



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 9th July, 2019

1. The Senate met at 10:12 a.m. The President of the Senate read prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 4th July, 2019.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Messages from Mr. President:**
The President of the Senate announced that he had received three (3) 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**

4th July, 2019

*Distinguished Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

In accordance with section 8(1) of the Nigerian Communications Commission Act, 2003, I write to forward the under listed names of nominees for confirmation by the Senate as Non-Executive Commissioners of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

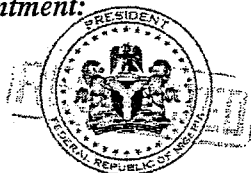
S/No	Name	Position	Geo-political Zone
1.	Aliyu Sa'idu Abubakar	Non-Executive Commissioner	North East

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 2. | Prof. Millionaire Abowei | Non-Executive
Commissioner | South South |
| 3. | Abdulazeez Mohammed Salman | Non-Executive
Commissioner | North Central |

While hoping that this request will receive the usual expeditious consideration by the Senate, please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

(b) **Confirmation of Appointment:**



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

4th July, 2019

Distinguished Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT

In accordance with section 8(1) of the Nigerian Communications Commission Act, 2003, I hereby present for confirmation by the Senate, Engr. Uba A. S. Maska for re-appointment as Executive Commissioner of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

While hoping that this request will receive the usual expeditious consideration by the Senate, Please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

(c) **Confirmation of Appointment:**



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

1st July, 2019

Distinguished Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF PROF. HABU
S. GALADIMA AS A SUBSTANTIVE DIRECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES (NIPPS)**

In accordance with the provision of Section 5(2) of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies Act, I write to forward, for confirmation by the Senate, the appointment of Professor Habu S. Galadima as the Substantive Director-General, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPPS). The nominee's Curriculum Vitae is attached herewith.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

4. **Announcements:**

(a) **South - South Caucus Meeting:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Ovie A. Omo-Agege (Delta Central) as follows:



Deputy President of the Senate

The President of the Senate

9th July, 2019

SOUTH-SOUTH CAUCUS MEETING

I write to invite all South-South Senators to a meeting scheduled as follows:

Date: Today, Tuesday, 9th July, 2019
Venue: DSP's Residence, No. 45 T.Y. Danjuma Street, Asokoro, FCT, Abuja
Time: 7:00 PM Prompt

Please note that this meeting is Bi-Partisan (Across Party Lines).

I will be obliged if you could create time out of your tight schedule to attend this meeting.

Thank you.

(Signed)

H.E. Senator Ovie Omo-Agege
Deputy President of the Senate
(The Obarisi of Urhoboland)

(b) **Special Invitation:**

The President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) as follows:



Senator Dino Melaye
Kogi West Senatorial District

7th July, 2019

H.E Senator Ahmad Lawan
President of the Senate
Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly
Abuja.

**NOTIFICATION AND SPECIAL INVITATION ON THE DEMISE OF
MY BELOVED MOTHER, DEACONESS COMFORT MELAYE (JP)**

It is with profound grief, but deep-seated gratitude to the most High God, that I write to formally notify and invite you and my Distinguished Colleagues of the burial rites of my beloved Mother Deaconess Comfort Melaye (JP).

Mama went to be with the Lord on Thursday, May 2, 2019, after a brief illness. She was a committed Christian who lived in the service of God. Mama was a career prayer warrior who perennially sought the face of Our Creator for community and family.

The Melaye Family in concert with the Church of God, has scheduled her final rites of passage as follows;

Date: Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13th, 2019
Venue: Aiyetoro-Gbede, Ijumu Local Government Area, Kogi State
Time: Friday 5:00 pm (wake keep)
Saturday: 10:00 am (Church funeral service)

While thanking you and my Distinguished Colleagues for your anticipated acknowledgement and presence, permit me to restate the assurances of my highest consideration and goodwill.

(Signed)

Sen. Dino Melaye

CC: All Distinguished Senators

(c) **Acknowledgment:**

The President of the Senate acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Students of Sheik Abubakar Gumi Academy Kaduna, Kaduna State who were at the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Solomon O. Adeola (*Lagos West*) drew the attention of the Senate to the pipeline explosion at Ijegan in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State, where several people lost their lives and others injured. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Rule 42(2)].

6. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Ibrahim A. Gobir (*Sokoto East*) drew the attention of the Senate to the persistent attack by armed bandits and kidnappers in Sokoto East Senatorial District, where indigenes were killed on many occasions. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Rule 42(2)].

7. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Rose O. Oko (*Cross River North*) drew the attention of the Senate on the Sexual Abuse in Nigeria: A Growing Scourge. She sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes the alarming and growing scourge of rape of vulnerable groups especially infants and women in our society. This dastardly and wicked act is perpetrated upon children as young as six months.

also notes that a report by the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF in 2015, revealed that most Nigerian children suffer violent abuses. The report's findings further indicate that for most, the abuse starts before their fifth birthday, and revealed that approximately six out of every 10 Nigerian children under the age of 18 years experience some form of physical, emotional and sexual violence. More specifically, 1 in 2 children experience physical violence, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 10 boys experience sexual violence, while 1 in 6 girls and 1 in 5 boys experience emotional violence. High level violence against children is also reported by the National Population Commission and UNICEF.

aware that since the emergence of these reports, incidents of sexual violations and other forms of violence on minors has continued to rise in all states of the federation; as evidenced by the increasingly worrisome reports of rape, defilement, sexual exploitation, child trafficking, and child labour.

alarmed that the perpetration of these acts is becoming more brazen, as evidenced by harrowing stories of school children being raped by their teachers or supervisors; or by family members. For instance the shocking rape of a six-month-old baby in Kano in 2017; the trial of a private school supervisor for raping a two-year-old; and the heart rending story of the thirteen year old Ochanya Ogbanje, who died of Vesicovaginal fistula (VVF) in October last year after she was repeatedly raped by her guardian and his son, the ongoing case at COZA Church;

worried that authorities have been accused of treating child molesters with levity. For instance, a representative from the Federation of International Women Lawyers (FIDA) lamented that the lackadaisical attitude of government agencies towards the fight against child sexual abuse is alarming, stating that in most States, prisoners (rapists inclusive) get released from prison because of overcrowding. They cited the case of five-year-old Hussaina whose 50-year-old rapist was released by the court for molesting a minor, three days after he molested her;

further worried that reports have emerged as to the lack of training of security agencies in Nigeria on how to deal with victims of sexual abuse. For instance the representative of FIDA also cited an example; Where an 11-year-old was asked callously at the Police Station if she did not enjoy it after all!;

regrets that despite the plethora of domestic legislations and international agreements aimed at protecting minors such as the Criminal Code Act, Penal Code Act, Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003, the Violence Against - Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015, the various State Criminal laws, and more importantly; the Child Rights Act, the menace of sexual abuse and other forms of violence on children continue to rise unabated;

disturbed that the Child Right's Act, 2003 has been adopted by only 26 States as state law; while the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015, which prohibits all forms of violence against persons and provides maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders has only been adopted by 3 States;

aware that State and non-state institutions have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation, the situation calls for tremendous political will and concerted efforts of all and sundry especially security agencies to take proactive measures and increase the consciousness of providing safe and very secure spaces for minors; and

commends recent strong reactions by the public, especially interest groups and NGOs against perpetrators of all forms of rape and violence.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) mandate its Committees on Justice, Police Affairs, Women and Social Development to interface with relevant stakeholders in order to strategize on enhancing robust enforcement and implementation of all legislations and policies aimed at protecting minors, from rapists;
- (ii) mandate the Committees listed in (1) above to review the relevant legislations with a view to providing stiffer penalties against sexual abuse on infants and minors especially;
- (iii) urge the Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies to conduct mandatory training for officers in dealing with cases and young victims of abuse;
- (iv) urge the Judiciary to establish a national sentencing framework for child sexual abuse cases and judicial officers to impose the heaviest penalties permitted by law on perpetrators of all forms of abuses against minors to serve as deterrent;
- (v) urge State Governments to domesticate and robustly implement the Child Rights Act and the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 in order to curb the monstrosity of sexual abuse of babies and minors; and
- (vi) urge the general public to continue to act as watch-dogs and the voice of the voiceless as a way to curb child sexual abuse and all forms of violent abuse.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do mandate its Committees on Justice, Police Affairs, Women and Social Development to interface with relevant stakeholders in order to strategize on enhancing robust enforcement and implementation of all legislations and policies aimed at protecting minors, from rapists

