

A large, stylized map of Africa is depicted, where the landmass is formed by a collage of various photographs showing people, landscapes, and community scenes from different African regions. The map is oriented with its 'head' at the top. To the left of the map, a large, bold, white letter 'E' is positioned vertically. The entire composition is set against a solid black background.

A tenure of **Service** that
drove inclusive **Growth** and
provided **Leadership** in the
defense of **Democracy**...



A Tenure In Review

On the 9th of June 2015, Nigerian representatives from diverse tribes, political parties, and social classes assembled in the Red Chambers of the Nigerian Senate. It was the day they would be inaugurated to serve as Nigeria’s 8th Senate and each individual in the room realized the task at hand. Their responsibility for the next four years would be the daunting task of nation-building and restoring the confidence of citizens in a country battling rising unemployment, low oil prices, worsening insecurity, and widespread poverty. The lives of average Nigerians depended on the actions this group of Nigerians would take and if the experience of past Nigerian legislatures was anything to go by, those gathered here knew Nigerians had high expectations.

Determined to leave a legacy that countered the existing narrative of poor leadership that has plagued Nigeria over the years, the Senate adopted a legislative agenda that focused on improving livelihoods, governance and building a robust, thriving economy. Through a leadership style that could be best described

as visionary. The President of the Senate, Dr Bukola Saraki led the upper legislative house to support the legislative framework that pushed for reforms in critical sectors and opened up the other sectors of the economy, worked for the prosperity of the people, created opportunities for improved funding in the health sector, provided better access to quality education and intervened in Nigeria’s lingering insecurity situation in the North East among others.

In his inaugural speech Dr. Bukola Saraki had stated that; “The change that our people voted for is a change from a life of poverty, misery and hopelessness to a life of prosperity, happiness and confidence in the future; a change from a pervasive culture of fear to a life of security and comfort; a change from impunity and elite arrogance to a life of accountability and respect for every citizen, regardless of tribe, gender, religion, region or political persuasion.” These words guided the 8th Senate throughout its tenure, inspiring it to take action and provide interventions that protected Nigeria from the

A Tenure In Review

threat of socio-economic collapse at different times.

Through the highs and lows that tested its integrity and autonomy, the 8th Senate remained resolute in its resolve to be the pulse of the Nigerian people; setting a high standard for future legislatures in the manner in which it carried out legislative duties and responsibilities. Its leadership, standing in defense of democracy, good governance, and rule of law, refused to serve as the rubber stamp of other arms of the Nigerian government and adopted the principles of fairness, firmness, transparency, and accountability that ensured that Nigerians remained top of mind as the National Assembly carried out various legislative and oversight functions.

Four years later, the hard work by the members of the Senate has helped to improve the lives of the Nigerian people. Though several bills it passed never enjoyed executive assent to become law, the 8th Senate through various prompt interventions in critical sections of Nigeria’s journey to development stood tall as the most responsive arm of government. And despite being

constantly placed under the magnifying glass by the public, the media and civil society organizations, it strived to restore the confidence of the people in the process of governance.

The 8th Senate is adjudged as the most productive lawmaking body in the past 20 years of Nigeria’s return to democracy with a record-breaking total of 309 bills passed on the floor of the Red Chamber. As sociopolitical realities change and the Nigerian people continue to yearn for improved governance, few will deny that the progress made by these men and women in the last four years has formed a springboard for a better Nigeria.

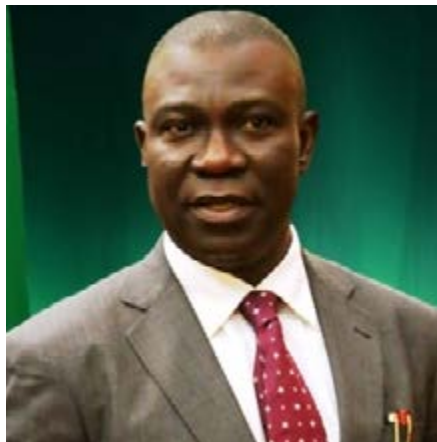
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8th Senate Leadership



Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki
President of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



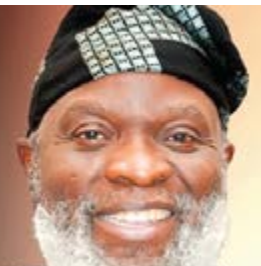
Senator Ike Ekweremadu
Deputy President of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Senator Ahmed Ibrahim Lawan
Majority Leader of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio
Minority Leader of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Senator Olusola Adeyeye
Chief Whip of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Senator Philip Aduda Tanimu
Minority Whip of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Senator Bala Ibn Naallah
Deputy Majority Leader of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Senator Emmanuel Bwacha
Deputy Minority Leader of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Senator Alimikhena Asekhamo
Deputy Chief Whip of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Senator Biodun Christine Olujimi
Deputy Minority Whip of the 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Members of the 8th Senate

STATE		NAME	CONSTITUENCY
Abia	Senator	Ohuabunwa Mao	Abia-North
Abia	Senator	Abaribe Enynnaya	Abia-South
Abia	Senator	Theodore Orji	Abia-Central
Adamawa	Senator	Ahmad Abubakar	Adamawa-South
Adamawa	Senator	Binta Garba	Adamawa-North
Adamawa	Senator	Nyako Abdul-Aziz	Adamawa-Central
Akwa Ibom	Senator	Bassey Akpan	Akwa-Ibom North-East
Akwa Ibom	Senator	Godswill Akpabio	Akwa-Ibom North-West
Akwa Ibom	Senator	Nelson Effiong	Akwa-Ibom South
Anambra	Senator	Emmanuel Uba	Anambra-South
Anambra	Senator	Oduah Stella	Anambra-North
Bauchi	Senator	Suleiman Nazif	Bauchi-North
Bauchi	Senator	Isah Misau	Bauchi-Central
Bauchi	Senator	(Deceased) Malam Wakili	Bauchi-South
Bayelsa	Senator	Foster Ogola	Bayelsa-West
Bayelsa	Senator	Ben Murray-Bruce	Bayelsa-East
Bayelsa	Senator	Paulker Emmanuel	Bayelsa-Central
Benue	Senator	David Mark	Benue-South
Benue	Senator	Barnabas Gemade	Benue North-East
Benue	Senator	George Akume	Benue North-West

