



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Wednesday, 10th July, 2019

1. **Prayers**
2. **Approval of the Votes and Proceedings**
3. **Oaths**
4. **Announcements (if any)**
5. **Petitions**

ORDERS OF THE DAY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

1. Confirmation of Nomination.

Senate Leader

-That the Senate do consider the Request of Mr. President C-n-C on the Confirmation of the Nomination of the following persons as Non-Executive Commissioners of the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) in accordance with Sections 8(1) of the Nigerian Communication Commission Act 2003.

S/N	NAME	STATE	REMARKS
1.	Aliyu Saidu Abubakar	Non- Executive Commissioner	North East
2.	Prof. Millionaire Abowei	Non- Executive Commissioner	South South
3.	Abdulazeez Mohammed Salman	Non- Executive Commissioner	North Central
4.	Engr. Uba A. S. Maska	Executive Commissioner	Re-Appointment

2. Confirmation of Nomination.

Senate Leader

-That the Senate do consider the request of the Mr. President C-n-C on the confirmation of the nomination of Prof. Habu S. Galadima for appointment as the Substantive Director General, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPPS) in accordance with Section 5(2) of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Act.

MOTIONS

1. Unfair Competition - Urgent Need to Protect Nigeria's Indigenous Airlines from Extinction due to Multiple Designations and Multiple Frequencies granted Foreign Airlines in Nigeria.

Sen. Ubah Ifeanyi (*Anambra South*)

Co - Sponsors:

Sen. Abdullahi, Yahaya Abubakar (*Kebbi North*)

Sen. Abaribe, Enyinnaya Harcourt (*Abia South*)

Sen. Abdullahi, Aliyu Sabi (Niger North)	Sen. Kalu, Orji Uzor (Abia North)
Sen. Barau, I. Jibrin (Kano North)	Sen. Nnamani, Chimaroke Ogbornia (Enugu East)
Sen. Degi-Eremienyo, W.Biobarakuma (Bayelsa East)	Sen. Oloriegbe, Yahaya Ibrahim (Kwara Central)
Sen. Yakubu, Oseni (Kogi Central)	Sen. Musa, Mohammed Sani (Niger East)
Sen. Jika, Dauda Halliru (Bauchi Central)	Sen. Mandiya, Bello (Katsina South)
Sen. Bamidele, Micheal Opeyemi (Ekiti Central)	Sen. Utazi, Chukwuka Godfrey (Enugu North)
Sen. Na'allah, Bala Ibn (Kebbi South)	Sen. Adamu, Muhammad Aliero (Kebbi Central)
Sen. Tinubu, Oluremi Shade (Lagos Central)	Sen. Ogba, Joseph Obinna (Ebonyi Central)
Sen. Dahiru, Aishatu Ahmed (Adamawa Central)	Sen. Orji, Theodore Ahamefule (Abia Central)

The Senate:

Notes that foreign airlines are now designated to multiple routes within Nigeria. For example, Ethiopia Airlines operates in five cities namely; Enugu, Kano, Kaduna, Abuja and Lagos; Turkish Airlines operates in four cities: Abuja, Kano, Lagos and Port Harcourt and Emirates Airlines operates two frequencies daily into Lagos and one to Abuja;

Worried about the fate of the indigenous airlines with the spate of multiple designations given to the foreign airlines;

Notes further that besides multiple designations, foreign airlines are now being encouraged to do multiple frequencies into the country and within the country, which is not allowed in other countries. For instance, Turkish Airlines has just started Istanbul to Abuja, Abuja to Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt to Abuja, then Abuja to Istanbul. Lufthansa and Air France are also doing same, thereby running indigenous airlines out of business;

Concerned that while Emirates has two frequencies into Lagos and one to Abuja, it has announced plans to introduce a third flight in and out of Lagos to start very soon making it three flights daily to Lagos;