Amendment Proposed

Leave out the word "Justice" in line 1 and ***insert*** the word "Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters" instead thereof (*Senator Saidu A. Alkali — Gombe North*)

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

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committees listed in (1) above to review the relevant legislations with a view to providing stiffer penalties against sexual abuse on infants and minors especially — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies to conduct mandatory training for officers in dealing with cases and young victims of abuse — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the judiciary to establish a national sentencing framework for child sexual abuse cases and judicial officers to impose the heaviest penalties permitted by law on perpetrators of all forms of abuses against minors to serve as deterrent — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do urge State Governments to domesticate and robustly implement the Child Rights Act and the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 in order to curb the monstrosity of sexual abuse of babies and minors — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vi):

Question: That the Senate do urge the general public to continue to act as watch-dogs and the voice of the voiceless as a way to curb child sexual abuse and all forms of violent abuse — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) mandate its Committees on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters, Police Affairs, Women and Social Development to interface with relevant stakeholders in order to strategize on enhancing robust enforcement and implementation of all legislations and policies aimed at protecting minors, from rapists;
- (ii) mandate the Committees listed in (1) above to review the relevant legislations with a view to providing stiffer penalties against sexual abuse on infants and minors especially;
- (iii) urge the Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies to conduct mandatory training for officers in dealing with cases and young victims of abuse;
- (iv) urge the judiciary to establish a national sentencing framework for child sexual abuse cases and judicial officers to impose the heaviest penalties permitted by law on perpetrators of all forms of abuses against minors to serve as deterrent;
- (v) urge State Governments to domesticate and robustly implement the Child Rights Act and the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 in order to curb the monstrosity of sexual abuse of babies and minors; and
- (vi) urge the general public to continue to act as watch-dogs and the voice of the voiceless as a way to curb child sexual abuse and all forms of violent abuse (*S/Res/008/01/19*).

8. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Rule 42, Senator Mohammed S. Musa (*Niger East*) drew the attention of the Senate to the urgent need of the Federal Government to take drastic action against banditry in Kwaki, Ajatayi, Gwassa, Barden, Dawaki, Gyammamiya and others in Shiroro and Munya Local Government Areas of Niger State. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter.

Matter to stand over to the next Legislative Day [Rule 42(2)].

9. **Motions:**

(a) ***Rising Incidence of Suicides amongst Nigerians:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes with grave concern, the rising cases of suicide, particularly among young Nigerians, in recent times, and that significant number of people with suicidal intentions keep their thoughts and feelings as a secret and show no sign that anything is wrong if they don't have anyone to confide in;

further notes that suicidal idea can occur when someone feels depressed or stressed without assistance or advice from close friends, religious institutions, the government or any relevant institution thereby giving them room to feel that they are no longer important in the society and when they are not able to cope with the overwhelming situation of life which could be financial problems, death of loved ones, broken relationship which is very popular amongst the youths in Nigeria or serious illness; they choose suicide as an option;

worried therefore that in 2019 so far, five (5) countries have topped the highest suicide numbers globally; namely, Lithuania, 31.9 incidents per 100,000 persons, Russia, 31 deaths per 100,000, Guyana, 29.2 per 100,000, South Korea, 26.9 per 100,000 and Belarus, 26.7 per 100,000 persons;

observes that suicide could be prevented particularly when family, friends and close relatives of the person contemplating suicide provide support, either by way of encouragement, listening to them and keeping them safe by staying around them, removing means of committing suicide such as knives, ropes, dangerous drugs and chemicals especially sniper;

regrets that many people commit suicide out of ignorance and situations that could be addressed; and the people in the position to help, encourage or assist ignore to do so thereby leaving them to commit suicide at will. On the 14th May, 2019, Michael Arowosaiye ended his life by suicide at Sunnyside Estate, Lokogoma District, Abuja. It was gathered that the deceased was depressed over certain personal issues. Aisha Omolola, a 300 level student of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria took her life in her hostel after complaining of depression. In October, 2018 a Professor in Biological Sciences Department of the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State, killed himself after he had purportedly battled marital issues for a while. Tolulope Abodurin, who worked in a bank, took his life on 21st November, 2018 after he admitted on twitter to have been plagued by thoughts of suicide for two years due to depression. Samuel Elias, 25, a final year student of Department of Religion and Culture, University of Nigeria, Nsukka allegedly took his life by drinking sniper insecticide. It was gathered that he was depressed over his inability to graduate from the University;