STATE		NAME	CONSTITUENCY
Borno	Senator	Abubakar Kyari	Borno North
Borno	Senator	Baba Garba	Borno Central
Borno	Senator	Mohammed Ndume	Borno South
Cross River	Senator	Gershom Bassey	Cross River South
Cross River	Senator	John Enoh	Cross River Central
Cross River	Senator	Rose Oko	Cross River North
Delta	Senator	Ovie Omo-Agege	Delta Central
Delta	Senator	James Manager	Delta South
Delta	Senator	Peter Nwaboshi	Delta North
Ebonyi	Senator	Sunday Ogbuoji	Ebonyi South
Ebonyi	Senator	Samuel Egwu	Ebonyi North
Ebonyi	Senator	Joseph Ogba	Ebonyi Central
Edo	Senator	Aisagbonriodion Urhoghide	Edo South
Edo	Senator	Alimikhena Francis	Edo North
Edo	Senator	Ordia Clifford	Edo Central
Ekiti	Senator	Duro Faseyi	Ekiti North
Ekiti	Senator	Biodun Olujimi	Ekiti South
Ekiti	Senator	Fatimat Raji-Rasaki	Ekiti Central
Enugu	Senator	Utazi Chukwuka	Enugu North
Enugu	Senator	Gilbert Nnaji	Enugu East

STATE		NAME	CONSTITUENCY
Enugu	Senator	Ike Ekweremadu	Enugu West
Federal Capital Territory	Senator	Philip Tanimu	FCT
Gombe	Senator	Mohammed Goje	Gombe Central
Gombe	Senator	Nafada Bayero	Gombe North
Gombe	Senator	Joshua Moljobok	Gombe South
Imo	Senator	Hope Uzodinma	Imo West
Imo	Senator	Samuel Anyanwu	Imo East
Imo	Senator	Benjamin Uwajumogu	Imo North
Jigawa	Senator	Mohammed Sabo	South West
Jigawa	Senator	Muhammad Shitu	North East
Jigawa	Senator	Abdullahi Gumel	North West
Kaduna	Senator	Shehu Sani	Kaduna Central
Kaduna	Senator	Suleiman Hunkuyi	Kaduna North
Kaduna	Senator	Danjuma Laah	Kaduna South
Kano	Senator	Jibrin Barau	Kano-North
Kano	Senator	Kabiru Gaya	Kano-South
Kano	Senator	Rabiu Kwankwaso	Kano-Central
Katsina	Senator	(Deceased) Mustapha Bukar	Katsina North
Katsina	Senator	Kurfi Umaru	Katsina Central
Katsina	Senator	Abu Ibrahim	Katsina South

STATE		NAME	CONSTITUENCY
Kebbi	Senator	Muhammad Adamu	Kebbi Central
Kebbi	Senator	Bala Naallah	Kebbi South
Kebbi	Senator	Yahaya Abdullahi	Kebbi North
Kogi	Senator	Ahmed Ogembe	Kogi Central
Kogi	Senator	Dino Melaye	Kogi West
Kogi	Senator	Atai Usman	Kogi East
Kwara	Senator	Mohammed Lafiagi	Kwara North
Kwara	Senator	Rafiu Ibrahim	Kwara South
Kwara	Senator	Bukola Saraki	Kwara Central
Lagos	Senator	Bareehu Ashafa	Lagos-East
Lagos	Senator	Oluremi Tinubu	Lagos-Central
Lagos	Senator	Olamilekan Adeola	Lagos-West
Nassarawa	Senator	Suleiman Adokwe	Nasarawa South
Nassarawa	Senator	Abdullahi Adamu	Nasarawa West
Nassarawa	Senator	Aruwa Gyunka	Nasarawa North
Niger	Senator	David Umaru	Niger East
Niger	Senator	Sani Mohammed	Niger South
Niger	Senator	Aliyu Abdullahi	Niger North
Ogun	Senator	Olanrewaju Tejuoso	Ogun Central
Ogun	Senator	Buruji Kashamu	Ogun East

STATE		NAME	CONSTITUENCY
Ogun	Senator	Joseph Dada	Ogun West
Ondo	Senator	Omotayo Donald	Ondo Central
Ondo	Senator	Robert Boroffice	Ondo North
Ondo	Senator	Yele Omogunwa	Ondo South
Osun	Senator	Olusola Adeyeye	Osun Central
Osun	Senator	Omoworare Babajide	Osun East
Osun	Senator	Ademola Adeleke	Osun West
Oyo	Senator	Abdulfatai Buhari	Oyo North
Oyo	Senator	Rilwan Akanbi	Oyo South
Oyo	Senator	Monsurat Sunmonu	Oyo Central
Plateau	Senator	Jeremiah Useni	Plateau South
Plateau	Senator	Jonah Jang	Plateau North
Plateau	Senator	Joshua Chibi	Plateau Central
Rivers	Senator	Andrew Uchendu	Rivers East
Rivers	Senator	Magnus Abe	Rivers South East
Sokoto	Senator	Aliyu Wamakko	Sokoto North
Sokoto	Senator	Ibrahim Gobir	Sokoto East
Sokoto	Senator	Abdullahi Ibrahim	Sokoto South
Taraba	Senator	Abubakar Sani	Taraba North
Taraba	Senator	Yusuf Yusuf	Taraba Central

STATE		NAME	CONSTITUENCY
Taraba	Senator	Emmanuel Bwacha	Taraba South
Yobe	Senator	Ahmad Lawan	Yobe North
Yobe	Senator	Mohammed Hassan	Yobe South
Yobe	Senator	Bukar Ibrahim	Yobe East
Zamfara	Senator	Ahmad Sani	Zamfara West
Zamfara	Senator	Tijjani Kaura	Zamfara North
Zamfara	Senator	Kabir Garba	Zamfara Central

National Leadership



The need for strong democratic institutions in the provision of good governance mandates that the National Assembly remain an arm of government whose integrity and autonomy must not be compromised.

The reality, however, is that over the years, the Nigerian legislature had become an institution lacking the political will to check the excesses of other arms of government. On the occasions it attempted to live up to this function, Nigeria's history is replete with tales of principal officers of the legislature who found out the hard way that the relationship between the executive and legislative arms of government is one that requires the deft hand of proactive leadership. Fortunately, the

leadership of the 8th Senate was so gifted.

In carrying out its legislative and oversight functions, the Senate realized that the relationship between itself and the executive had grown strained. This followed its refusal to assent to certain demands of the executive that the Senate believed were antithetical to the spirit of democracy and to what Nigerians deserved. From political appointments which were not made in good faith or exhibited fairness to demanding transparency by the federal government in its fiscal functions and responsibilities, the 8th Senate ensured that its role as a representative of the Nigerian people was carried out in furtherance of the democratic ideals that birthed this great nation.