Notes gladly that Air Peace being Nigeria, Central Africa and West Africa's biggest Airline commenced international flight operations into Sharjah and Dubai on the 5th of July, 2019, an initiative that can be stifled with the unfair advantage given to foreign airlines;

Cognizant of the fact that other Nigerian Airlines such as ARIK, Virgin Nigeria, Medview and others, have in the past ran out of international routes by this trend of unfair advantages allowed foreign airlines in Nigeria;

Aware equally that our indigenous airlines have the capacity to cover all the domestic routes being operated now by these foreign airlines;

Further aware that the practice in international aviation is for foreign airlines to partner with local airlines to help them distribute their passengers within the domestic routes;

Notes that the unrestrained grant of designations and multiple frequencies to foreign airlines is not only hurting the growth of our indigenous carriers but also a monumental disservice to the economy of Nigeria in several ways. Besides threatening the continuous existence of our indigenous carriers, the Capital Flight out of Nigeria engendered by this unwholesome practice is monumental and harmful to our economy;

Notes equally that Nigerian jobs are seriously at risk as a result of this dire situation since it is the indigenous airlines that provide massive job opportunities for our people; the number of jobs created by all the foreign airlines put together is not up to what Air Peace alone created in its first one year of existence. That airline alone has over 3,000 employees and has also created over 8000 ancillary jobs;

Disturbed that this unwholesome practice is not only threatening the survival and growth of Nigeria's aviation industry but, to a large extent, harming the economy of the nation; and

Afraid that if this practice is not checked immediately, it would ultimately lead to the collapse of Nigeria's indigenous Airlines;

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Summon* the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, the Director General of Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and Managing Director of FAAN to explain to the Senate why foreign airlines are allowed to fly multiple routes within Nigeria to mop up passengers; a practice not allowed in other countries;
- ii. *Mandate* Foreign Airlines to provide statistics of Nigerians in their employment, encourage them to employ more Nigerians and to partner with indigenous Airlines;
- iii. *Urge* the Federal Government to give the indigenous Airlines the necessary support and protection to keep them afloat; and
- iv. *Invite* the indigenous airline operators to explain to the Senate the challenges they are facing in the aviation industry in Nigeria as well as to point the way forward.

2. **Ijegan Pipeline Explosion: Urgent Need to Prevent Pipeline Vandalisation and Explosion Resulting in Deaths and Massive Destruction of Properties.**

Sen. Adeola Solomon Olamilekan (Lagos West)

Co - Sponsors:

Sen. Osinowo, Sikiru Adebayo (Lagos East)	Sen. Tinubu, Oluremi Shade (Lagos Central)
Sen. Adetunmbi, Olubunmi Ayodeji (Ekiti North)	Sen. Adeyeye, Clement Adedayo (Ekiti South)
Sen. Bamidele, Micheal Opeyemi (Ekiti Central)	Sen. Balogun, Kola Ademola (Oyo South)
Sen. Basiru, Surajudeen Ajibola (Osun Central)	Sen. Bassey, Gershom Henry (Cross River South)
Sen. Barau, I. Jibrin (Kano North)	Sen. Bima, Muhammad Enagi (Niger South)
Sen. Barkiya, Abdullahi Kabir (Katsina Central)	Sen. Bomai, Ibrahim Mohammed (Yobe South)
Sen. Boroffice, Robert Ajayi (Ondo North)	Sen. Buhari, Abdulfatai (Oyo North)
Sen. Bulkachuwa, Adamu Muhammad (Bauchi North)	Sen. Dahiru, Aishatu Ahmed (Adamawa Central)
Sen. Degi-Eremienyo, W. Biobarakuma (Bayelsa East)	Sen. Kwari, Suleiman Abdu (Kaduna North)
Sen. Kyari, Abubakar Shaib (Borno North)	Sen. Lawali, Hassan Anka (Zamfara West)
Sen. Longjan, Ignatius Datong (Plateau South)	Sen. Manager, James Ebiowou (Delta South)
Sen. Mandiya, Bello (Katsina South)	Sen. Melaye, Dino (Kogi West)
Sen. Mohammed, Sabo (Jigawa South-West)	Sen. Mpigi, Barinada, (Rivers South-East)
Sen. Musa, Mohammed Sani (Niger East)	Sen. Mustapha, Olalekan Ramoni (Ogun East)
Sen. Na'allah, Bala Ibn (Kebbi South)	Sen. Ndume, Mohammed Ali (Borno South)
Sen. Nnachi, Michael Ama (Ebonyi South)	Sen. Nnamani, Chimaroke Ogbonnia (Enugu East)
Sen. Nwaoboshi, Peter Onyeluka (Delta North)	Sen. Odebiyi, Tolulope Akinremi (Ogun West)
Sen. Oduah, Stella Adaeze (Anambra North)	Sen. Ogba, Joseph Obinna (Ebonyi Central)
Sen. Oko, Rose Okoji (Cross River North)	Sen. Oloriegbe, Yahaya Ibrahim (Kwara Central)
Sen. Omo-Agege, Ovie Augustine (Delta Central)	Sen. Onor, Sandy Ojang (Cross River Central)
Sen. Onyewuchi, Ezenwa Francis (Imo East)	Sen. Ordia, Akhimienmona Clifford (Edo Central)
Sen. Oriolowo, Adelere Adeyemi (Osun West)	Sen. Orji, Theodore Ahamefule (Abia Central)
Sen. Sani, Uba (Kaduna Central)	Sen. Sankara, D. Abdullahi (Jigawa North-West)
Sen. Sekibo, George Thompson (Rivers East)	Sen. Shehu, Tambuwal Abubakar (Sokoto South)
Sen. Shekarau, Ibrahim (Kano Central)	Sen. Shettima, Kashim (Borno Central)

The Senate:

Notes the disastrous pipeline explosion in Ijegan, Alimosho Local Government in the early hours of Thursday, July 4th, 2019;

Further notes that in the ensuing conflagration 12 persons were burnt to death, 40 persons sustained various degree of burns, 30 vehicle were burnt, two secondary schools namely Ijegun Junior and Senior Secondary School, 20 other buildings as well as goods worth millions of naira were all destroyed in the inferno;

Aware that the immediate cause of the pipeline explosion was the activities of oil thieves' vandalisation of pipelines for siphoning of petroleum products;

Worried that the pipeline explosion followed the pattern of similar explosion at Abule- Egba, Ajeromi- Ifelodun in Lagos State on Wednesday December 19, 2018 and elsewhere with similar huge losses;

Regrets that despite the reoccurrence of these explosions over the years from mostly the activities of vandals, no enduring solution has been found to prevent the ugly incidents; and

Further aware that in addition to official/general security for pipelines protection from vandalisation, the Nigeria National Petroleum Company, NNPC and Pipeline and Product Marketing Company, PPMC, in time past engaged local/ community vigilante to monitor and help secure the pipelines.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. Observe* a minute silence in honour of innocent Nigerians that lost their lives in the explosion;
- ii. Commiserate* with the People and Government of Lagos State for the disaster and loss of lives;
- iii. Urge* the National Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Ministry of Health to urgently come to the aid of families in distress at Ijegun and environs as well as attend to the medical needs of those that were hospitalized;
- iv. Direct* Nigeria National Petroleum Company, NNPC and Pipeline and Product Marketing Company, PPMC to improve its security architecture for its pipelines as well as reconsider the engagement communities and local vigilantes in such architecture;
- v. Urge* that the Ijegun Pipeline Explosion Be added to the investigative mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee set up by the Senate on Rivers State Explosion in view of their similarities and occurrence at almost the same period of time.