worried that the number of Nigerians taking their lives has assumed a frightening dimension of late; and the government, Religious Institutions and other relevant corporate bodies have not addressed the ugly situation in the country, and the situation may continue if not properly addressed; and

acknowledges that creating adequate awareness on how to control stress and depression by the government, religious institutions and other relevant corporate bodies and the establishment of trauma centres across the Federation will go a long way in reducing the rate of suicide in the country.

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- (i) "That the Senate do urge the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to create special Agricultural settlements and other infrastructures across the States of the Federation, where depressed and poverty-stricken members of the society can register as farm workers as their last hope of economic survival instead of suicides as their last option" (*Senator Patrick A. Akinyelure — Ondo Central*).

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

- (ii) "That the Senate do recognize that suicide could be a manifestation of mental illness and therefore, family, relations, and friends of individuals with suicidal ideation should seek urgent help in relevant institutions" (*Senator Chimaroke O. Nnamani — Enugu East*).

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

- (iii) "That the Senate do urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Education, to ensure that all our schools especially in the primary and secondary have mandatory counselling departments" (*Senator Oluremi S. Tinubu — Lagos Central*).

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

- (iv) "That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Health when constituted to develop appropriate mental health law that will address issues of suicides and the mental health issues in Nigeria" (*Senator Yahaya I. Oloriegbe — Kwara Central*).

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

- (v) "That the Senate do mandate the Committees on Health; and Education when constituted to liaise with relevant Government Agencies to look at the causes of mental illness and suicide in our society" (*Senator Teslim K. Folarin — Oyo Central*).

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

- (vi) "That the Senate do urge the Federal Government and indeed Governments at all levels to embark on massive training of health professionals through the award of scholarships in order to drastically reduce the present abysmal ratio of one psychiatric to 240,000 citizens" (*Senator Adedayo Adeyeye — Ekiti South*).

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 Information and National Orientation Agency; and the Federal Ministry of Health to urgently create awareness on how to control stress and depression and establish trauma centres across the Federation;

- (ii) urge the Federal Government to ban the production, importation or circulation of snipers insecticide, a product currently used to commit suicide;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government through the National Universities Commission (NUC) to review the school curriculum and come up with compulsory courses that will enable students place value on their lives and detest suicide;
- (iv) urge religious bodies across the Federation to always preach love, peace and how to relieve stress and depression amongst members;
- (v) urge the Executive arm on the need to expand the scope and content of the Special Intervention Programme of government, and to leverage on extant schemes like the N-Power in creating economic opportunities for the vulnerable sections of the population;
- (vi) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to create special Agricultural settlements and other infrastructures across the States of the Federation, where depressed and poverty-stricken members of the society can register as farm workers as their last hope of economic survival instead of suicides as their last option;
- (vii) recognize that suicide could be a manifestation of mental illness and therefore, family, relations, and friends of individuals with suicidal ideation should seek urgent help in relevant institutions;
- (viii) urge the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Education to ensure that all our schools especially in the primary and secondary have mandatory counselling departments;
- (ix) mandate the Committee on Health when constituted to develop appropriate mental health law that will address issues of suicides and the mental health issues in Nigeria;
- (x) mandate the Committees on Health; and Education when constituted to liaise with relevant Government Agencies to look at the causes of mental illness and suicide in our society; and
- (xi) urge the Federal Government and indeed Governments at all levels to embark on massive training of health professionals through the award of scholarships in order to drastically reduce the present abysmal ratio of one psychiatric to 240,000 citizens (S/Res/009/01/19).