Through collaboration with the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria the 8th Senate ensured that locally manufactured goods were given priority in public procurement

Promoting Made In Nigeria Agenda

The crux of leadership is the need for leaders to take action when it matters most. In the face of declining oil prices, the rise of the insurgency in the North East, Nigeria's economy was bleeding and was in dire need of growth. Patronage of locally manufactured products was low and the flight of Foreign Exchange through importation had necessitated the Central Bank of Nigeria to initiate policies that would save the naira from falling.

With a ban placed on the importation of a number of items, Nigerian products needed to be patronized by Nigerians for the economy to thrive. Before the Senate weighed in, many of the local manufacturers

in the country were groaning under the weight of low patronage, which undermined their potential for growth. Through collaboration with the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria and the amendment of the Public Procurement Law, the Nigerian Senate ensured that locally manufactured goods were given priority in public procurement.

The Senate-led social media advocacy, #BuyNaijaToGrowTheNaira also helped many Nigerian small and medium enterprises plug into the promotion and wide-reaching acceptance of Made In Nigeria products. This resulted in a 2.38 percent increase in the contribution of the non-oil sector to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018.



The "Made In Nigeria" initiative and meetings with Leather goods manufacturers from Aba.



Courtesy visit from Innosson Motors Nigeria Ltd on strengthening the Nigerian Auto market and propagating indigenous "Made In Nigeria brands".

Promoting Universal Healthcare

Every year, Nigeria's economy loses over one billion dollars to Medical Tourism. While many Nigerian patients seek healthcare solutions abroad, Nigerian doctors pursue foreign practice in search of better remuneration and the country's healthcare sector continues to yearn for reforms that would be made possible only by strong political will.

In order to reverse this trend and revamp the Healthcare sector, the Saraki-led National Assembly ensured that 1% of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) was set aside in the 2018 budget as funding for Healthcare.

Like a typical leadership committed to serving the people, the Senate provided legislative framework for the revitalization of primary health care across the federation. This will ensure that primary health care is provided for millions of Nigerians.



Bono pays a courtesy visit to the Eight senate, and ...



FOR THE PEOPLE



Bill Gates meeting with the leadership of the 8th National Assembly of Nigeria on...

The Senate President's dogged commitment to healthcare in Nigeria was eulogized at a meeting on Sustainable healthcare financing and strengthening primary healthcare in Nigeria, by the Chairman, Bill and Melinda Foundation, recalling that the Senate President's intervention was a turning point to the fight against Polio in Nigeria.

For the 8th Senate, the fight against corruption was fought without drama or

propaganda. It was about plugging leakages and establishing systems and processes that would institutionalize transparency and accountability. For the first time since 1999, the Senate opened up its own budget to the public for scrutiny, making Nigerians aware of how the Senate is run.

Following Nigeria's suspension from the Egmont group, a global financial body responsible for setting standards and best practices for financial intelligence

units in July 2017, the 8th Senate ensured the passage of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unity (NFIU) bill which will aid the country recover stolen funds abroad. To further strengthen the institutional fight against corruption, the 8th Senate increased funding for the completion of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Headquarters, making the EFCC better equipped to deliver on its mandate.



FOR THE PEOPLE



THE **8TH SENATE** OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF
NIGERIA



Senator Utazi Godfrey Chukwuma heading the committee on the fight against corruption

FOR THE PEOPLE





An active government approach must go beyond economy wide policies to improve conditions for growth. Government must be proactive and strategic in its support of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises





The 8th Senate Leadership including Dr. Abubakar bukola Saraki visit the newly built EFCC HQ.



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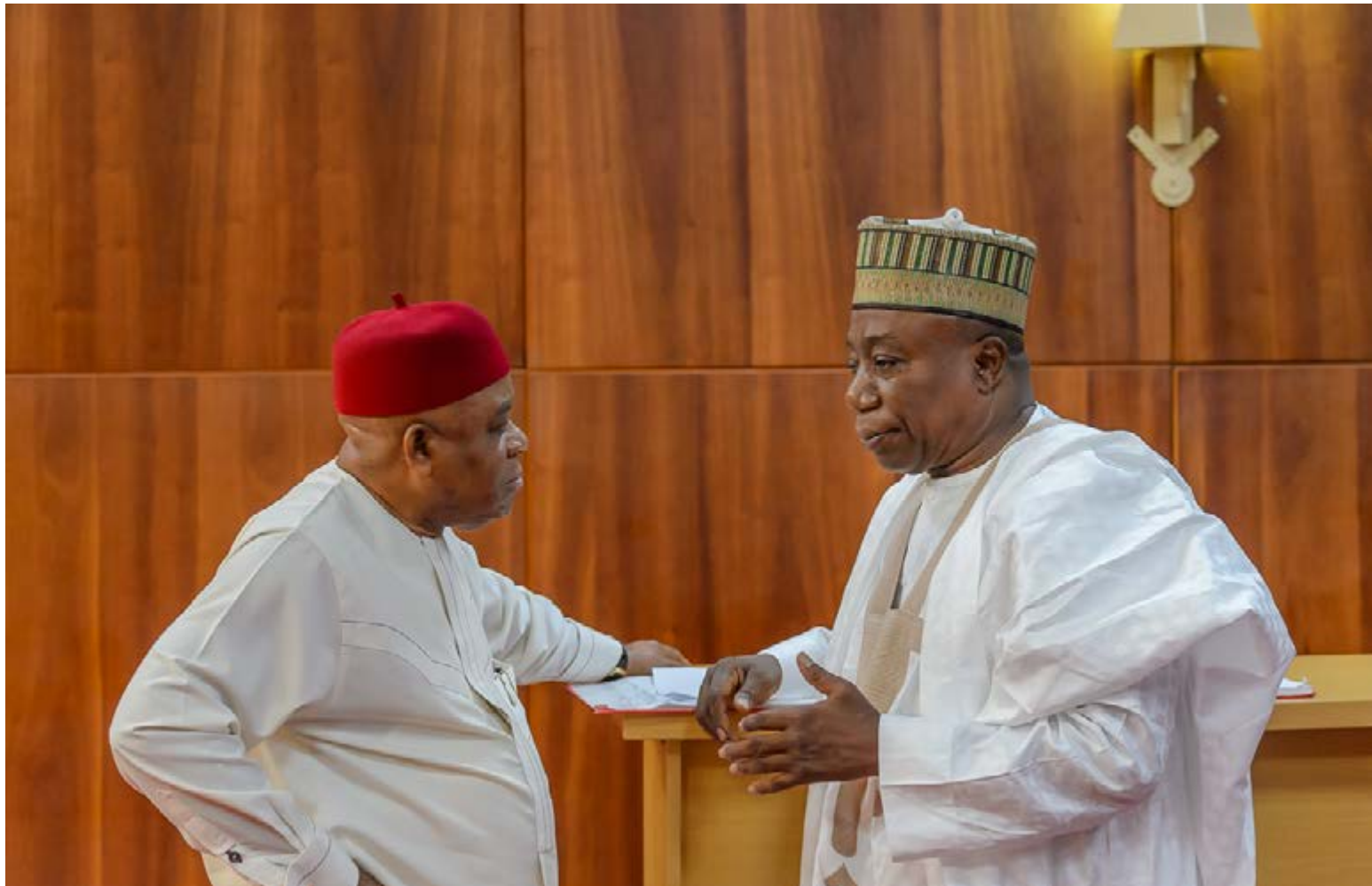
The World Press Conference hosted by the Senate President Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki to address...



