

Reps demand full disclosure on CBN, NNPC, others' unremitted operating surplus Query OAGF over deductions from MDAs

The House of Representatives Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has directed the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (OAGF) to provide a comprehensive breakdown of outstanding funds owed to the federal government through unremitted Operating Surplus and other revenues by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), and other government agencies. The committee also requested explanations over the alleged withdrawal of N15 billion from the account of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), alongside similar deductions from the accounts of other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) by the OAGF. The directives were issued on during an investigative hearing of the committee, where the Accountant General of the Federation (AGF), Mr. Shamsudeen Babatunde Ogunjimi, appeared before lawmakers.

Raising the issue, a member of the committee, Hon. Gboyega Nasir Isiaka, described the persistent non-remittance of revenues by government agencies as a major challenge to Nigeria's fiscal sustainability. According to him, Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) remains among the lowest on the continent at about 16 per cent,

stressing that while government-owned business entities are expected to remit about 80 per cent of their operating surplus, with others required to remit between 20 and 50 per cent, there still appears to be a significant backlog in remittances. Isiaka asked the OAGF to provide details of the outstanding remittances and questioned whether the performance of major revenue-generating agencies such as the CBN, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), among others, reflected the scale of assets under their control. He argued that beyond applying statutory remittance percentages, it was necessary to scrutinize the actual operating surplus declared by these agencies and identify revenues yet to be paid into government coffers. Responding, the Director of Revenue and Investment at the OAGF, Mr. Makinde Mogaji, disclosed the CBN allegedly owed the federal government about N5.3 trillion in unremitted operating surplus. Mogaji explained that despite repeated efforts by the Public Accounts Committee to recover the funds, the apex bank had allegedly failed to comply with the requirement to remit 70 per cent of its operating surplus. He described the CBN as one of the government's largest potential revenue sources, while noting that agencies such as the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) had remitted about N473 billion. Addressing concerns over the automatic deduction of revenues from MDAs, which in some cases reportedly resulted in reversals due to alleged over-remittances, the Accountant General said the policy was introduced as an innovative mechanism to collect government revenue in advance. According to Ogunjimi, the initiative significantly boosted government revenue in the previous year but later encountered resistance from several agencies, many of which sought presidential intervention to reverse or reduce the deductions. He explained that while some deductions were completely cancelled and others reduced, the development affected the volume of revenue realized through the initiative. The AGF further disclosed that the NNPC had also failed to fully cooperate with the process, adding that the company was at one point asked to leave discussions due to its non-compliance. He however noted that although the NNPC had



accepted liability on some issues, it disputed others, all of which are currently being reviewed by a post-mortem committee. Providing further clarification, Mogaji stated the automatic deduction mechanism introduced last year had been functioning effectively. He explained it was designed to deduct operating surplus in advance, after which agencies' financial records would be reconciled at the end of the year to determine whether they had been over-deducted or still owed government. He added that while preliminary figures were available, they could not yet be regarded as final. Chairman of the committee, Hon. Bamidele Salam, said the panel had received several complaints from UBEC and other MDAs alleging that funds meant for their statutory responsibilities were deducted by the OAGF and diverted for unrelated government expenditures. Salam revealed that during an ongoing investigation, UBEC informed the committee that funds approved for its November 2025 expenditure had not been released by the Accountant General. He said the commission specifically alleged that N16 billion was withheld while another N15 billion was withdrawn from its account without refund.

He added that similar complaints had also been received from the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni), which reportedly alleged deductions exceeding N70 billion, alongside several other government agencies. In response, the Accountant General admitted that the OAGF had, on several occasions, temporarily drawn funds from the accounts of some agencies to meet urgent financial obligations of government. He described the practice as borrowing rather than outright withdrawal, insisting the funds were always refunded. Ogunjimi stressed that such decisions were not taken unilaterally, explaining that they followed directives from the

Minister of Finance and were based on an assessment of how long the affected funds had remained unused. According to him, where agency funds had remained dormant for several months while government urgently required financing, the OAGF would temporarily utilize the funds before refunding them when needed. He cited the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) as an example, stating that over N300 billion had been borrowed from the agency and subsequently refunded in full. However, Salam questioned the justification for the deductions, insisting that many of the affected agencies continued to complain that their funds had not been returned, thereby undermining their ability to perform their statutory responsibilities. The committee chairman noted that UBEC, NASeni, the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), and several other agencies currently under investigation had all raised similar concerns, alleging that the Accountant General routinely accessed their accounts, leaving them without the resources required to execute their primary mandates. He specifically warned that the diversion of UBEC funds had far-reaching implications for the country's education sector, particularly in northern Nigeria, where about 13.5 million children remain out of school. Salam stressed that UBEC's statutory responsibility includes constructing schools, providing educational infrastructure and supplying instructional materials, adding that such obligations could not be effectively discharged if funds earmarked for those purposes were diverted to other government expenditures.