3. **Rampant Kidnapping and Killing of People in Some Villages of Sokoto East Senatorial District.**
Sen. Ibrahim Abdullahi Gobir (*Sokoto East*)

Co - Sponsors:

Sen. Wamakko, Aliyu Magatakarda (*Sokoto North*)

Sen. Shehu, Tambuwal A. (*Sokoto South*)

Sen. Alhaji, Ya'u Sahabi (*Zamfara North*)

The Senate:

Concerned with way and manner bandits/kidnappers are currently terrorizing Sokoto East senatorial district, having relocated to the area after being pushed out of Zamfara State. Isa and Rabah are bordering Zamfara State, it is therefore very easy to move into these areas without much difficulty;

Worried that the road from Gusau to Shinkafi through Kauran Namoda is actually a death trap because it is under constant attack of the bandits and kidnappers;

Observes that in Rabah Local Government Area in Gandi District in particular more than 125 people were killed and still people are leaving as IDPs in Gandi for fear of more attacks by the bandits. In Goronyo Local Government more than 25 people have been killed and some were also kidnapped by the bandits/kidnappers many of these people are still held by the bandits due to lack of funds to pay ransom for their release;

Worried that more than 50 people were killed and more than 30 were kidnapped for ransom in Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto State. Currently Gebe A and B Turba are under siege of the bandits. The people killed are from the areas of Yan fako, Katanga, Aikawa, Satiru, Gidan Rama, Babu dole and Gidan Sale. The most annoying thing about these attacks is that they are rampant and cyclical therefore effort must be made to stop this cyclic killings. Infact in one of the encounters three members of the armed forces helping the villages were shot and wounded and their Hilux Vehicle was also burnt to ashes;

Further concerned that many of these villages have relocated to either Goronyo or Isa towns to avoid the bandits and kidnappers. Infact in Sabon birni Local Government more than 40 villages have been affected which includes Doma, Magira, Dadin kowa, Asha banza, Katsallen kafe and Katsallen Tanko. Koshin Ruwa and Gamji. More than 55 people were killed from these villages and more than 30 have been kidnapped and are awaiting ransom to be paid for them to be released;

Alarmed that about 5000 people from these villages have crossed over to a neighboring village in the Republic of Niger called Basira. The influx of these our Nationals into this Small village is causing a lot of hardship to the people; and

Further worried that Burkusuma, Dankura, Gangara, Mallamawa and Gyangyadi are areas that people in these villages cannot move freely, infact economic activity in these areas is greatly affected by the activities of these bandits.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Observe* a minute silence in honour of those killed by the bandits;
- ii. *Urge* the Federal Government to send relief materials to these villages affected by this disaster and those people who fled to the Republic of Niger; and
- iii. *Urge* the Federal Government to send enough military personnel and fighter jets to apprehend the bandits and restore normalcy in these areas.

4. Urgent Need for Federal Government to take Drastic Actions to address the Act of Banditry and Kidnapping in Shiroro, Munya and Rafi Local Government Areas of Niger State.

Sen. Musa, Mohammed Sani (*Niger East*)

Co-Sponsors:

Sen. Adeola, Solomon O. (*Lagos West*)

Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central*)

Sen. Sani, Uba (*Kaduna Central*)

Sen. Bima, Mohammed Enagi (*Niger South*)

Sen. Mohammed, Hassan (*Zamfara Central*)

Sen. Ashiru, Oyelola (*Kwara South*)

Sen. Degi-Eremienyo, Biobarakuma (*Bayelsa West*)

Sen. Abdullahi, Aliyu Sabi (*Niger North*)

Sen. Mandiya, Bello (*Katsina South*)

Sen. Jika, Haliru Dauda (*Bauchi Central*)

Sen. Ubah, Ifeanyi Patrick (*Anambra South*)

Sen. Odebiyi, Tolu (*Ogun West*)

Sen. Hadejia, H. Ibrahim (*Jigawa North-East*)

Sen. Kyari, Abubakar Shaib (*Borno North*)

Notes that sometime in February this year bandits struck Communities around Kagara and Pandogari in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State where many members of the communities were killed, kidnapped and properties destroyed including farm produce, motorcycles and money carted away;

