



# LEGISLATIVE **LEGACY**

8TH SENATE ON RECORD





**LEGISLATIVE**  
**LEGACY**

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DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA **SARAKI** CON  
PRESIDENT OF THE EIGHTH SENATE





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**DR. IKE EKWEREMADU** CFR  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE EIGHTH SENATE

## FOREWORD

**T**he 8th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was a momentous four years in our legislature in the time since the nation's return to democratic rule in 1999. It was a most eventful Senate. Seldom has the National Assembly dominated national discourse as was seen in this Senate.

The 8th Senate was at the forefront of addressing many issues affecting ordinary Nigerians, and worked to improve their lives, all the while taking cues from the people themselves by lending a listening ear. It asserted its independence as guided by the democratic principle of Separation of Powers and as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (As Amended). As much as possible, the legislature, as a co-equal arm of government, jealously guarded its independence in the discharge of its constitutional duties of lawmaking, representation, oversight, approval of certain appointments, and vetting of government spending. It spoke up for the common man.

All of this should ordinarily cause the public to be favourably disposed to the activities of the legislature and the inviolability of the institution. However, history and experience the world over have also shown us that this is not always the case. The legislature is generally the most misunderstood and misrepresented arm of government. The misrepresentation and lack of understanding of the legislature come with a sharper edge in Nigeria, where the National Assembly is the youngest arm of government, suspended throughout the long years of military rule.

This book, 'Legislative Legacy: 8th Senate on Record', is a persuasive response and education for any doubters. The 8th Senate under the leadership of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki as President of the Senate, against all odds, laid the groundwork for the proper perception of the National Assembly, which is sure to manifest in the fullness of time.

hardworking Senate? Like or loathe the 8th Senate, the venerable red chamber of the National Assembly has set new records in legislative performance in Nigeria. From the Petroleum Industry Governance Bill, CAMA, the Secured Transactions in Movable Assets Act to the Not-Too-Young-To-Run law and so many more, the 8th Senate passed epoch-making laws that will help shape the Nigerian future.

'Legislative Legacy: 8th Senate on Record' is a tale of the tape, setting out the indisputable facts of the achievements of the upper chamber in rich and absorbing detail, so that Nigerians can read and see for themselves what was done in their behalf, beyond the obfuscating lens of politics. The Legislative Agenda, Economy, Security, Anti-Corruption, Health, Education, Police Reform and so many more areas of the Senate's activities are expounded upon in this book. It is a totem to posterity produced with a keen eye on history.

Facts clear the mist of emotions. Many, who had been critical of the 8th Senate, after reading through this work, would have no choice but to marvel at their own cynicism, given what was achieved. Importantly, they would admit that the 8th Senate acted with the noblest and most patriotic intentions and in the best national interest. They would indeed acknowledge that the 8th Senate neither feared to legislate nor legislated out of fear.

This book will prove useful to students, scholars, political scientists, historians and many others. Highly readable, it lends itself easily to anyone that seeks to gain a better understanding of the upper chamber of the National Assembly of Nigeria and how the legislature works. It is a definitive work on the 8th Senate.

**Ike Ekweremadu, PhD, CFR**  
*Deputy President of the Senate*  
Abuja, May 2019.

This book brings us back to that crucial point: Was it a very



## INTRODUCTION

Nigeria's Eighth Senate was inaugurated on June 9, 2015 as contained in the proclamation order to that effect issued by President Muhammadu Buhari. As provided for by the constitution and its standing order, members of the upper legislative chamber immediately elected the two presiding officers: Senate President and the Deputy Senate President. Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, a second-term senator representing Kwara Central and member of the majority All Progressives Congress (APC) which had 60 of the 109 members, was elected unopposed as Senate President. Senator Ike Ekweremadu, a fourth-term Senator representing Enugu West and member of the opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP), defeated Senator Ali Ndume to emerge Deputy Senate President. This was reminiscent of the scenario that played out in the Second Senate, in 1979, when Dr. Joseph Wayas (Cross River, NPN) emerged Senate President while Sen. John Wash Pam (Plateau, NPP) became his deputy.

It should be noted that some APC senators were absent during the inaugural plenary - attending a meeting at the International Conference Centre (ICC), Abuja. This development stirred up a controversy around the election of the Senate leadership, especially as it appeared the conveners of the ICC meeting preferred different candidates for the top offices.

Nonetheless, on September 29, 2015, 84 senators sponsored a motion for a Vote of Confidence on the leadership of Dr. Saraki, the new Senate President. There were no dissenting voices when the motion was put to vote on the floor. The Saraki-leadership immediately swung into action and started receiving delegations from home and abroad - professional groups, foreign missions, development partners, pressure groups, civil society organisations, labour unions and government agencies. These and many more started paying courtesy calls to canvass one matter or another, or seek

support for issues and ideas that, in their view, merited legislative intervention.

The controversy over the emergence of the new leadership raged on, and at times, almost threatened to overshadow the work of the Senate. Groups emerged in support and against, with external forces playing key roles in sustained machinations to destabilise the emergent order. Forces propelled by the Executive arm of government, working with some senators, were bent on toppling the new Senate leadership. They initiated a case on asset declaration against the Senate President at the Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT), as well as a forgery case at the Federal High Court against both Saraki and Ekweremadu. Both cases were eventually resolved in favour of Saraki and Ekweremadu.

Saraki used the constitution of committees and deft statesmanship to rally his colleagues and made popular a ground rule to the effect that: *'Senators are elected to work for Nigeria and when the interest of the country is at stake, there are no PDP Senators or APC Senators.'* This slogan helped weld the Senate into a cohesive unit. They were then able to soldier on as a powerful team, taking on the most difficult Bills, Petitions, Motions and a plethora of issues with gusto. By the end of its first two years, the Senate had surpassed the previous Session in the number of bills and petitions successfully passed and treated.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate had a most intense and successful stakeholder engagement strategy. For the first time in the history of the Nigerian legislature, Public Hearings were being held on the yearly Appropriation (Budget) law passage. Courtesy calls on the Senate leadership went from the traditional meet-and-greet photo opportunity sessions to become ideas generating and information sharing meetings on what bills or interventions would help improve the living conditions of the people.

The Senate under Saraki adopted the method of engaging with professional groups, academics, development partners, NGOs, CSOs and other organisations to work on important Bills and issues. This led to the formation of the National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable (NASSBER). The Roundtable had the aim of reviewing laws to reform and restructure the business environment to enhance Ease of Doing Business - to bring our laws in line with international best practices and generate mass employment opportunities, as well as the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The Senate ultimately developed a highly influential Legislative Agenda with a focus on reforming the economy.

In general, the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate adopted a consultative approach supported by a piecemeal, 'Break-it-Down' method in which complex pieces of legislation were deconstructed and re-arranged into several, more malleable bills. This allowed for different aspects of the subject matter to be passed in phases. It also helped push through the legislative crucible those subjects that ordinarily would fail when lumped under a single header. And so, for the first time, constitutional amendment was executed through separate bills and on time. The Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), which had consistently failed to materialise in 12 years, became a reality, albeit in phases, with the governance component, the PIGB, already passed by both chambers while other aspects including Fiscal and Host Communities proceeded to the final stages.

Roundtable Dialogue sessions also became a regular fixture, organised by the Senate and held in areas most affected by the issues in discourse. This improved community participation, engagement and synergy between constituencies and their senators; while allowing for on-the-spot assessment of issues,

sentiments and the sociological component of lawmaking. Visits to Maiduguri and Yola on the Boko Haram insurgency led to the establishment of the North East Development Commission (NEDC), to meet the relief, recovery and developmental needs of the region and bring stability to affected communities. The 2-Day Senate Roundtable on Drugs Use Crisis in Nigeria, held in Kano, led to the formulation of two bills to tackle the problem – one on Drug Control and the other on Mental Health. Another Roundtable in Benin City, on Migration and Human Trafficking, led to the ramping up of laws, targeted initiatives and proclamations by the Edo State Government and the traditional institution headed by the Oba of Benin.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate will go down in the annals of Nigeria's political history as instructive regarding the time-honoured idea of independence of the Legislature as a co-equal arm of government, even under the constant onslaught of an often hostile and overbearing Executive. The Senate leadership defended and exemplified the principle of Separation of Powers at all times, and did not allow itself to be dictated to by any other arm of government. It maintained this stance through political turbulence which lasted virtually the whole of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate - in some instances even targeting the legislative process itself. For example, there was strong political opposition to the Electoral Act Amendment Bill, which a group calling itself the Parliamentary Support Group for Buhari (PSGB) alleged was targeted at the President. Despite the intervention of the Senate's Ethics and Privilege Committee, the conflict escalated into the infamous incident of the 'snatching of the mace' – the parliamentary symbol of authority – on April 18, 2018.

Other unsavoury incidents included that of July 24, 2018, when police officers barricaded the homes of the Senate President and the Deputy Senate President to prevent them from presiding, perhaps in the hope of facilitating

forceful impeachment. August 7, 2018 saw a full invasion of the National Assembly by agents of the Directorate of State Services (DSS) who prevented elected members and National Assembly staff from gaining entry in order to – as speculated by many - effect a forceful change of Senate leadership. The Senate President eventually made his exit from the ruling APC and joined the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on July 24, 2018. Despite the subsequent, constant refusal of presidential assent to many critical bills such as the Electoral Act, Petroleum Industry Governance Bill (PIGB) and over 20 others including constitution amendment bills – the Senate remained focused on fulfilling its constitutional mandate, and was committed to the defence of democracy till the close of its tenure.

The historic 8<sup>th</sup> Senate achieved many firsts, and led many unprecedented initiatives that will change the face of lawmaking in Nigeria into the future. Great progress was recorded in the process of legislation, oversight, representation and advocacy. 285 Bills were passed in 47 months - more than double the achievements of any Senate before it. A staggering 192 Petitions were also cleared within the same period. Overall, the Eighth Senate has blazed a trail in many areas of Nigerian national life, surpassing existing records and creating unique templates that can be improved upon by the successors. Ultimately, it is this record of towering achievement that will stand as a testament of history, leaving a lasting legacy for the legislature in Nigeria.

**Yusuph Olaniyonu**

Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the President of the Senate  
Abuja, May 2019.



**THE LEGISLATIVE  
AGENDA**  
A PATH TO PROGRESS



**NASSBER**  
**FACILITATED  
BY THE  
NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY**  
*in partnership with the  
Nigerian Economic  
Summit Group (NESG),  
UK-DfID (Nigeria)  
through its ENABLE and  
GEMS3 programmes,  
and the Nigeria Bar  
Association's Section on  
Business Law  
(NBA-SBL).*



# THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## A PATH TO PROGRESS

*"The legislative agenda must take precedence over all other things in this Senate."*

*- Senate President*

The euphoria of the 2015 general elections quickly gave way to a sobering reality: there was a significant slump in the economy. This was due to a combination of legacy, policy, political and security factors exacerbated by a global economic crisis and the sharp fall in oil prices. The country's GDP had dropped from US\$568.499 billion in 2014 to an estimated US\$481.066 billion by 2015, precipitating the worst recession in over a decade, with inflation running at 19.9%. To make matters worse, the Nigerian business environment was running on laws that had for a long

time become obsolete, a situation compounded by weak governance framework, fragmented regulatory structures and poor accountability mechanisms.

The Nigerian people wanted a new direction, and the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly rose to the occasion upon its inauguration on June 9, 2015 - and the subsequent emergence of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki as President of the Senate.

The Senate leadership immediately identified a need to recalibrate the

economy to make the private sector the engine of growth and economic development. The overarching objective was to expand opportunities for Nigerians to prosper and reap the fruits of their entrepreneurship; create a more diversified economy that would be equitable, attractive for investment; and generate jobs and opportunities for the youth population. Complementing this was the drive to reform a business regulatory regime that was hostile to investment, and which meant that doing business in Nigeria was costly, insecure and far from ideal. The World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report 2016 – a key pointer to how a country is perceived in terms of attracting investment and conducting business – underscored the difficulty in this regard, placing Nigeria at number 179 out of 189 countries.

Concerted efforts were needed to reverse the trend, and the National Assembly led the charge. For the first time in Nigeria's history, the two chambers set out to draw up legislative agendas aimed at stimulating the much needed revival in the national economy.

The legislative policy thrust placed precedence on the pivotal position of the private sector in fashioning out sustainable solutions and strategies

for improving the Nigerian business environment through law reform. The National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable (NASSBER) thus came into being. Inaugurated by the Senate President, it was conceived as a multi-stakeholder framework for synergy, dialogue and engagement between the legislature, development partners, the private sector, the bench and citizens, particularly the organised business community.

Saraki commissioned a team of experts working with the National Assembly to research and review all institutional, regulatory and legislative instruments operational in the country. They were to identify the impact of these on ease of doing business in Nigeria and come up with recommendations on the way forward. The Technical Committee led by commercial law expert, Prof. Paul Idornige set to work, conducting a Business Environment Legislative Review whose Report was submitted to the National Assembly, within a month, on February 29, 2016.

Speaking at the formal presentation, the then Chairman of the Board of Directors of Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), Mr. Kyari Bukar, hailed the Report as a significant milestone

### NASSBER OBJECTIVES

- Facilitating and implementing legislative reform with particular emphasis on enhancing the ease of doing business in Nigeria;
- Providing a platform for engagement and consultation with key stakeholders;
- Proffering solutions/recommendation for enhancing the competitiveness of 'Made in Nigeria'; and
- Consistently advocating for the diversification of the Nigerian economy.



Former NESG Chairman Kyari Bukar with the Senate President at the 2016 Summit

**"Our agenda was conceived on the notion of a renewed national development imperative which puts harnessing private sector at the fulcrum of national growth and development."**

**– Senate President**

in the history of democracy in Nigeria - underscoring the importance of the legislature in ensuring a conducive and business-friendly environment for the growth and development of a nation's economy. Lauding the "visionary leadership of the 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly," Mr. Kyari observed that: "There is really no difference between running a business and running a country. If you don't have proper governance processes and in the case of a nation, legislative and regulatory framework in place, you still do not have sustainable outcome."

"This is why our legislature has a critical role to play [in] exercising its powers to make, amend or repeal the necessary laws that will facilitate the development of small and medium enterprises. I am however pleased to note with confidence that the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly has demonstrated its commitment to making the business environment right in Nigeria."

The Business Environment Legislative Review Report was "an embodiment of

the canvassed shift for government to be proactive and strategic with regards to creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive sustainably," according to Kyari. "The imperative for this being that over 37 million micro and medium enterprises exist in Nigeria and contributing approximately 50% of GDP in nominal terms and account for 84% of all jobs." The Report identified the various categories of instruments inhibiting business activities in the country; and provided a framework for the assessment and improvement of legislations. This was with a view to developing the right tools and instruments to accelerate business and investment across various sectors of the economy, in order to reposition Nigeria for global competitiveness. The findings and recommendations of the Report informed the agenda of the Inaugural National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable event, held in Abuja on March 21, 2016.

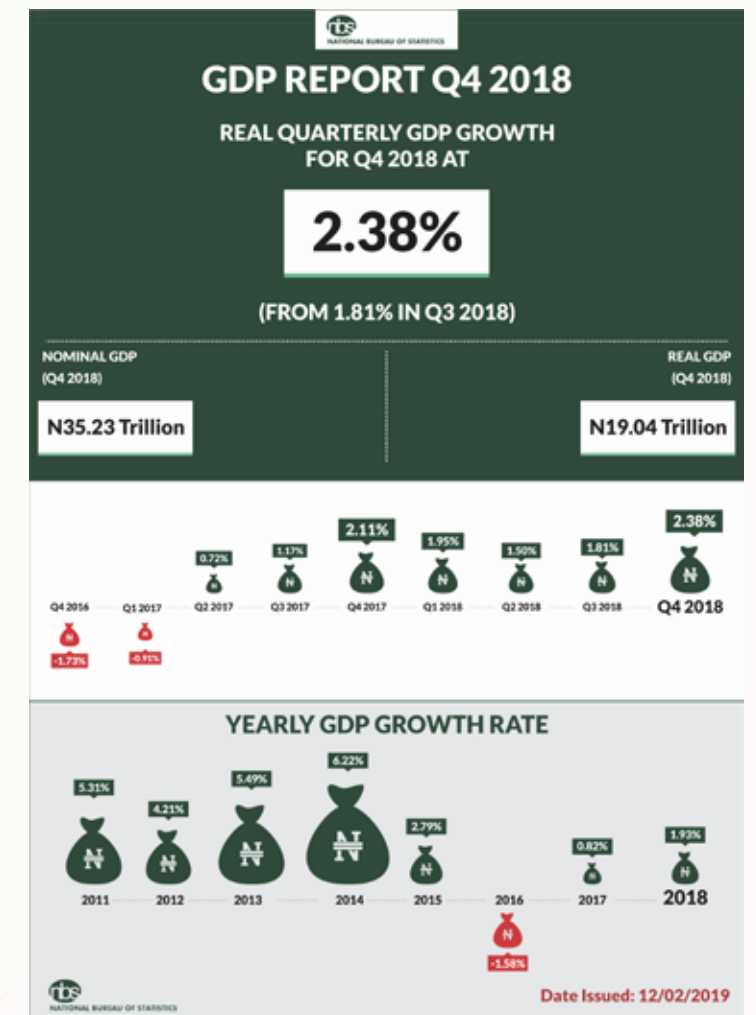
The event brought together key stakeholders from the legislature, private

sector, development partners, academia, law, media and so on, to deliberate on the Technical Committee Report, in order to establish a wider consensus on next steps. Declaring the event open, the President of the Senate and Chairman of the National Assembly affirmed the legislature's determination to immediately implement the outcomes of the Roundtable as part of its legislative agenda purposefully, courageously and deliberately.

The Technical Session commenced with a presentation by Prof. Idornige on the Comprehensive Review of the Institutional, Regulatory, Legislative and Associated Instruments Affecting Businesses in Nigeria. Then followed an Economic Impact Analysis by policy and strategic consultant, Mr. Opeyemi Agbaje – projecting "significant benefits in terms of incomes, growth, employment and poverty reduction if the suggested legislative proposals are adopted," as he later wrote in his column in *BusinessDay*.

Participants then divided into eleven (11) Breakout Sessions to deliberate on thematic areas of the Roundtable, namely: Competition, Doing Business, Road Infrastructure, Rail Infrastructure, Maritime Infrastructure, Public-Private Partnerships, Taxation, Finance & Investment, Arbitration & Dispute Resolution, e-Business & Intellectual Property, and Constitution Review.

It was through these targeted sessions and the resultant outputs that the National Assembly and Roundtable partners identified, conceptualized, drafted and pursued to fitting conclusion the landmark economic reform Bills that the Senate and the House of Representatives worked on tirelessly, to pass into law.



"The inaugural National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable (NASSBER) was a culmination of a joint initiative of the Senate President and DFID's ENABLE 2 and GEMS 3 programmes and had been preceded by a comprehensive research into laws inhibiting businesses in Nigeria, leading to specific legislative proposals to improve the business environment in terms of competition and consumer protection, transportation and infrastructure, improving MSMEs access to finance, reform of land use and construction laws, and administration, doing business reforms, amongst others."

**– Opeyemi Agbaje in BusinessDay, April 13, 2016**



## ECONOMIC IMPACT

The legislative agenda was remarkable for its bold ambition regarding the economy, and gave much needed focus to security, economic diversification, and infrastructure renewal. Also within its scope of objectives were: business environment improvement for investment, anti-corruption drive as well as expansion of public revenue streams and opportunities. The idea was to build a new economy, one that would rest on global best practices inspired reforms.

A Report by a team of internationally acclaimed economists, led by Opeyemi Agbaje, evaluated the economic priority bills and concluded that the business environment legislations proposed in the legislative agenda were significantly positive for output (GDP), employment, incomes and poverty reduction.

They projected an output impact equivalent to an average of 6.87% of GDP over a 5-Year period. The average annual growth in jobs was estimated at approximately 7.55 million more jobs, as well as an average of 16.42% reduction in Nigeria's poverty rate. These reforms were expected to add an average of N3.76 trillion to incomes (National Disposable Income was N85.62 trillion in 2014) over the 5-Year period, equivalent to 4.39% of 2014 figures.

NATIONAL DISPOSABLE INCOME WAS

**N85.62**  
**TRILLION**

IN 2014

**FOR A VIBRANT  
ECONOMY**

# Legislative Framework for Made-In-Nigeria



Senator (Dr.) Bukola Saraki  
President of the Senate  
Federal Republic of Nigeria



Mrs. Ndidi Nwuneli, Co-Founder  
AACE Foods,  
Member, NASSBER Steering Committee



**SARAKI**

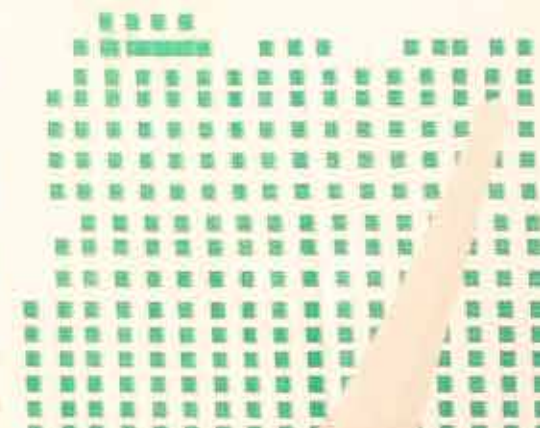
**NWUNELI**



Senate President in conversation with Ndidi Nwuneli at the 22nd NESG Summit



The  
Nigerian  
Economic  
Summit



# FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY



Dangote leads US Chamber of Commerce and the Africa Business Centre on a visit to the Senate

## POLICY DIALOGUE WITH BUSINESS LEADERS

*"Even before the formal announcement of the recession, we had already set in place strategies to come up with Bills that would create more opportunities for our MSMEs that contribute almost 50 per cent to our GDP and employ 60 million Nigerians."*

*– Senate President*

By far the greatest challenge confronting Nigeria at the dawn of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate was economic downturn. The situation was not helped by the fact that the Nigerian economy had for decades been sustained by oil and gas, to the detriment of other contributing sectors.

