

**VOL. 3
No. 1**

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Wednesday
14th April, 2010**



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES

**FOURTH REPUBLIC
THIRD ASSEMBLY
(SIXTH SENATE)**

THIRD SESSION

SENATE OFFICIAL REPORT

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**SENATE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Wednesday, 14th April, 2010

The Senate met at 10.40 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The President: Distinguished Senators, we have the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 31st March, 2010 before us for approval: Page 733?

Senator Joel Danlami Ikenya (Taraba South): Mr. President, in adjournment, they said that the Senate *do adjourn* when the Leader moved a Motion and there was no secondment. I believe that it is only the Senate President that can adjourn without any secondment. That is the area I plead that should be looked into. If the Leader moves somebody has to second before adjournment takes place.

The President: Well, if the adjournment was at 4.15 p.m., then, it could not have been moved by the Leader. It means I was the one who adjourned the Senate.

Senator Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu West): Mr. President, I think it was right for the Senate Leader to have moved the Motion because that was the second part of the day's sitting, but it was promptly seconded.

The President: Secretariat take note. I think it was seconded. Senator Joel Danlami, you are right, but it was not reflected there that it was seconded. We sat twice that day. We adjourned the first time and came back again and this was before 6.00 p.m. So the Leader would have moved it. The only correction there is that it was seconded.

Senator Sidi Ali (FCT): Mr. President, may I move that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 31st March, 2010 be approved as amended.

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Senator Ibrahim Ida (Katsina Central): Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion ably moved by Senator Sidi Ali that the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 31st March, 2010 be approved.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 31st March, 2010 be approved as amended.

ORDER OF THE DAY

MOTION

**Valedictory Session in honour of late Senators
Tawar Umbi Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku**

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin (Oyo Central): Mr. President, the only business of the day is tribute in honour of our late Colleagues, Senator Tawar Umbi Wada and Senator Kawu Peto Dukku, both from Gombe State.

Before I move my Motion, I move that we suspend Order 17 of the Senate Standing Orders to admit the family, former Senators, wives of serving Senators, House of Representatives Members, other dignitaries and close relations of the late Senators into the Senate Chamber.

I so move.

Senator Ibrahim Ida: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that we suspend Order 17 of the Senate Standing Orders in order to enable the Senate admit the persons listed in the Motion into the Chamber.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate suspends Order 17 of the Senate Standing Orders to enable persons listed in the Motion into the Senate Chamber.

The President: Because of the solemn nature of the occasion today, there will be no announcement. All announcements would be when we resume.

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, with your kind permission, may I now move my Motion?

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The President: Yes, you may move your Motion, please.

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President and my highly respected Colleagues, today is a solemn day for this hallowed Chamber to mark an uncommon phenomenon in the history of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. As we are all aware, two of our distinguished Colleagues, Senators Tawar Umbi Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku, both from Gombe State, transited to eternity.

Senator Tawar Umbi Wada died at the National Hospital on Wednesday, 31st March, 2010, while Senator Kawu Peto Dukku died in Kaduna on Friday, 2nd April, 2010. The death of these two distinguished Members of this hallowed Chamber within 48 hours has thrown this Chamber into deep grief.

Late Senator Kawu Peto Dukku was elected into the Senate in 2007 after serving as Speaker of the Gombe State House of Assembly from 2003 to 2007. Until his death, he was the Vice Chairman of Senate Committee on States and Local Governments and a member of other Standing Committees.

Senator Dukku was a seasoned legislator. His quiet and gentle disposition attracted him to many Senators. He deployed his wealth of experience as former Speaker of Gombe State House of Assembly to contribute positively to debates on the Floor of the Senate.

The remains of Senator Kawu Peto Dukku have since been committed to mother-earth on Saturday, 3rd April, 2010 at his home State of Gombe. Today, we mourn an icon, a pillar of hope and illustrious citizen of Nigeria. We are already missing him dearly.

Adieu! Senator Kawu Peto Dukku, friend and Colleague.

Rest in peace!

Mr. President, the remains of Senator Tawar Umbi Wada begins its final journey to rest in perfect peace in his home State Gombe where it will be interred tomorrow, Thursday, 15th April, 2010.

Late Senator Tawar Umbi Wada was elected into the Senate in 2003. In the last Senate, he was the Chairman, Committee on Information and Media, and

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in the present Senate, Chairman, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. He was also a member of other Standing Committees.

Late Senator Wada was a lawyer par excellence, a pillar of development and an icon of hard-work; a distinguished Colleague who excelled in every facet of his Senatorial duties whether in this hallowed Chamber, in his Constituency or in his Committees. We will miss his articulate contributions to debates on the Floor of the Senate. We will miss his sharp and logical statements on issues. He was easy going, always smiling, very friendly and civil-mannered. His humble and serene upbringing coupled with his educational background contributed in moulding his amiable character, infectious smiles and insightful dispositions. His training as a lawyer had greatly pivoted his desire and interest in achieving social security and developmental legislation in this country. There is no doubt that the ideals he lived for, especially achieving good governance, will remain guiding principles to some of us, his distinguished Colleagues.

Adieu our Brother!

Adieu our Friend!

Adieu Senator Tawar Umbi Wada!

We will surely miss you. May your soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Mr. President, this Senate will certainly miss Senators T. U. Wada and K. P. Dukku. Though we mourn their early exit, their legacies of outstanding hardwork, integrity, discipline, honesty and humility that they left behind would certainly energise us. Both of them were beacons of light and pillars of strength to their families and communities. May the Almighty God give us the fortitude to bear these great losses.