(b) ***The Death of Nine (9) Nigeria Migrants in Libya:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes with grief the killing of nine (9) Nigerian citizens in a double air strike on a detention center outside Tripoli, the capital of Libya;

notes also the deaths from the attack which was carried out on the hapless civilians late Tuesday, has been reviewed to 53 from 44 while more bodies are still being pulled out of the rubble, indicating that the body count has not stopped;

aware that the United Nations has said the attack in Tripoli on Tuesday night could constitute a war crime, while Libya's internationally recognised government and its arch-foe strongman Khalifa Haftar trade blame for the assault;

aware that wrecked by chaos since the 2011 uprising against dictator Mommar Gaddafi, Libya has become a major conduit for migrants seeking to reach Europe and remains prey to numerous militias vying for control of the country's oil wealth;

concerned that BBC reports that the first missile landed in a garage beside the camp, while a second struck a hanger occupied by at list 120 European dream seekers;

saddened that there are reports that following the first impact, some refugees and migrants were fired upon by guards as they tried to escape which resulted in the death of 9 Nigerian citizens;

aware that the strike marks the second time that the Tajore detention center, which houses around 600 migrants, has been hit during the ongoing conflict;

aware that smugglers try to get migrants who are mainly from Nigeria and other Sub-Saharan African countries, to Europe in crammed rubber boats, Libyan coast guards funded by the European Union, intercept these dingy inflatable contraptions and return them to detention camps. With funding from the EU bloc, Libyans found a new venture in setting up deportation camps;

notes that detention is not the answer to the protection of people on the move, alternative and sustainable solutions must be developed to protect this vulnerable people;

concerned that migrants face horrifying abuses in Libya, and their plight has worsened since the assault on the capital started; and

concerned that the air strike on a migrants detention centre in Libya killing nine Nigerians has sparked international outrage.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honor of the victims;
- (ii) condemn the air strike in its entirety;
- (iii) urge the United Nations to investigate and to find out the perpetrators of this dastardly act with a view to bringing them to justice;
- (iv) urge the Libyan government to immediately release the refugees and migrants from detention centres and for relocation to safe shelter;
- (v) commend the Federal Government for its effort on the repatriation of Nigerian migrants from Libya; and
- (vi) urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue the repatriation of the remaining Nigerian citizens in Libyan detention camps (*Senator Barau I. Jibrin — Kano North*).

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honor of the victims — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do condemn the air strike in its entirety — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the United Nations to investigate and to find out the perpetrators of this dastardly act with a view to bringing them to justice — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Libyan government to immediately release the refugees and migrants from detention centres and for relocation to safe shelter — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do commend the Federal Government for its effort on the repatriation of Nigerian migrants from Libya — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (vi):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue the repatriation of the remaining Nigerian citizens in Libyan detention camps — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honor of the victims;
- (ii) condemn the air strike in its entirety;
- (iii) urge the United Nations to investigate and to find out the perpetrators of this dastardly act with a view to bringing them to justice;
- (iv) urge the Libyan government to immediately release the refugees and migrants from detention centres and for relocation to safe shelter;
- (v) commend the Federal Government for its effort on the repatriation of Nigerian migrants from Libya; and
- (vi) urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue the repatriation of the remaining Nigerian citizens in Libyan detention camps (S/Res/010/01/19).

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the victims.

(c) ***Disturbing Dimension of Cyber Attacks and Criminality-Urgent Need to Restrategise Approaches:***

Motion made: That the Senate notes that the positive posture of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) revolution is being dampened by malicious activities of criminal elements in our society which invade the cyberspace thereby presenting risks to businesses, national economies and security, such as identity theft, electronic fraud, data damage or alteration, espionage, etc;

aware that cyber-attacks are always evolving, last year it was WannaCry and Petya and this year it is exploits of Meltdown and Spectre, AV-TEST Institute identified an average of 12 million new malware each month for the last 12 months which infects computer operating systems and networks, encrypt files and ask for ransom, and Cybersecurity Ventures estimates that ransomware attacks a business every 14 seconds and will cause global damage of \$11.5 billion by the end of 2019:

worried that cyber-attacks are taking a dangerous dimension all over the world for instance just last year, Cathay Pacific Airline was hacked and about 9.4 million customers had their most personal data stolen, the breach included passport details and credit card numbers, the company found the hack during a review of its IT security processes, while it was doing so, it found that someone had broken into an information system including passenger data of the 9.4 million people, the data was passenger's names, nationality, date of birth, phone number, email, physical address, passport number, credit card details, identity card number and information on how and when they have travelled;