For much of the first year of the administration, government was preoccupied with managing economic challenges and responding to the expectations of the electorate. At the same time, crude oil prices plummeted, as did federal revenue, limiting government's options.

There were growing concerns over monetary and fiscal policy as the naira nosedived and investor confidence started to wane. The banking and manufacturing sectors were also shown to be contracting, as both began to announce staff layoffs and business closures.

With the announcement on July 21, 2016 that the country was 'technically in recession,' the grim reality of

the economic crunch had become unavoidable.

The Senate busied itself with the search for corrective measures, and embarked on a major engagement and consultation exercise with captains of industry, financiers, investors, economists, academics and international development partners. This was in a bid to gain various perspectives on the ailing economy, and to tap into broader knowledge and expertise in order to come up with the best legislative and oversight interventions that the National Assembly could pursue to aid economic revival.

What followed was a comprehensive Public-Private sector review process, which produced a series of proposed legislation that formed the core of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate's 'Economic Priority Bills' - legislative frameworks intended to reduce government's intervention in sectors traditionally driven by market forces. This was premised on the idea that increasing the role of the private sector would help generate more of those industries needed for job creation and economic stability.

On September 13, 2016, days after the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) confirmed that the Nigerian economy was in recession following two consecutive quarters of GDP decline, the Senate President convened a Policy Dialogue with business leaders - including Aliko Dangote and Femi Otedola - to discuss policy options for tackling the economic crisis. This took place in Lagos, the bustling economic capital of the country.

Factors identified as contributing to the economic slump included: Nigeria's dependence on oil (which by now had collapsed from \$100 per barrel to \$50 per barrel); the nation's low foreign reserves that dropped from over \$65 billion in 2007 to just \$30 billion in 2015; as well as fiscal leakage and corruption. Participants noted that the activities of Niger-Delta militants had significantly affected oil revenue; the country had lost an estimated 800,000 barrels per day in the five months preceding the recession.

Business leaders then helped formulate a framework to address the issues, and this eventually formed the core of the

Senate's swift response to the economic crisis. Key suggestions that came out of the meeting included: the need to fast-track priority pieces of legislation that would aid the recovery process; the need for a careful policy and legislative thrust that would restore investor confidence in the economy; the need for the Senate to legislate to ensure that there were 'lockdown periods' on certain crucial policies, to reassure investors who were concerned about frequent changes in government policies that affected various sectors of the economy.

Following the Lagos dialogue, the Senate resumed plenary on September 20, and began a comprehensive debate on the state of the economy — with a focus on strategies to exit the recession. A technical committee was then set up to immediately review and compile all Senate recommendations into a document that became known as the '8<sup>th</sup> Senate's 21-Point Economic Plan.'

The Senate President touched on the crucial contribution of the Business Leaders Roundtable to the formulation of the 21-Point Economic Plan a year later, when Alhaji Dangote led a delegation of the US Chamber of Commerce and the Africa Business Centre on a courtesy visit to the Senate. According to Saraki: "Several of [Dangote's] keen observations and ideas were incorporated into the National Assembly's Recommendations to President Muhammadu Buhari on growing the economy."



## 21-POINT ECONOMIC PLAN

The Senate adopted a Resolution on September 22, 2016 approving its 21-Point Economic Plan as solutions to the economic recession. As the Senate President told his colleagues: *"We promised Nigerians that our actions would positively impact on their lives. This I intend to keep. In that light I will urge you, my distinguished colleagues, that we make priority the passing of bills that would ultimately and substantially expand our people's livelihood and opportunities."*

The Resolution also approved the key priority bills under the legislative agenda, and the Senate immediately began work on the four points concerning the legislature - fast-tracking the priority economic bills and concurrent legislation from the House of Representatives – in a process designed to facilitate the seamless passage of Bills for presidential assent.

The 21-Point Economic Plan was an articulation of the National Assembly's resolve to institute a legislative framework, with timelines, for key government policies in the areas of agriculture and solid minerals - to boost investor confidence in government and to protect investors from rapid policy reversals.

Accordingly, the 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly would examine, prioritise and fast-track the consideration of the following Bills to revive Nigeria's economy:

- Petroleum Industry Bill
- National Development Bank of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill
- Nigerian Ports and Harbours Authority Act (Amendment) Bill
- National Road Fund (Establishment) Bill.
- National Transport Commission Act of 2001
- Warehouse Receipts Act (Amendment) Bill
- Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA)
- Investment and Securities Act (ISA)
- Customs and Excise Management Act
- Federal Competition Bill
- National Road Authority Bill.



Steady Gain in Foreign Reserves after Interventions (figures in USD millions)



PIGB would alleviate issues that lead to fuel scarcity, such as:

- Limited supply of Petroleum Motor Spirit (PMS);
- Dysfunctional state of refineries;
- Importation constraints caused by poor import planning schedule;
- Corruption, diversion and smuggling (causes of artificial scarcity); and
- Absence of deregulation in the sector.



The 2017 Appropriation Bill

## ECONOMIC PRIORITY BILLS

### PETROLEUM INDUSTRY GOVERNANCE BILL

The Petroleum Industry Governance Bill (PIGB) was one of the most important reform bills of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate; and represented a major breakthrough in attempts dating back to 2001 to pass the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB). Laws regulating the Petroleum sector date back to 1969 and 1977. The PIGB was the first of four Bills drafted to update, modernise and overhaul laws governing the industry, to make for a more conducive business environment for petroleum industry operations. The Bill sought to create an entirely new regulatory and institutional regime for the oil and gas industry; and was targeted at the high levels of inefficiency in the sector, thus creating an improved framework to prevent revenue leakages and boost investor confidence. The PIGB was also designed to promote openness and transparency in its clarifying of the rules, processes and procedures that govern the oil and gas sector. It further provided for the inclusion of more local content in the petroleum industry, putting control of the sector in the hands of the Nigerian people.

### COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT

The repeal and re-enactment of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) has been hailed as by far the most significant legislative enactment of the Fourth Republic thus far. The most revolutionary legislation of the country's business environment in 30 years, CAMA established an efficient means of regulating businesses in the country. It minimises the compliance burden of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs); enhances transparency and shareholder engagement; and generally promotes a more friendly business climate in Nigeria.

### SECURED TRANSACTIONS IN MOVEABLE ASSETS

The passage of the Secured Transactions in Moveable Assets Act (along with the Credit Bureau Reporting Act)

led to the upgrade of Nigeria - by 24 places - on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business rankings. The signature bill for the support of Small and Medium Enterprises in the country, the Secured Transactions in Moveable Assets legislation established a National Collateral Registry (NCR), freeing up a new stream of opportunity for SMEs to access capital using flexible assets like cars, machinery, cell phones and household items as collateral for loans. The implications are enormous for dealing with capital formation and poverty eradication. So transformative was this piece of legislation that the NCR had recorded 32 billion naira worth of transactions by December 2017, according to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

### OTHER ECONOMIC BILLS AT A GLANCE

Working in tandem with the Secured Transactions in Moveable Assets Act was the Independent Warehouse Regulatory Agency Bill designed to allow business owners access loans using their receipts. The Consumer Credit Agency Act allows lenders to view and assess the credit worthiness of potential borrowers before making lending decisions.

The Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission Act aimed at preventing businesses from creating monopolies or stifling competition. The law's operational framework made for the creation of a Consumer Protection Commission with the powers to safeguard consumers from fraud as well as price manipulation by businesses and market forces.

To strengthen the country's transportation sector to promote the ease of doing business, the Senate passed important laws such as the new and improved Federal Railway Act. Aimed at promoting competition in the railway sector, the legislation made the administration of the entire system more effective, affordable and accessible for consumers and investors alike. The Federal Roads Authority Act was also passed to promote the



Made-In-Nigeria - The Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Plant



Made-In-Nigeria vehicles



Senate developed a 21-Point Plan to boost the Economy

sustainable development and operations of the road sector; and facilitate the development of competitive markets as well as an enabling environment for the private sector in Nigeria's roads infrastructure.

### MADE IN NIGERIA

The Naira fell by nearly 20% against the US Dollar in the last quarter of 2015, about the same time as global oil prices dipped by over 70%. This meant that an oil-rich nation like Nigeria - dependent on oil and gas for 95% of its export earnings, 35% of its GDP and three-quarters of government revenue - had to come up with innovative strategies to weather the economic storm caused by the decline in oil prices.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate's Made-In-Nigeria campaign was a strategic initiative involving the amendment of the Public Procurement Act with the aim of growing local industries. The amendment updated relevant sections of the 2007 Act to favour local manufacturers and ensure speedy completion of projects, by making it compulsory for government agencies to procure products and services from Nigerian manufacturers and vendors in the first instance. It further stipulated that they may only go to a foreign supplier after local options have been exhausted.

The amendment sought to increase the mobilisation fees of contractors from 15% to 25%, while also shortening the process of awarding contracts significantly - all in a bid to ensure local

entrepreneurs are able to participate in the procurement process of the various MDAs.

Additionally, the 'Made in Nigeria' Amendment granted a margin of preference in the evaluation of tenders for domestic suppliers. "When comparing tenders from domestic bidders with those from foreign bidders or when comparing tenders from domestic suppliers offering goods manufactured locally with those offering goods manufactured abroad," MDAs had to ensure that priority was given to local suppliers who met the procurement criteria of the Bureau of Public Enterprises.

One major spark for the Made-In-Nigeria campaign was the 'Made in Aba' Trade Fair, which the Senate President

attended in Abuja in February 2016 in the company of Enyinnaya Abaribe (Abia South) and other senators. "I am standing before you this afternoon, along with my colleagues, to give you the assurance that today we open a new chapter for the support of Made-In-Nigeria goods in this country," Saraki told the gathering. He later took delivery of 29 Made in Aba fabrics he had ordered at the fair.



*"Government agencies spend as much as N2.1 trillion annually and if the MDAs spend up to 30 percent of their expenditures by patronising Made in Nigeria goods, it will go a long way to stabilise the economy and grow the Naira."*

*– Senate President*

Made-In-Nigeria: Aba Manufacturers on a courtesy call to the Senate

**LEGISLATING  
FOR GOOD  
GOVERNANCE**



# LEGISLATING FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

*"We have been working to anticipate the future challenges that the country is facing while also balancing that out with listening to the needs of our constituents."*

*- Senate President*

The legislature plays a critical role in our democracy and is the mainstay of democratic systems across the world.

Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, affirmed as much during a courtesy visit to the Senate in November 2017: "The role of the National Assembly is quite distinct. You legislate for the good governance of the Federation; you provide oversight and you also ensure that funds that are appropriated are used judiciously for the purposes they are meant and for the benefit of the people of Nigeria."

Through its lawmaking and amendment of existing laws, the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate has been able to legislate for good governance, maintain peace and improve the welfare of the people while ensuring checks and balances. However, the Senate leadership's determination to deliver good governance was faced at the outset with a significant impediment – the existing laws themselves.

The then Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Nigerian Economic

Summit Group (NESG), Mr. Kyari Bukar, remarked upon this on a courtesy call early in the new Senate, saying: "A cursory look at all laws in Nigeria will reveal a plethora of laws that were automatically inherited from our colonial masters, and as a result are not only irrelevant in our society today, but also impede development. We therefore urge the 8th Assembly to take a look at these laws, repeal them and make new ones."

The upper legislative chamber faced the challenge head on. In his inaugural address as President of the Senate and Chairman of the National Assembly, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki had also emphasised the need for the Legislature and the Executive to work together and collaborate meaningfully to improve the lot of the people. "We have a common responsibility to the people of Nigeria," he stated.

The Senate under his leadership stayed true to these words and raised the bar, especially considering the number of key legislations passed, while also creating business opportunities for economic growth and infrastructural reform. These



First ever NASS delegation to visit areas affected by insurgency

were among the factors that made the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate arguably the most audacious since Nigeria's return to democratic rule in 1999.

The amendment of the constitution was another major endeavour embarked upon by the Senate, to promote good governance and to further entrench democratic tenets and principles in our electoral process.

#### **Constitutional amendment to provide for independent candidature in elections was aimed at:**

- Ensuring independent candidates are able to participate in elections at the local, state and federal levels;
- Changing procedures and guidelines for accessing the ballot by political parties and independent candidates;

and

- Ensuring requirements and conditions for nominating independent candidates are outlined by an act of the National Assembly, for ease of implementation.

#### **Constitutional amendment to abrogate State Joint Local Government Accounts sought to:**

- Empower each Local Government Authority (LGA) to maintain its own special account;
- Ensure all local government allocations are paid directly from the Federation Account and from the government of the state; and
- Provide for primary school teachers' salaries to be taken from a proportion of the sum paid to LGAs from the Federation Account.



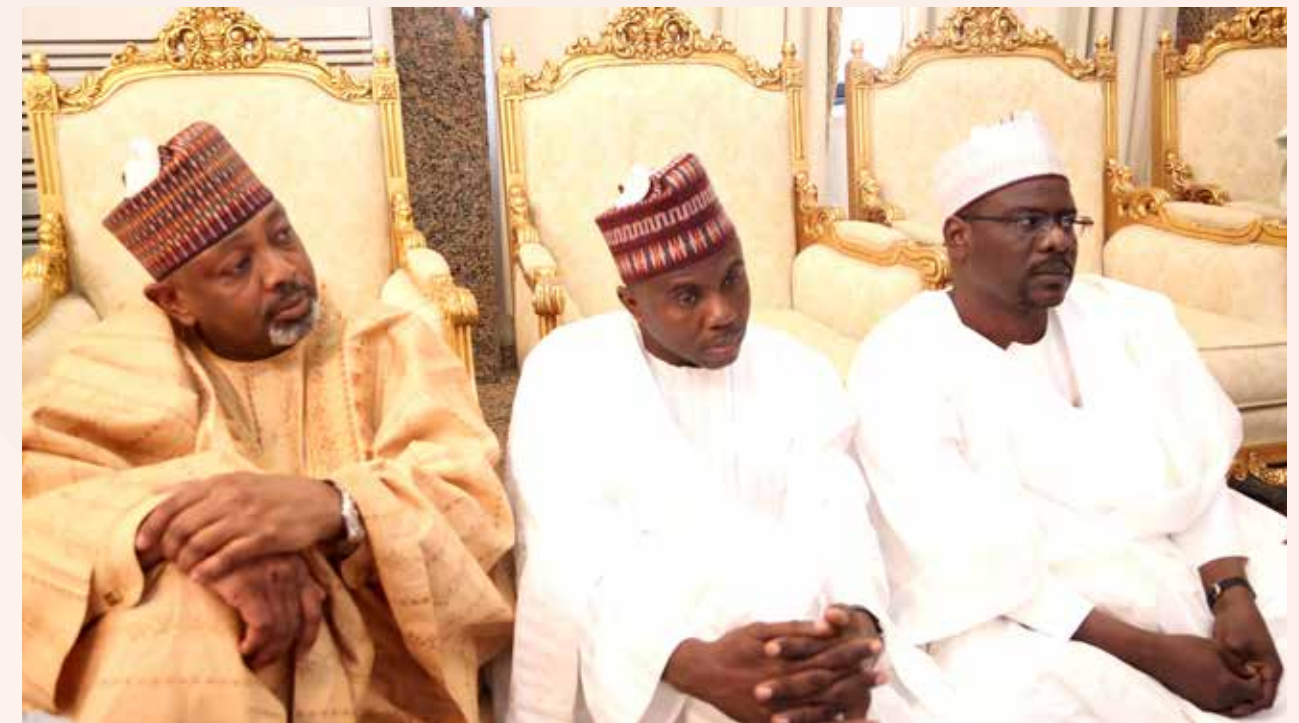
At the palace of the Shehu of Borno

## NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BILL

The NEDC Bill 2015 was a direct response of the Senate to large-scale devastation wrought on the North East geo-political zone of the country by the Boko Haram insurgency. The Bill established a Commission to lead the recovery, restoration, reconstruction and rehabilitation of parts of the region that were adversely affected by terrorist activity. The 11-member NEDC Governing Board was inaugurated on May 8, 2019 by President Muhammadu Buhari, with Maj-Gen Paul Tarfa (Retd) as its Chairman. Members of the Board had been confirmed by the Senate the month before. The new Commission has the responsibility of rebuilding and

rehabilitating the North East, so that people in the affected communities can return to their normal lives; and Nigeria's over 2 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) can be resettled back into their homes. In addition, the Bill:

- Addressed the issue of coordination among humanitarian organisations operating in the North East, assigning clearly defined roles to each actor working in the region;
- Ensured the Commission would be responsible for liaising and consulting with international actors on the nature of humanitarian response needed in certain locations; and
- Set out a framework for the Commission



The three senators from Borno were on the delegation

to receive and manage funds allocated by the Federal Government, private sector, individuals and international donors for North East recovery efforts.

The Senate President had hailed the passage of the NEDC Bill and its Presidential assent as a "major development in the efforts by the present administration to restore peace and normalcy in the North East and making the harrowing experience of the people as a result of the insurgency a thing of the past.

"I believe the NEDC Act will help alleviate the suffering of the millions of Nigerians whose lives have been affected by the insurgency in the zone," he declared.

"These are the sort of responsible

interventions that we will continue to take to protect the interests of our constituents," Saraki promised, and the upper legislative chamber continued in that vein.

Midway into the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate, Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, Chairman, Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs, was able to declare that: "This is the Senate that broke the Petroleum Industry Bill's jinx in two years. This is also the same chamber that passed a comprehensive Electoral Reform Bill within 18 months of its inauguration. We also finished the Constitution Review process a full two years before the next election cycle [as well as] economic priority Bills that will create more opportunities for private sector participation in our economy and put millions of Nigerians back to work."





*With members of Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth & Advancement (YIAGA)*

## NOT TOO YOUNG TO RUN

*"The reduction in age limits is a welcome development. Any measure which will bring about more inclusiveness in political participation will augur well for the enthronement of democracy."*

*- Chief Afe Babalola, Vanguard newspaper, June 13, 2018.*

The belief of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly in the capacity of young Nigerians to hold public offices and its willingness to create an enabling legal framework to mainstream in the governance of the country, found expression in the passage of the Not-Too-Young-To-Run Bill, a highly popular outcome of the Constitutional review process.

To achieve the feat, the National Assembly altered Sections 65, 106, 131 and 177 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (As Amended) and lowered the age qualification for the Office of President from 40 to 35; Governor from 35 to 30; Senator from 35 to 30; House of Representatives from 30 to 25; and State House of Assembly membership from 30 to 25. This nascent aspect of the Constitution led to a marked increase in the number of young persons vying for elective positions - including the Office of the President - during the 2019 General Elections. Many young persons who took the opportunity of the new law during the electoral process have the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly to thank for the immeasurable experience in governance.