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Different public hearing sessions which shows the transparency and engagement with the public that the 8th Senate promised to do through its #OpenNASS initiative.



Interactions of different senators of the 8th Senate



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FOR THE PEOPLE



South African envoy visits the leadership of the Nigerian Senate



Northern senators forum in Katsina



Southern senators forum in Bayelsa



President Muhammadu Buhari hosts the leadership of the National Assembly to a State dinner.





The Nigerian Medical Association keynote in Abuja



Leadership Beyond Borders



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For years, Nigeria’s image as a global pariah has been established from a series of socio-political missteps. The value that the country’s passport bestowed on its citizens has faced a corresponding decline at most entry ports across the world.

In a paradoxical twist, this dire straits presented the perfect backdrop against which to initiate bridge-building and rebranding and for the first time in Nigeria’s history, the law-making arm of government would be at the fore of this charge.

From fostering groundbreaking global partnerships to rebuilding Nigeria’s image on the global scene, the 8th Senate has made a name for itself as one of the most respected African legislative houses.



Courtesy visit from the German President to the 8th Senate on...



Courtesy visit from the Commonwealth Secretary General





Dr Abubakar Bukola Saraki delivering a keynote speech at the ECOWAS...

Inter-Parliamentary Collaborations

With this win under its belt, the 8th Senate began the broader work of fostering greater bilateral and multilateral relationships between the National Assembly and other law and policy-making institutions across the globe.

Starting with Africa, it charged West African governments in an address to the ECOWAS Parliament to give the parliament greater authorization and capacity to legislate on common areas and to empower it to provide oversight on critical issues of common interest and interdependency. The Senate also reiterated the continued support and help of Nigeria's National Assembly to the work of the ECOWAS Parliament in



its efforts to provide the legislative leadership for greater development of the ECOWAS region.

From 2018, the Senate took its role of image-maker to the global stage by engaging in various interactions with other legislative houses such as the inter-parliamentary event at the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation where the President of Nigeria's Senate, Dr. Bukola Saraki, highlighted Nigeria's role as a gateway to the African continent in terms of trade and the vibrancy and innovation of its youth population. He emphasised that this growing population, would be at the forefront of transforming every sphere of life in Nigeria touching on entrepreneurship, sports, arts, and entertainment.



Dr. Saraki enjoined the Russian Federation to endeavor to strengthen the cooperation and partnerships between Nigeria and Russia, to enable both countries benefit from the projected growth of their economies in the decades to come. The Senate also used the opportunity to intimate the Russian Parliament of its work to curb human trafficking and called on the Russian Federation to join in building a stronger collaboration for the fight against this common enemy.



The 8th Senate delegation to Russia on...



An active government approach must go beyond economy wide policies to improve conditions for growth. Government must be proactive and strategic in its support of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises

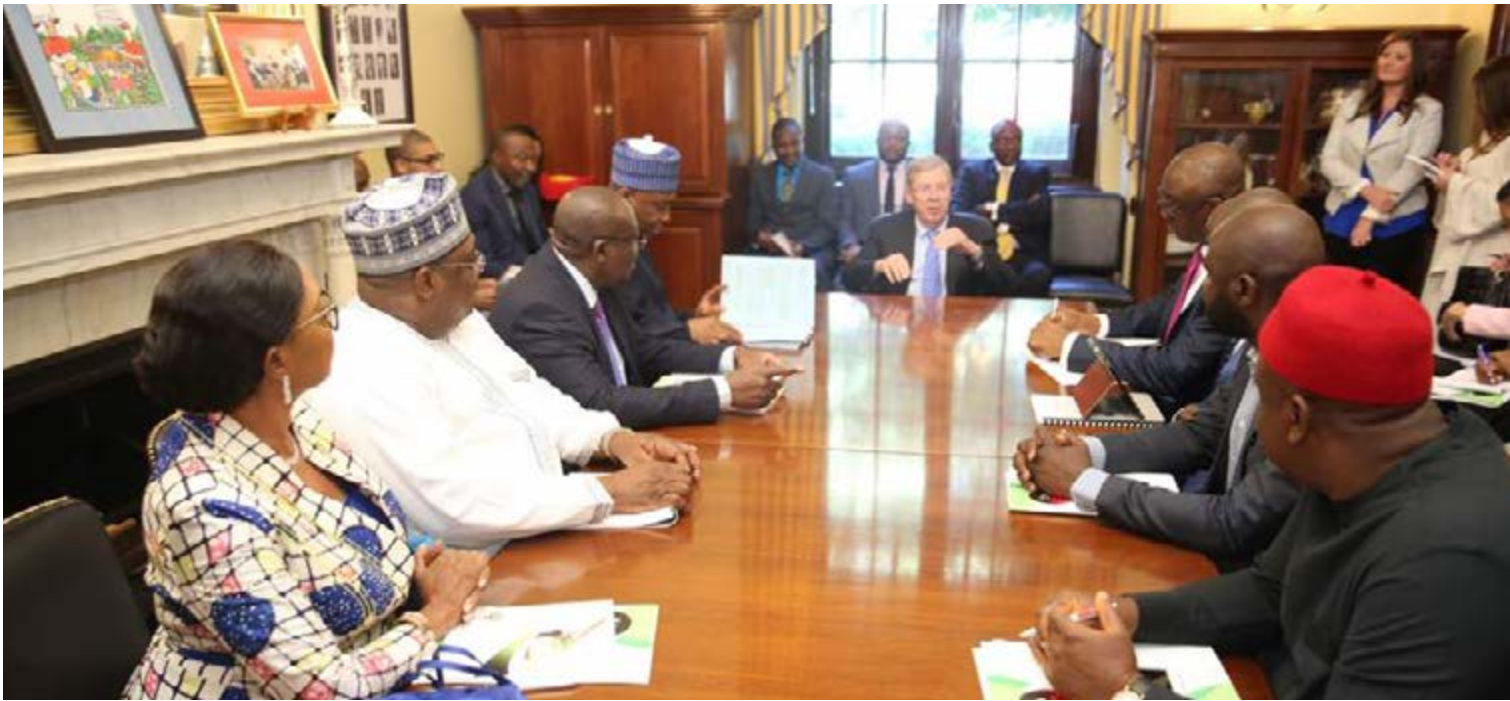
Turning to the West, the Senate embarked on a 3-day working visit to the United States where it met with the U. S Chamber of Commerce, the Council on Foreign Relations, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and select members of the U.S. Congress.