Adieu! Colleagues!

Senator Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu West): Mr. President, I recall that on the 31st day of March, 2010 about 5 p. m. I got a call from the President of the Senate as I was about leaving my Office that Senator Wada had just died. He told me that he got a phone call from his Office that Senator Wada had just died. At that moment my first understanding of the call was that, maybe, he collapsed in the office, so I rushed to his office. When I got to his office the place was locked. I moved to the Senate President's Office and spoke with the Secretary to the Senate President who told me that

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he got the call from the Personal Assistant to late Senator Wada. She gave me the number and I called the Personal Assistant who confirmed the incident to me, but said they were at the National Hospital, that they were having problem getting a space to move him into the mortuary. I then called the Chief Medical Director of the Hospital who at that time had not known of the tragedy. He helped to secure a place at the mortuary and from there I went to Senator Wada's house and met the family who further confirmed this tragedy.

Two days later, on the 2nd of April 2010, I had barely returned from Kaduna when again I got a call from Senator Idris Umar who told me that we have lost a second Senator from Gombe State. I was totally devastated.

Your Excellency, and very distinguished Colleagues, Senator Dukku is well known to all of us. The last I got quite close to him was when the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives lost his mother and Senator Dukku escorted me to Gombe State to pay a condolence. He was ever-smiling, and this is one attribute he shared with late Senator Wada.

I met Senator Wada for the first time in 1997 when he was the Attorney- General of Gombe State. At that time I was the Chairman of my Local Government and Group Captain Orji was the Military Administrator. He was serving under Group Captain Orji's Government. They visited us in our Local Government and since then our relationship struck. But, I found him most useful during the Constitution Review which I was privileged to Chair. We found him very useful in most of our discussions. He smiled while he made his points.

Today, we have lost these great Senators from Gombe State. What remains is for us to ask what the lessons are for all of us. One is that life is sheer vanity and what we need to do is to ensure that we do those things for which we would be remembered while we are here on earth. It is service to mankind; it is to leave impressions in the minds of those we meet and to ensure that we contribute positively in the development of our nation.

These two Senators came to this hallowed Chamber to ensure that these ideals are fulfilled. They have left while the struggle continues. It is left for us to ensure that those ideals would not diminish.

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Secondly, in spite of all our busy schedules, we must always find time to take care of our health and this is very key and must be a lesson to all of us seated here. Senators Wada and Dukku were young men still at their prime. I believe that in the midst of their effort to serve this country, they ignored their personal health. Therefore, I plead with all of us seated here and those outside that we must always find time not only for our sake but for the sake of the struggle and for those we are leaving behind, we must always find time for our health.

I join the entire country today to mourn our departed Colleagues. We pray that their souls will rest in peace.

Senator Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora (Lagos East): Mr. President, today is, indeed, a very sad day for us in this Senate. We had a similar situation in the last Senate where two of our Colleagues, Senators Maccido and Sule Yari Gandi died in a plane crash and we had to do something similar to this; to mourn their demise. We were left alone with Senator Dahiru from Sokoto State. Today, history is repeating itself where two of our most distinguished Colleagues, Senators T. U. Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku also died and we are left with our Colleague, Senator Idris from Gombe. This is very sad, indeed.

Before I proceed, on a note of comic relief, today, as you can see, the Minority has become the Majority as witnessed by the number of people on this side as opposed to what you have on that side.

It was the late Afro beat legend, Fela Anikulapo Kuti who titled one of his works: *Just Like That* and today, just like that Senators T. U. Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku are no more and they have become history in this hallowed Chamber.

Senator Dukku, a very quite Senator and to just cap it in terms of description could be referred to as quintessential gentleman Senator. He was not the kind of flamboyant Senator that you tend to hear his voice all the time but he knew his onions, of course having been a Speaker before coming to this Senate. My prayer is that the good Lord will uphold the family he left behind.

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Talking about Senator T. U. Wada, I call him my own T. U. Senator Wada was my neighbour in Apo Legislators' Quarters until lately when he started renovation works on his house and have to move out of that area and we met here in the last Senate as fresh Senators in 2003. I would always tease him by saying that anytime I had opportunity to write my memoirs in this Senate, he would have copious mentioning.

Two things would announce Senator T. U. Wada's presence. First was his towering height because he was six footer and second was his legendry big grammar or big English. I recall that in the last Senate, we were in Port Harcourt and Senator Wada then was the Chairman, Senate Committee on Information and Media and in his welcome address, Senator Wada said: *This is an augustus occasion* and we all laughed. Later we approached him that what we knew was *august occasion* and not *augustus* but that was Wada for you.

Senator Wada, when he got up on the Floor of this Senate to make contribution on issues, you were either hearing such things like *ipso facto*, *simplicita* or saying that: *this Bill is not only cumbersome but lugubrious and laborious*. That was Senator Wada for you. In fact, just recently, we were discussing a Bill and Senator Wada said something like; *impecunious* and the Senate President had to ask the Clerk to send a dictionary to me just to check that word and we searched and could not find the word. But he insisted that that word existed until Senator James Manager now checked his phone dictionary and the word truly was there. The next day, he came to me and said: *Mamo, you see now, that word is there*. It was in the legal dictionary. That was Wada for you.

And each time he got up on the Floor of the Senate, he would marshal his argument as if he was in the hallowed Chamber of the court being a lawyer. He would always come up with a very brilliant argument and when you needed to amend a Motion, he was always there to say: *Let me recast it*. In fact, I was calling him the *Recaster* of the Senate because he would always offer to recast a Motion or an Amendment. That was Wada for you. But today, Wada is no more.

