MOTION ON THE UNFORTUNATE DEATH OF 37 YOUNG ARTISANAL MINERS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE NIGERIA SECURITY AND CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS (NSCDC), NIGER STATE COMMAND, AND THE NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE

Sponsor: Distinguished Senator Mohammed Sani Musa, CON (Niger East)
Co-sponsors: Sen. Jiya, Peter Ndalikali (Niger South)
Sen. Bello, Sani Abubakar (Niger North)
Sen. Emmanuel, Udende Memga (Benue North East)
Sen. Zam, Titus Tartenger (Benue North West)
Sen. Moro, Abba Patrick (Benue South)
Sen. Jibrin, Isah (Kogi East)
Sen. Ohere, Sadiku Abubakar (Kogi Central)
Sen. Karimi, Sunday Steve (Kogi West)
Sen. Yisa, Ashiru Oyelola (Kwara South)
Sen. Saliu, Mustapha (Kwara Central)
Sen. Suleiman, Umar Sadiq (Kwara North)
Sen. Aliyu, Wadada Ahmed (Nasarawa West)
Sen. Akwashiki, Godiya (Nasarawa North)
Sen. Onawo, Mohammed Ogoshi (Nasarawa South)
Sen. Mwadkwon, Simon Davou (Plateau North)
Sen. Napoleon, Binkap Bali (Plateau South)
Sen. Diket, Satso Plang (Plateau Central)

The Senate:

Notes with profound sadness and deep concern the tragic death of 37 young artisanal miners who lost their lives on September 17, 2026, while in the custody of the Niger State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), in Minna, Niger State;

Recalls that the deceased persons were reportedly arrested during operations against suspected illegal mining activities and subsequently died under circumstances that raised serious concerns about their conditions of detention, the protection of their fundamental human rights and the responsibility of government institutions to safeguard lives;

Observes that the unfortunate incident represents a painful loss of human lives, leaving families, relatives and communities devastated, and underscores the urgent need to strengthen institutional accountability, respect for human dignity and adherence to established laws and procedures in the treatment of persons in custody;

Commends His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, and the Federal Government for their prompt intervention and directive for a comprehensive and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the unfortunate incident;

Acknowledges the establishment of a ten-member Independent Investigative Committee by the Federal Government, chaired by Mr Jonathan Kure, to investigate the incident, establish the circumstances surrounding the deaths, determine responsibility and recommend appropriate disciplinary, administrative and remedial measures;

Further notes that the investigative committee has submitted its report, identifying serious lapses and recommending appropriate sanctions, institutional reforms and financial compensation for the families of the deceased and other affected persons;

Recognises the commitment expressed by the Federal Government to ensure justice for the victims and their families and considers the implementation of the committee's recommendations essential to demonstrating that the lives and fundamental rights of every Nigerian are valued and protected;

Concerned that any delay in implementing the recommendations, particularly the payment of compensation to the bereaved families, would prolong their suffering and undermine public confidence in the government's commitment to justice and accountability;

Worried that the tragedy highlights the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in the management of detention facilities, enforcement of human rights standards and operational procedures of security agencies to prevent a recurrence of such an avoidable tragedy;

Mindful of the Senate's constitutional responsibility to protect the interests and welfare of Nigerians, uphold the rule of law and provide institutional oversight on matters affecting the safety, dignity and fundamental rights of citizens.

Accordingly, the Senate resolves to:

1. Observe a minute of silence in honour of the 37 deceased young miners and pray for the repose of their souls, while extending the Senate's heartfelt condolences to their bereaved families, relatives and the Government and people of Niger State;

2. Commend and appreciate President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, and the Federal Government for the timely establishment of the Independent Investigative Committee and the steps taken to investigate the unfortunate incident;

3. Urge the Federal Government to expedite action on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the investigative committee's report, particularly those relating to accountability, appropriate sanctions against officers found culpable and institutional reforms within the NSCDC;

4. Call on the Federal Government to ensure the immediate and full payment of the recommended compensation to the families of the 37 deceased victims and other persons affected by the incident, in accordance with the recommendations of the investigative committee;

5. Further urge the Federal Government to ensure that all persons found culpable are subjected to appropriate disciplinary and legal processes in accordance with the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to ensure justice and deter future occurrences;

6. Call on the Federal Government to strengthen oversight, detention standards and operational accountability within the NSCDC and other security agencies to guarantee the protection of the lives, dignity and fundamental rights of persons in their custody;

7. Constitute a delegation of the Senate, to be led by the President of the Senate or his nominee, comprising relevant Senators, particularly Senators from Niger State and the North Central geopolitical zone, to pay a condolence visit to the bereaved families, commiserate with them and formally convey the condolences and solidarity of the Nigerian Senate;

8. Direct the relevant Senate Committees, particularly those on Interior, Human Rights, Police Affairs and Judiciary, to exercise appropriate oversight on the implementation of the committee's recommendations and report to the Senate on progress made.

Distinguished colleagues, this is not merely a motion about 37 lives lost; it is a solemn reminder that the protection of human life, human dignity and the rights of every Nigerian must remain paramount. We owe the deceased a duty to seek justice, and we owe their families a duty to ensure that their loss is not forgotten and that such a tragedy never happens again.