The focus of this working visit was to foster an increased collaboration and broaden the bilateral ties between Nigeria and the United States.

It also used the opportunity to advance the Made In Nigeria initiative and market the strong entrepreneurial nature of the Nigerians and the innovative spirit of its youth.

For a country with a large mono-product export status, Nigeria sorely needed economic diversification and led by the President of the Senate, members of the Nigerian parliament dialogued with their American counterparts emphasising the need to create stronger and deeper collaborations and initiatives that would increase investments and engagements, improve security and democracy and strengthen beneficial trade relations between both countries.

An active government approach must go beyond economy wide policies to improve conditions for growth. Government must



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Nigerians In Diaspora

A notable first step that the Senate took was to engage with Nigerians in diaspora. This group were the most important non-state actors flying the Nigerian flag abroad. They had an identified direct benefit to the Nigerian economy, as the records show that they remit as much as \$28bn back to Nigeria annually.

Prior to their engagement with the 8th Senate, Nigerians in the diaspora had felt disconnected with their home country, and for years had been agitating for a dedicated body to address issues faced by them. To address this persistent issue, the Senate leadership met with members of the Nigerians In Diaspora Organization (NIDO); an umbrella body of Nigerian professionals and academics living abroad, in 2016, to foster greater socio-economic collaboration between members of the organization and the Nigerian government. During the meeting the Senate promised that it would pass the much-argued Diaspora Commission Bill within the year.

As promised, the bill was passed in 2017 and it catered for the coordination and organization of Nigerians in and from the diaspora to contribute human capital, professional expertise, and material resources, for the development of Nigeria and its constituent states. It was signed into law by Acting President Yemi Osinbajo in June 2017.

The NIDO Worldwide Leadership, in a statement it released, commended the leadership of Dr. Bukola Saraki for the passage of the bill which “would provide for legitimate budget resources to address Diaspora issues with seriousness and foster the engagement of Nigerians in Diaspora in the development of Nigeria”.



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Rebuilding Nigeria's Global Profile

With the Arab World improving its global profile by investing in various sectors of the global economy, the Senate leadership saw an opportunity to increase Nigeria-Arab collaboration. The inter-parliamentary Nigeria-Morocco Friendship Group was the medium for achieving this objective.

The Friendship Group's focus was to deepen integration between Nigeria, Morocco, and other Arab countries and also to open a gateway for a strategic partnership. As a result, the pipeline and fertilizer agreements were signed in Rabat in May 2017; its focus was on the improvement of agricultural development which would have the knock on benefit of creating greater prosperity, improving food security and eradicating hunger.

To improve the treatment of Nigerian nationals abroad and particularly in Qatar, the National Assembly, on the sidelines of the 145th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Qatar, called

on the Qatari government to reconsider its visa restrictions on Nigerians stating that the restriction was not beneficial to both countries as it continues to deprive them of cross-cultural exchanges that could boost various sectors of their respective economies.

For an institution many consider as having merely having an advisory and oversight role in driving foreign policy and advancing Nigerian interests across the world, the 8th Senate took upon itself the duty of championing the cause of Nigeria socio-economic interests through various interactions, collaborations, and partnerships which over time improved Nigeria's standing among its sister countries.

From promoting trade to creative industry partnerships and inter-parliamentary exchanges, no prior Nigerian National Assembly had invested this much time and resources into advancing the cause of “brand Nigeria” across global borders.



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Intervening for a Better Society



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In the performance of its overall functions, the 8th Senate led by Senator Dr Abubakar Bukola Saraki would best be judged by the swiftness with which it intervened in National situations that affected average citizens whenever it mattered most.

In 2015, the intervention of the Senate through a motion by Senator Dino Melaye representing Kogi West led to the detection of fraudulent activities in the implementation of the Treasury Single Account (TSA) and the prompt intervention of the Senate saved 20 billion naira for the nation.

Through the intervention of the Senate, fixed charges on electricity consumption and bulk billing of communities and villages by the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) were removed, with the Senate affirming that it was inappropriate for these charges to be imposed on Nigerians.

From its engagement and interventions, it was obvious that the 8th Senate could feel the pulse of the people and were committed to a Nigeria that worked for the average Nigerian. It took the intervention of the 8th Senate to stop the hike in data prices as proposed by the Nigerian

Communication Commission which would have adversely affected Nigerians.

In the face of a looming recession and a gloomy economy in the aftermath of the 2015 elections, uncertainty was rife as many investors pulled out of the stock market. This led to a flight of capital that impacted negatively on the Nigerian economy.

In a bid to correct this, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) came up with policies that were meant to shore up the naira but ended up with an adverse effect on Small and Medium Businesses which constitute the biggest employers of labour in Nigeria.

The inability of these small and medium businesses to access Foreign Exchange for their operations brought hardship to many Nigerians. Understanding the critical role that Small and Medium Enterprises play in a thriving economy, the 8th Senate proactively intervened and invited the CBN President to the Upper Chamber. The resultant effect of this interaction was the reversal of these foreign exchange policies to create relief for Nigerians.



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JOHESU Intervention meetings with...