We thank God for his contributions. We thank God for his presence and for what he was able to do in this Senate and, of course, what he was able to do in his community and his Senatorial District.

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Mr. Senate President, I mourn with you, I mourn with our Colleagues, I mourn with the family, especially the wife and the children and his extended family and I mourn with all of us, and most especially, I mourn with our Colleague, Senator Idris Umar because it is truly a trying moment. My prayer is that the good Lord would uphold the family and all of us he left behind.

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (Cross River Central): Mr. President, again, this Senate is confronted with a double tragedy. In September, 2006, we were confronted with a tragedy through a plane crash of the loss of two of our Senators as mentioned by Senator Mamora but that was an accident. This time, we have lost two Senators; two Senators who were on the Floor of this Senate hours before, hale and hearty and took part in the screening of Ministers. Senator Wada from Gombe South was among the first Senators who asked questions when the screening started and Senator Peto Kawu Dukku from Gombe North was among the last who asked questions during that exercise. Two Senators from the same State, one from the South and the other from the North passing away through seemingly natural causes within 48 hours.

Another striking coincidence in this tragic drama is that Senator Wada, very ebullient, ever-present, his height and his melliferous voice always ensured that he was noticed, succeeded an equally cerebral Senator, Senator Idris Abubakar who was a Senator in this hallowed Chambers between 1999 and 2003 but he died in 2002.

The tragedy for me is that under this dispensation since 1999, the Senators who have represented Gombe south have died in active service. I am sure the people of Gombe south and the people of Gombe State will be wondering what a fate they have had. So, as we pray for the repose of the souls of the two Senators from Gombe, especially Senator Wada, we also pray for the people of Gombe. We pray that this lot will pass in Jesus name. We pray that this cross will pass in Jesus name.

Mr. President, the Holy Book, the Bible says in Ecclesiastes and I quote:

There is a time for everything and a time for every purpose under the sun.

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*A time to be born and a time to die;
A time to plant and a time to reap;
A time to kill and a time heal;
A time to breakdown and a time to build up;
A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones;
A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get and a time to lose;
A time to keep and a time cast away;
A time to rend and a time sew;
A time to keep silence and a time to speak;
A time to love and a time to hate;
A time for war and a time for peace.*

For Senators Wada and Dukku, it is a time to die. For the family, his young wife, his very young children, his colleagues and his friends, it is a time to weep and a time to mourn.

At times like this, I ask myself the question, when is the best time to die? And my answer has always been, the best time to die is when you die. Senators Wada and Dukku have gone to meet their Maker and we pray that they stand before their Maker in a state of grace so that they will be well received. We will remember them because they lived well and they will continue to live in our hearts and in the hearts of those who knew them.

The Deputy Senate President talked about us taking time to think about our health in this frenetic pace that we find ourselves as Senators, I agree with him. I will also suggest that we make time for our families, because these lessons have become more recurring. First, it was Maccido, and Gandi in their prime, today it is Wada at 53 and Dukku at 52. I think the time has come for us as an institution to begin to think of how to secure our families so that in times like this, their grief can be minimized. My heart goes out to his wife and very young children, but the Bible says that Almighty Himself is the father of the widows, so God will be your father during this period, God will be your protector and the light of God will continue to shine on you and your children and keep you in peace and protect you.

May the souls of Senators Wada and Dukku rest in perfect peace. Amen.

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I support the two Prayers moved by the Senate Leader and I urge this Senate to also support those Prayers.

Senator Abubakar Danso Sodangi (Nasarawa West): Mr. President, it saddens me to rise to contribute in this very solemn valedictory sitting for our two lost Colleagues. For those who know my house in Zone E, I share the same block with late Senator T. U. Wada. While I stay in Zone E 23.2 with my family he was living in E 23.1, and his family and mine are just like brothers and sisters, not just ordinary neighbours. That is why my family is also here. We have been in very deep mourning since the demise of our brother and colleague, Senator T. U. Wada.

A very erudite and brilliant lawyer like it has been said. I know T. U. Wada when he was the Chairman of the Corporate Affairs Commission before coming to the Senate. We relate very well and as God would have it, when Senator Shuaibu left his flat, he occupied the place. I had the chance to change but I declined because I said that I know the person coming in. I know T. U. Wada very well. If you know Zone E, I am now renovating the house together with him. We are maintaining the same internal structural design. The wife who is here can testify to that. We did so many things together. But today Senator Wada has gone and left us. I want to say That T. U. Wada was very humble, very erudite and very harmless. I do not know of any body or Colleague he quarreled with.

I mourn with the family and the people of Gombe State. As has been said and I have the privilege of being here since 1999, in 2002, we had another very brilliant and intelligent lawyer who took ill and died, that is Senator Idris Abubakar, also from Gombe south. Today, from Gombe south again, Senator T. U. Wada has also gone. In addition to that, as if that is not enough, though we cannot change the will of God; Peto Kawu Dukku from Gombe north is gone, too. So from 1999 to date Gombe State has lost three serving Senators. It is very sad to lose a life even if it is a goat in your house. These were very brilliant Nigerians who have contributed their best in the development of our democracy, their state and every other thing you can think of.

Senator T. U. Wada, as Senator Mamora has said, we call him *Recaster*, we call him so many names, but today we can only recall the memories, but he is gone and gone forever.