The law has continued to receive accolades as a welcome boost to democracy in Nigeria. Reacting to President Buhari's assent to the Constitutional Amendment Bill, the Senate President observed that the new law had energised a critical sector

of the Nigerian population and would further democratise governance in the country. *"More than half of our over 180 million population is made up of people under the age of 30. Today's signing of the #NotTooYoungToRun Bill represents many years of hard work and signals a new era of youth inclusion and participation in our governance. Nigeria needs the energy and innovation of our young people."*

The NOT TOO YOUNG TO RUN Movement - youth and civil society groups that advocated for age reduction in running for elective offices - stated that: *"The signing into law of the Not Too Young To Run Bill is an affirmation of our belief in inclusive democracy. Unarguably, increased youth participation in politics is an indicator of democratic development."* On his part, Chief Afe Babalola in his piece in the Vanguard newspaper of June 2018, said: *"The reduction in age limits is a welcome development. Any measure which will bring about more inclusiveness in political participation will augur well for the enthronement of democracy."*



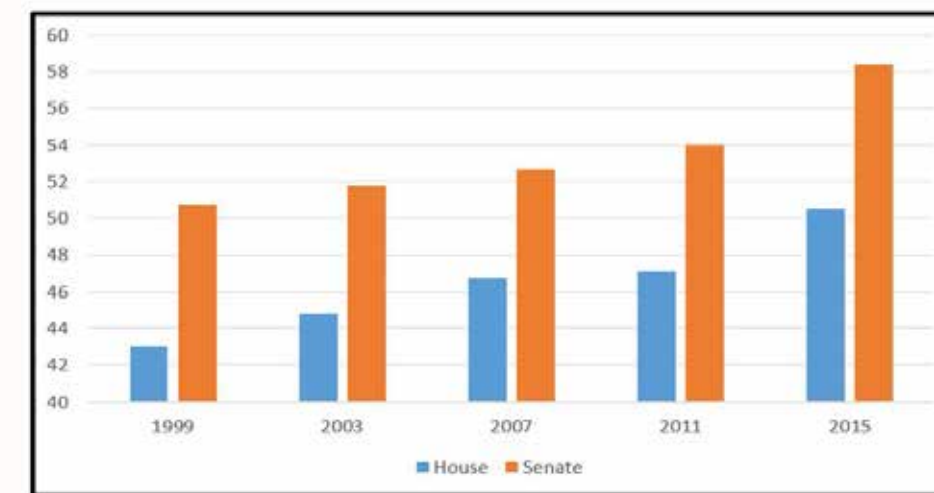
Meeting with YIAGA

### ON NOT TOO YOUNG TO RUN

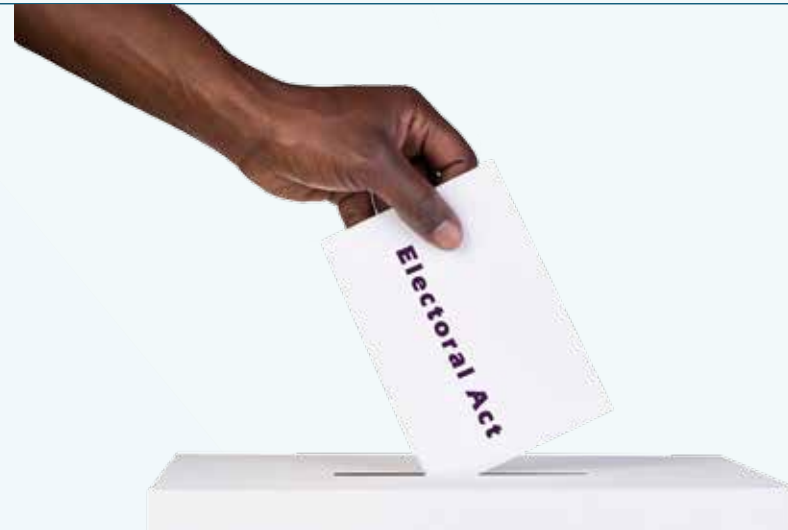
*"We want to convey our appreciation to the Senate that we are pleased with this development. You and your counterparts in the House of Representatives have written your names in gold."*

*- Samson Itodo, Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth & Advancement (YIAGA).*

Average Age of a National Assembly Member, 1999-2015



## THE ELECTORAL ACT



### MORE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

*"Let's not forget the Made-In-Nigeria amendment that we passed with our review of the Public Procurement Act. This amendment will create a myriad of opportunities for Nigerian-owned businesses by ensuring that they get first-option priority in the government's procurement process."*

*- Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, Chairman, Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs*

There is a general consensus that the timely passage of key amendments in the Electoral Act (Amendment Bill) 2018 would have had tremendous positive impact in consolidating the gains of the 2015 General Elections largely adjudged to be free, fair and credible. Many also argue that the Act would have taken improvements in democratic governance a notch higher but for the refusal of the Executive to assent to it. Thrice it was sent and thrice was it rejected. The National Assembly took cognisance of the gaps in the Electoral Act 2010, carried out necessary amendment to make for increased credibility in the electoral process, and bridged major loopholes in the collation and transmission of poll results.

Highlights of the amendment included electronic voting (legal backing for the Use of Card Readers) and transmission of poll results, as opposed to manual voting transmission - which gives room to fraudulent manipulation of the voting

process, popularly called rigging. The aftermath of the 2019 general elections has witnessed a deluge of petitions before the electoral tribunals, contrary to 2015. No doubt, many will take the view that that the conduct of 2019 elections would have produced a more credible outcome had amendments to the Electoral Act 2010 become law ahead of the polls.

### A legislative legacy

On the third anniversary of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate, Saraki cited constitution amendment as one of legacies of the upper chamber under his watch, saying: *"Also of note is our passage of the constitution amendment bills, some of which will change the landscape of governance in Nigeria. Some of the bills, like the 'Not Too Young To Run' Bill, the Financial Autonomy for Local Government Bill, Financial Autonomy for Houses of Assembly among others, are aimed at improving governance and ensuring that government serves our people better."*



*"For us as lawmakers, our democracy is deepened and our lawmaking enriched with greater citizen's participation, consultation, engagement and involvement... This will be the very first time aside Public Hearing engagement, that the National Assembly will be involving and engaging the private sector, public sector robustly in a policy or law making process. We have gone this route because we believe that if we deliberately involve and continuously engage our people in law making, the edicts and policies we make will be greatly enriched and accepted, having been a product of collective consensus."*

*- Senate President, March 21, 2016*

**ENSURING  
NATIONAL  
SECURITY**



# ENSURING NATIONAL SECURITY

*"It is clear that the National Assembly has made a deliberate attempt to address some of the pressing problems of the police."*

*Daily Trust, April 25, 2019*

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate gave its full attention to the heightened state of insecurity in the country over the four years of its tenure – often making direct and decisive interventions to strengthen the national security architecture and to bring succour to affected communities. As a counter-measure to an increasing spate of killings, kidnappings and other acts of criminality, the Senate embarked on significant legislative endeavours aimed at providing institutional, regulatory and legal review of laws that had a direct bearing on the security of the lives and properties of Nigerians.

## OVERSIGHT OF SECURITY AGENCIES

In line with its powers of oversight, the Senate interfaced on many occasions with the National Security Adviser, the Minister of Defence and other top security chiefs to seek out enduring solutions to the problem of insecurity. The Senate stood its ground when faced with the occasional lack of cooperation, as happened with the former Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, His repeated refusal to appear before the Senate Committee on Police Affairs to discuss the state of insecurity in the

nation - including the killings of seven police officers in Abuja – led to a face-off with the upper chamber, with senators condemning his recalcitrance.

Senate Leader Ahmed Lawan frowned on the IGP's conduct, saying: *"It is very unusual for a public servant to act like this. I have never seen this before anywhere in the world; we need to take a decision because this affects security in the entire country."* A court ruled in favour of the Senate on the stand-off, and the House of Representatives backed the upper chamber with a Vote of No Confidence on the IGP. The Senate President was firm in the declaration that: *"The refusal of the IG to appear before an investigative committee, as also ruled by a court of competent jurisdiction, is a great danger to our democracy. Therefore, the Senate resolves to declare the IGP as an enemy of democracy and not fit to hold any public office within and outside Nigeria."*

For the most part, Senate oversight of security agencies achieved the purpose without drama; and the outcome was an appreciable improvement in budgetary provisions and acquisition of modern equipment for our security forces, thus enhancing efficiency and performance.



*Vice President Yemi Osinbajo declared the Summit open*

## POLICE REFORM

**"We are deeply appreciative of the concerns of the Senate for the funding inadequacy of the Nigerian Police and the commitment of the Senate to support our operations and reform agenda with the enhancement of our budgetary appropriation."**

**- IGP Mohammed Adamu**

The passage of two major laws governing the Nigeria Police at the twelfth hour in the life of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate, was due in part to improved relations between the upper legislative chamber and the police hierarchy. As Vanguard newspaper observed in its editorial of April 15, 2019: "Nigerians are already savouring the benefits of the retirement of the former Inspector General of the Police, Alhaji Ibrahim Kpotun Idris, whose three and half year tenure was characterised by unhealthy relationships between the Police and the National Assembly. It was a great relief when President Muhammadu Buhari pleasantly shocked his critics by retiring Idris in January 2019 ahead of the general elections, bringing a new hand, Acting IGP Mohammed Adamu... On Wednesday, April 3, 2019, IGP Adamu led the top brass of the Police to the office of the President of the Senate, Dr. Bukola Saraki, to discuss ways of fast-tracking two major Bills towards evolving a better funded and more effective Police Force."

Having regard to the enormous role and importance of the Nigeria Police in maintaining law and order in our communities, the Senate had initiated Bills with keen emphasis on reforming and improving the welfare of police officers. It was also a response to the general distrust of the Force among the populace. To many members of the public, the Nigeria Police was inefficient, ineffective and unprofessional in crime prevention; and also lacking respect for

the rule of law and human rights. The Senate, therefore, passed the Police Trust Fund Bill to enhance the effectiveness of the rank and file in the discharge of their security duties.

Senator Tijjani Kaura spoke about the potential impact of the Bill, noting that: "Provisions like .05% from Nigeria's gross income, .005% of profits made by companies in Nigeria etc., would go a long way in helping government to fund the Police very adequately for improved security services to Nigerians." As Daily Trust newspaper declared in its editorial of April 25, 2019: "The idea of a Police Trust Fund has lingered over the years, and it is a positive development that the Bill has been passed by the National Assembly."

The Police Reform Bill, passed the same month, effectively replaced the outdated colonial era Nigeria Police Force Act enacted in 1943. "The Bill will make the Police more community/people-oriented, professional, accountable and fine-tuned to respect the international standards in policing with emphasis on respect for human rights," Vanguard stated. The newspaper had been unequivocal: "We call on the Eighth National Assembly under the leadership of Saraki to make good its pledge and pass these Bills as a parting gift to Nigerians." On April 17, 2019, the Senate did just that.

In a closed session on May 7, IGP Adamu briefed senators on armed banditry,

## POLICE REFORM BILL KEY PROVISIONS

kidnappings and other security challenges in the country. He had earlier, in a letter dated April 25, 2019, commended the Senate for passing the two critical Police-related Bills. Noting that the Bills had been in the legislative pipeline for some time, the IGP wrote to the Senate President: "It is, therefore, a mark of honour that the Senate facilitated the passage of the bills following our recent meeting and appeal to you and the Senate leadership. Furthermore, we are deeply appreciative of the concerns of the Senate for the funding inadequacy of the Nigerian Police and the commitment of the Senate to support our operations and reform agenda with the enhancement of our budgetary appropriation."

- 1 SERVICE-ORIENTED**  
 Establishment of a service-oriented and modern Police that meets globally accepted policing standards in a democratic setting.
- 2 MODERNISATION**  
 Modernisation of the Force into one geared towards protecting and safeguarding lives and property.
- 3 GUIDING**  
 Guiding principles to ensure effective policing, including: efficiency and effectiveness, accountability and transparency, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- 4 METHODS**  
 Sets out methods for dealing with abuse of weapons by police officers. Also ensures the Force and its officers are held accountable for their actions especially with regard to arrest, detention and searches.
- 5 PROTECTION**  
 Clauses mandate record keeping by the Police, and full protection of citizens from abuse by Police officers.
- 6 COMMUNITY POLICE**  
 Establishment of Community Police and Boards in all the states, made up of community and state representatives, to ensure effective, efficient and participatory community policing.
- 7 INDEPENDENT COMPLAINTS**  
 Establishment of an Independent Complaints Authority to receive, investigate and deal with complaints of misconduct against police officers.





Inauguration of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Review of Security Architecture

## REBUILDING THE NORTH EAST

The passage of the North East Development Commission (NEDC) (Establishment, Etc.) Bill was a major milestone underscoring the commitment of the 8<sup>th</sup> Assembly to reintegrate Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) into society, rebuild the region and bring about resurgence in the socio-economic activities of people in those communities.

The NEDC law was the culmination of efforts that commenced when the Dr. Saraki led a Senate delegation to the North East on August 3, 2015, for on-the-spot assessment of the security situation and the humanitarian needs on the ground. The delegation called

on the Shehu of Borno and also visited IDP camps located at the Umaru Shehu College of Education in Maiduguri and Government College Maiduguri. *"The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate has made the security and welfare of our people priority number one on its agenda. We are very conscious of the level of carnage and destruction that has been wrought on the people here. We will be working closely with our counterparts in the House of Representatives to make sure that we rebuild the economy of the North East. We will not rest our oars until normalcy is returned to this troubled region,"* the Senate President had said in Borno.

There were several purposeful visits to



Senator Baba Kaka Garbai (right, Borno Central) with the Shehu of Bama at the Senate

the North East during the life of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate. One of the most successful was by members of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Humanitarian Crisis in the North East, led by Committee Chairman, Senator Shehu Sani, on November 26, 2016. Charged with investigating the mismanagement of scarce resources in IDP camps, the work of the Committee led to the indictment of the then Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir Lawal, for alleged involvement in a 200 million naira grass-cutting contract.

On a courtesy call on Senate leadership by the Bama Emirate on October 25, 2017, the leader of the delegation, the

Shehu of Bama, Alhaji Kyari Umar Ibn El-Kanemi, commended senators for their unflinching commitment to the rebuilding effort in the North East; and for the upper chamber's resolutions and interventions that brought a turnaround in the region.

The Senate on April 9, 2019 confirmed Maj-Gen Paul Tarfa (Retd) as Chairman of the North East Development Commission, and President Buhari inaugurated the Governing Board on May 8, 2019.





Security Agencies at the National Security Summit



Senators at the National Security Summit, February 2018

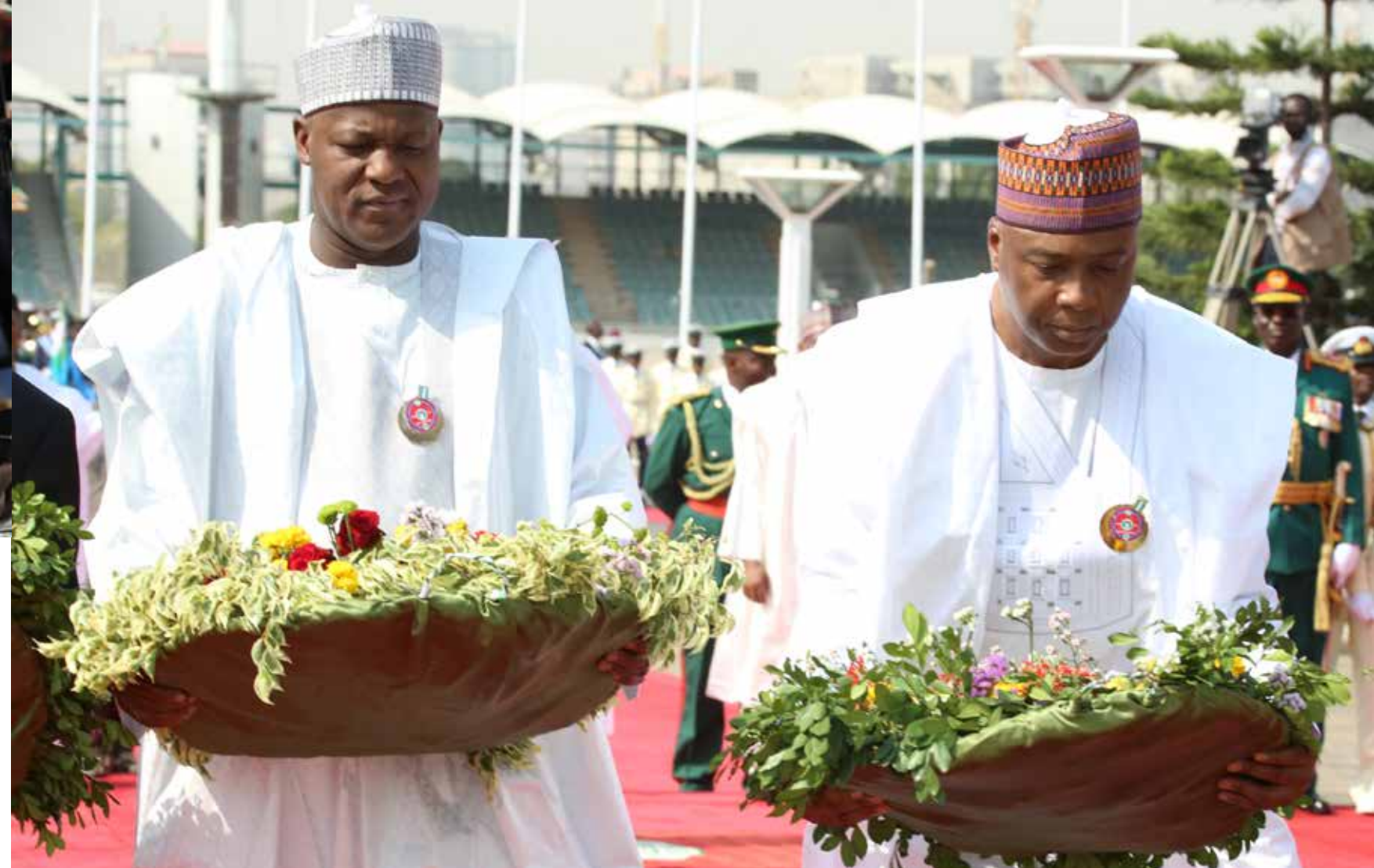
## HERDSMEN AND FARMERS CRISIS

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate played a pivotal role in defusing herdsmen and farmers clashes that led to deaths and destruction of property in the North Central geopolitical zone. On November 30, 2017, the Senate inaugurated its Ad-Hoc Committee on Review of Security Infrastructure in the Country, tasking it with a broad mandate to look into the problem and prepare a report outlining approaches for dealing with the issue.

Concerned by an escalation of violence that left 73 persons dead in Benue in January 2018, Committee members suspended their recess to conduct a fact-finding visit to Benue State (January 12). Chairman of the Committee, Senate Leader Ahmed Lawan, submitted a report on their findings upon resumption of plenary on January 16. As a result of a Resolution based on recommendations of the Committee Report, the Senate held an all-important National Security Summit on February 8, 2018. Organised in collaboration with security agencies and other stakeholders to review the entire security architecture of the country, the summit had the goal of finding lasting solutions to the insecurity challenges.

The 2-day dialogue which was declared opened by the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, and saw presentations from heads of military and paramilitary organisations including the National Security Adviser (NSA) and Service Chiefs, allowed the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to put heads together, share ideas and map out strategies on how to combat increasing threats to the peace and security of Nigeria.

Among the outcomes of the summit were 20 recommendations including an immediate and comprehensive review of the nation's security architecture - to address gaps in coordination, collaboration and synergy among security agencies. The Senate called for technology to be incorporated into the core of Nigeria's national security architecture and management, while also canvassing the need to reduce the country's dependence on imports of basic security equipment. The summit's recommendations went on to form the core of legislative framework for the Senate's response to national security issues.



Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President pay tribute to fallen soldiers on Armed Forces Remembrance Day 2018



Senate President with the Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Buratai



“I am in the National Assembly with my delegation to express our unqualified gratitude to you the Senate President and other Distinguished Senators for the tremendous efforts towards rebuilding the North East Region, Borno State and particularly my emirate, Bama, which was devastated by the insurgency. We appreciate the efforts of the Senate under your leadership towards the multi-faceted approach in giving our people succour and solace.

The visit you paid to Borno State is a testimony that further buttresses the determination of the Senate and senators to ensure that our people resume their normal life. I must particularly thank you for the manner and speed in which the North East Development Commission Establishment Bill was handled. [The] Senate supported it overwhelmingly.

I wish to further thank you most profoundly for bringing to the front burner the plight of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Your many resolutions and interventions have aided in tackling most of our challenges.

“We have lived in hope and our hope is rekindled by the Senate’s exemplary conduct. From the ashes of Bama, Borno and North East [are] rising again.”

**- The Shehu of Bama, October 25, 2017**



*The National Security Summit*



*Senate Leader Ahmed Lawan chaired the Ad-Hoc Committee on Review of Security Infrastructure*

**PEOPLE-ORIENTED SECURITY BILLS PASSED**

Bill	Key Provisions
Abduction, Wrongful Restraints and Wrongful Confinement for Ransom Bill 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Punitive measures for kidnapping;</li> <li>• Penalties and sentences for persons that collude with or aid and abet kidnapers; and</li> <li>• Penalties including life imprisonment or capital punishment where kidnapping results in the death of a hostage.</li> </ul>
Prohibition and Protection of Persons from Lynching, Mob Action and Extra Judicial Executions Bill, 2017 (Anti-Jungle Justice Bill)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminalises the dispensation of extra-judicial justice, thus protecting the rights of all Nigerians to fair hearing;</li> <li>• Penalties for instigators and primary agitators in various forms of mob justice, including lynching;</li> <li>• Criminalises extra-judicial killings by law enforcement agents; and</li> <li>• Establishes the liability of states for the negligence and inefficiency of security agencies.</li> </ul>

**ANTI-  
CORRUPTION**

CLEANSING THE AUGEAN STABLE



# ANTI-CORRUPTION

## CLEANSING THE AUGEAN STABLE

**"The quick intervention of the 8th National Assembly, through the passage of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit Bill (NFIU), saved Nigeria from being expelled from the global community of the Egmont Group."**

**- Senate President**

"Corruption not only corrodes public trust, it also destroys confidence and diminishes the potential for strong economic growth. At the global level, it is estimated that the cost of corruption is equivalent to more than 5 percent of World GDP, with over US\$ 1 trillion paid in bribes each year." These were the words of Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), when she led her delegation to a meeting with the Senate President on January 6, 2016.

In his response, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki assured Ms. Lagarde of the Nigerian legislature's determination to "make laws that will block identified legal loopholes that have resulted in revenue leakages; expand the tax base; improve oversight systems; expose corruption and provide better legal frameworks to entrench the rule of law and end impunity."