Drug Abuse Intervention...in Kano

When there was no immediate solution in sight, the Senate adopted dialogue as a key intervention strategy. Through various public hearing sessions and meetings geared towards the amicable resolution of national issues, the 8th Senate's commitment to leadership even in tough moments became reaffirmed.

From the agitation for an improved minimum wage by the National Labour Congress (NLC) to the demand for an increased pay package by the Joint Health Sector Unions (JOHESU), the 8th Senate was connected to the pulse of the people.

In finding ways of ending the industrial action embarked on by the NLC, the 8th Senate, through the collaboration of the various stakeholders reached a landmark decision



and a new minimum wage was adopted and signed into law by the President. It took even more sagacity, wit and grit on the part of the Senate President in resolving the JOHESU strike which crippled the health sector for six weeks. Thanks to his intervention, the National Executive Council of JOHESU decided to call off the strike and get back to work while continuing negotiations with the government.

The rate of insecurity in the country rose to an all time high. Insurgents held sway in the North East while herdsmen unleashed mayhem in various parts of the country. Terror was unleashed on law abiding citizens and any light at the end of the tunnel flickered away as unfulfilled promise.



Opioid epidemic intervention...in Kano

In many quarters, Nigerians were afraid of their lives. News of killing and kidnapping woke the nation up so incessantly that the Senate took it up as a matter of urgency.

In response to the challenge of insecurity, the Senate organized a Security summit to review and redesign Nigeria's security framework for better efficiency and speedy intervention in security challenges. This summit provided the avenue for robust engagement with key stakeholders – including heads of military and paramilitary agencies and resulted in a 20-point recommendation forwarded for action by the Executive arm of government. It also sent a delegation to the North East to connect with the people and to ascertain the progress of government's intervention.

The menace of drug abuse found a deliberation time on the floor of the 8th Senate as a result of the rise in the abuse of drugs, especially in some Northern states. Senators discussed ways of curbing its effects in Nigeria as its effects have caused many Nigerian youths to lose their lives or their minds or get incarcerated in prisons in drug-related offences. In response to this, the 8th Senate organized a two-day roundtable in the city of Kano, creating public awareness on the rising scourge.

This necessitated the ban on Tremadol by the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control the passing of two bills on the floor of the Senate which

include: the National Mental Health Bill and the National Drug Control Bill.

For many years, the over 25 million Nigerians living with disabilities have been groaning under various forms of discriminations in the Nigerian society without any institutional framework to alleviate their plight. From challenges in accessing education to ease of mobility, people living with disabilities are subject to various forms of psychological, physical and emotional abuse.

In its usual style of prompt response to issues that affect Nigerians, the 8th Senate, through the collaboration of the House of Representatives approved the Nigeria Disability Bill which has been forwarded to the President for assent. This bill, when signed into law, would institutionalize benefits for Nigerians living with disabilities and enable them access certain support as stipulated under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In furtherance to its strong commitment to the Nigerian people, the 8th Senate collaborated with the Nigerian Economic Summit group to strengthen the Nigerian economy in a summit that opened up opportunities for promotion of locally manufactured goods. The Summit which was titled 'Made In Nigeria' brought to fur the challenges of perception faced by local manufacturers and drove discussion towards policies and regulations that will help local manufacturers succeed



Benue IDP camp visit on Children's day...



NASSBER meeeting...



An active government approach must go beyond economy wide policies to improve conditions for growth. Government must be proactive and strategic in its support of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises





FOR THE PEOPLE



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THE **8TH SENATE** OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF
NIGERIA

Empowering Nigerian Youth for Impact



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At least one in two Nigerians that you may encounter will be between the ages of 18 and 35, as a result, the importance of driving policies and interventions to enable this youthful population to optimise its potential is not one that can be overemphasized. In a country where over 50% of the population lives in extreme poverty, opportunities for young people are limited and where they exist, various barriers exist which deprive young Nigerians of the support required to foster innovation and growth.

For years, Nigeria’s laws, policies, and reforms have failed to consider this active demographic and the advent of the digital age and globalization has served to highlight the pressing need to involve the youth in nation-building and economic development. A critical action to be taken to achieve this would involve giving the youth more seats at the table of national development; To achieve this, the barriers to national and elected offices needed to be eradicated.



Youth delegates visit the 8th senate to learn and experience Nigerian legislature. The youth were from a Public Senate initiative which is a platform for educating, engaging and informing Nigerian youth about the legislative arm.

Opportunities for Youth In Governance

In 2017 when the Nigerian Senate passed the “Not Too Young To Run” Bill, it was in response to lifting these barriers and giving the youth the opportunity to serve the country as elected officials. The bill, conceived and pushed by the Youth Initiative for Advocacy Growth & Advancement (YIAGA), was sponsored by Honourable Tony Nwulu and Senator Abdulaziz Nyako in the National Assembly.

It sought to reduce the age qualification for president from 40 to 30; governor from 35 to 30; senator from 35 to 30; House of Representatives membership from 30 to 25 and State House of Assembly membership from 30 to 25. President of the Senate, Dr. Bukola Saraki, who highlighted Nigeria’s need for the energy and innovation of its young people, prioritized the passage of the bill. In commending the efforts of the National Assembly towards passing the bill, Samson Itodo, a convener of the YIAGA movement noted that it was the first time a National Assembly leadership had played a visible role in passing such an important bill meant to empower Nigerian youths.

Youth Interactions and Transparency

To take this relationship between the National Assembly and young Nigerians to a more engaging level, the Senate created opportunities for deeper interactions between its members and various youth groups. Its Senate Youth Unemployment and Development Roundtable was a key example of this: It allowed the

Senate and young Nigerians to interact on the various challenges causing youth unemployment and depriving young people of opportunities.

They also used the roundtable to showcase the various bills the Senate had passed or were working on to improve the lives of young Nigerians, create jobs and drive youth enterprise. Some of these bills such as the Secured Transaction in Movable Assets Act (Amendment) Bill, the Public Procurement Act Amendment Bill and the Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme Act (Amendment) Bill targeted unlocking opportunities to help youth-led business thrive.

Beyond these formal engagements, the leadership of the Senate embarked on a massive enlightenment campaign



to help young Nigerians better understand the workings of the Nigerian legislature.

The Public Senate initiative which it launched not only provided greater transparency into the affairs of the National Assembly but also inspired young Nigerians to work towards becoming members of the legislature. Further interactions with young Nigerians held during the Senate Open Week in 2018 had the major aim of broadening public understanding of legislative functions and processes and the work being done by the National Assembly to advance legislative openness and to create an avenue for interaction between legislators and key stakeholders.