Further notes that Bandits recently struck on Saturday 6th July, 2019 and more than 18 people were killed. In the month of June precisely from the 6th through to Monday 10th June, 2019 these hoodlums attacked residents of Kwaki, Ajatayi, Gwassa, Barden Dawaki and Gyammamiya communities in Shiroro and Munya local Government Areas of Niger State killing over 37 innocent people, about 18 others unaccounted and leaving over 1,000 displaced, while over 500 were sheltered at Primary Schools turned temporary camps at Erena, Galadima-Kogo, Zubba, Kodobi and other communities;

Aware that the Federal Government had made frantic efforts in curbing the menace by setting up Operation Sharan Daji and Inter-Agency Task Force to tackle cases of banditry, cattle rustling and kidnapping in Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara and Niger States;

Further aware that the five state Governors who shared borders with Kamuku forest, which for long became the hub of armed bandits that terrorise Kaduna, Niger, Katsina, Kebbi and Zamfara states met with the Security Chiefs to find a common solution to the scourge of banditry, cattle rustling and kidnapping;

Cognizance that despite intense military and other security operations and surveillance in Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara States, these bandits have now turned Kamuku forest to a hidden place thereby taking advantage to attack communities in Shiroro, Rafi and Munya Local Government Areas of Niger State;

Worried that the continuous security challenges and related attacks by bandits on towns, villages and communities in Shiroro, Rafi and Munya Local Government Areas of Niger State have meted untold hardship on the people and has subjected the affected areas to serious survival threat; and

Further Worried that if this menace is not drastically addressed these communities, which are mostly farming communities, may desert their farms this season and this will negatively affect the food sufficiency and economic diversification policy of the Federal Government.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i.* Call on the Federal Government to establish a military base at Shiroro to restore confidence in the security and safety of the affected communities and to safeguard the national asset located within the area, such as the Shiroro Hydro-electric Power Dam);
- ii.* Urge the Federal Government to strengthen the operations of the Kamuku National Park with equipments and Forest Guard or Rangers who will together with the Air Force provide constant and effective patrol and aerial surveillance of the Kamuku Forest;
- iii.* Direct NEMA to provide relief materials and medical team to the victims immediately; and
- iv.* Urge the Senate to make such further order as it deems fit in the circumstance to facilitate the realization of the objective of this motion.

5. The increasing rate of Dropped Calls and other unwholesome practices by Telecommunication Network Operators in Nigeria that have robbed Nigerians of their hard earned Billions of naira.
Sen. Buhari, Abdulfatai (Oyo North)

Co-Sponsors:

Sen. Folarin, Teslim Kolawole (Oyo Central)
Sen. Egwu, Samuel Ominyi (Ebonyi North)
Sen. Yusuf, Abubakar Yusuf (Taraba Central)
Sen. Ordia, A. Clifford (Edo Central)

Sen. Tinubu, Oluremi Shade (Lagos Central)
Sen. Adeola, Solomon O. (Lagos West)
Sen. Wamakko, Aliyu M. (Sokoto North)
Sen. Abdullahi, Aliyu Sabi (Niger North)

Sen. Ogba, Joseph Obinna (Ebonyi Central)
 Sen. Gumau, Lawal Y (Bauchi South)
 Sen. Abaribe, Enyinnaya Harcourt (Abia South)
 Sen. Barau Jibrin (*Kano North*)
 Sen. Alimikhena, Francis Asekhome (Edo North)
 Sen. Shettima, Kashim (Borno Central)

Sen. Melaye, Dino (Kogi West) *Sen baba Kaita*
 Sen. Hadejia, Hassan Ibrahim (Jigawa North-East)
 Sen. Oduah, Stella Adaeze (Anambra North)
 Sen. Manager, James Ebiowou (Delta South)
 Sen. Utazi, Chukwuka Godfrey (Enugu North)

Notes that telecommunication services have gradually become an integral part of the Nigerian Economy, as well as an important tool in the social-economic life of Nigerians, over the last decade;