These remarks were perhaps a preamble to the immense contributions made by the National Assembly under Saraki's leadership to the Federal Government's anti-corruption fight on the whole, and more specifically, the targeted legislative interventions in furtherance of the

campaign. The Senate made the fight against corruption a cardinal agenda from outset, and took unprecedented steps to operationalise its resolve to curb corrupt practices, eliminate waste, block leakages in the system and hold public officials to account for their conduct in the exercise of their official duties. Lawmakers did not shirk their responsibilities to legislate, oversight the executive, expose corruption and prevent financial leakages.

By the first anniversary of the Senate, its President had this to report: "On our part and in keeping with our pledge to support the anti-corruption crusade, this Senate has within this period carried out oversight investigations into the noticed abuse in the implementation of the Treasury Single Account (TSA), saving government over N20bn - and the implementation of the Rice Importation Waivers and Duties policy of government, and the latest NEITI Report detailing humongous levels of corruption totaling over 3 trillion naira."

Also receiving legislative attention were discrepancies in fuel subsidy payments and non-remittance of funds into the Federation Account by the Nigerian



Senate would make laws to reduce corruption, Senate President assured IMF's Christine Lagarde

**"Under my watch the Senate will never cover up corruption except if the information didn't come to us".**

**- Senate President to The Economist.**

National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). Other areas of focus included: a motion on the need to prevent mismanagement of the N500 billion Social Intervention Fund, and correction of illegal or lopsided concessions of Federal Government property.

The National Assembly did not only cleanse the Augean stable extrinsically, it also looked inward, and saw to internal cleansing by laying open its annual budgetary allocations. This was the first Assembly in Nigerian history to publish its budget for public scrutiny, ushering in a new era of transparency and openness in the legislature.

The Senate's anti-corruption fight was firmly anchored on legislation. It passed major anti-corruption Bills to create legal and institutional frameworks for strengthening the operations of the anti-

graft institutions, and to entrench both preventive and punitive measures against corrupt practices. Among these were: the Whistleblowers Protection Bill; Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act (Amendment) Bill; Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill; Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit Bill; Federal Audit Service Commission Bill; Proceeds of Crime Bill and Witness Protection Programme Bill.

### WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAMME BILL 2015

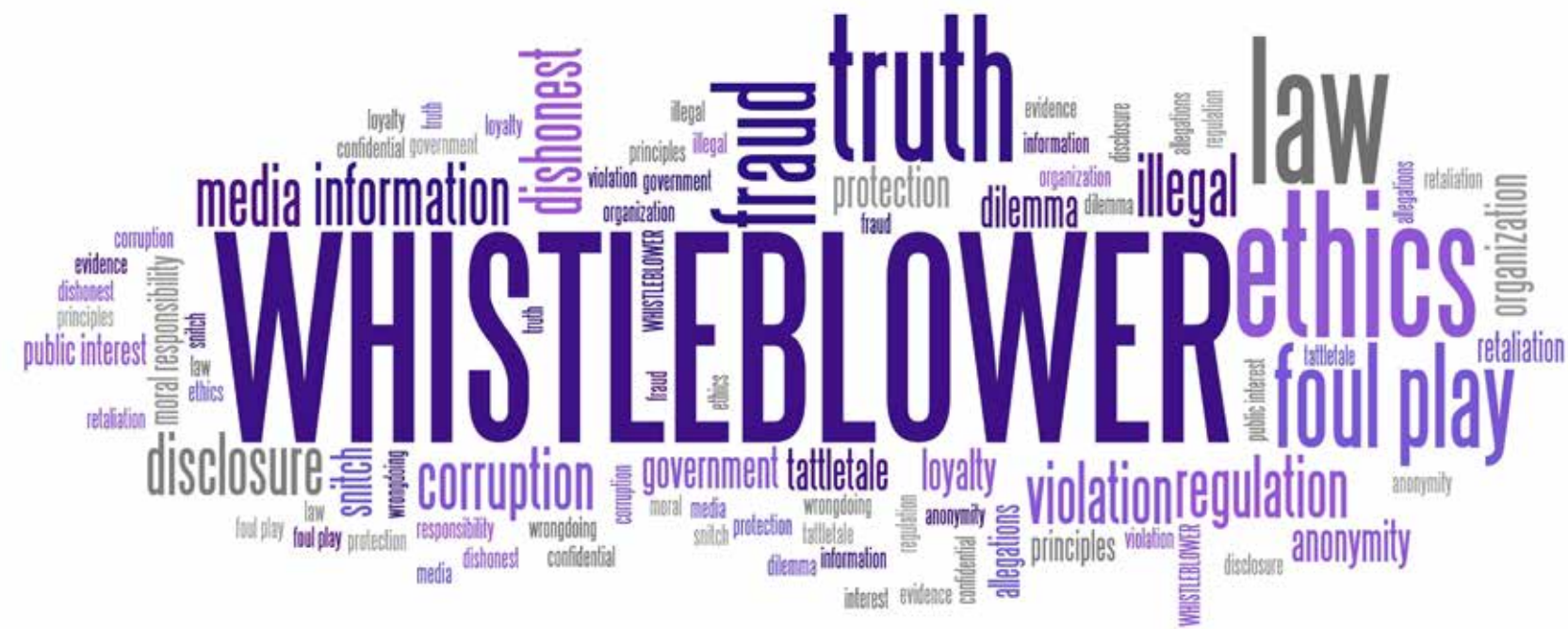
The Witness Protection Bill created a government protection programme for persons who provide important information, evidence or give assistance to law enforcement agencies in the course of investigations, inquiries or prosecutions, thereby encouraging the cooperation and support of witnesses to crimes.



Kabiru Garba Marafa, Chairman, Senate Committee on Petroleum (Downstream)



Senator Omatayo Alasoadura, Chairman, Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream)



### MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BILL 2016

Described by Saraki as “the kind of innovative and cooperative anti-corruption scheme that will truly discourage money laundering,” the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill abrogated the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act of 2011 and created a wider legal framework to curb the crime. The new law restricts and prohibits the laundering of illegal funds or proceeds of crime in the country and beyond. Nigerian law enforcement agencies are thus enabled to enter into partnership with - and receive assistance from - other governments and jurisdictions in the course of money laundering investigations. The Bill further empowers law enforcement agencies to identify, trace, freeze, restrain, recover, and seize the proceeds and benefits of crime wherever they are located.

### NIGERIA FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT BILL 2017

The Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit

(NFIU) Bill established an agency to provide financial intelligence to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in line with international standards – and went further to separate the agency from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The new agency is empowered to interact, receive and share information at the international level with the Financial Action Task Force, the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units and FIUs across the world.

Assented by the President in March 2019, the NFIU Act was a significant factor in the lifting of Nigeria’s suspension from the Egmont Group; and the subsequent official removal of Nigeria as a High Risk Third World Country by the Council of Europe. The National Civil Society Association Against Corruption (NCSAAC) commended the legislature for the swift action that prevented Nigeria’s expulsion from the Egmont Group. “This 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly has played a major role in the fight to strengthen our institutional capabilities to respond to corruption and limit corrupt practices,” the group stated.

*“The passage of the Audit Bill by the Senate is historic in every respect in that by this act, the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly has taken Nigeria away from the obsolete Audit Ordinance of 1956, which we had relied upon till now.”*

*- Anthony Mkpe Ayine, Auditor-General of the Federation*

### WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION BILL 2015

Otherwise known as “An Act to Protect Persons Making Disclosures for the Public Interest and Others from Reprisals, to Provide for the Matters Disclosed to be Properly Investigated and Dealt with and for other Purposes Related Therewith”-The Whistleblowers Protection Bill ensures that persons who make disclosures, and those in danger of reprisals in relation to such disclosures, are protected under the law.

#### Key provisions

- A whistleblower who makes a disclosure can take legal action if he or she is victimised, dismissed, suspended or harassed in any way as a result of his or her cooperation in investigations;
- The Bill specifies proper procedures for making disclosures; and
- The kind of protection that would be available to whistleblowers that might otherwise be at risk of physical and/or violent attacks.

The Senate President remarked on the passage of the Bill that: “This is a promise kept. Today, we have passed a landmark piece of legislation to fight corruption and protect patriotic Nigerians who are

fighting corruption. This Bill will protect the lives of those who risk themselves to expose corrupt practices in Nigeria.”

### FEDERAL AUDIT SERVICE COMMISSION BILL 2018

The Federal Audit Service Commission Bill had as its objective the promotion of transparency, accountability and integrity in the management of the public purse. This it did by empowering the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation to see to proper accountability in government spending, in rendering audit services to MDAs. “This will go a long way in ensuring the independence of the Office of the Auditor-General and will ensure that the Auditor-General has access to different parastatal agencies,” Saraki said, as civil society organisations including Friends of Democracy welcomed the Bill’s passage into law.

Frontline beneficiary of the legislation, Auditor-General of the Federation, Mr. Anthony Mkpe Ayine, whose autonomy is guaranteed by the new law, had this to say: “The passage of the Audit Bill by the Senate is historic in every respect in that by this act, the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly has taken Nigeria away from the obsolete Audit Ordinance of 1956, which we had relied upon till now.”

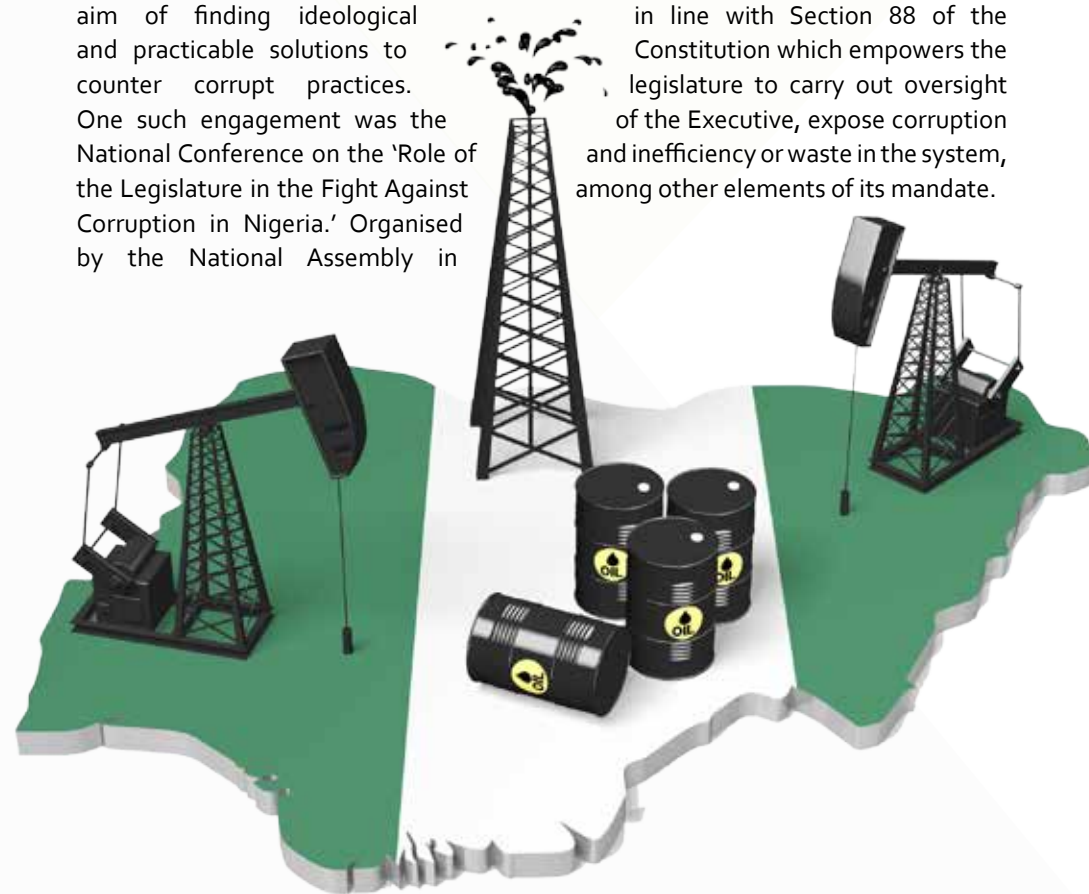


### NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CORRUPTION

In addition to legislation, oversight activities, investigations and timely interventions that provided critical support to the fight against corruption, the Senate collaborated with the Executive and relevant local and international stakeholders with the aim of finding ideological and practicable solutions to counter corrupt practices. One such engagement was the National Conference on the 'Role of the Legislature in the Fight Against Corruption in Nigeria.' Organised by the National Assembly in

collaboration with the Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption (PACAC) and held on October 18, 2016 at the NAF Conference Centre in Abuja, it was an impactful conference that made for greater synergy in combating corruption in the country's systems.

Undoubtedly, the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate more than delivered on its anti-corruption agenda, in line with Section 88 of the Constitution which empowers the legislature to carry out oversight of the Executive, expose corruption and inefficiency or waste in the system, among other elements of its mandate.



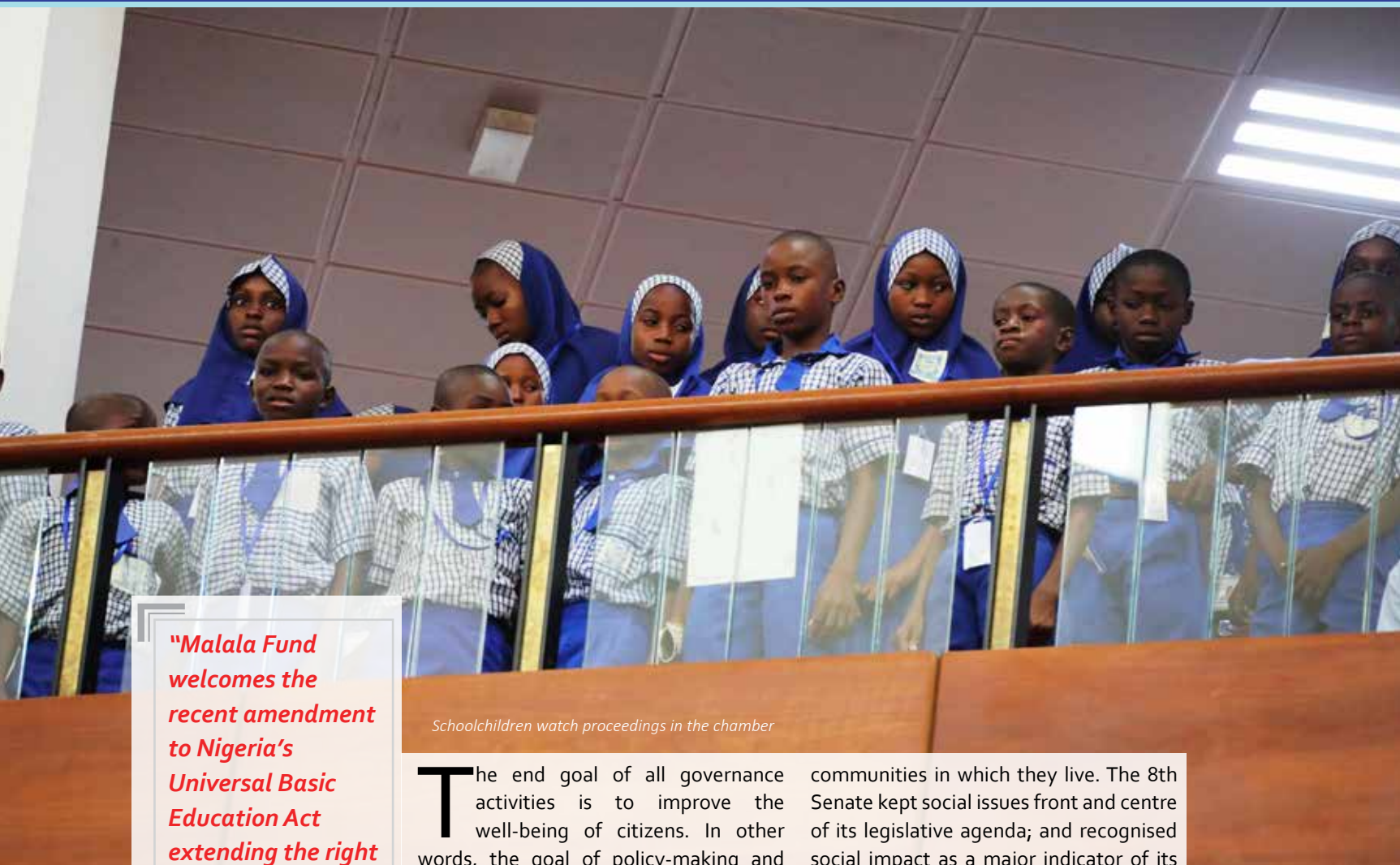
*Chukwuka Utazi, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes, sponsored the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) Bill*



**EDUCATION,  
HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL IMPACT**



# EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL IMPACT



**"Malala Fund welcomes the recent amendment to Nigeria's Universal Basic Education Act extending the right to free education from nine years to 12 years for all children."**

*Schoolchildren watch proceedings in the chamber*

The end goal of all governance activities is to improve the well-being of citizens. In other words, the goal of policy-making and development is the eventual positive impact it will have on Nigerian lives. Social impact can therefore be described as the effect of an action, activity, programme, project or policy on people and the

communities in which they live. The 8th Senate kept social issues front and centre of its legislative agenda, and recognised social impact as a major indicator of its overall performance in service to the people, as demonstrated by many of its interventions, some of which are set out here.

## EDUCATION

The education sector in Nigeria is beset with various challenges including: supply shortfall of educational institutions, lack of access to available institutions, poor training of teachers, the highest number of Out-of-School-Children (OOSC) in the world, inadequate education infrastructure, progressively parlous quality of education translating into poor performance in examinations including the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), and so on.

Upon its inauguration, the Senate under the leadership of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki carried out a holistic examination of Nigeria's education sector with a view to identifying avenues for legislative intervention. Senators paid particular attention to the recommendations of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) held in October 2016, which called for Private-Public Partnerships as a panacea for challenges in the sector, noting that 38 trillion naira government spending between 1999 and 2016 had failed to bring about the needed turnaround in education.

Taking into consideration the NESG recommendation and wider concerns about education, the Senate consulted and engaged widely with private sector stakeholders, Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society Organisations as well as international partners on the way forward. Senate's Interaction with Stakeholders in the

Education Sector, held in 2018, was also a platform for various stakeholders and interested parties to lead the discourse on improving education.

### ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION

The Senate took up the recommendations from its interaction with stakeholders and started work on the establishment of a National Commission for Teachers Education. Many pieces of legislation have been crafted over the last four years to upgrade existing educational facilities or establish new ones – some 45 new tertiary institutions have been proposed by the National Assembly. An amendment to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) Act 2011, makes provision for Colleges of Agriculture to be included as beneficiaries of the fund. In addition, Senate passed an amendment to the Federal Polytechnics Act, to enhance the quality of learning in those institutions as well as enhance the prospects of their graduates on the job market. The Tertiary Institutions and TetFund on Federal Polytechnics, Item, Abia State (Establishment, Etc.) was also among the many Bills passed to improve higher learning in the country.

### FREE EDUCATION UP TO SECONDARY LEVEL

To ensure a solid foundation for those who pass through the education system, the Senate passed the Universal



Senate President interacting with pupils on Children's Day



Senate Interaction with Education Stakeholders, April 2018



Senator Biodun Olujimi's motion led to a Senate investigation into Sexual Harassment

**"We especially applaud the landmark legislation which reduces the contribution of the state governments from 50% to 10%, with the aim of ameliorating the current situation where most states are unable to access the grant owing to their inability to pay the counterpart funding.**

- Queens College Old Girls Association

Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Amendment Act guaranteeing free and compulsory education for all Nigerians up to secondary school level. This elicited an ecstatic tweet from Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and education rights activist. "Good news from Nigeria. Thank you to @bukolasaraki and the Senate!"

In a statement, Philippa Lei, Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Malala Fund, said: "Malala Fund welcomes the recent amendment to Nigeria's Universal Basic Education Act, extending the right to free education from nine years to 12 years for all children. We hope this amendment signals that Nigeria's leaders are serious about education."

#### FUNDING BASIC EDUCATION

The Act – an amendment of the Universal Basic Education Act 2004 - also increased the national budget allocation to universal basic education from 2% to 3%. It further made access to Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC)

intervention funds an easier path for states of the federation, in that it reduced the benchmark for counterpart funding from 50% to 10%. It was revealed in 2017 that 33 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) had failed to access the funds for infrastructural development in education due to their inability to come up with the 50% counterpart funding needed. As a result, accumulated UBEC Funds domiciled with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) totalled N60 billion for the period between 2011 and 2016. The new law went a long way towards freeing up access to these funds.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate maintained its focus on education reform and improvement all through its tenure; and in April 2019, senators passed the amended Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) Act.

#### DEATHS AT QUEENS COLLEGE

The upper legislative chamber paid particular attention to the welfare and protection of students, particularly

vulnerable groups. Following the deaths of three girls (Vivian Osuinyi, Bithia Itulua and Praise Sodipo) in a gastroenteritis outbreak at Queens College, Lagos in February 2017, Senator Binta Masi Garba, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Women Affairs, moved a motion amidst the ensuing controversy. The Senate responded by increasing the budgetary provision for Queens College from N130 million to N350 million to address infrastructural challenges at the school; and further mandated its Joint Committees on Education (Basic and Secondary) and Health to investigate the deaths of the girls. A Public Hearing was later held by the Senate, in January 2018, to hear from all sides and to examine all relevant factors, with a special focus on the poor living conditions that led to the tragedy at Queens College.