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Investments for Youth Prosperity

Many of the bills passed by the Senate under its present leadership focused on helping young Nigerians to create wealth and more opportunities for others like them. Amendments such as those to the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) and the Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme Act focused on removing barriers to youth entrepreneurship and improving the ease of doing business in Nigeria.

The CAMA amendment was especially advanced to support small-scale industries and to promote innovations and encourage enterprise among young entrepreneurs. It also promotes greater use of technology and reduces regulatory hurdles that have hitherto made it near impossible for young Nigerians to do business.

The 8th Senate took an active role in supporting youth-led initiatives and movements and during a meeting with the Obama Leadership Foundation Programme winners, the President of the Senate, Dr. Bukola Saraki stated the key legislation that had been passed to solve many of the problems the participants raised. Bills such as the UBE act to improve funding for basic education, the Electronic Transactions Bill that protects online transactions and the Movable Assets Act that make loans accessible for young people were discussed.



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Youth-Focused Empathy

The Senate leadership also remained tuned into events and happenings affecting Nigerian youths and during a condolence visit to the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) camp in Kwara after the passing of Miss Hilda Amadi, a young Nigerian Corper, Dr. Bukola Saraki stated that he was at the camp to reassure NYSC members that their safety, wellbeing, and development remained the priority of the National Assembly. At other times the Senate intervened in social issues that impacted young Nigerians including helping to improve the relationships between Nigerian youths and members of Nigeria’s security service through reforms and key legislation targeted at resolving issues such as the #EndSARS agitation.

Governments and leaders are only as great as the age of their ideas, and it is not farfetched to state here that the vibrancy, exposure and youthfulness of the leadership of this Senate has been most responsible for the many actions, interventions and reforms it embarked on to improve the lives of young Nigerians. For a section of the Nigerian population that has been deprived of opportunities and respect for so long, the interventions of the upper legislative house have widened the path for Nigeria to achieve growth through the enterprising spirit and technological innovations of its youth. In the fields of ICT, entertainment, and agriculture those who have been flying the Nigerian flag proudly now have the support they so urgently require.



Dr. Saraki places a condolence call to the family of the young lady...who was killed as a result of Police violence. This incidence amongst many others made the 8th senate intervene in bring Police reform policies to light.

Legislating for the future



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In the development of nations, one of the key factors that determine the success or failure of leaders is vision. In his visionary approach to leadership, the Senate President of the 8th Senate, Dr Bukola Saraki inspired his colleagues in the National Assembly to look beyond the Nigeria that is, to the Nigeria that can be in their legislative duties. This compelling vision inspired the members of the 8th Senate to draw a road map that will make Nigeria a nation with functional institutions for the speedy achievement of national development.

Through the adoption of a people-centered approach to leadership, the 8th Senate successfully passed landmark bills as a result of intense work, committee meetings, public hearings and interactions with the Nigerian people to find out the issues at the heartbeat of the nation, which when addressed will engineer the nation towards a path of stability, stronger institutions and inclusive growth.

Throughout the lifetime of the Saraki-led administration, a total of 48 bills have been rejected by the President. As the President retains the constitutional right to assent on bills, it is at his behest that the bill can become operational as law. However, the problems that these bills are meant to resolve continue to stare Nigeria in the

face while the 8th Senate tries to navigate around the best way to make progress on the rejected bills.

One of those bills passed in the 8th Senate in the build up to the 2019 elections was the Electoral Amendment bill which sought to among other things, strengthen the independence of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), provide stronger transparency for the electoral process and also incorporate electronic voting among other things.

In rejecting the Electoral Amendment bill 2018, the President wrote back to the house, saying that signing the bill would ‘create uncertainty and confusion.’ However, the 8th Senate, dogged in its approach and committed in its resolve for a better Nigeria amended and sent the Electoral Amendment Bill back to the President four times without success. I

n the face of these rejections, the urgency of the Electoral Amendment Act continues to hang on the future of Nigeria. If the Electoral Amendment had been signed into law, perhaps the 2019 elections would have witnessed less ballot box snatching, lower incidences of violence and death would have been drastically reduced.

Cross-section of Women parliamentarians.



One of such landmark bills passed by the 8th Senate which holds much promise for the country is the Petroleum Industry Governance bill. The 8th Senate pushed further with the amendment to the bill which would enhance good governance and higher transparency for the Nigerian National Petroleum Commission.

The importance of this bill hinges on the need to bring transparency into the system and maximize output through efficient management and governing structures for the oil industry. The provisions in the bill will help curb corruption in the oil sector by bringing effective regulation to protect the people and environment of the oil producing community. The PIG Bill when passed will boost the overall productivity of Nigeria's oil sector save Nigeria from current

Another bill that deserves the specific mention is the Gender and Equal Opportunities (GEO) Bill, seeking to protect adolescent girls and young women's rights. The bill, when signed into law, will promote the participation of more women in politics. It will advance the 35% affirmative action in favour of women, which means that more women will have the opportunity to get appointments and participate in politics.



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Courtesy visit from UN Women to the leadership of the 8th Senate



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With hindrances in form of cultural claws holding women down and cascading into the fabric of the society, the GEO bill will remove whatever glass ceiling that prevents girls from maximizing their potential. It will end the situation where many young girls are not hired in many establishments, simply because they are girls, and may have children in the future. Without signing the bill into law, girls in Nigeria will continue to face various kinds of discrimination and the country will not fully maximize the potential of her girls.

The role of the Police as an institution restoring law and order in every society is one that comes with a huge burden on men and women of the Nigeria Police Force. Being the security arm charged with protecting lives and property, the task therefore, comes with a great level of professionalism and will need a person of sound mind.