Akpabio, Abbas defend decision to prioritise Tinubu's State Police Bill

The Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, yesterday, defended the National Assembly's decision to prioritize President Bola Tinubu's Executive State Police Bill, insisting that the proposal is not being rushed and will undergo public scrutiny before passage. The two presiding officers spoke during the National Assembly's Open Week in Abuja amid growing debate over the House of Representatives' decision to withdraw its own State Police Bill and consider the Executive version transmitted by Tinubu. Akpabio said that contrary to public perception, work on the state police proposal did not begin with the President's intervention, noting that the National Assembly had spent more than two and a half years consulting Nigerians and processing constitutional amendments on the issue. The Senate President's remarks came amid criticisms from some quarters that lawmakers were moving too quickly to consider the President's proposal after years of work on the National Assembly's version of the bill. Abbas described Tinubu's executive proposal as more comprehensive than the version earlier passed by the House of Representatives. Speaker also responded to concerns raised by some lawmakers and members of the public over the inability to access the draft bill, saying: "To the thoughtful citizens and to members who have observed that they are yet to see the draft bills and who fear that this matter is being settled beyond public view, I offer this reassurance: nothing here is concealed." Abbas, therefore, assured that the proposed legislation would

include safeguards to prevent the abuse of state police by political office holders. Meanwhile, the Conference of Speakers of State Houses of Assembly has thrown its weight behind Tinubu and the National Assembly over the ongoing constitutional amendment process on state policing and devolution of powers. Chairman of the Conference and Speaker of Delta State House of Assembly, Emomotimi Dennis Guwor, who spoke during the opening ceremony of the 2026 National Assembly Open Week in Abuja, described the reforms as a historic opportunity to strengthen the federation, improve governance and address the nation's security challenges. Guwor maintained that a secure Nigeria requires not only strong institutions but also strong partnerships founded on trust, collaboration and active citizens' participation. He noted that insecurity remains the greatest challenge confronting the nation, stressing that lasting solutions require stronger collaboration among governments, legislatures, security agencies, traditional institutions, civil society organisations and local communities. According to him, the constitutional reforms, if adopted and faithfully implemented, have the potential to strengthen Nigeria's security architecture, improve intergovernmental coordination, bring governance closer to the people, and reinforce the principles of true federalism. Guwor stated that the Conference stands ready to continue working closely with the National Assembly, the Presidency and all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the reforms ultimately serve the best interests of Nigerians.

Senate approves ₦50m support for families of heroes killed in Oyo school rescue operation

The Senate has approved a ₦50 million donation to the families of five individuals who lost their lives during the operation that rescued abducted pupils and teachers from schools in Oriire Local Government Area of Oyo State. The resolution, adopted during plenary, provides ₦10 million to each of the five bereaved families in recognition of the ultimate sacrifice made by the victims during the rescue mission. Announcing the donation, Senate President Godswill Akpabio said the financial assistance was intended to provide relief to the affected families, particularly the children and dependents left behind by those who died in the line of duty. The intervention came after the Senate unanimously adopted a motion commending President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security agencies for the successful rescue of the abducted pupils and teachers, who

regained their freedom after spending 56 days in captivity. Lawmakers also paid glowing tributes to the three soldiers who died during the daring operation—Lieutenant F.A. Isaac, Private Silas Musa and Sergeant Abena John Jerome—as well as two teachers who also lost their lives. In addition, the Senate called on the appropriate authorities to ensure comprehensive medical treatment, rehabilitation and welfare support for Lance Corporal Adamu Hussain, who sustained severe injuries while shielding the rescued children from gunfire during the operation. The upper legislative chamber reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening national security efforts, enhancing the protection of schools across the country and improving the welfare and operational support available to members of the nation's security agencies.

Senate demand massive Security deployment to Benue as Abba Morro raises alarm over Otukpo killings

The Senate has called for the immediate deployment of heavy security personnel to troubled communities in Benue South following renewed attacks by suspected armed bandits that claimed at least 20 lives in Otukpo Local Government Area. The resolution followed a motion moved by the Senate Minority Leader and Senator representing Benue South, Abba Moro, on the gruesome attacks on Akpachi-Ugboju, Otukpo-Nobi and Ondo Ugboju communities. Presenting the motion, titled “Urgent Need to Stop the Gruesome Murder of Inhabitants of Akpachi-Ugboju, Otukpo-Nobi and the Fresh Attacks on Ondo Ugboju in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State by Suspected Bandits,” Moro described the attacks as horrific and unprovoked, lamenting the sustained killings of innocent residents. He said the attacks, which occurred between Friday and Tuesday, left 20 people dead, several others injured, displaced many families and destroyed properties and farmlands worth millions of naira. The lawmaker reminded the Senate that the security and welfare of citizens remain the primary responsibility of government as provided under Section 14(2)(b) of the 1999 Constitution, warning that the continued attacks could trigger a humanitarian and food security crisis if urgent action was not taken. According to Moro, the coordinated nature of the attacks suggested a deliberate attempt to wipe out the affected communities, stressing that farmers have abandoned their farmlands for fear of further attacks. Following deliberations, the Senate observed a minute's silence in honour of the victims and condemned the killings and destruction of property in the strongest terms. The upper chamber also urged the Inspector-General of Police, the Chief of Army Staff and other security agencies to immediately deploy adequate security personnel to Akpachi-Ugboju, Otukpo-Nobi, Ondo Ugboju and neighbouring communities to restore peace and prevent further attacks. It further mandated the Inspector-General of Police to carry out a comprehensive investigation, apprehend those

responsible and ensure they are prosecuted. The Senate also called on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to urgently provide relief materials, including food, medical supplies and temporary shelter, to displaced residents and victims receiving treatment in hospitals. In addition, the Senate directed its Committees on Police Affairs, Defence, and National Security and Intelligence to engage with relevant security agencies to assess ongoing operations in Benue South and ensure full implementation of its resolutions. Responding after the motion was adopted, President of



the Senate, Godswill Akpabio, sympathised with Senator Moro and the people of Benue South over the tragic attacks. Akpabio said every Nigerian deserved the right to sleep peacefully and go about lawful activities without fear, expressing confidence that the Senate's resolutions would help prevent future attacks in the affected communities and across the country. The Senate thereafter observed a minute's silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the attacks.