#### SEXUAL HARASSMENT

In his speech on the first anniversary of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate, Dr. Saraki revealed that: "Since our inauguration, we have been

inundated with complaints from our people on the rising levels of violence against women and sexual harassment and rape. The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate is coming up with proposals that will not only help to eliminate these depravities but also ensure that perpetrators will no longer have anywhere to hide." The Senate did this by passing the Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Education Institutions (Prohibition) Bill, to protect young women and ensure a safer learning environment in our higher institutions. The law provides for a jail term of up to five years for lecturers convicted of sexually harassing students.

In May 2018, the red chamber passed a Motion sponsored by Senator Biodun Olujimi in the wake of a sexual harassment scandal at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) in which a student, Monica Osagie, accused a lecturer of demanding sex for marks. The Resolution mandated Senate Committees on Tertiary Institutions and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters to investigate the matter.



### UNPAID SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

"I was in Russia last month to participate at the 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and I heard first-hand the plight of our students for whom the expected scholarship funding has dried up," said the Senate President on November 1, 2017, in a meeting with MDAs responsible for the welfare of Nigerian students on scholarship abroad who had become stranded due to the non-payment of their tuition fees and allowances by the relevant government agencies.

The Senate directed the Federal Scholarship Board (FSB) to urgently present a comprehensive report of all Nigerian students on scholarship and their outstanding entitlements to the relevant Senate Committees, to facilitate appropriations for their settlement. Saraki also called for a comprehensive review of scholarship policies, to save the country from embarrassment and prevent undue hardship to students overseas.

"We have shown commitment to the need to develop our education sector, with a special focus on improving the quality of primary and secondary education which have suffered from lack of investment and infrastructural provision. Our vision is to see to the attainment of 100 per cent literacy rate for all Nigerian children aged 12 and below."

- Senate President

SHINING



## HEALTH

*"You made it happen. People were, and have been talking about it for many years, but nobody was doing anything about it."*

*- Bono on the 1% CRF for primary healthcare*

Primary and Universal Healthcare provision was a key legislative agenda of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate. With a solid vision to 'Make Nigeria Stronger' by helping to maintain a healthy citizenry, the Legislative Network for Universal Health Coverage was launched in 2017 under the auspices of the Senate Committee on Health, chaired by Senator Lanre Tejuoso. And so the Annual Legislative Summit on Universal Health Coverage came into being, as the Senate sought for government compliance with the Abuja Declaration (2001).

### 1% CRF FOR PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

The upper chamber's decisive legislative intervention on Universal Health Coverage eventually led to the watershed passage of the 2018 Budget with the inclusion of 1% of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) in the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF), in line with the National Health Act. A National Assembly driven provision in that year's budget after it had been omitted by the Executive, the 1% CRF makes for significantly improved funding for the health sector in Nigeria;



Co-Founder of the ONE Campaign, Bono, commended the 1 percent CRF for basic healthcare



and will help improve people's lives, reduce poverty and mortality rates, and indeed, 'Make Nigeria Stronger.'

The 1% CRF for primary healthcare milestone drew commendations for the Senate from international figures including billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates and the Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. Music superstar, philanthropist and Co-Founder of the ONE Campaign, Bono, on a courtesy visit to the Senate on April 9, 2019, told Saraki and other senators present: "You made the 1% for healthcare happen. Nobody wants earmarks, but you made it happen. It's going to be really

important for people's lives. The decisions made in this building are decisions of life and death in this case, so, we thank you for making the decision for people that we may never even meet."

Several pieces of legislation underscore the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate's determination to change the status quo for the better in the health sector. These include: A bill to reform the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency; a bill for the establishment of a Federal Capital Territory Health Insurance Agency; a National Drug Control Bill and the related National Mental Health Bill. Another transformative law that received Presidential assent in 2017 was



the Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot Act, which will save the lives of countless Nigerians, in boldly addressing the reluctance of hospitals to treat victims of gun violence.

### TACKLING MORTALITY RATES

Nigeria is the largest contributor to global mortality rates, according to the Federal Ministry of Health. The Senate passed

the Free Integrated Maternal and Child Health Care Bill, to address the troubling statistics. The Bill provides for free integrated maternal and child healthcare to cover women from conception to six weeks post-delivery, and children under the age of five. The objective was to bring to the bare minimum deaths arising from pregnancy, childbirth and early childhood diseases in the country.

### MORTALITY RATES IN NIGERIA

- Infant Mortality - 70 out of every 1000 live births (7%)*
- Maternal Mortality - 33,000 deaths a year*
- 1 in 10 Nigerian children dies before the age of 5.*
- Life Expectancy - 54% (Men: 51 / Women: 57)*

## SUMMIT ON THE LEGISLATIVE NETWORK FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE



Legislative Network on Universal Health Coverage Summit



'Making Nigeria Stronger'



Delegates at the Summit



World Bank health specialist, Dr. Olumide Okunola



Sen. Lanre Tejuoso, Chairman Committee on Health, Senate President and the Minister of Health, Dr. Isaac Adewole



## A NOTE ON THE SUMMIT

**"I must commend you for approving the Basic Health Care Provision Fund. It is a game changer."**

**- Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole to the Senate; May 21, 2019**

In June 2017, in line with Target 3.8 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the National Assembly launched a Legislative Network for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The objective of this network was to effectively leverage on the statutory functions of the legislature for improved health financing towards universal healthcare coverage for all Nigerians.

At the inaugural Summit of the Legislative Network on UHC, the legislature called on the Federal Government to honour the Abuja Declaration of 2001 and the full implementation of the National Health Act of 2014, which provided for dedicated funding from the nation's Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) to go towards healthcare financing.

A first of its kind, the Legislative Network brought together legislators from the 36 states of the federation; Speakers of the State Houses of Assembly; Committee Clerks from across the country; and Chairs of the Health and Appropriation Committees of the federal and state legislatures.

Speaking at the summit, President of the Senate, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, promised that the National Assembly would embark on a legislative intervention to ensure that that the pledge to set aside 1% of the CRF for the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) would be met.

History was made in 2018 when the 8th National Assembly achieved the passage of the 1% clause for basic healthcare.





Women Parliamentarians on a courtesy call to the Senate

## GENDER



The position of women in society did not go unnoticed by the Senate; and was the focus of many legislative actions in the upper legislative chamber. As the Senate President avowed early on: *"We are determined to ensure that our women, our children and the vulnerable in our society irrespective of their age, status and ethnic background, live in a safe and fulfilling environment where their rights are respected and their security is assured."*

To this end, a number of Bills were initiated to improve the condition of women across different sectors including healthcare, education and political

participation. The Women Participation in Elections Support Bill sought to create a more amenable political space for women's participation in elections. The objective was to promote equal participation of women in political life through affirmative action, enabling legislation and other measures to ensure that women are adequately represented at all levels. Quotas would also be prescribed for the election of women into the Senate, House of Representatives, State Houses of Assembly and Area Council Elections in the FCT, to support and enhance the representation and participation of women in certain elective offices.



Senator Binta Masi Garba, Chairman, Senate Committee on Women Affairs



Senator Biodun Olujimi (r) interacts with the Senate President during plenary



## SOME HIGH SOCIAL IMPACT BILLS PASSED BY THE 8TH SENATE

BILL	KEY PROVISIONS
<b>Compulsory Treatment and Care of Victims of Gunshots Bill</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes it compulsory for hospitals to treat gunshot victims;</li> <li>• Hospitals to report gunshot victim's case to the nearest police station within 2 hours of commencement of treatment;</li> <li>• Quick response and treatment must be given to gunshot victims without a police report; and</li> <li>• Hospitals can no longer demand for payment or monetary deposits before treating gunshot victims.</li> </ul>
<b>Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Bill 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures the integration of Persons Living With Disabilities (PLWDs) into society by providing for their access to education and healthcare, as well as protecting their social, economic and civil rights;</li> <li>• Mandatory provision of special facilities to guarantee the right of PLWDs to access public premises, buildings, roads and sidewalks;</li> <li>• Ensures right to education without discrimination or segregation, and entitlement to free education up to secondary level and with educational assistive services;</li> <li>• Protection from exploitation.</li> </ul>
<b>National Poverty Eradication Commission Bill 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims to reduce the number of Nigerians living below the poverty line;</li> <li>• Creates a statutory body to coordinate poverty alleviation activities in Nigeria;</li> <li>• Ensures effective coordination and implementation of poverty alleviation and eradication policies, projects, programmes, plans and international commitments;</li> <li>• Sets up legislative frameworks for the coordination and delivery of social protection services and activities of Federal Government;</li> <li>• Creates poverty alleviation schemes targeted at Youth Empowerment, Farmers Empowerment, Women Empowerment, Rural Infrastructure Development, Social Welfare Services, Natural Resources Development and Conservation.</li> </ul>
<b>Senior Citizen Centre Bill 2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates Senior Citizens Centres around the country to provide for the needs of old and aged persons by identifying needs, trainings and opportunities that will benefit them;</li> <li>• Ensures the provision and effective administration of centres that will provide basic welfare and recreational facilities for senior citizens;</li> <li>• Requires Senior Citizens Centres to keep proper records and statistics of senior citizens in the country;</li> <li>• Ensures the provision of a wide variety of programmes and services by Senior Citizens Centres – including health, fitness, wellness and recreation.</li> </ul>

**FROM NIGERIA  
TO THE WORLD**



# FROM NIGERIA TO THE WORLD



Celebrating Europe Day 2018 in Abuja

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate made major strides in building stronger ties between Nigeria and the larger world, helping to boost the country's image and standing in the comity of nations. In addition to the regular fare of receiving ambassadors and international organisations on courtesy calls to the National Assembly, the Senate fostered strategic partnerships with the

international community and embarked on several trips abroad to project Nigeria and Africa to the world and strengthen bilateral relationships.

These are some of the notable steps taken by the upper chamber under the leadership of Senate President, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, to foster and enhance international relations:



## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EU

### On Human Trafficking

*"The EU has already committed 47 million euros to this fight – there needs to be a sense of urgency. This is after all about human beings and it is about shaping the collaboration between the EU and Nigeria."*

- Ketil Karlsen, EU Ambassador

Nigerians topped the list of migrants arriving Italy in 2016 and 2017, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Concerned at the alarming trend and the considerable risk to thousands along irregular routes, the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate formed a strategic partnership with the European Union to address migration and human trafficking.

As part of the partnership, the Senate organised a two-day Roundtable held in Benin City, which was attended by EU Ambassador, Ketil Karlsen. Also in attendance were other international partners, relevant government agencies, Edo State Governor Godwin Obaseki, community leaders - as well as recovering victims of human trafficking.

"Our responsibility needs to match the complexity of the challenge," said the EU Ambassador at the event. "The EU has already committed 47 million euros to this

fight – there needs to be a sense of urgency. This is after all about human beings and it is about shaping the collaboration between the EU and Nigeria."

The Roundtable concluded with a communiqué recommending strong measures to be adopted by government agencies and the affected communities, to steer young people away from undertaking dangerous journeys out of the country; and for the rehabilitation of victims.

In his remarks, the Senate President called on the global community to improve its response to migration and human trafficking, canvassing for stronger collaboration and cooperation between African countries and other governments to find innovative solutions to the problem, which remains a threat to countries of origin and destination on both ends of the journey.

## ECONOMIC TIES WITH GERMANY

In March 2017, the Senate President led a five-member Senate delegation on a three-day visit to Bundestag, the German Parliament. The trip was aimed at promoting economic relations between Nigeria and Germany as well as creating an opportunity for peer review.

The delegation also visited a German village, Feldheim, which was the first community in the country to achieve 100 percent self-sufficiency in renewable energy. Saraki spoke on the need to improve the use of renewable energy in Nigeria, a call that led to the launch, in 2018, of the Asteven Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Academy in Ogun State by Dr. Sunny Akpoyibo, President of Asteven International Group.

Senate delegation in Paris, France

## NIGERIA-UK COLLABORATION

The Senate and the United Kingdom collaborated on several important Bills, particularly in relation to the rebuilding of the North East, security, police reform, corruption and Ease of Doing Business. UK Deputy High Commissioner for Lagos, Laure Beaufls, was a notable presence at the Senate Roundtable on Migration and Human Trafficking. Citing some findings related to the problem, including trafficked Nigerian girls who are viciously exploited in the sex trade in foreign countries for the rest of their lives, Beaufls also drew attention to the urgency of the situation, saying: "We must waste no time in putting solutions into effect."



Senator Andy Uba, House Speaker Yakubu Dogara and the Senate President at the UN

## SENATE GOES TO WASHINGTON

The United States Congress and the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate held a series of strategic engagements which culminated in visits by senators from both countries to their respective parliaments. In August 2017, US Senator Chris Coons led an eight-member delegation to Nigeria to assess the destruction caused by Boko Haram terrorists as well as strengthen U.S. - Nigeria relations. Nigeria's Senate President also led a delegation to the U.S. where he addressed members of Congress, the U.S. Institute for Peace and the Chamber of Commerce.

His keynote address at the Georgetown Africa Business Conference held in February 2018 at Georgetown University, Washington, was also a standout. Saraki spoke on 'The African Value Chain: Harnessing Local Talent and Opportunity' – and also held a masterclass on 'Doing Business and Investing in Nigeria', during which he took questions from delegates – some of whom were Nigerian students at the university - on the legislative efforts of Senate to improve the lives of Nigerians.



Busy schedule in Russia

## TO RUSSIA WITH FRIENDSHIP

In October 2017, Saraki led a Senate delegation to Russia to attend the 137<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held in St. Petersburg, with the theme, 'Promoting Cultural Pluralism and Peace through Inter-Faith and Inter-Ethnic Dialogue.' While there, the Senate President intervened in the case of Nigerian students left stranded in Russia and other foreign countries because of unpaid scholarship entitlements, and followed up on the matter with the Federal Scholarship Board and other relevant government agencies on return to Abuja.

There was a follow-up visit to Russia the following year, on the invitation of the Chairperson of the Russian Parliament, Valentina Matviyenko. The Senate President delivered an address to the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on June 20, 2018, becoming the first head of the Nigerian legislature to do so.

Address to the Federation Council in Russia





## QATAR DIPLOMACY

Saraki led a delegation of senators to Doha for the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly held in April 2019. On the sidelines of the IPU, the Senate President met with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani; and the country's Prime Minister, Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.

At both meetings, he made a case for reviewing visa restrictions on Nigerians, to enable them visit the country and also to improve the relationship between the two countries.

*"Typically, when we hear of a 'special relationship' between nations, it is with regard to Britain and America; and as the Reagan and Thatcher era showed forth, these are relationships that outlive governments. Ours, too, is a special relationship, which should outlive us and be a reference point of special relationship in Africa."*

*- Senate President to the Parliament of Ghana, March 5, 2018.*



Senator Rose Oko chairs the Senate Committee on Diaspora and Non Governmental Organisations

## NIGERIA DIASPORA COMMISSION

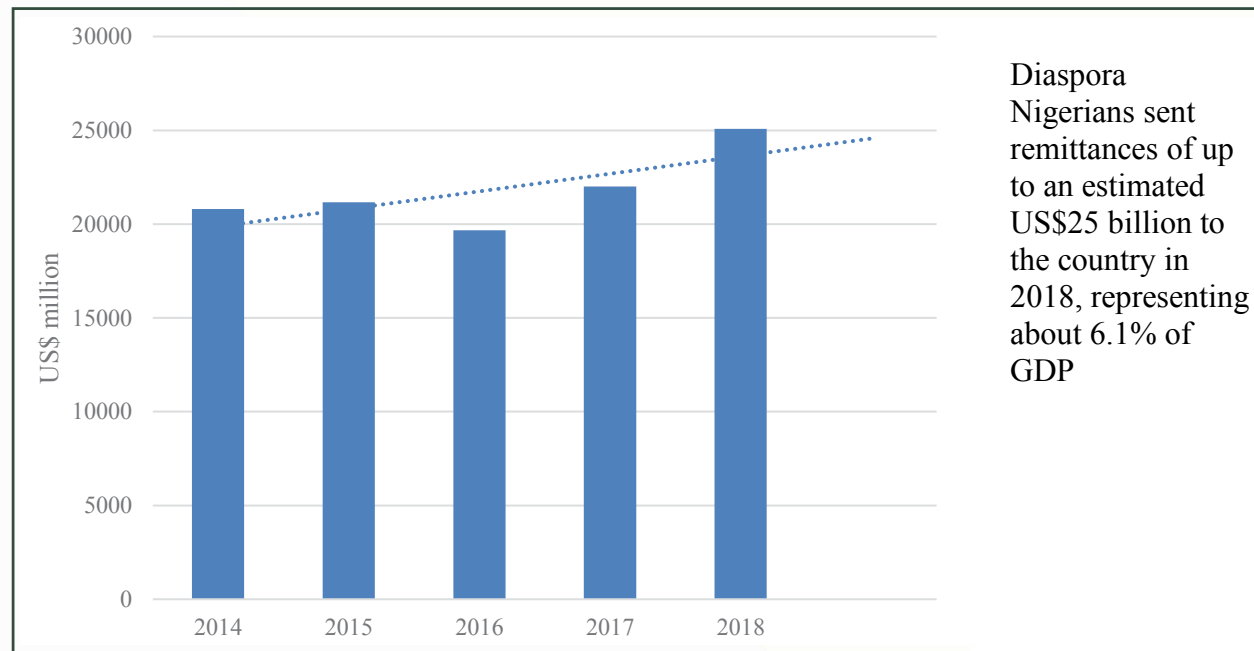
The Nigeria Diaspora Commission Bill was fast-tracked and passed, eliciting commendation from groups including the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO). Samuel Adewusi, Chairman, Board of Trustees of NIDO, said: "Congratulations to the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate under the leadership of Distinguished Senate President, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki and Senator Rose Oko - Chairman Senate Committee on Diaspora and Civil Society - for passing the Diaspora Commission Bill as promised."

The Bill puts in place a framework for Nigerians in the Diaspora to contribute to the nation's progress through engagement with national policies, projects and so on. It also ensures government utilises the human, capital and material resources of Nigerians in the Diaspora towards the development of the country.

The Senate on May 9, 2019 confirmed the appointment of Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa as Chairman/CEO of the Nigeria Diaspora Commission.



## REMITTANCES BY NIGERIANS IN THE DIASPORA



Diaspora Nigerians sent remittances of up to an estimated US\$25 billion to the country in 2018, representing about 6.1% of GDP

Source: PwC



Economic Impact of Nigerians in Diaspora

## PROMOTING NIGERIAN CREATIVITY ABROAD

Another sector that provides value addition and comparative advantage is the entertainment industry, which has grown tremendously over the last 20 years- especially in Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa- as our artists have risen from local champions to global recognition. Nigerian musician Wizkid recently sold out London's prestigious Royal Albert Hall, and is much sought after for collaborations with major American Music artists. Whilst interacting with Wizkid recently, he told me he filled a stadium of 40,000 in Gabon, a French-speaking country where they didn't understand a word of his lyrics; and he himself was astonished.

The Shoki dance movement went from the back streets of Lagos to galactic heights in the music video of U.S. Hip-Hop artist, Missy Elliot. I remember in my younger days, if you went to a disco party in Nigeria, the deejay would play 100 per cent American R&B like Shalamar, The Whispers and Earth Wind and Fire. Now, no such thing. Nigerian musicians like Davido and Phyno are all the rage. My own kids listen to Nigerian musicians at their parties. I would never have thought in my lifetime that I would see this happen. We have come full circle. Our contemporary music industry, by the sheer dint of youthful creativity and innovation, has indigenized.

This is now creating new opportunities, new artists are springing up, new studios are coming onstream, records are being made, talents developed. As far as South Africa and beyond, Nigerian music is being played. When we were young, it used to be that you had to be a lawyer or an engineer, but now creativity is really changing the game.

