



THE SENATE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 16th January, 2019

1. The Senate met at 10:48 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 20th December, 2018.
Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Messages from Mr. President:**
The Senate President announced that he had received two (2) letters from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

(a) *Confirmation of Appointment:*



PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

7th January, 2019

*Distinguished Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

In accordance with the provision of Section 5(1) of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit Act 2018, I have the pleasure to present Modibbo R. Hamman Tukur as a Director of the Unit for confirmation by the Senate.

Please find attached a copy of his Curriculum Vitae.

While looking forward for your usual expeditious consideration, please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards.

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(b) Confirmation of Appointments:



**PRESIDENT
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

8th January, 2019

*Distinguished Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN
AND MEMBERS OF THE NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

In accordance with the provision of Section 2(5) (b) of the North East Development Commission Act, 2017, I write to forward, for confirmation by the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the underlisted names of eleven (11) nominees as Chairman and Members of the Governing Board of the North-East Development Commission. Their CVs are attached herewith.

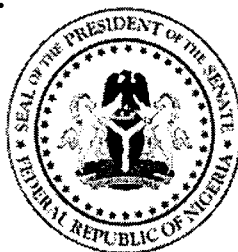
S/No.	Name	Position
(i)	Major. Gen. Paul Tarfa (Rtd)	Chairman
(ii)	Mohammed Goni Alkali	MD/CEO
(iii)	Musa Umar Yashi	ED, Humanitarian Affairs
(iv)	Muhammed Jawa B.	ED, Admin & Finance
(v)	Omar Maiwada Mohammed	ED, Operations
(vi)	Hon. David Sabo Kente	Member Representing North East Zone
(vii)	Asmau Mai-Eka Mohammed	Member Representing North West Zone
(viii)	Hon. Benjamin Tilley Adanyi	Member Representing North Central Zone
(ix)	Hon. Olawale Oshun	Member Representing South West Zone
(x)	Dr. T. E. O. Ekechi	Member Representing South East Zone
(xi)	Mr. Obasuke Mcdonald	Member Representing South South Zone

It is my hope that the Distinguished Senate will consider and confirm the nominees in the usual expeditious manner.

Please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

4. Remarks by the Senate President:



**President of the Senate
Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**WELCOME BACK SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, HIS EXCELLENCY (DR.) ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAOKI,
CON, TO SENATORS OF THE 8TH SENATE ON RESUMPTION FROM THE 2018 END OF
YEAR RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018.**

PROTOCOL.

1. *Distinguished colleagues, it is an honour to welcome you all back after the festive break. I wish each and every one of you, and your families, a very happy new year 2019. Although the political season has swung into full gear, it is my hope that you were able to get a bit of rest and some quiet time during the break; and that you have recharged your batteries, ready to dive back into legislative work with renewed vigour.*
2. *As evident all around us, the New Year has met our countrymen and women in an anticipatory mood. Spirits are high, because in this year 2019, Nigeria has a date with destiny. But we also know that despite all of this, the work of leadership must go on; governance must not suffer. We must trudge on and fulfil our mandates as legislators subject to the Nigerian Constitution and the will of the people.*
3. *As we hit this home run, therefore, my distinguished colleagues, we must have our eyes firmly fixed on the unfinished business of the 8th Senate; and that is to bring the legislative agenda to a fitting close and cap our endeavours of these four years with success. We cannot relent or lose steam on this last lap; we must remain focused and finish strong.*
4. *This is an epoch making Senate that had, by the end of 2018, passed an unprecedented 257 Bills, many of which are ground breaking enough to change the game to meet the needs of Nigerians, with the potential to radically transform their lives for the better. Nigerians expect us to continue in this vein, and we owe it to ourselves to meet their expectations. The legacy of the 8th Senate will be written in the legislative footprints that we leave, and the foundation that we lay.*
5. *Therefore, we must ensure that we continue to address issues affecting Nigerians, and concerning which they seek our intervention. Issues such as unemployment, lack of economic opportunities, insecurity and so on - these still require the attention of the National Assembly. Every action that we can take to address these issues through the legislative function, we must take; everything that we can do, we must do. We must ensure that we conclude work on all outstanding bills and petitions; and bring successful conclusion to all issues and investigations brought to the attention of this Senate.*
6. *The 2019 Elections are just over a month away, and the expectations of Nigerians as the dates draw near, is that we continue to serve as the representatives they voted for. In our work in this chamber, we are expected to rise above the partisan paradigm. We should address our minds to, and always channel our efforts to how we can move our country forward. Nigerians want to see leaders who will not succumb to the partisan instinct in lawmaking. They want to see leaders who will bring new ideas to bear on the challenges confronting the country. These*

include: out-of- school children figures; rebuilding the North East; securing the North West; increasing Girl Child education; as well as how we navigate our way in the economy for higher productivity.

