of his years of service to Delta State and the Nigerian nation;
- (ii) commiserate with the Uduaghan family, the Itsekiri nation, the Government and people of Delta State, and all those affected by his passing;
- (iii) convey a condolence of the Senate to Family, Government and people of Delta State;
- (iv) urge the Government of Delta State to preserve the records of significant public programmes and development initiatives undertaken during his administration, as part of the State's institutional and developmental history; and
- (v) pray Almighty God to grant his soul eternal rest and give his family, friends and the people of Delta State the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss (S/Res/35/04/2026).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the deceased.

6. Presentation of Bills:

- (i) Nigeria Film Corporation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (HB. 2522) — *Read the First Time.*
- (ii) Chartered Institute of Nigeria Universities Professional Administrators Bill, 2026 (HB.784) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iii) Risk Management Bill, 2026 (HB. 1625) — *Read the First Time.*
- (iv) Federal Polytechnic Nasarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2026 (SB.1084) — *Read the First Time.*

7. National Research and Innovation Development Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2026 (SB.1069):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

8. National Universities Commission Act (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill, 2026 (SB. 1056):

Consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

9. Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions:

Report on the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (SB. 899):

Presentation of Report deferred to another legislative day.

10. Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:

Report on the Federal University of Education, Obudu, Cross River State (Establishment) Bill, 2026 (SB. 150):

Presentation of Report deferred to another legislative day.

11. Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (HB. 2681) — Concurrence:

Consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

12. Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (HB. 1706) — Concurrence:

Consideration of Bill deferred to another legislative day.

13. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Thursday, 22nd October, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. (Chief Whip).

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned accordingly at 1:38 p.m.