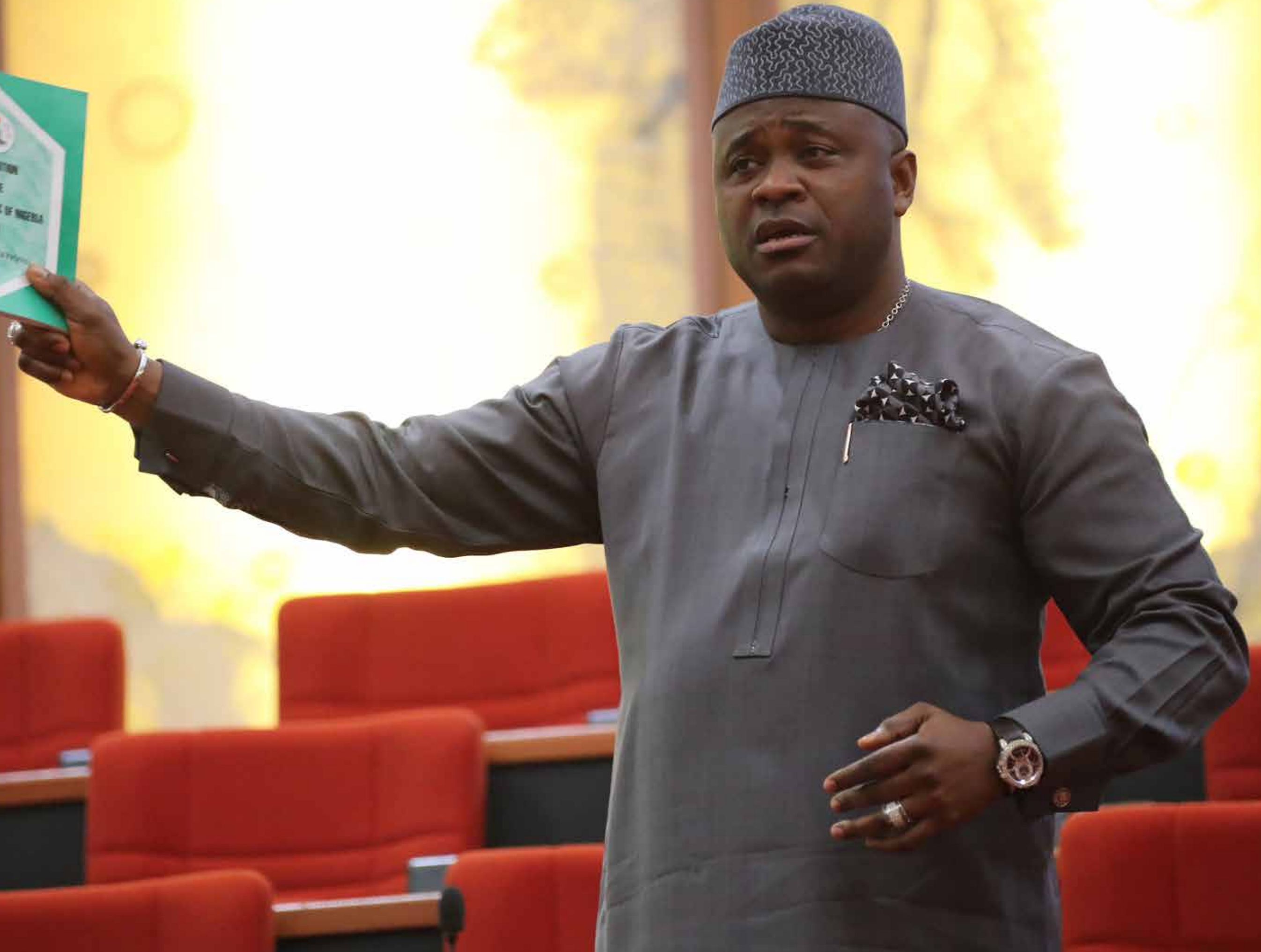


The same can be said of Nollywood, which is the second largest movie industry in the world; and is another bold example of people creating a value chain as though from nothing. When the first video feature in what would become known as Nollywood, a film called 'Living in Bondage' was released in the mid-90s, few could have imagined the huge industry it would spawn, but here we are today. Nollywood stars are known the world over, and the industry employs thousands of Nigerians.

So influential are these stars that, when news spread recently that a major Nollywood star had been cast in a small role in a Hollywood film, Marvel's 'Avengers: Infinity War', Nigerians went wild. It turned out to be fake news, but maybe we are on to something. Marvel Studios, if you are listening, if you want an audience of millions in Africa for your upcoming film, then there is a casting decision you need to make.

- Senate President at Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

**IN THE PUBLIC  
INTEREST**



# IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

In the four years of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate, the red chamber made notable legislative interventions and drove many initiatives in direct response to the demands or needs of Nigerians across all economic and social strata, touching virtually every aspect of life in the country.

Many of these were initiated and established either through Motions or Points of Order on the floor, where individual senators who had taken interest in given cases or crises affecting Nigerians, presented colleagues with detailed information about proposed interventions. The Senate then resolved to take action, usually by setting up Ad-Hoc Committees to investigate the matter; thereafter assigning the issue to existing committees; holding Public Hearings to hear directly from stakeholders regarding the issues in question; or, engaging in stakeholder roundtable sessions where the public and the Senate, under the leadership of the Senate President, could discuss in an open, frank, and interactive setting.

Some of the major interventions of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate are set out below.

## 2015

### FIXED AND BULK METERING OF CONSUMERS

In August 2015, the Senate, through a Point of Order raised in plenary, mandated the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to immediately abolish fixed charges on electricity consumption and bulk metering of villages and communities, as the practice was found to be contrary to the interest of consumers.

### Fraud in Treasury Single Account (TSA) Management

In November 2015, the Senate detected fraudulent activities in the implementation of TSA; and raised a resolution to bring such practices to a halt, saving the country N25 billion.

## 2016

### HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE NORTH EAST

In March 2016, the Senate allocated N10billion in the annual budget to cater for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the North East, to alleviate adverse humanitarian consequences unleashed

by insurgents in the region.

### FRAUD IN THE IMPORT DUTY WAIVERS SCHEME

In May 2016, a Senate investigation uncovered abuse and fraud to the tune of N447 billion in the import duty waivers scheme on rice. It then mandated the Ad-Hoc Committee on Import Duty Waivers to investigate the matter.

### HUMANITARIAN CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTH EAST

On October 4, 2016, the Senate launched an investigation into alleged corruption in the management of humanitarian crisis in the North East; and sent a fact-finding team to conduct an on-the-ground assessment of the situation. This ultimately led to the dismissal of Babachir Lawal, Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), for an alleged grass-cutting contract worth N200million of funds meant for victims of the insurgency.

### Preventing a Telecoms Data Price Hike

Through a Point of Order and a subsequent Motion as well as immediate interventions by Senate leadership on the issue, the Senate stopped a proposed hike in prices of data by the Nigerian

Communication Commission (NCC). A 2019 mobile data price comparison conducted by the UK-based Cable group found that Nigeria has one of the cheapest mobile data subscription rates in Africa. Nigeria was placed 11<sup>th</sup> out of 57 countries on the continent, with an average price of \$2.22 per gigabyte (1GB).

### ENDING FRAUD IN REVENUE GENERATING AGENCIES

Through Points of Orders and Motions, the Senate moved to investigate the Federal Government's Revenue Generating Agencies for leakages, non-remittance and misuse of generated revenue. The investigation revealed that a majority of MDAs had, over a considerable time period, spent billions of generated funds without the necessary annual appropriation by the legislature.

## 2017

### ACCESS TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR BUSINESSES

In 2017, senators intervened in the lack of access to Forex for SMEs, owing to Central Bank of Nigeria's policies at the time. This intervention led to a review of CBN policy, thus enabling small business



Hosting the DG of NAFDAC, Prof. Moji Adeyeye, at the Senate

owners to access necessary Forex for import, export and service delivery needs.

### #OPENNASS — TRANSPARENCY IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET

For the first time since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, the detailed Budget of the National Assembly was laid in plenary, alongside the Report of the annual Appropriations Bill. NASS Budget breakdown was also published online for closer public scrutiny. Daily proceedings in plenary were live-streamed and also transcribed for dissemination across various media platforms. The Senate opened its doors on many occasions to different categories of Nigerians, so they could further engage with senators for the purpose of understanding how the body operates.

### QUEENS COLLEGE AND OTHER UNITY SCHOOLS

On May 2, 2017, following the deaths of three students of Queens College Lagos - one of Nigeria's Unity Schools - the Senate intervened, and also held a Public Hearing on the tragedy. The upper chamber immediately set up a Stakeholder Summit to look into comprehensive education reform in the country; and ensured additional funds were included in the 2017 Appropriations Bill to meet infrastructural challenges at Queens College and other Unity Schools.

### CLOSURE OF LAUTECH

In July 2017, the Senate intervened in the closure of Ladoké Akintola University of Technology, (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso. The university campus had been under lock and key for months, and the Senate's efforts were a major factor in getting the owner states to reopen the institution.

### ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT INTO THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE

In August 2017, the Senate intervened in the matter of controversial, secret recruitments into federal civil service agencies; and accelerated the passage of the Existing Vacancies in the Federal Civil Service (Prohibition) Bill, to curb such practices.

### ADDRESSING DRUG ABUSE

In December 2017, the Senate held a two-day Roundtable on the Drug Use Crisis in Nigeria. Held in Kano, the Roundtable was a major pushback against drug abuse in our communities, and helped galvanise larger public response, including a BBC documentary. It further led the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to move against the unregulated sale and distribution of Tramadol, while the Federal Ministry of Health placed a ban on the manufacture and importation of Codeine. On the legislative front, the Roundtable gave rise to two important bills: the National Drug Control Bill and the National Mental Health Bill.



Senator Shehu Sani chaired the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Humanitarian Crisis in the North East



and arbitrary bank charges and illegal deductions by commercial banks. This led to a policy revision by the CBN.

### SUMMIT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

The Senate intervened in the escalating incidence of insecurity across the country by organising a National Security Summit held in February 2018. The summit provided a platform for heads of military and paramilitary agencies to make submissions to parliament; and put forward 20 recommendations to the Executive on strategies for bolstering national security.

### MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In February 2018, the Senate intervened in the problem of irregular migration and human trafficking of young Nigerians; and held a two-day Roundtable in Benin City, Edo State. With the participation of the Edo State Government, traditional rulers, government agencies and international partners, the Roundtable helped catalyse a number of strategies and initiatives in Edo State, and the country as whole, towards stemming the flow of young Nigerians through the Sahara Desert and other dangerous routes.

Like the Kano Roundtable before it, the Benin dialogue also gave the issue a human face by hearing from the victims themselves. Powerful testimonies were taken from recovering victims including a female who was rehabilitated after being trafficked and exploited in Russia; and 22-year-old Victory - first seen round the world in a viral CNN Human Slavery video filmed in Libya.

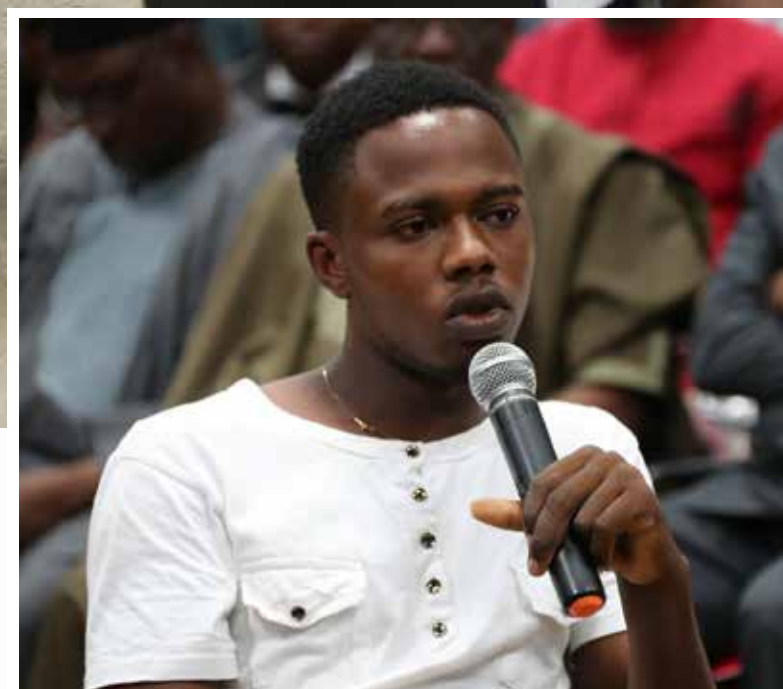
### FUEL SCARCITY INTERVENTION

Between December 2017 and January 2018, the Senate, through its Committee on Downstream Petroleum, intervened in the lingering fuel scarcity crisis across the country. A Public Hearing was held to look into the root causes of the scarcity and proffer short, medium and long term solutions to the problem.

## 2018

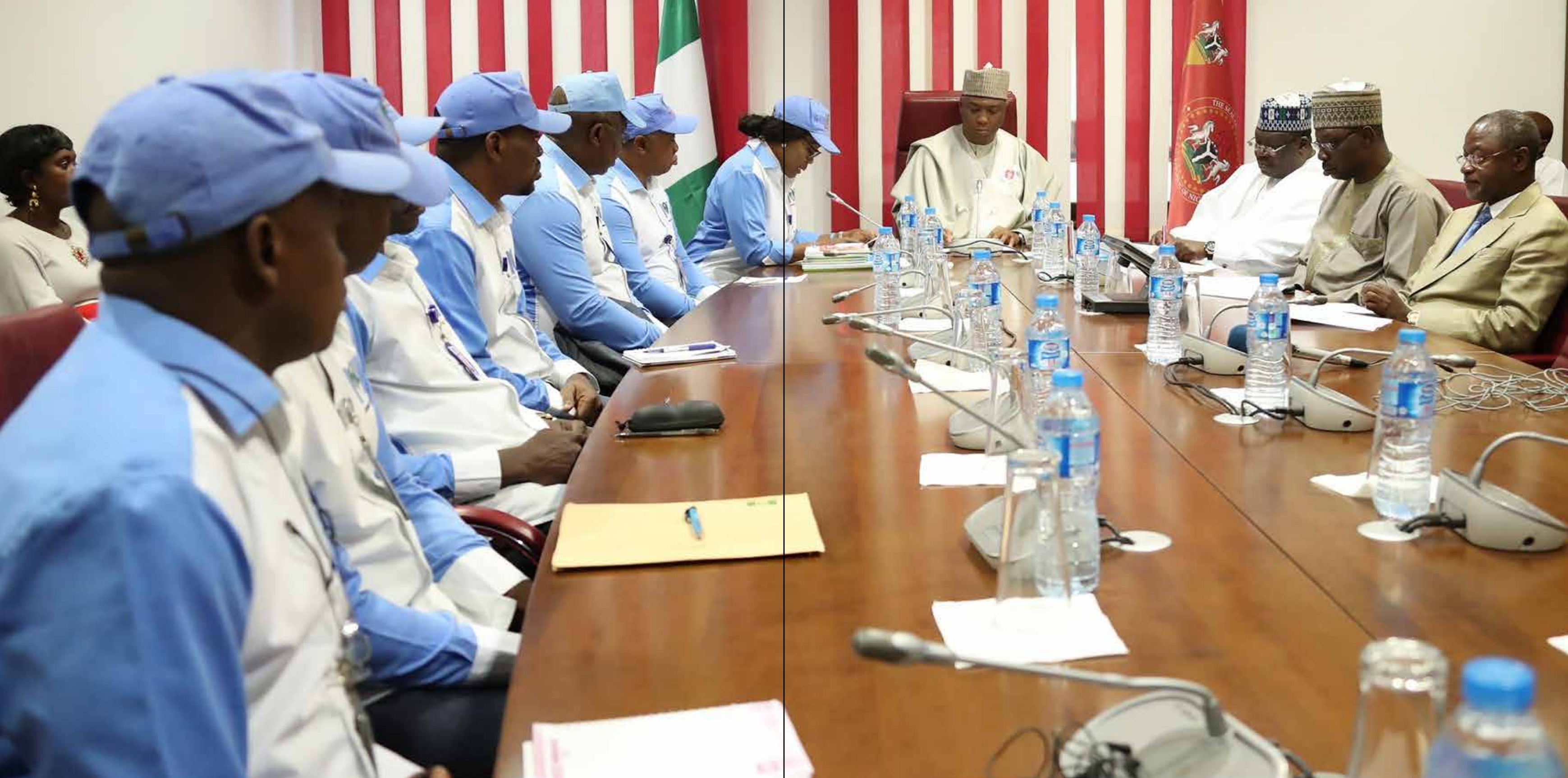
### ARBITRARY BANK CHARGES

In January 2018, Senate intervened in the often conflicting and vague remedies offered by the CBN to victims of excess



*Senators heard testimony from a woman trafficked to Russia*

*Victory was sold into slavery in Libya*



*Courtesy visit by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)*



*"We cannot pretend that sexual harassment does not exist in our higher institutions. This is age-long behaviour on the part of lecturers particularly. There have been several reported cases of sexual harassment which have been swept under the carpet."*

*- Senator Olugbenga Ashafa*



Senator Olugbenga Ashafa called for action on sexual harassment

### PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

In May 2018, the Senate intervened in the health sector by passing a clause in the 2018 Budget to set aside 1% of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for the provision of primary healthcare in the country. This budgetary clause for the first time activated the provision of the National Health Act 2014, and by so doing, made available N33 billion for primary healthcare a core legislative focus in the 2018 Budget. As a result, additional funds are now provided for over 180 million Nigerians to have access to quality health services. The 1% provision has further been elevated into a first line charge in the 2019 Budget.

The 1% CRF initiative got the thumbs up from philanthropists Bono and Bill Gates. The Director General of WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also commended the move. His twitter handle, @DrTedros tweeted at the Senate's

@SPNigeria handle, saying: "Good news! The President of the Senate of #Nigeria @BukolaSaraki committed to ensure 1% of the Consolidated Revenue Fund is included in Nigeria's budget to strengthen primary healthcare. Political will at all levels is needed for #HealthForAll."

### JOHESU STRIKE

In June 2018, the upper legislative chamber waded in on the Joint Health Sector Union (JOHESU) strike, which had severely affected health services across the country. The Senate President met with Minister of Health Prof. Isaac Adewole, Minister of Labour Dr. Chris Ngige and JOHESU leaders on the matter. As a direct result, the strike was suspended on the 44<sup>th</sup> day.

### SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Through a Motion on May 30, 2018, the Senate intervened in the alarming trend

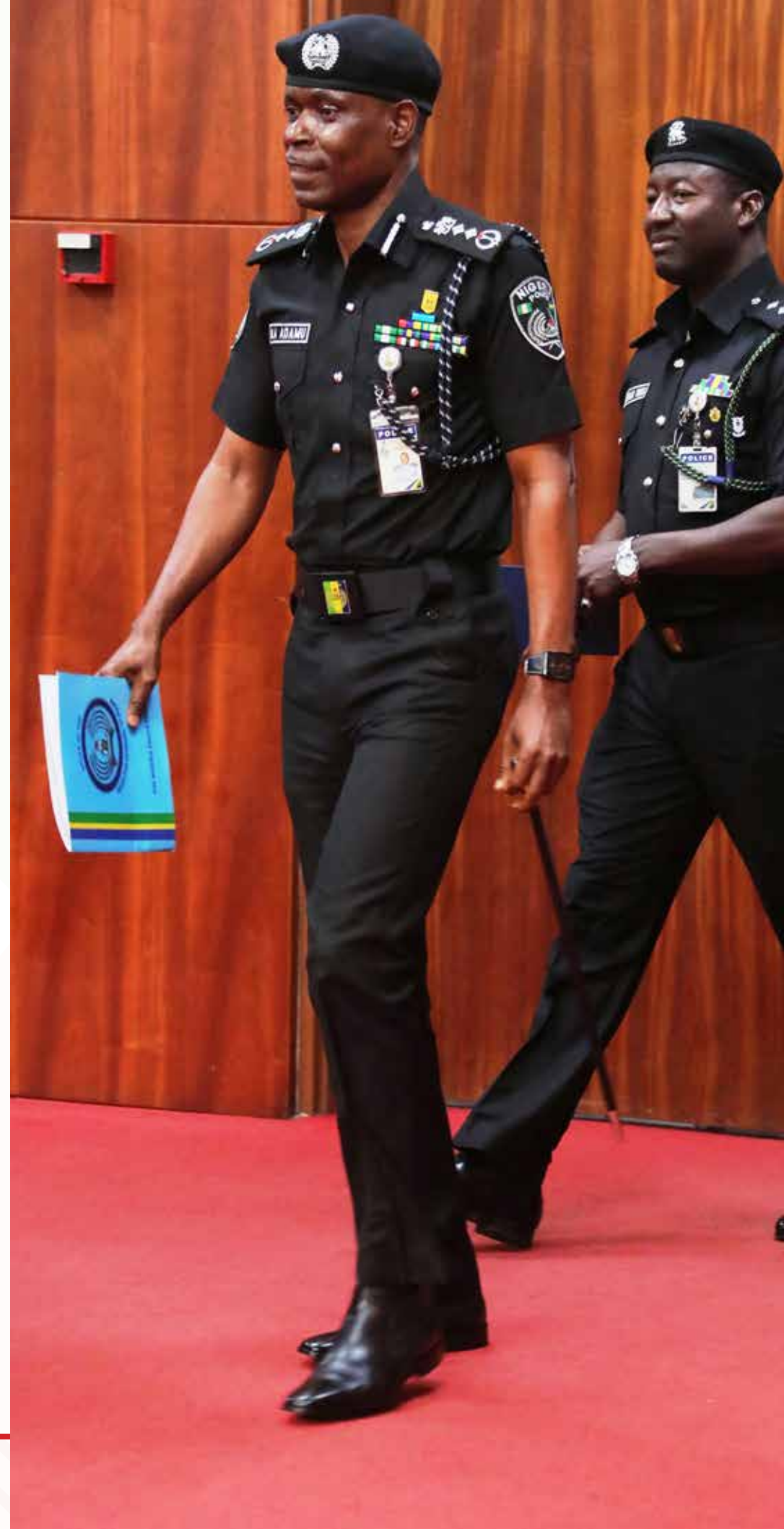
IGP Mohammed Adamu at the Senate

of sexual harassment in our higher institutions of learning. The case of Miss Monica Osagie, an Obafemi Awolowo University student who had named a lecturer in a 'sex-for-grades' allegation, provided the immediate impetus for this particular intervention by the Senate. The Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Education Institutions (Prohibition) Bill was also passed to address the problem.