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Senator Peto Dukku was a very faithful and devoted Muslim. Whenever it is 1.30 or 2 o'clock you will see him going there to pray. He was very harmless and humble and today too, he gone and gone forever.

I do not want to repeat what my Colleagues have said, yes, I agree as has been advocated here by two previous speakers that no matter how old we are, we should take time to go for exercise. Some of us do go for exercises. Every morning I do mine, but I want say here quickly that doing exercise will not stop one from dying. That is a saying in Muslim that *kulmummini dakail maout* every life must taste the pains of death; what you do not know is when it would come. Is it in old age, middle age or at whatever age? God has hidden that from human beings which I think is good for us. Some even collapse and die while doing some exercises. This happens not only in Nigeria but also in all developed countries. What could attribute that to? As I earlier said, where and when death would come we do not know. The most important thing in life is to contribute your best just as these two gentlemen had done in our democratic dispensation and their Constituencies. Today they have gone and have left us with their families.

I want us to bear one thing in mind that it is what one has contributed during his life time that would be valuable to us hereafter. So, to Senator Wada, I pray that his soul will have a permanent resting peace hereafter and to Senator Peto Dukku, may he have a place in Heaven. May their souls rest in peace.

I join Senate President to condole the Government and the people of Gombe State and their families. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Senator Jibril Mohammed Aminu (Adamawa Central): Mr. President, I stand here at the age of 71 to eulogize on the death of those who were younger than me, Senators T. U. Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku. Senator Kawu Peto Dukku was so respectful that he would not shake hands with me no matter what I did. But, such is the will of God. *Even so with the dead, Allah will test you with both good and evil but unto me you will return.* This is a terrible day for a State to lose very fine promising young men and leaders and people that you could see rising very high not only in this country but the Senate. Similar fate befell Sokoto State sometime ago.

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I was able to visit the homes of these people in Gombe. For the first time, I went to the home of Senator T. U. Wada, it was very lonely, sad and desolate and also to his father's house. I went there twice. The first time was when he lost his mother. You need to be there to see the tragedy that lies in that place. It is the same thing in Senator Kawu Peto Dukku's family home in Gombe but what can we do? That is the will of God. It is our own idle fondness that makes us think of what could have been because God gives you an exact moment. He made us from nothing and that is where we will go whenever he wills. *Every community, every person has an appointed hour and when the hour comes you cannot go earlier or later.* What then do we have? We just have to accept the will of God and to thank Him for them and for us and for knowing them and for them even touching our lives in what they were able to accomplish.

I join my Colleagues in condoling their families, those who are here and those who are not here, the Gombe State and Nigeria for losing such promising people.

When the Deputy President of Senate and Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba spoke about this while we accept that this is the will of God, as a trained doctor I would like to seize your permission to talk about our health particularly that of Senator Kawu Peto Dukku who died suddenly. Sudden death has become a common problem in this country. Young people just as Senator Kawu Peto Dukku die suddenly even younger people. This country should not accept that because that is the hallmark of heart disease, what is referred to as heart attack which kills so many people in the Western World and continues to but they have taken measures through attacking the risk factor of heart disease like high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity, lack of exercise, hereditary, *et cetera* in community based intervention procedures and they have reduced death from those conditions through long term studies and treatment. We do not do that in this country and chronic heart disease has come to Nigeria to stay and it is getting worse. The only one good thing is that we in this country do not smoke as much as they do in the Western World but I believe there is every reason for us in this country to join the Federal Ministry of Health, National Assembly, States Government to formulate programmes of intervention because these disease kill the bread winners people like Senators T. U. Wada and

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Kawu Peto Dukku, *et cetera*. When a bread winner dies, it is not his or her death alone but a whole lot of social problems down the line. If this Senate or the National Assembly stands to take action on this, their death will not be in vain. Fortunately, their death is not in vain anyway because of their charming young people.

I remember, though I do not know much of the Holy Bible but it says, those whom God loves die young. It is always the nice people who die unfortunately, leaving the nasty ones around to continue causing problems in this world. People like Senators T. U. Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku are so nice that the angels want them.

Finally, I sometime I attend a Christian funeral service where the Pastor gave us a short story that there was a man who was fond of always admiring a very beautiful rose but one day he came and did not see it and he asked, what has happened to this beautiful rose? He was told that the owner had plucked it and he kept his peace. That is what we need to do; to accept the will of God and thank God for these people. We condole their families and every one of us should continue to support and do whatever we can for them from time to time.

Mr. President, distinguished Colleagues, I thank you for listening to me.

Senator Ibrahim Mohammed Ida (Katsina Central): Mr. President, distinguished Colleagues, I am a very sad person, sad just like every one of us here, sad because I lost, we lost and the country lost gems. Senator T. U. Wada was my professional colleague. We used to argue a lot on points of law. While he was wrong he always come to me to accept and *vice versa*. Where I was wrong I always go to him to accept my mistake.

He was also a political Colleague and he told me that he was the man to beat. So, whenever I saw him I would raise my hand and he would raise his own and I would call him the *man to beat*. He was a fellow Senator with whom all of us enjoyed excellent relationship. On his last Monday, 29th March, 2010, as we were sitting down here and he was going down the stairs we waved and called him but he did not see us until he was about to sit down when he turned back and saw us and he waved at us and we waved back at him. Little did we know that, that was the last human contact we would have with him.

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Senator Dukku was a very quiet, respectful and accommodating man. In fact, we used to ask him if he was ever angry about anything because whatever the circumstance or the situation he was always laughing. We also tagged him the happy one. He lived a good life. He lived well with people and I am sure he must have lived well with his family.