Observes that the Nigerian Mobile Telecommunication Subscribers have of late;

- a. Experienced a disturbing and yet increasing rate of dropped calls;
- b. Encountered incomprehensible speech and voice quality that sounds like speaking from the bottom of a fish tank;
- c. Do not have the power to control bundle usage, nor the choice to restrict browsing to the resources which they have allocated resulting in a sudden and unexplained expiry of data bundle and the network automatically switches to a pricier airtime option when surfing/ browsing the internet;
- d. Lost hard earned billions of Naira through network related call disconnections;

Worried that all the G.S.M operators in Nigeria have recently been experiencing terrible congestions on their networks, thus, denying subscribers the benefits of getting value for their resources and hampering their ability to make or receive calls successfully;

Observes that operators also have an unfair advantage with dropped calls from per-minute users as callers end up paying for an entire minute if a call drops in between, especially within the first few seconds;

Worried also, that subscriber's expectations that the quality of service delivery proffered by a G.S.M. Network Operator improves as the Network matures have been ruined;

Further observes that despite the warning issued by the Nigerian Communications Commission on the activities of telecom operators using the dropped call mechanism to defraud Nigerians by deducting money from phone users illegally, no serious sanction / penalty has been issued against any operator to date;

Concerned that though service providers have continue to expand their network coverage beyond what their existing infrastructure could carry, no adequate effort has been made to enhance the experience of their customers. A recent investigation shows that the four (4) major operators namely MTN, Airtel, Etisalat and Globacom could not provide the rate of drop calls on their networks; and appears not to see the reason to compensate their customers for disconnected calls or address their frustrations; and

Disturbed that operators in the telecommunication industry have not invested substantially on their network to improve the quality of service rendered. Clearly investment has not kept pace with the usage.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Strongly condemn* the inefficiency of GSM Network providers in Nigeria resulting in poor service delivering;
- ii. *Urge* the Nigerian Communication Commission to invoke the appropriate provisions of the Law and other extant agreements, to protect consumers where necessary and to refund them

henceforth for disrupted calls caused by network issues and allow them have more control over their usage of data bundles as it's done by telecom operators in countries like Kenya (Safaricom), South Africa, etc;

- iii.* Urge Nigerian Communications Commission; the Federal Competition Commission and Consumer Protection Council; the Standards Organization of Nigeria and other regulatory agencies to carry out an effective supervision of the Telecoms service providers to ensure regulatory excellence; operational efficiency and sterling service delivery;
- iv.* Direct Nigerian Communications Commission and other relevant agencies to carry out a thorough investigation of the causes of dropped calls in the GSM network and come up with innovations that will improve customer experiences; and
- v.* Direct its Committees on Communications and Trade when constituted to further look into the issues raised in this Motion.

6. Nigeria's Membership of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCTA).

Sen. Barau Jibrin (Kano North)

Co-Sponsors:

Sen. Abdullahi, Yahaya Abubakar (Kebbi North)	Sen. Adamu, M. Aliero (Kebbi Central)
Sen. Tofowomo, Nicholas Olubukola (Ondo South)	Sen. Yakubu, Oseni (Kogi Central)
Sen. Adeola, Solomon Olamilekan (Lagos West)	Sen. Ahmad, Babba Kaita (Katsina North)
Sen. Akpan, Albert Bassey (Akwa-Ibom North East)	Sen. Akwashiki, Godiya (Nasarawa North)
Sen. Alkali, Saidu Ahmed (Gombe North)	Sen. Al-Makura, U. Tanko (Nasarawa South)
Sen. Amos, Bulus Kilawangs (Gombe South)	Sen. Amosun, Ibikunle O. (Ogun Central)
Sen. Ashiru, Oyelola Yisa (Kwara South)	Sen. Bamidele, M. Opeyemi (Ekiti Central)
Sen. Bassey, Gershom Henry (Cross River South)	Sen. Barkiya, A. Kabir (Katsina Central)
Sen. Boroffice, Robert Ajayi (Ondo North)	Sen. Buhari, Abdulfatai (Oyo North)
Sen. Folarin, Teslim Kolawole (Oyo Central)	Sen. Gumau, Lawal Y (Bauchi South)
Sen. Isah, Jibrin (Kogi East)	Sen. Jika, Dauda Halliru (Bauchi Central)
Sen. Kalu, Orji Uzor (Abia North)	Sen. Kwari, Suleiman Abdu (Kaduna North)
Sen. Mandiya, Bello (Katsina South)	Sen. Musa Mohammed Sani (Niger East)
Sen. Omo-Agege, Ovie Augustine (Delta Central)	Sen. Sani, Uba (Kaduna Central)
Sen. Sankara, D. Abdullahi (Jigawa North-West)	Sen. Shekarau, Ibrahim (Kano Central)
Sen. Tinubu, Oluremi Shade (Lagos Central)	Sen. Ubah, Ifeanyi Patrick (Anambra South)
Sen. Wamakko, Aliyu Magatakarda (Sokoto North)	Sen. Mohammed, Sabo (Jigawa South-West)
Sen. Mustapha, Olalekan Ramoni (Ogun East)	Sen. Suswam, Gabriel T. (Benue North East)
Sen. Urhoghide, M. Aisagbonriodion (Edo South)	Sen. Abdullahi, Yahaya A. (Kebbi North)
Sen. Tofowomo, Nicholas Olubukola (Ondo South)	Sen. Yakubu, Oseni (Kogi Central)

The Senate:

Notes with delight that after the long expectation, Nigeria at the weekend signed the agreement to formally become a member of the African Continental Free Trade Area, (AFCTA);

Observes that the President, Muhammadu Buhari signed the agreement at the 12th Extraordinary Summit of the African Union holding in Niamey, Niger Republic, thus, ending the heightened expectations of Nigerians on the desirability or otherwise of the Country's membership of the continental body;

Delighted that the country's membership of the African Continental Free Trade Area came into existence in March, 2018 following the adoption of the phase 1 (one) of the agreement by Head of state and government at their 10th Extraordinary Summit in Kigali, Rwanda;

Recalls that Nigeria declined to sign the agreement in Kigali because of the agitations and apprehensions by the private sector in Nigeria. On the premise that membership of the African Free Trade Area would make Nigeria a dumping ground for goods and services from other African countries;

Further notes that the consent of Nigeria followed the recommendations of the Presidential committee set up to make wider consultations on the benefits or otherwise of Nigeria's membership; and

Concerned that not a great number of Nigerians understand the profound benefits of the Free Trade Area agreement in the light of the rather intricate interplay of economic theories and their applications as they affect the common man.

Accordingly resolves to:

- i. *Commend* President Muhammadu Buhari, for his strong political and economic will in accepting to sign the agreement in spite of earlier misgivings which have been put to rest by the Presidential Technical Committee on the matter;
- ii. Urge the federal government to enlighten the Nigeria business community to leverage on the immense benefits of the Agreement;
- iii. Urge the federal government to continue its current policy of improving our infrastructure such as electricity, roads, and other basic necessities in order to bring about reduction in the cost of production and thus make products produced in Nigeria globally competitive; and
- iv. Urge the Federal Government to be the main driving force for the success of Nigeria's membership by ensuring that policies and programmes are in large part consistent with the mission and vision of the Agreement.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1.	Pipeline Explosion (Ad-Hoc)	Wednesday, 10 th July, 2019	Immediately After Plenary	Meeting Room 430 Senate New Building
2.	Legislative Agenda (Ad-Hoc)	Wednesday, 10 th July, 2019	1.00pm	Meeting Room 224 Senate New Building
3.	Use of Avastin Injection (Ad-Hoc)	Thursday, 11 th July, 2019	8.00am	National Eye Centre Kaduna