## 2019

### POLICE REFORM

This was in response to calls by Nigerians to improve the activities of the Nigeria Police in order to make it more effective and efficient while adhering to the rule of law and human rights. Between January and April 2019, the Senate resolved to completely review and amend the Nigeria Police Act (State and Community Policing). This culminated in the passage of the Police Reform Bill and the Nigeria Police Trust Fund Bill.



**A CHAMBER OF  
INNOVATIONS**



# A CHAMBER OF INNOVATIONS



NASS Management conducted a comprehensive staff audit

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate brought into being many innovative policies, ideas and methodologies that have gone a long way towards improving the activities of the legislature, creating a new benchmark in Nigeria's political history. These innovations have been salutary, particularly in terms of openness, inclusivity as well as interactions between the Senate and citizens at home and in the Diaspora. Moreover, the upper legislative chamber has pushed many of these innovations through the creative use of modern technology, to the greater advantage of the legislative exercise in the country.

## MANAGEMENT INNOVATIONS

The Bureaucracy of the National Assembly has undergone expansion, restructuring and reorganisation during the 8<sup>th</sup> Session under the leadership of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki. This has helped to streamline and reposition the establishment for maximum efficiency in the services of the management, through the creation of directorates headed by Secretaries, as against departments hitherto headed by Directors.

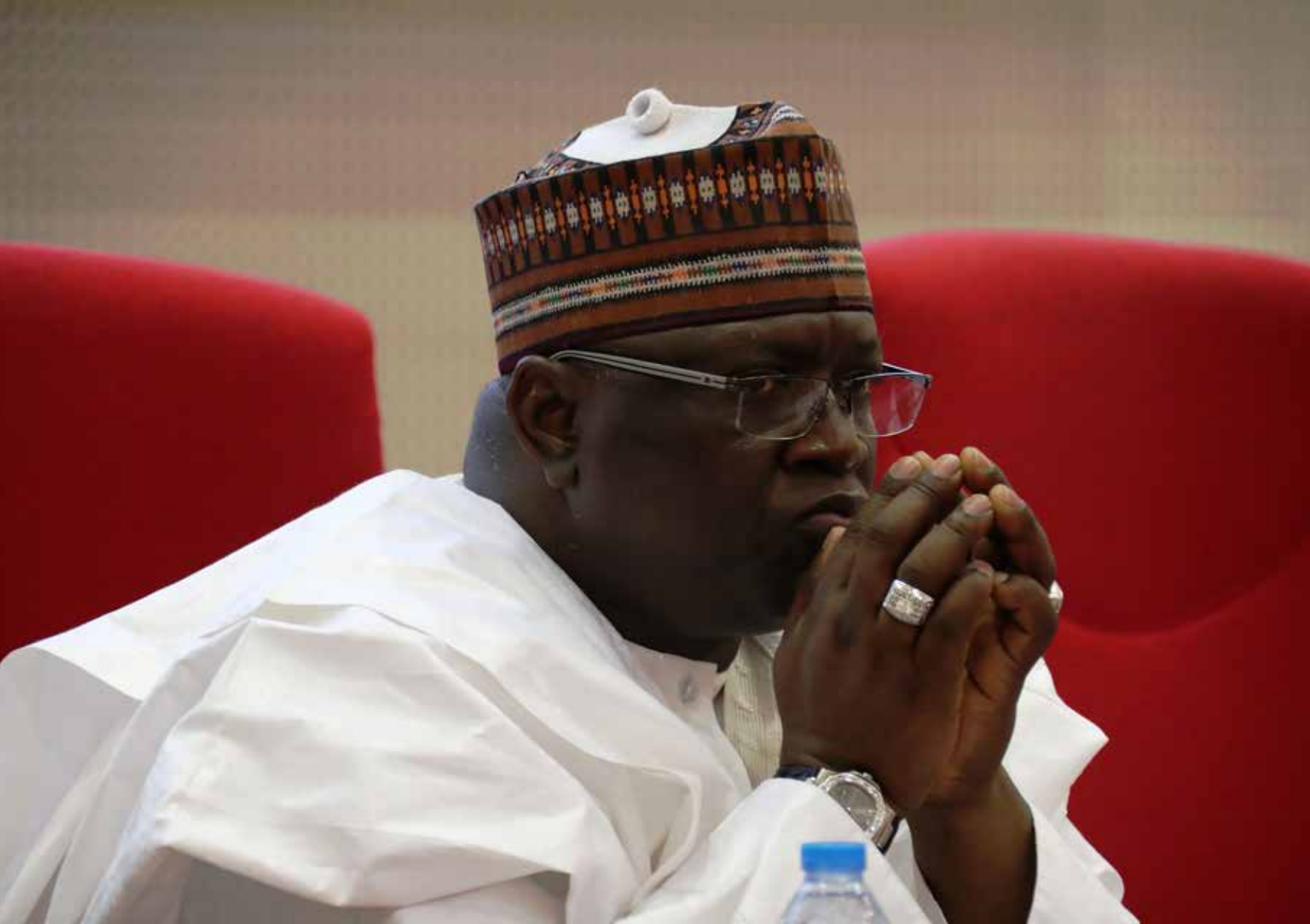
For instance, what was once the Legal Department of the National Assembly is now known as the Directorate of Legal Services - made up of five departments, namely: (a) Department of Legal Drafting, (b) Department of Litigation & Counselling, (c) Department of Alternative Dispute Resolution and Citizens Rights (d) Department of Legal Research and Report, and (e) Department of Corporate Services.

In all, the National Assembly bureaucracy is presently made up of 67 departments spread across directorates and offices of the establishment.

These innovations - according to the Clerk of the National Assembly, Mohammed Ataba Sani-Omolori, in a paper he presented at the Orientation Programme for Members-Elect of the 9<sup>th</sup>

National Assembly, titled: 'Overview of National Assembly Structure, Functions and Inter-Parliamentary Relations' - are "intended to professionalize the workforce, create additional opportunities for career growth and reposition the bureaucracy for productivity and optimal service delivery, particularly given the critical role that the legislature is expected to perform in national development."

The reorganisation has also seen to improved welfare for the staff and massive renovation and facelift for the entire National Assembly Complex. Workers now enjoy the Consolidated Legislative Salary Structure (CONLESS) - which had been the trigger for countless spats between management and the Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (PASAN) in the past. The Chambers, Offices, hallways, alleys and the premises of the National Assembly now wear a look comparable to Parliaments in older democracies around the world. The security of the complex was also enhanced, with Staff and visitors alike required to wear their identification and visitor tags respectively, at all times, on the premises. Management also embarked on the construction of staff and visitors car parks to take care of the massive vehicular inflow into the complex on a daily basis.



Clerk of the National Assembly, Mohammed Ataba Sani-Omolori

## STAFF AUDIT

On the prompting of the President of the Senate, the Management conducted a comprehensive human resource audit aimed at *"verifying the skills, efficiency and motivation of the employees of the National Assembly."* The audit was to determine the actual staff strength of the bureaucracy, available competencies, areas of deployment and to identify manpower gaps as applicable, to better address human capital challenges. The expected outcome of this process was a detailed assessment of the nominal roll and succession plan. In addition,

the audit was to identify possible vacancies, role duplications, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, limitations, and developmental needs of the existing organisational structure of the National Assembly. One of the results of this process was the successful identification and reconciliation of irregularities in the National Assembly payroll. The management also adopted and implemented electronic roll-call, with many points for Staff to sign in and sign out with their thumb prints, to promote punctuality.

## USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate took interactivity and openness to unprecedented levels by televising Senate Plenary Sessions and live-tweeting every activity on the floor - using the platforms of Twitter, YouTube and Facebook. This was a first in Nigeria. Before this development, Nigerians barely knew what went on during Senate Plenary Sessions and were unable to give their views on the proceedings. However, with a daily viewership of approximately 20,000 people on YouTube and constant interaction with millions of citizens on the Nigerian Senate Twitter handles, this Senate was able to set a new record

for the most interaction with the public, while achieving a very high level of transparency.

Plenary sessions typically aired once a week on the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA). This ensured that Nigerians without internet access could still view plenary sessions and be aware of each Bill being passed and track their progress. The transparency engendered by the use of these platforms also made it possible for constituents to assess the quality of representation by the senators they voted for.



## OPEN NASS

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate of the National Assembly made another tremendous leap in the decision to promote transparency and accountability by launching the Open NASS campaign. This has gone a long way in bridging the communication gap between leaders and the electorate. The Open NASS initiative also helped in strengthening democracy in Nigeria by giving citizens a platform to come forward and voice their opinions directly to lawmakers. This has also been used as an avenue to improve the oversight function.

detailed information on the initiative, highlighting its role in deepening governance and democracy. One important fact was incontrovertible: Nigerians come first, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate was here to serve them. A toll-free hotline was also set up and the number displayed on the website, for those seeking additional information.

The Senate held three successful annual Open NASS events, with each session adjudged by participating citizens as highly interactive, successful and satisfying.

The Open NASS website provided

*NASS Staff at the 2017 Budget Presentation*



## ELECTRONIC VOTING

In April 2017, the Senate passed the Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 (Amendment) Bill. The importance of this Bill could not be over-emphasised; and it stood every chance of becoming one of the most crucial laws in the history of the electoral process in Nigeria. Among its most important provisions was electronic voting, as a means of eradicating

electoral malpractices and to make for an easier, more transparent and faster electoral process. If the Bill eventually becomes law, electronic voting would be noted as an improvement in the electoral system, one that will live in the minds of Nigerians as one of the best contributions of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate to nation-building.



## SENATE ROUNDTABLES

Staying true to its commitment to promote greater interaction between citizens and the legislature, the Senate, organised a series of Roundtables around the country targeted at specific and pressing social problems. Notable among these were Roundtables on Drug Abuse, Education, Migration and Human Trafficking, and Job Creation.

The Roundtables on Drug Abuse and Human Trafficking were held in Kano and Edo States respectively - and were focused on creating awareness by showcasing the stories of survivors. They further aimed at devising intervention plans by hosting interactive sessions with participants to collectively devise solutions for tackling these issues.

The interventions on Education and Job Creation, meanwhile, were held in the National Assembly. They brought together Nigerians from all walks of life and gave them a voice and the platform to air their concerns. What started as a Youth Employment Roundtable evolved into a Public Hearing on Job Creation, with space for youths to voice their frustrations over the current situation in the Nigerian job market. A large number of young representatives turned up for the Youth Employment Hearing, and got the chance to speak directly to not just senators but also heads of various MDAs and private sector stakeholders. The various stakeholders were put on the spot and had a lot of questions to answer, particularly the perceived



*Special Youth Public Hearing on Job Creation*



inadequacies when following up on youth empowerment programmes.

This level of activity and success in Roundtables and similar Interactions were unheard of in the Nigerian parliament until the advent of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate. Without a doubt, the Senate leadership clocked a major milestone in bridging the communication gap between Nigerians and their leaders during this period.

## PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

To the delight of many Nigerians, the Senate announced the first ever Public Hearing on the Budget, with the laying of the Appropriation Bill in 2016. Held jointly with the Federal House of Representatives, the hearing has become a staple of the legislature with each successive year, thus becoming a new legislative tradition started under Saraki's leadership.

# SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The sexual harassment of females including young girls, particularly in the workplace and tertiary institutions, has become a hot-button issue worldwide in recent years. With the rise of the #MeToo movement in the United States of America, sexual harassment and its negative effects on society are now firmly in the spotlight. The Senate wasted no time in ensuring that Nigeria made her mark as one of the countries engaging critically with the issue and working to eradicate sexual harassment. To that end, the Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Education Institutions Prohibition Bill was passed into law by the Senate in 2018, stipulating a jail-term of up to five years but not less than two years for perpetrators. There is still much ground to cover in this area, but it is certain that the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate has set the pace for future legislations to build on.

## NOT TOO YOUNG TO RUN



'A Bill For An Act To Alter The Provision Of The Constitution Of The Federal Republic Of Nigeria, 1999 And For Other Matters Connected Therewith' - popularly known as the 'Not-Too-Young-To-Run Bill,' heralded a paradigm shift in national politics. The Bill had as its primary focus the empowerment of youths, giving them the chance to run for office at leadership levels. Despite a considerable amount of back-and-forth between the Legislative and the Executive, with a few changes to the Bill in the process, it was eventually signed into law in 2018 to great acclaim. This paved the way for many young Nigerians to present themselves for elections as leaders who can help steer the ship of Nigeria to a brighter tomorrow. The Not-Too-Young-To-Run legislation will be remembered as one of the key achievements of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



*"When we hear people judge us by the propaganda of adverse elements in our polity, we would like to ask them to do their research and follow our work themselves, so that they can judge us by facts, not sentiments."*

**- Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi,  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Media  
and Public Affairs**









  
**THE SENATE**  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**APPENDICES**

APPENDIX I



## 21-POINT RESOLUTION ON THE ECONOMY

1. The executive should forward an Economic Stimulus Bill containing all the fiscal stimulus packages, investments and incentives which will receive accelerated consideration and passage at the National Assembly.
2. The fiscal and monetary authorities must harmonise all policies that lower interest rates for investors in the real sector and small and medium scale farmers.
3. The government should adopt peaceful means in the Niger Delta to restore Nigeria's oil production back to 2.2 million barrels per day.
4. The release of low interest funding under the stimulus package should be targeted at the following areas: social safety programmes, humanitarian activities in the North East, power generation and agricultural value chain. Others include: textile manufacturing, national highway network construction and maintenance, railway construction and maintenance, motor vehicle assembly plants, completion and commissioning of Ajaokuta Steel Complex; arts, science and technology.
5. The president should appoint a senior special adviser to lead the government engagement with the aggrieved Niger Delta militants to ensure the protection of Nigeria's oil and gas assets.
6. The federal government should negotiate foreign concessionary borrowing agreements to cover shortfalls in the 2016 Budget and the government's accelerated infrastructural development programme.
7. The federal government should restrict and cap the issuance of bonds and treasury bills in order not to crowd-out local investors from the market.
8. The federal government should ensure the payment of all genuine domestic debts owed to local contractors who have completed their jobs.
9. The federal government should settle all salaries and pension liabilities.
10. The federal government should leverage the use of pension and insurance funds to provide long-term capital on lending for agriculture, industry and housing projects.
11. The executive should reconstitute the board of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and all other critical agencies in order to ensure that they operate in accordance to their enabling laws.
12. The legislature (through law) and the executive (through policies) must take action to encourage telecommunications companies to float their shares on Nigeria's stock market.
13. The Fiscal Responsibility Act should be used to encourage states and local governments to be more prudent and accountable in their revenue and expenditure agreements.
14. Cases involving unaccounted oil exports should be pursued vigorously to logical conclusions.
15. The federal government should immediately set-up an ad-hoc committee for the reconstruction of the North East and the rehabilitation and resettlement of all Internally Displaced Persons.
16. The President should consider establishing a council of economic advisers made up of experts in economic management.
17. The federal government should establish a platform for pro-business-oriented leadership-level engagement to boost market confidence.
18. The federal government should retool its export promotion policy scheme with export incentives like the Export Expansion Grant (EEG) and the export financing initiatives.
19. The National Assembly will institute a legislative framework with timelines for key government policies in the area of agriculture and solid minerals to boost investor confidence in government and to protect investors from rapid policy reversals. The National Assembly will examine, prioritise and fast-track the consideration of the following bills to revive Nigeria's economy.  
They are:
  - Petroleum Industry Bill,
  - National Development Bank of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill,
  - Nigerian Ports and Harbours Authority Act (Amendment) Bill and
  - National Road Fund (Establishment) Bill.Others include:
  - National Transport Commission Act of 2001,
  - Warehouse Receipts Act (Amendment) Bill,
  - Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA),
  - Investment and Securities Act (ISA),
  - Customs and Excise Management Act,
  - Federal Competition Bill,
  - National Road Authority Bill.
20. The National Assembly will immediately commence sustained oversight to monitor the activities of the executive in the implementation of the 2016 budget.
21. The National Assembly will continue to engage the executive to create the necessary synergy on all economic and social interventions that are capable of providing succour for Nigerians.



Shift

## 20 RECOMMENDATIONS: NATIONAL SECURITY SUMMIT

1. The nation's basic security infrastructure must be comprehensively reviewed and strengthened. The Nigerian political structure must be a major factor in the review of the nation's security apparatus.
2. The security challenges of the nation must be isolated from political partisanship and ethno-religious sentiments. Political activities must not fuel the further deterioration of national security.
3. The national security structure must be revised by the Presidency to address gaps in coordination, collaboration and synergy. Additionally, clear lines of authority and responsibility for national security issues must be identified and adopted.
4. In order to increase the capacity of the Nigerian police, military and other para-military agencies (who are currently overstretched) to respond to national security issues, the federal government must ensure that there is further recruitment in these organisations.
5. Ensure that the collaboration between federal security and law and order agencies must be reviewed in order to reduce the exposure of citizens to extra-legal influences.
6. Investments by the federal government must be made in order to incorporate technology into the core of Nigeria's national security architecture and management.
7. Nigeria must reduce its dependence on importing its basic security equipment and must immediately develop its internal research and development capacities in order to meet our basic national security needs.
8. The Nigerian judiciary must operate with the highest standards of justice in order to ensure that citizens have confidence in our judicial system's ability to freely and fairly dispense of justice.
9. The nation must examine options other than the use of force in its response to national security issues. The nation must develop strategies to improve the chances of resolving conflicts without resorting to the use of force.
10. The nation must immediately develop a strategy to limit the proliferation of firearms and other light weapons amongst the citizens.
11. Nigeria must assert its sovereignty amongst its neighbours, particularly in the areas of arms control, drugs, terrorism, transhuman and economic sabotage. Additionally, all international commitment that impact our domestic national security must be reviewed.
12. The international community has demonstrated its willingness to support Nigeria in the fight against violent groups. In this regard, the nation must improve in areas that inhibit support from the international community—particularly in the areas of human rights, accountability and transparency.
13. The presence of a million of IDPs in the North-East and millions of others who have had no education or strong social links presents a potent threat to the present and future security of the nation. The nation must immediately develop careful policies and initiatives that are aimed at addressing the reconstruction, rehabilitation, and development of the North-East and the development of the uneducated members of our society.
14. The national growing population may become a major threat to its future, unless substantial and sustained investments are made in the areas of human capital development, particularly education and health. In this regard, a visionary strategy must be developed for the national economy that is aimed at providing quality education, skills development and employment for our nation's young people.
15. Corruption and waste are threats to our national security. In this regard, a strong political will, effective policies and improvements must be made to ensure the efficiency of institutions.
16. The entire focus of governments across all levels must target poverty reduction, as poverty is a threat to national security. All current policies must be re-evaluated to ensure that they are effective.
17. The nation must develop its knowledge and skills in managing its extensive forest reserves in order to turn them into assets. This is because the nation's demographic indices indicate shifts in our population size, composition, land use and impact of the environment on human economic activities.
18. There is a need to generate the strong political will to improve the policy, legislation, regulatory and enforcement capacities to reduce the damage of the production, importation and consumption of illicit drugs in the nation - which represent a major threat to national security.
19. The Federal and State governments should work out a strategy to integrate the Almajiri system with the formal western educational system.
20. The Federal Government should provide low-interest rate loans for herders to develop ranching businesses in the country.

APPENDIX III

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Three Speeches





## A PROACTIVE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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**D**istinguished Colleagues, Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I am most honoured and privileged to be elected from among such distinguished men and women of your calibre to serve you as President of the Senate. I accept with humility and respect the honour you have conferred upon me today. I am indeed moved by such demonstration of faith and trust you have reposed in me. I am very grateful and I accept this call to serve with humility, responsibility and sense of duty.

I give all glory to the Almighty God for all the significance of this day for our dear country. I am immensely delighted that only a few months after we have witnessed an uncommon democratic transition in our country, we are witnessing yet again, a further consolidation of that lofty victory for our country and our democracy.

I want to thank all members of the National Assembly, especially the distinguished Senators, for your maturity and patriotism in the exercise that we have just concluded in electing the leadership of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We have demonstrated that even though we may belong to different persuasions and parties, we are ultimately united by our common desire to entrench democracy and allow its core principles guide the conduct of our political affairs.

I thank all those who have supported me and journeyed with me through the difficult road that has brought us here. I believe that the courage and the commitment that you have demonstrated go beyond your support for any individual's ambition. I believe that what you have demonstrated is an unflinching commitment to the sanctity and integrity of this hallowed chamber as the primary bastion for the government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Beyond any political party or personal victory, the 2015 general elections, in many ways, represents a major watershed in the political annals of our great country. And for long would that moment be remembered as the period when our democracy truly came of age. The uniqueness of that moment, fired by our people's overwhelming desire for change, would remain an inspiration for the future generation of our country. However, the enormous responsibilities that it imposes on those of us who occupy leadership positions in our respective capacity at this time can hardly be over-emphasized.

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. This is the change that all of us in this National Assembly must strive to bring about, if we must justify the privilege of representation conferred on us by our people. Nigerians want to see a proactive National Assembly that will devote itself to rigorous thinking, rolling up sleeves to forge a new and prosperous Nigeria.