We were in Zaria attending a ceremony when the news of his death came. In fact, at first, we thought the person conveying the message to us had made a mistake and that he thought we had not heard of T. U. Wada's death. When he told us that another Senator had died again from Gombe, it was a shock and we could not wait to know who it was. When he said it was Senator Dukku, we thought it was an accident because he was said to be in Kaduna so we thought it was en-route to Kaduna.

However, whatever it was, in Islam we say: *Ina Lillahi wa ina Illahi rojiun*. From God we came and to Him we return. No matter how long you stay on this earth, as our elders have said particularly Senator Jibril Aminu, we would have to go back. It is not for how long you lived but how well you lived with your fellow humans and how well prepared you become for the next world. What remains for us is to pray for the family and the repose of the souls of the departed. To say adieu to them but most importantly to also know as Shakespeare said that *the valiant never taste of death but once*. Being a necessary end, death will come when it will come. Nobody would be asked even the condemned people; it is only the judicially appointed date. It is God that really determines when we die.

As we mourn with the family, please take heart. God in His wisdom has planned everything. This is just a spur of the moment. Life would continue though it may be difficult and hard but what would be would be. As we remain, our only prayer is that may we not live a wasteful life. May we live a life mindful of the fact that we are human and terminal as we remain here, those that are dead were once people like us who lived, ate, fought and smiled but one day we would also join them.

May the souls of our departed Colleagues rest in perfect peace. May the Almighty grant the family the strength and the fortitude to bear the loss. May He bless us and our country Nigeria and for as long as we live in this world, may we also be mindful of the fact that where these two Colleagues have gone, we are also going there.

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I thank you.

The President: I know that many of us would like to speak but we are constrained by time. I would take the last one from distinguished Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan.

Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan (Borno North): Mr. President, I rise to share in the grief that has confronted this Senate, the nation, Gombe State and the very young families of our two very distinguished Colleagues, Senators T. U. Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku.

Today is a very sad day. It is very shocking, indeed, that within a space of 48 hours, two Senators from the same State passed away. When a distinguished Colleague who was abroad called me and asked whether it was true that Senator Kawu Peto Dukku has also passed away, my first reaction was, no, it could not be true, it must be the news of the passing away of Senator T. U. Wada that is still going round where you are. But I asked him to give me a few seconds to check out and behold to my shock, I confirmed that to be true. I called back and told him, indeed, it is true but such is the way the God Almighty has willed.

As has been mentioned earlier, the contributions of Senator T. U. Wada on the Floor of this Senate are legendary. I do not need to belabour you on what has already been said. Suffice it to say that he was an erudite lawyer. He always marshaled his points in the debate in a manner that cannot be faulted.

Above all, I have come to know one side of him that I just have to let this Senate know at this point. I come from a small village Baaga in the extreme North-East corner of this country. There is a College of Fresh Water Fisheries that is virtually not known to the rest of the federation. Senator T. U. Wada suddenly tapped me on the shoulder one day inside this Chamber and said; *my friend, na dawo daga kaoye ku ne*. I am just coming back from your village. I said no, I do not come from Maiduguri. He said no, Baaga. I have been to your village. I have been on oversight function to the College of Fresh Water Fisheries. I am telling you, the very distinguished Senator never said he was going and I never mentioned the College to him but here he was on the performance of his oversight function. That is a target that not too many of us excel in but here he is not only going to Maiduguri but right down to the remotest corner to a small College to perform his oversight function. That is another angle of him that is so fantastic and endearing.

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Senator Kawu Peto Dukku was a gentleman par excellence as we all know. He was humble, respectful and very experienced, quiet but yet effective legislator. We would miss them in this Chamber, in Gombe State and, indeed, the nation would miss them.

I stand to share the grief of their respective families. May the almighty God give them the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

May their gentle souls rest in perfect peace. Amen.

The President: Distinguished Senator Idris Umar, from Gombe State, would you like to say anything?

Senator Audu Idris Umar (Gombe Central): Mr. President, distinguished Colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to say a word or two on this Valedictory Session organised by this distinguished Senate to pay our last respect to our departed Colleagues. This is a rare privilege; and because it is a very Special Session, do permit me if I repeat what my other Colleagues have said in the course of mentioning the callings and the good virtues of my departed Colleagues in paying glowing tributes to them.

It is with a heavy heart, though with gratitude and total submission to Almighty God for life well spent that I stand before this hallowed Chamber at this Special Session on the painful demise of my Colleagues, Brothers, Friends and Compatriots - distinguished Senators Tawar Umbi Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku which sad event occurred on Wednesday, 31st March, 2010 and Friday, 2nd April, 2010 respectively. The passing on of these two great leaders and Political Ambassadors from my State, without mincing words, is a big tragedy and colossal loss, not only to their respective families, constituencies and Gombe State but to the Senate, the nation and humanity, which and whom they had served diligently and conscientiously. Their deaths which came in quick succession were as shocking as they were traumatic. While we have not recovered from the death of Senator Wada, the devastating blow came with the news of Senator Dukku's death. Their departure has created a vacuum too difficult to fill and I have a deep feeling of personal loss.