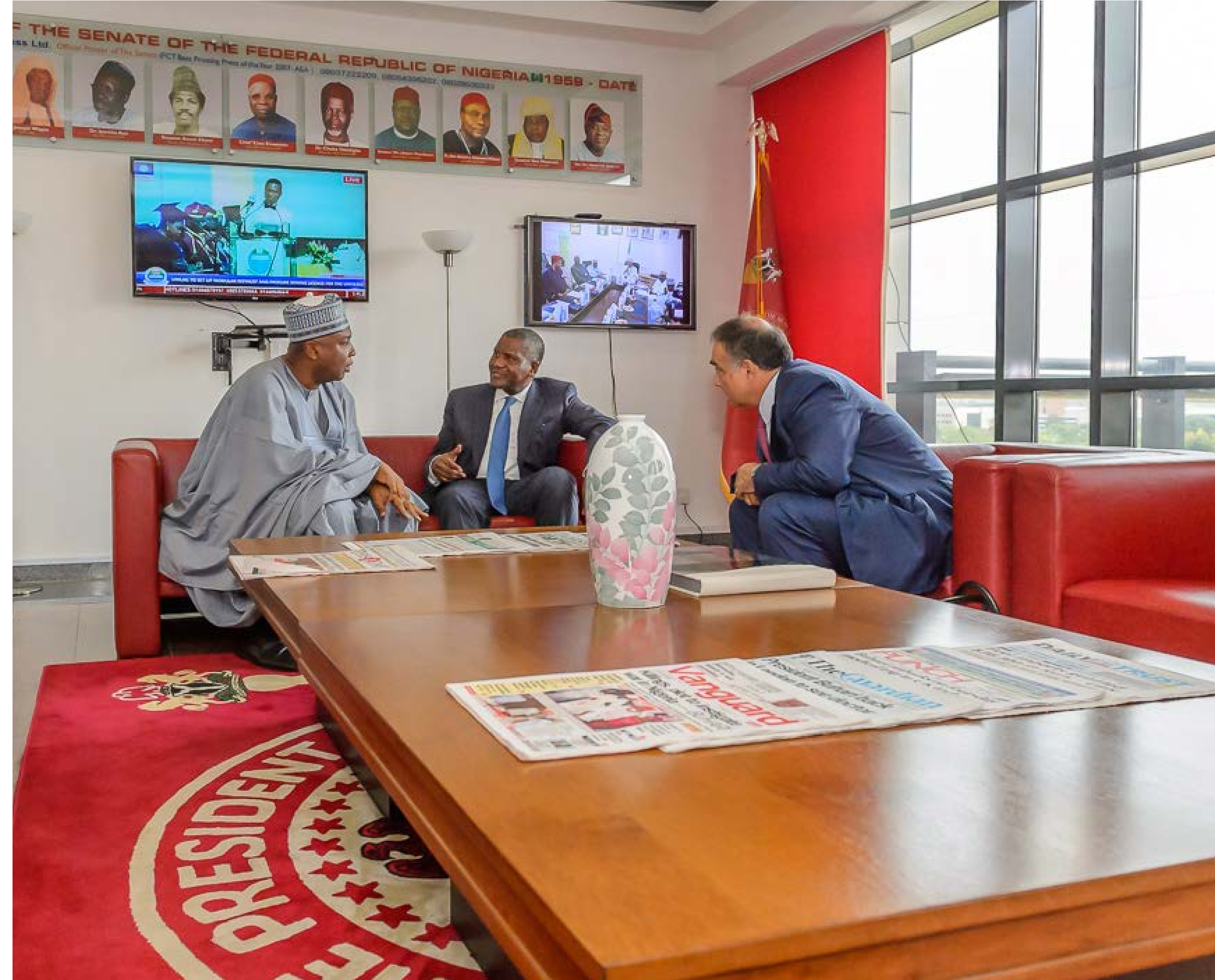
The reality of Police brutality became a recurring decimal, amplifying the urgent need for Police Reforms in Nigeria. Through various hashtags like #Endsars and #ReformNigerianPolice, a massive outcry among the

citizens made Police Reform bill a top priority for the 8th Senate.

The part of the Police Reform that Police Officers will be held accountable for every action they take.

Today, the world is moving at a fast pace. With the help of technology, companies are becoming richer than countries, borders are being melted by online Tech companies and the new language of prosperity is technology and innovation.

With this in mind, the 8th Senate adopted the National Research and Innovation Council. The NRIC Bill is so imperative because it provides for the funding of research and innovation. Today, the countries of the world that invest heavily in Research and Development are leading in the amount of start-ups that sprout every year. From the results of funding research in other parts of the world, the 8th Senate passed the bill on the floor of the house because of its potential to stir up the creative potential of Nigerians.



Moving on



When true leadership and service is mentioned in the context of the Nigerian journey, it is spoken of merely as a lofty ideal that leaders in public and private life must aspire to.

Rarely, if ever, are these ideals demanded of those in elected offices and the broken trajectory of Nigeria's rise to becoming a developed country is a testament of the levity with which these core requirements of national development have been treated.

As such, it is not strange to hear that the majority of Nigerians consider those in government to be there for personal benefits and at the expense of average Nigerians. Over the course of the country's history, successive leaders have failed to advance pro-people reforms aimed at rebuilding the broken trust between government and the governed, the result has in due course become a growing discord between average Nigerian and their government.

There are thus important lessons to learn from a Senate that put the people at the forefront of its legislative and oversight functions and provided service-oriented leadership for a country constantly at the receiving end of the negative effects of insecurity, economic collapse, and socio-political risks.



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With the 309 bills that the Senate signed into law during its tenure, Nigerians and the world at large could see that it appreciated the diversity of the Nigerian state and regarded the yearnings of each section of the citizenry as legitimate and worthy of its attention. This was no rubber-stamp legislature that existed to agree to the various demands of other arms of government; This was a lawmaking arm that took its responsibility of representing Nigerians to heart.

Through the various controversies and attacks targeted at the upper legislative house and its leadership, it rose better equipped to tackle the myriad challenges being faced by those at whose pleasure it served. Learnings were taken from the failure of past legislatures and the focus remained on serving the people and not the interests of factions, parties or godfathers.

At every turn in the road, the senate made sure the excesses of the executive arm were kept in check to ensure that the rights and freedoms of Nigerians were not trampled upon. It also stood in the gap where other

arms of government failed, intervening at different times to help various classes of Nigerians find succor.

Long after it is gone, we will remember the 8th Senate not only for the unprecedented number of bills, hearings, and reforms it executed but for the people-focused initiatives and interventions it embarked upon to improve the lives of average Nigerians.

At various times during its tenure, it stood solidly in defense of democracy, proactively rose to the responsibility of intervening in socio-economic issues to alleviate the suffering of Nigerians and flew the Nigerian flag through interactions and collaborations with foreign organizations and governments. The men and women in this senate embodied what the President of the Senate, Dr. Bukola Saraki described in his inaugural address: “an agenda to make laws that will enable Nigeria to renew its infrastructure, reform the oil sector, improve security systems, boost agriculture, create jobs and make doing business in Nigeria much more competitive”. This was truly a People’s Senate.





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