further worried that this year alone, Amnesty International's Hong Kong office announced it had been the victim of an attack by Chinese hackers who accessed the personal information of the office's supporters; Iranian hackers reportedly undertook a hacking campaign against banks, local government networks, and other public agencies in the UK; Pharmaceutical Company Bayer announced it had prevented an attack by Chinese hackers targeting sensitive intellectual property; An Iranian cyber espionage group targeted government and industry digital infrastructure in Saudi Arabia and the US and targeted thousands of people at more than 200 oil-and-gas and heavy machinery companies across the world, stealing corporate secrets and wiping data from computers; European Aerospace Company Airbus reveals it was targeted by Chinese hackers who stole the personal and IT identification information of some of its European employees;

alarmed about revelations from studies that over 70% of hacking attempts so far, i.e about 3,500 cyber-attacks on the Nigeria ICT space, have been successful resulting in loss of over \$450 million and that government servers are currently under serious threat;

further alarmed about Oversight findings of the Committee on ICT and Cybercrime which revealed that ICT shortfall in the country is enormous, that Nigeria cyber space is porous and that the system lacks a well structured and effective approach to cyber control;

concerned that in view of voluntary and involuntary insider compromise, together with poor information technology standards in the country, Nigeria's security and financial system could be headed as easy prey to the heightened threatening ramification of e-crime; and

further concerned that there is an urgent need to upscale Nigeria's consciousness towards protection of the country's cyberspace.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to continue to engage relevant stakeholders with a view to stimulating a collective reflection among them and articulating a national and broad based approach to keeping the country ahead of the cyber challenge; and
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency establish a Cyber-security Agency to take appropriate care of Nigeria cyberspace (*Senator Buhari Abdulfatai — Oyo North*).

Extension of Time:

Motion made: That the Senate do sit this day beyond the time appointed for the termination of the Sitting of the Senate (Rule 13) (*Senate Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to continue to engage relevant stakeholders with a view to stimulating a collective reflection among them and articulating a national and broad based approach to keeping the country ahead of the cyber challenge — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency establish a Cyber-security Agency to take appropriate care of Nigeria cyberspace — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to continue to engage relevant stakeholders with a view to stimulating a collective reflection among them and articulating a national and broad based approach to keeping the country ahead of the cyber challenge; and
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency establish a Cyber-security Agency to take appropriate care of Nigeria cyberspace (S/Res/011/01/19).

- (d) ***Urgent Need to look into the Incessant Loss of Commuter Lives on our Water Way:***
Motion made: That the Senate notes that water transportation is a means of transportation that Nigeria needs to harness as a country, because of its huge potentials, with 8,600 km of inland waterways and extensive coastland of about 852 kilometers;

aware that Nigeria boasts of the second longest waterways in Africa - with River Niger and River Benue running into each other;

observes that water transportation has been shown to be cheaper than the other means of transportation. Therefore, as a nation, we need to focus on this huge potential;

worried that despite its huge potentials, water transportation is still far behind road transportation, with an average share of about 1.6 per cent of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

observes that while we are talking of congestion of our roads, the coastal waterway stretching from Badagry through Warri to Calabar remain highly underutilized. The heavy traffic can be moved through these coastal waterways; and agricultural products can be transported to urban areas through the waterways thereby reducing traffic congestion on our roads;

aware that Statistics from the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) shows 22 out of 36 States in Nigeria use waterways as a means of transportation. This proves that water transportation is very strategic to the economy of the nation if properly harnessed - especially now that road transportation has become extremely costly and burdensome;

disturbed that boat mishaps have become more rampant in the country than ever before. This is happening at a time when more Nigerians are patronizing waterways. Boat mishaps in the country have been linked to several factors some of which are human errors – such as overloading, careless sailing and negligence. While there are natural causes due to turbulent weather. Data from Nigeria Watch shows that 1607 lives were lost in 180 boat accidents between June 2006 and May, 2015. From 2016 to date we have had the following reported cases of accident on our waterways:

- In 2017 in Kebbi State, a boat carrying 150 passengers returning from Malali Market capsized along River Niger, 53 persons, who were mostly traders, lost their lives;
- In July 2018, a vessel carrying about 30 traders and their wares capsized in a river at Isa District of Sokoto State, killing 21 traders;
- In December 2018, a boat conveying 21 persons mostly children suddenly capsized killing no fewer than 19 children in Lafiagi Edu Local Government Area of Kwara State;
- The latest was at Egbin, Ikorodu in Lagos State on Sunday 30th of June, 2019 where a boat carrying about 21 passengers capsized, killing at least 15 persons;

concerned that the alarming increase in accidents on the waterways constitute a major threat to the growth and development of water transportation in Nigeria, which the nation can ill afford; and

observes that our Inland Waterways Authority and other relevant agencies that are saddled with the responsibility of securing lives and properties on our waterways need to be more alive to their responsibilities. They need to do more to ensure greater security and safety on our waterways.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to give greater priority to water transportation in Nigeria and make it more competitive and safer;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to embark on policy reforms and restructuring with a view to improving the regulatory and enforcement capacity of the National Inland Waterways Authority;
- (iii) urge the National Inland Waterways Authority to embark on major enlightenment campaigns for boat operators and all those involved in water transportation business on the need to pay attention to weather reports in order to know when it's safe to sail;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Marine Transport when constituted to look into the activities of National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) with a view to strengthening its operations and providing improved legal framework (if necessary) in order to make it more responsive to the dynamics and exigencies of marine transportation; and
- (v) urge the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) to adopt International Best Practices by ensuring that the most up to date Vessel Tracking System are installed in all the inland waterways; and also provide communication and

navigational aids along the various routes of our inland waterways (*Senator Adedayo Adeyeye — Ekiti South*)

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to give greater priority to water transportation in Nigeria and make it more competitive and safer — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to embark on policy reforms and restructuring with a view to improving the regulatory and enforcement capacity of the National Inland Waterways Authority — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):

Question: That the Senate do urge the National Inland Waterways Authority to embark on major enlightenment campaigns for boat operators and all those involved in water transportation business on the need to pay attention to weather reports in order to know when it's safe to sail — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):

Question: That the Senate do mandate the Committee on Marine Transport when constituted to look into the activities of National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) with a view to strengthening its operations and providing improved legal framework (if necessary) in order to make it more responsive to the dynamics and exigencies of marine transportation — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):

Question: That the Senate do urge National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) to adopt International Best Practices by ensuring that the most up to date Vessel Tracking System are installed in all the inland waterways; and also provide communication and navigational aids along the various routes of our inland waterways — *Agreed to.*

Additional Proposed Resolutions:

Insert Additional Proposed Resolutions as follows:

- (i) "That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to fund National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) to carry out its functions by dredging all our waterways" (*Senator Sikiru A. Osinowo — Lagos East*).

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

- (ii) "That the Senate do urge the Nigerian Police to activate its Marine Police Department to provide additional checks on safety of boats and reduce piracy and safety of commuters" (*Senator Lawrence O. Ewhrudjakpo — Bayelsa West*).

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

Resolved:

That the Senate do:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to give greater priority to water transportation in Nigeria and make it more competitive and safer;

- (ii) urge the Federal Government to embark on policy reforms and restructuring with a view to improving the regulatory and enforcement capacity of the National Inland Waterways Authority;
- (iii) urge the National Inland Waterways Authority to embark on major enlightenment campaigns for boat operators and all those involved in water transportation business on the need to pay attention to weather reports in order to know when it's safe to sail;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Marine Transport when constituted to look into the activities of National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) with a view to strengthening its operations and providing improved legal framework (if necessary) in order to make it more responsive to the dynamics and exigencies of marine transportation;
- (v) urge the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) to adopt International Best Practices by ensuring that the most up to date Vessel Tracking System are installed in all the inland waterways; and also provide communication and navigational aids along the various routes of our inland waterways;
- (vi) urge the Federal Government to fund National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) to carry out its functions by dredging all our waterways; and
- (vii) urge the Nigerian Police to activate its Marine Police Department to provide additional checks on safety of boats and reduce piracy and safety of commuters (S/Res/012/01/19).

10. Adjournment:

And it being 2.37 p.m. the President of the Senate adjourned the Senate till Wednesday, 10th July, 2019 at 10.00 a.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 2:37 p.m.

Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.