The one thing both Senators had in common was leaving footprints in the sands of time in monumental contributions for the upliftment of the organisations they found themselves. At a moment like this, one has

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no option but to surrender to the definite will of Almighty God, pray for the repose of the souls of the departed Colleagues and then reflect their legacies. Though both individually and collectively we were touched by their sudden deaths, we should, however, take solace in the fact that it is God who gives life and takes it at His own time. *Inna lillahi wa inna illaihim rajium.*

On the fateful Friday, when Senator Kawu Peto Dukku died, I was receiving a delegation from Biliri Local Government, the home Local Government of late Senator T. U. Wada which was led by the Secretary to the Local Government, who was on condolence and fact finding mission on the burial arrangement of Senator Wada. Midway to the meeting, I received a phone call and was asked if I had heard the unconfirmed news of the unfortunate and sudden passing on of Senator Kawu Peto Dukku. I took instant steps to confirm the sad incident and quickly contacted the Senate President, who immediately, took steps by chartering a flight against the following day to convey the corpse of my departed Colleague to Gombe State. In the same manner, he organised a flight to convey late Senator Wada's corpse from Abuja to Gombe today.

Equally important, the Governor of Gombe State, Dr. Mohammed Danjuma Goje, actively participated in receiving the corpse of Senator Dukku and the subsequent burial. I want to put it on record that both the Senate President and the State Governor respectively set up different Committees for a successful and hitch free burial of late Senator Wada. In Gombe State, all arrangements have been put in place for a befitting burial for late Senator Wada.

Let me also mention that the Governor, in a considerable show of concern, had declared Tuesday, 6th April, 2010 as Work Free Day in Gombe State for the mourning of these two illustrious sons. I recall vividly how deeply touched the President of the Senate and my Governor were when the sad news was broken to them.

My distinguished Colleagues, permit me in two minutes, to pay special glowing tributes to these distinguished gentlemen.

My late Brother Wada, had a humble beginning. He was and still is, a reference point of rapid transformation via perseverance, sheer determination and hardwork. Born on 27th January, 1957 to the family

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of Mr. and Mrs. Umbi Wada, in Biliri, Gombe State, late Senator Wada accomplished his educational career in an enigmatic way. After his Primary School Education, he became an Automobile Mechanic Apprentice briefly before joining the Nigerian Police as a Constable from where he read and obtained the General Certificate of Education without attending formal secondary school education which enabled him to obtain admission subsequently at the Federal School of Arts and Science, Mubi, in the present Adamawa State and subsequently read Law at the University of Jos. He was a lawyer by profession and a holder of Certificate from International Institute of Journalism, Abuja.

Late Senator Wada had an interesting Civil Service Career. After his mandatory one year Youth Corps Service at the Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, near Owerri, Imo State, he joined the Services of the then Bauchi State Ministry of Justice as a State Counsel. He was at various times, Lecturer at the Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi, Assistant Director, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and the Federal Ministry of Police Affairs, respectively.

Politically, late Senator Wada started from the scratch as an elected Councilor and later Supervisory Councilor. By dint of hardwork, he rose to become a distinguished Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He was at various times, Chairman, National Republican Convention, Biliri/Kaltongo Local Government, Elected Member, House of Representatives for Biliri Federal Constituency in former Bauchi State in 1992, and a Personal Assistant to former Minister, Science and Technology, late Chief Laz Unogu.

A shining star like Wada was always visible. When Gombe was created in 1996, he was spotted and appointed as the first Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice for the young state. In 2001, he was appointed the Chairman of the Corporate Affairs Commission, a position he held until his election as a Senator representing Gombe South in 2003 under the platform of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). While at the Senate, late Senator Wada distinguished himself with his landmark Bills, Motions, robust and brilliant debates on the Floor of this hallowed Chamber and indeed, outside.

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A ranking Senator, late Wada was variously Chairman, Senate Committees on Employment, Labour and Productivity, Information and National Orientation, Agriculture and Rural Development, which was the last Committee he chaired before his sudden death. He was a member of the Senate Constitution Review Committee. Indeed, he was reputed for his articulate interventions, particularly, on Points of Order on the Floor of the Senate.

For those who knew him closely, they will agree with me that late Senator Wada was a result-oriented leader who used his position to secure jobs for both indigenes of his Constituency and non-indigenes alike. He was able to attract democracy dividends and infrastructural developments to his people. Very humorous person; late Wada was very friendly and humble.

He is survived by his father, a wife, five children, brother and sisters. The wife and the children are here in this hallowed Chamber.

Senator Wada passed on after a brief illness at the National Hospital, Abuja. My Brother and Colleague, you were, indeed, an asset to humanity and a blessing to our generation. Though, you are gone, your good works will continue to project you here on earth.

May your gentle soul get internal repose?

Late Senator Kawu Peto Dukku was one of the most amiable and dynamic politicians in Gombe State before his sudden death. He was success personified. He had maintained consistent and progressive rise in his life career, a visionary leader. Late Senator Dukku had a steady but purposeful public service career and upward political mobility.

Born on 30th December 1958 in Dukku Local Government of the present Gombe State, late Senator Dukku attended Dukku Primary School from 1967 to 1974. He also attended Teacher's College Gombe from 1974 to 1979. He attended Kaduna Polytechnic from 1982 to 1984. Again, he attended Kaduna Polytechnic from 1986 to 1987 and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi from 2000 to 2002. He respectfully obtained First School Leaving Certificate, Teacher's Grade II Certificate, Diploma in Business Management, Advanced Diploma in Marketing and Higher National Diploma in Business Management.

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In his Civil Service Career, he was variously a class-room teacher, headmaster of a primary school; Assistant Executive Officer, an Executive Officer and a Higher Executive Officer in a defunct Bauchi State Government and left the service with unblemished record which had enhanced his career growth and transformation.