7. *Leaders should help reduce the tension in the polity by contributing to an atmosphere of moderate and measured political conversations. Expectations of the Executive are also palpable, particularly with regard to the need to uphold the Constitution and its tenets, especially as they guarantee the minimum basic requirement of Separation of Powers; the unity of the country and the welfare of the citizens.*
8. *In that respect, it bears reminding that the exercise of power must be anchored in the best democratic principles. The former US President Obama's Doctrine of Restraint as a key feature in the use of power, is recommended to us in this polity at this crucial time. Some of the reports and occurrences in recent times speak to this need for restraint. Those who exercise power should do their best to avoid any action that stands the risk of being misconstrued as coloured by partisan considerations.*
9. *On that note, I wish to lay emphasis on the role of the Judiciary in promoting justice and bringing respect to the country. If the Judiciary is violated or eroded or otherwise brought to ill-repute, so do the values attached to its role in a democracy. Everyone in the political value chain should therefore do nothing that could raise tensions in the country. Nigerians are looking up to leaders who will douse flames that have the potential to threaten the peace and wellbeing of our country.*
10. *I urge you, my distinguished colleagues, to bear all these in mind as we move towards the end of this historic Senate. The integrity of the constitution must be preserved at all times; and service to the people in a unified country should be our ultimate goal in all that we do as legislators.*
11. *Looking ahead to the General Elections, I wish all contestants and aspirants luck in the forthcoming elections, including those here among us. I enjoin us all to bear in mind that it should be a contest of ideas. We should eschew *ad hominem* approaches to political discourse, and communicate our ideas in a civil manner.*
12. *The issue of PVCs remains a concern. I call on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to give urgent attention to the matter. Issue has similarly been raised about people buying PVCs; this should also be looked into. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate the need for INEC to bring relevant stakeholders together for a dialogue on a way forward to tackle these issues, ahead of the elections.*
13. *Everything must be done and every sacrifice must be made to ensure free and fair 2019 Elections. INEC is encouraged to engage the parties and be transparent in its decision making. It is important that the people are assured of the Commission's resolve and commitment to credible elections.*
14. *To all Nigerians, I say this: we must have a country after the elections. We all still have to live among ourselves when the polls have closed and the elections are over. The rhetoric leading up to the elections must therefore be mindful of the need for moderation, decorum and respect.*
15. *To those of us who are contesting, let us remember that our biggest offer is to serve. Ultimately, the Nigerian people have a right to choose who will represent them at all levels. It is not a do or die affair. I encourage all to participate in the coming polls and I wish Nigerians a safe 2019 Election.*

16. *Once again, I bid you all welcome back, as we resume plenary today. The work must go on, and I am confident that we are ready.*

17. *I wish the entire members of the Senate, and all Nigerians, a healthy, safe and prosperous 2019.*

(Signed)

Abubakar Olubukola Saraki, CON
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

5. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Francis A. Alimikhena (*Deputy Senate Whip*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Hon. Abayomi Ayeola (*Ibeju-Lekki Federal Constituency of Lagos State*) who died on Sunday, 30th December, 2018. He urged the Senate to observe a minute silence and also suspend proceedings in his honour.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the Deceased and proceedings suspended.

6. Motion:

Withholding of Assent:

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

7. Committee on Diaspora and Non-Governmental Organizations:

Report on the Confirmation of the Nomination of Honourable Abike Dabiri- Erewa for Appointment as Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of Nigerian Diaspora Commission:

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. Conference Committee:

Report on the National Inland Waterways Act CAP N47 LFN (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2019 (SB. 240):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development:

Report on the National Fertilizer Quality (Control) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (SB. 338):

Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Adjournment:

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Thursday, 17th January, 2019 at 10:00 a.m (*Deputy Senate Whip*).

Adjourned accordingly at 11:12 p.m.

Abubakar Olubukola Saraki, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.