Late Senator Dukku thereafter had a stint with Goldstar Petroleum Company Limited, Kaduna, a private oil company as an Accounts Officer. He was later promoted to the post of an Assistant Manager and Manager from 1998 to 1999 from where he resigned for his sojourn into politics.

One interesting legacy late Senator Dukku has left behind in the present political dispensation was his principled stand and commitment to ideals of his party, the PDP even when the Party was not controlling the machinery of government in Gombe State. He was first elected as an honourable Member of Gombe State House of Assembly in 1999 to 2003. In reaffirmation of the people's trust and confidence in his political representation he was re-elected a Member of the State Assembly from 2003 to 2007 where, indeed, he was elected as Speaker of State House of Assembly for four-year tenure.

It is on record that late Senator Dukku, whilst as a Speaker led a stable, dynamic and well respected State House of Assembly and passed virtually all Executive Bills for the rapid development of the State. Having served creditably at the State House of Assembly he was found worthy of being elected in 2007 as a distinguished Senator to represent Gombe North, a position he held until his death. While in the Senate, he brought his rich experience in law making as a Speaker for four years and a legislator for eight years to bear through quality lawmaking at the Committee level where he distinguished himself. Late Senator Dukku was the Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on States and Local Government Affairs and Member of other Committees where he served creditably well.

Late Senator Dukku will be greatly remembered for his humility and humor. He was very friendly to every Senator as has been attested by my Colleagues who spoke before me. Whenever he was called upon to speak in the Senate he made precise and direct contributions.

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He is survived by his mother, two wives and six children. He died in Kaduna after a brief illness.

Let me use this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the Senate, the Senate President, distinguished Senators and Gombe State Government for their kind support in all the burial arrangements. The testimonies show us that our late Colleagues lived highly inspiring lives. They were heroes of democracy who lived and stood for the people. Though they are gone, my prayer is that we should find ways of immortalising their names so that their great deeds would not be forgotten and wasted.

Adieu my brothers. May their gentle souls rest in perfect peace. Amen.

The President: Distinguished Colleagues, may I, on behalf of all of us, current Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the families of Senators T. U. Wada and Peto Dukku appreciate those who have come to sympathise with us today. Without going into details let me particularly appreciate our former Presidents of the Senate, distinguished Senator Pius Anyim Pius and distinguished Senator Adolphus Wabara, former Colleagues of Senators T. U. Wada and Peto Dukku, that is, former Senators, Ministers, Party Leaders, wives of Senators and all the distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen from across the length and breadth of this country who are here to sympathise with us.

Ordinarily, distinguished Senators, I do not read from a prepared speech but in this instance I have decided to do so for two main reasons. The first is for records and the second and perhaps, more important so that emotions do not blur what I would like to say.

Death is an inevitable end. We know it must come, yet whenever it occurs, we are always taken aback and shocked. Even as we speak now, tens, hundreds and thousands may be dying. We feel it only when it comes very close to us as it is the case today.

But as we relieve the pains of the shocking news of our departed Colleagues, Senators T. U. Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku, we must remember that there is a time for everything under the heaven. A time to be born and a time to die; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to rejoice. Permit me, distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, to also add, a time for us to pay final respect and tribute to fallen heroes. This is that moment. Their departure is

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even more painful that it came immediately after we had all worked so tirelessly to complete the first phase of the Constitution Review Amendment. When we sat for long hours, late into the night to ensure the timely screening of the ministerial nominees and when we had sleepless days and nights to pass the 2010 Budget.

On the 31st of March, 2010, we got the news of the death of distinguished Senator Tawar Umbi Wada representing Gombe South Senatorial district. We had hardly recovered from the shock of the death of Senator T. U. Wada when news of the death of yet another Senator, distinguished Senator Kawu Peto Dukku also from Gombe State representing Gombe North Senatorial district reached us on the 2nd of April, 2010. When I first heard the news of the death of Senator Peto Dukku, I thought it was, indeed, a mistake but alas, it is true.

We may not now find sufficient words to express our collective grief on the loss of these distinguished Colleagues and Senators. Their sudden but destined exit from our midst create a vacuum in this Chamber and in our hearts on both personal and private platforms as friends and Colleagues but both were worthy Senators and identified patriots. In addition, as reputable Senators they discharged their constitutional responsibilities to their constituents who rightly voted for them. They made their contributions to the debates in this Chamber with the zeal and the spirit that have produced the esprit de corps which has become the enviable hallmark of this Senate.

Late Senator Tawar Umbi Wada was the Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture. While Senator T. U. Wada was certainly not a controversial person, his grammar was nonetheless very controversial. He was always cheerful, full of smile, very soft spoken and always dressed to reflect his legal profession. Most of you would recall that in our Retreat in Port Harcourt in 2003 when distinguished Senator Adolphus Wabara was the President of the Senate, Senator Wada earned the name *Augustus* because he insisted that an august visitor could be called *Augustus Visitor*. All efforts to correct him or make him change his mind failed and the name stuck until his last day.

More recently, in one of his contributions on the Floor here, he came up with the word *impecunious*. It took the combination of so many dictionaries and thesauruses and Senators to find the word. Senator T. U. Wada would certainly be missed in this Chamber for many years.

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Senator Kawu Peto Dukku, was the Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on States and Local Governments. Senator Dukku is best described as a distinguished Senator and a gentleman, quite but full of legislative experience. He rarely raises his hand. I recalled that I had to insist that he asked Mr. Olusegun Aganga who was a Ministerial Nominee on Wednesday, 31st of March 2010 even though he did not indicate that he wanted to ask a question.

Obviously, a man of great faith, he was very personate about development in Gombe State. We would miss his wisdom, his legislative experience in this Chamber for a very long time to come.

Today, we mourn these two great Senators, patriots and nationalists. Nonetheless, in our grief, we must never allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the tragedy which death represents. To be so overcome and incapacitated by our emotional plight is to open a door for a far greater tragedy.

We must face the reality which death represents; we must accept the inevitability of it as a predestined inescapable end for each and every one of us.

Moreover, despite the great and irreplaceable loss that death brings to bear on us, death often opens windows of opportunities as well as doors of challenges for the living especially to those who are thoughtful and those who are willing to learn from the hard lessons that goes with it. One way or the other, someday or the other and in some place or the other, we will be seized by death just as we see some people succumb to death even before our very eyes.

While we cannot in our physical state outlive death, the way we leave, our deeds and the way we influence the lives of others would outlive death long after we have yielded to it and become ones more mere earth. We could, however, through our deeds live in the memories of those alive whether or not they knew us physically.

Death affords us the unique opportunity to reflect on our lives, how we have lived and how we would want to contribute and continue to live and be remembered. As Senators and Representatives of the people elected to act in their best interest, no group is in greater need of the benefits of sober reflection which necessarily should follow death than we. We must, therefore, re-examine how truthfully, how devotedly, how committed and how selflessly we have tried to carry the people's trust.

If our departed Colleagues, Senators T. U. Wada and Peto Dukku, have left footprints of great service to their people, we, the living Senators must, if we wish to get great memorials begin to take giant strides to cover even more grounds than the two did to leave much greater impact and numerous footprints of service to the people we represent in particular and to the nation in general.

Let us also remember that when death comes calling, it gives no notice to anyone. It has no Point of Order waiting for any to take note of. No written criteria for each roll call and no special privileges for anyone who has been destined to take an exit. Let us remember, however, that in death's foolproof ambush, from which no one can escape, its inevitability provides us with sufficient notice of it being it around. Let us, therefore, take notice that death is around and can strike anyone.

For all of us in this distinguished Chamber, our only and lasting antidote is preparedness to serve the people not only in accordance with the nation's Constitution, but beyond that, in accordance with concept of what is best in our conscience in the interest of the people. If we do this, we would not only be giving befitting memorials to our departed Colleagues, but we would be preparing grounds for remarkable epitaphs for ourselves which our children shall see as proud testimonies of the type of lives we might have lived.

The great lesson for today is, therefore, what legacy we would leave behind for humanity to remember us. Our hearts go out to the families of Senators Wada and Dukku.

May I join all of us in saying to the best of our knowledge, to the best of our ability, we would continue to discharge our duties to this county. May I also join our Colleagues, in urging us to be a little more careful about our live to do more exercises. This may not be a proof against death but certainly it would help. May I join all of us in saying, may the souls of Senator Tawar Umbi Wada and Senator Kawu Peto Dukku, our departed Colleagues and Friends rest in perfect peace - Amen.

The first Prayer in the Motion is that we send a delegation to the people and Government of Gombe State. I think we are all going to be there tomorrow for the burial, so that really covers the first Prayer.

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The second Prayer is that we observe a one minute silence, though it says, a-two minute silence but really one minute silence is normal in honour of our departed Colleagues.

Before I put the Question, the aircraft that will leave tomorrow would depart by 8.00 a.m. on Thursday, 15th April, 2010 from Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport and to come back by 5.00 p.m. There will be two aircrafts tomorrow for the distinguished Senators so that those who want to go do not all join the same aircraft. I will now put the Question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate;

- (i) Send a delegation to the people and Government of Gombe State.
- (ii) Observe one minute silence in honour of distinguished Senators T. U. Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku.

After the one minute silence, we would file past the copse outside and only the distinguished Senators will return to the Chamber for us to formally adjourn for today. After that there will be no further sitting and there will be no sitting tomorrow also in honour of our distinguished Colleagues.

(One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the departed Senators T. U. Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku)

(Distinguished Senators file out to the Lobby to pay their last respect to the departed Colleague, T. U. Wada)

Sitting suspended: 12.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed: 12.35 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The President: Order, please, quick announcement about tomorrow. The two aircrafts will be at the Airport. Departure would be by 8.00 a.m. so that we can go there and finish with the burial ceremony and also pay a visit to the families of late Senator Kawu Peto Dukku.

I would like to thank the Northern Senators Forum. They have visited already and participated very actively in the burial of late Senator Kawu Peto Dukku according to Islamic rites. We appreciate it and we are quite grateful that you were able to handle it on behalf of the Senate. But, when we get to Gombe tomorrow it is appropriate that we visit the family of the late Senator Dukku. Our going there tomorrow will be in fulfillment of the first Prayer which is the visit to the people and Government of Gombe State. I believe that we will have an opportunity to extend our condolence when we get there.

I did not take any announcement today because I think this is a very solemn occasion, and it will mar it if we just come up with any other announcement that is outside the death of our distinguished Colleagues.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin: Mr. President, having completed the Valedictory Session, I hereby move that this Senate now adjourn till Tuesday, 20th April, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan: Mr. President, I rise to second the Motion that the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 20th April 2010 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

The President: Before I put the Question, I think the Aircrafts would be available at the Local Wing of the Airport. One is a propeller, the other is jet engine, but from my experience, the propeller is safer than the jet engine, so do not worry if you are getting into the propeller. I will now put the Question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 20th April, 2010 at 10.00 a.m. prompt.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 12.40 p.m.