As the President of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate and the Chairman of this National Assembly, I shall be guided by the enormity of the responsibilities that this moment imposes on us all. As a first among equals, I shall strive at all times to be just, equitable and fair to all. I shall work with you all to build a National Assembly that will enjoy greater confidence and trust among the people that we represent. We shall entrench greater openness and accountability. We shall strengthen our capacity for public engagement as well as broaden access for inclusion, recognizing that this temple of democracy belongs to all the people of our country.

Modern democracy is built on the principle of Separation of Powers. It will be my responsibility to protect the independence of the legislative arm of our government in the overall interest of our democracy. However, I will pursue this duty with the understanding that our autonomy must be embedded within the collaborative framework that allows government to function more effectively in bringing the greater good to the greatest number of our people. Our quest for autonomy must not lead us into pursuing adversarial relationship with other arms of government, especially the executive. Our oversight duties must be constructive, supportive and productive, believing that while we all have different roles to play; we have a common responsibility to the people of Nigeria.

At this juncture, permit me distinguished Senators, Honourable Members to salute the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, for remaining steadfast in his defence of the right of the National Assembly members to choose its own leaders. With his principled position, he has laid a solid foundation for the stability of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly and for strengthening our democracy. On behalf of my colleagues in the Senate (and the House of Representatives), I promise that we shall reward the great confidence you have reposed in us by being worthy partners and dependable ally in the great task ahead.

Similarly, I thank all the leaders of our party, the All Progressives Congress for the leadership you have provided and the efforts you have made in providing guidance and in managing the process that would lead to amicable resolution of the conflict

and contention that any democratic process necessarily generates. Now we can move forward with renewed confidence in our efforts to build a stronger and virile party, where all members would find comfort and space to pursue their legitimate aspirations.

Shall I end this address by expressing the immense gratitude of all members of the 7<sup>th</sup> Senate and House of Representatives to His Excellency, David Bonaventura Mark, for the uncommon leadership that you have provided for us over the years, which has stabilized the National Assembly and paved the way for the enormous achievements that were recorded under your leadership. Thank you for your immense service to our country.

My dear distinguished colleagues, we are entering the saddle at a time when a lot is being expected of us. Nigerians expect the barest minimum out of our agenda; that the new Senate and National Assembly must make laws that will enable us renew our infrastructure, reform the oil sector, reform our security systems, boost agriculture, create jobs and make doing business in Nigeria much more competitive. In the coming days we shall be converging to hammer out an aggregate agenda that will help us focus and deliver on these minimum expectations.

Distinguished Senators, Honourable Members, as we formally assume the legislative task of our nation's government today, I pray that the Almighty God will continue to increase us in wisdom and visit us with courage to always do that which is best for our people and our country. May our hallowed chambers continue to ennoble the memory of our great country men and women who fought and died so that democracy may see the light of day in our country. And may the future generations of our citizens look upon the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly as a true assembly of our people's representatives who did their very best in the service of our nation.

Thank you all.

*Speech by  
Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki on his swearing in as President of the Senate of  
the Federal Republic of Nigeria – June 9, 2015.*

## NIGERIA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY WE HAVE

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**D**istinguished colleagues, I welcome you all back to the Senate Chambers after the short recess. I trust that the break has afforded each and every one of us the opportunity to cast our minds back over the last three years, to take stock and assess our performance thus far, and to better plot the way forward as we embark on the last lap of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate.

As you all know, this Senate clocked its third anniversary while we were on break; and, given the sombre mood of the nation, there was no great celebration. Nonetheless, we had occasion to get an overview of the considerable achievements of this Senate since its inauguration on June 9, 2015. Indeed, we have come a long way, and have set a new bar in the legislative history of this country. We have passed 213 Bills in the period under review and cleared 138 Petitions – surpassing in three years the records of the entire four-year terms of every previous Senate. This is no mean feat. As we hit the home run, therefore, it is important we do not pack-pedal or slow down; we must intensify efforts towards doing all that we are sworn to do for the electorate that voted for us as their representatives.

Distinguished colleagues, you will agree with me when I say that the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate's achievements would not have been possible without the support of Nigerians. They gave us the mandate and they trusted us to deliver; the people's confidence in us has been a boon to all our endeavours in this hallowed chamber, and has put a spring in our steps with regard to all legislative activities.

With the backing of the people, we have been able to introduce landmark legislations that have helped boost our recovering economy. These include: the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), which is the most significant business reform Bill in Nigeria in nearly three decades. As a result of the signing into law of the Secured Transactions in Movable Assets Act and the Credit Bureau Reporting Act, for instance, Nigeria was upgraded on the World Bank's annual Ease of Doing Business ranking. This has been a very welcome development for our economy and for restoring investor confidence in our business terrain. Other landmark economic Bills include: the Warehouse Receipts Bill, the Nigerian Railways Authority Bill, and the National Transportation Commission Bill.

We have given tremendous support to the fight against corruption with the passage of Bills such as: the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill, the Witness Protection Bill, the Whistleblower Protection Bill and the Federal Audit Service Commission Bill. You will recall that it was the quick intervention of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly – through the passage of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit Bill (NFIU) - that saved Nigeria from being expelled from the global community of the Egmont Group.

It was in the life of this Senate that we finally 'split the atom' of the once intractable

Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), after almost two decades in the legislative wilderness. We split the Bill into four manageable parts; and, not only have we passed the first of those, the Petroleum Industry Governance Bill (PIGB), we have started work on the remaining three – the Administrative, Fiscal and Host Communities components of the Bill and have already taken them up to Public Hearing stage. The clock is ticking and we must ensure that we conclude work on the remaining PIB Bills as soon as possible. Nigerians deserve no less.

Our many interventions over the last three years, have shown that we are a Senate that is responsive to the needs of the people. This is observable in the constitutional amendment Bills that we have passed. Notable among these is the #NotTooYoungToRun Bill, which received Presidential assent on May 31, 2018, to wild jubilation around the country, due to the momentous generational shift it is expected to trigger in national leadership, in paving the way for the greater participation of youths in governance. A youth-oriented focus has similarly informed our engagement with relevant organisations on youth development and empowerment, in order to create jobs that will usefully occupy our teeming youths. We should be rightly proud of the milestones we have reached in this regard, because as we all know, youth inclusiveness is key to sustainable democratic governance.

As a people-oriented Senate, we have made major interventions on the drug abuse epidemic afflicting our communities, especially the youth demographic. In so doing, we have helped spark a national debate about drug abuse that is now the subject of major media attention. Additionally, we have drafted two Bills to tackle the problem, namely the Drug Control Bill and the Mental Health Bill. It is now incumbent on us to introduce these Bills and for the legislative process on the two to begin without delay, following their review by the relevant Civil Society Organisations and other stakeholders.

Among our most transformative achievements, my distinguished colleagues, is the step we have taken to make healthcare a right of Nigerians, and to put it within the reach of our entire population of 180 million people. This we have done through the setting aside of 1% of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) to establish the Basic Healthcare Fund in the just concluded 2018 Budget. This is grounded in our belief that all Nigerians, no matter their economic status, deserve access to qualitative and affordable healthcare, to make for a stronger Nigeria with healthy and vibrant citizens who will, in turn, drive the country's growth and development.

Distinguished colleagues, the foregoing represents something of a recap of the journey so far, and also, in a sense, maps out the challenges ahead of us, which we must face head

on. We are resuming plenary today under a pall of national anxiety and apprehension over the state of insecurity in the country. We have been alarmed at so many senseless killings of Nigerians, with the high number of casualties in Plateau being among the most egregious of late. In the wake of the atrocity, I led a Senate delegation to pay a condolence visit to the Governor of Plateau State, and to commiserate with the people of the state. As always, our sympathies are with those who have lost loved ones in these acts of barbarity, and we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring peace and security in our country.

As you all know, we held a Security Summit some months back, specifically to address the rising insecurity and to work out strategies in collaboration with security agencies on safeguarding Nigerian lives. Furthermore, we set up the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Review of Security Infrastructure in Nigeria, chaired by Senate Leader Ahmed Lawan; and we must now take steps to consider the Report of that Committee and take forward the recommendations therein as may be appropriate. Events have shown that we were right to take these steps in response to the security challenges facing the nation at this time.

Let me reassure Nigerians that we are as concerned as they are in the face of this challenge; and we continue to hold government accountable, in order to see to improvement in this area. In addition to the Security Summit earlier mentioned, we held briefings with Security Chiefs in a bid to better understand the problems; and have urged them to table their requests for more funds, so that the legislature can work on that aspect as well, to better equip the security forces to protect lives and property. Through our oversight functions, we can ensure the proper utilisation of such funds and see to it that we have full accountability in the management of the current security crisis.

I must say, once again, that the responsibility for ensuring security rests with each and every one of us. Issues of criminality are involved in these heinous acts, and the vigilance of community leaders and the average citizen is crucial, to assist the security agencies to do their job. For us as the Senate, it does seem that these issues are also an indication that it is time to revisit the issue of State Police; and to devise a framework for the mopping up of the 350 million pieces of light weapons estimated to be in circulation within our borders – an alarming ratio of three weapons to one person.

Meanwhile, let me use this opportunity to call for calm on all sides. We have called many times for unity and tolerance, and we must remind ourselves of the imperative of peace at this difficult time in our nation. Moderation is needed in our speech and in our actions as responsible citizens, even in what may be deemed as provocative situations. We must

## THE 8TH SENATE IS GOING OUT ON A HIGH

therefore, all of us, be careful of speech that has the potential to heat up the polity and heighten tensions. We implore the media also to exercise great responsibility in their reporting; Fake News can lead to dire consequences that we can ill afford. Nigeria is the only country we have.

Distinguished colleagues, it is clear that internal tensions are also a reflection of the economic condition of the citizenry. We will therefore be calling on all stakeholders to put Economic Bills on the fast lane in order that we may conclude them, so that we can open the door to greater opportunities for our people. Growth and development can only serve to deepen our democracy. To this end, I call on Committees that have not reported on their various mandates to quickly do so, so that we can conclude work on outstanding Bills intended to create economic prosperity for Nigerians.

Happily, the 2018 Budget has been signed by the President. We call on the Executive to expedite the release of funds for Budget implementation, so that our people can begin to see the positive impact in their lives without delay. The work is not done. We as the Senate must continue to exercise our oversight functions to ensure successful implementation and value for money. Naturally, we continue to work towards reforming the budgetary process. Clearly, it is necessary for the Executive and the Legislature to work towards a more robust engagement on the need for a better budget environment and process, going forward.

In closing, my distinguished colleagues, let us maintain the standard that we have set for this historic 8<sup>th</sup> Senate. The remaining work on the Constitutional Review process, pending concurrence issues - and uncompleted Bills especially the three PIB components outstanding as well as the earmarked economic Bills - all these demand our urgent attention.

As we inch closer to the 2019 electioneering period, I urge us not to lose focus. The divided attention of the legislature is not in the interest of the country. We must not be distracted. It is incumbent on us, therefore, to not allow politicking get in the way of our first duty to the Nigerian people, as Senators of the Federal Republic.

On this note, I charge us all to fasten our seatbelts and power on with the work we have been tasked to do. Posterity is watching, and history will vindicate us if we do the job with diligence and in truth. Thank you.

*Welcome Back Speech by the President of the Senate to Senators of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate - July 3, 2018.*

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to this Opening Dinner for the Senators-Elect and Members-Elect of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Assembly. Let me congratulate all the newly elected lawmakers who won the mandate to represent their constituents in the federal legislature. This is a worthy achievement. I wish each and every one of you a successful tenure.

As we all know, the legislature is the bedrock of democracy and the closest arm of government to the people. Legislators are held in a position of trust by the people, and the responsibility is a great one. You are now part of a National Assembly whose role is clearly defined, and that is geared towards safeguarding freedoms and ensuring socio-economic development. No doubt, this Orientation Programme will form part of your preparation as you take on this important national assignment.

In its constitutional role, the National Assembly carries out oversight, makes laws and ensures constituency representation. In carrying out constitutional functions, lawmakers must always recognise that the independence of the legislature is non-negotiable. It is an independent and co-equal arm of government. Therefore, it behooves members of the National Assembly to lead the way in asserting the principle of Separation of Powers, thus ensuring accountability in governance. To achieve that, it is expected that members will carry out their duties in a manner that commands that respect from other arms of government as well as the people you represent.

That done, you will have a real chance as lawmakers to overcome any negative perception of the legislature in the public out there. The Nigerian National Assembly is far from unique when we talk about this problem of perception. All over the world, studies have shown that the legislature is often the most misunderstood arm of government.

In Nigeria, the misapprehension as to the role of the legislature is compounded by its being the youngest arm of government in our developing democracy, in a country that is not long out of military rule. The legislature also often appears to be the weakest arm of government. It is therefore necessary to focus on strengthening this important institution. The legislative arm of government must be strong, because when the legislative arm is strong, democracy will be strong.

Therefore, we need a continuation of our determined efforts to engage the public, in order to make the lawmaking function a more participatory process, so that Nigerians can better understand the National Assembly, and see their aspirations reflected in its activities.

One pervasive misconception has people looking to lawmakers for the provision of infrastructure – for example - whereas this is not at all the function of the legislature. I am confident, however, that if we continue to take the needed steps to build the institution, Nigerians will gradually

start to grasp the true significance of the legislature as a bulwark of the democratic system of governance.

When this greater appreciation begins to manifest, I have no doubt that the people will support the institution and accept that lawmakers are doing necessary work for the good of all. Of course, this also means that you must be seen to be working assiduously to address issues affecting Nigerians, chief among which are: poverty, inequality, insecurity, corruption as well as empowerment of citizens.

For my part, I am proud to say that in the 8th Senate is going out on a high. We have passed 274 Bills in 46 months; and cleared 192 Petitions in the same period. There were major milestones in the area of the economy, with the passing of landmark legislation such as the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), which is undoubtedly the most comprehensive review of business laws in this country in 30 years. Other gamechanger laws include: Bankruptcy and Insolvency (Repeal and Reenactment) Act, and the Credit Reporting Act.

To support the anti-corruption drive, we passed the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit Bill (NFIU), as a direct result of which Nigeria was readmitted into the Egmont Group. We successfully amended the Constitution, and this made progressive changes possible, such as the Not Too Young To Run law. Additionally, we saw to the implementation of the 1% budgetary provision for primary healthcare, to make for a stronger Nigeria. These are just a few examples. I am sure our legislators will be able to build on the solid foundation and achievements, and record even greater success.

Let me add that, since the interest of the people is paramount, legislators must have the courage to follow their own mind, guided by what is right. The 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly made a lot of interventions on everyday human issues affecting Nigerians, be it unfair price hikes, examination malpractices, sexual harassment in our educational institutions or the drug problem ravaging our communities. I encourage you also to take a keen interest in the welfare of Nigerians, and to be a voice for those in need of similar interventions.

It is my hope that you will enjoy this opportunity to make positive impact on our national life. I trust you will find the work interesting and engaging; and that the experience will be an enriching one in your own lives and for your families. I encourage you to take the opportunity of this Orientation Programme to learn up on the work involved with Bills, Oversight and so on. I wish you the very best of luck.

I now declare open the Orientation Programme for Members-Elect of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Assembly.

Thank you.

*Remarks by the President of the Senate at the Opening Dinner for Senators-Elect and Members-Elect of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Assembly; Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja  
March 31, 2019.*

## APPENDIX IV

### Four Articles



## 54 LAWS TO EMPOWER NIGERIANS

*Yusuph Olaniyonu*

The Eighth Senate has repeatedly stated that its Legislative Agenda is anchored on three legs. They are economic revival, social development and youth employment. The choice of issues must have resulted from the current situation in the country. Since the present administration in Nigeria came into office, the price of oil, the nation's economic mainstay, has been at its lowest. The fall in price occurred when the foreign reserve had been seriously depleted, thereby causing social dislocation in a population that has been weaned on foreign goods. As expected, the economic downturn has imperiled small businesses.

For a new regime taking office under this economic difficulty, the people's expectations had hit the sky. While the executive arm battles with fulfilling its numerous promises and meeting the high expectations, the legislature felt compelled to provide legislative backing for efforts to put the economy back to shape. It therefore agreed to focus on using legislations to reform and revive the economy.

According to a report by the World Bank in 2013, 90 percent of jobs in a developing economy like Nigeria are provided by the private sector. This reality therefore means the government needs to focus on helping the private sector to grow in leaps and bounds in order for people to be put to work and for the gross domestic product to rise.

To do this, government policies must seek to create a vibrant business environment where serious and hard-working private enterprises can develop. This, according to a report submitted to Senate President, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, by a team of expert-advisers, is because *"with firms making investments, creating jobs and increasing productivity, there is a greater opportunity for inclusive growth."* The report noted that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the engine of job creation in Nigeria and there are 37 million of them currently operating in the country, contributing almost 50 percent of the nation's GDP in nominal terms and providing 84.02 percent of all available jobs. It is therefore incumbent on government to provide the right atmosphere for these small businesses to grow.

The government is expected to give clear, pro-active and strategic direction that will enable serious and hard-working, existing MSMEs to thrive and new ones to be created. It is believed that to develop the private sector, it is not only macro-economic factors that need to be worked on but also the quality of laws, regulations and institutional arrangements that shape the daily lives of people. The role of the legislature in this new thinking, therefore, is central. The lawmakers are expected to review and reform the laws, use their oversight powers to monitor compliance with

the laws and advocate attitudinal changes in government agencies.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Senate, in order to position itself to play these key roles, set up an advisory body of experts under the aegis of Adam Smith Consultants. The team was led by a Professor of Law and senior advocate, Prof. Paul Idornigie. Other members are Leonard Ugbajah, Eberechi Mary Okon and Isaiah Bozimo. The setting up of the team was mainly inspired by the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Annual Report 2016 which placed Nigeria 169 from the list of 189 countries surveyed. In 2008, the report placed Nigeria 114 out of 183. In 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014, Nigeria was ranked 118, 125, 133, 133, 131 and 170 respectively.

The World Bank report considers the relative ease or difficulty of beginning and operating a small to medium size business while complying with existing laws and regulations. The experts contracted to advise the Senate did a diagnostic review of current and proposed laws relevant to the business environment in the country, including the procurement law, competition laws, company laws, investment laws, finance and contract laws. After extensive consultations with operators in the private sector, the experts identified major legislative gaps and deficiencies in these legal frameworks and recommended priority legislative areas which require urgent interventions.

One of their recommendations therefore include establishment of a Federal Legislative Clearing House to reconcile differences and inconsistencies as well as to scrutinise and review bills before presentation to the respective chambers for First Reading. They also seek for the National Assembly to always avoid multiple agencies with overlapping or conflicting mandates.

The experts also suggested the establishment of a National Legislative Forum to constantly facilitate dialogue between federal and state governments; and between different state governments, with a view to modernising and harmonising laws, regulations and practices affecting the business environment. The Senate was also advised to improve commercial dispute resolution through different means like creating courts solely devoted to commercial matters, review of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 2007, and encouragement of more states to create the Multi-Door Court houses to encourage Alternative Dispute Resolution option.

The Senate was also advised to simplify the process of payment of taxes and eliminate multiple taxation, review all laws relating to businesses and determine whether they

are consistent with international best practices, the extent to which they provide a conducive environment for the operation of private sector enterprises, especially MSMEs, the degree of transparency in their operations and whether they prevent arbitrariness.

In all, the team of experts recommended that 54 existing laws need to be attended to by the federal legislature to leap-frog the economy. Twenty-eight of them are top priority, five are rated medium while 21 are tagged low priority.

The high priority laws include Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Coastal and Shipping (Cabotage Act), Companies and Allied Matters Act, Companies Income Tax Act, Copyright Act, Federal Highway Act, Federal Inland Revenue Service Act, Fiscal Responsibility Act, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (Establishment) Act, Investment and Securities Act, Mortgage Institutions Act, National Information Technology Development Agency Act, Nigerian Civil Aviation Act and Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority Act.

Already, the Senate has started implementing the recommendations. For example the Public Procurement Act and the Nigeria Railways Corporation Act have been comprehensively reviewed and new laws passed. Amendments to or new version of the remaining aforementioned priority laws are already being considered and are at various stages of passage in the red chamber of the federal legislature. The implication is that the current Senate is determined to use laws to jump-start the economy and lift it out of the current 'technical recession' in which Nigeria has found itself.

*Published in Daily Trust; September 3, 2016.*

## NASS and citizens' anticipation in budget process

BY SANMI ONOGU

SENATE President, Dr Bukola Saraki on February 10, 2016 took his pledge to make the 8th National Assembly open, inclusive, transparent and accountable a notch higher, when he opened the gates of the legislature to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the labour to ventilate their thoughts, make observations and voice their recommendations on how best to ensure that the 2016 budget truly reflects the will and aspiration of Nigerians.

Saraki had in his inaugural speech on his election as Senate President and Chairman of the National Assembly on June 9, 2015, said the present National Assembly would do things differently. "It will no longer be business as usual," he said. He promised to ensure that the change agenda of the present administration is reflected in every undertaking of the National Assembly.

Towards the realisation of this objective, the Senate and House of Representatives respectively prepared and adopted a people-centred legislative agenda as a guiding light to make the members stay true and focused on their stated objectives. It was also meant to make the National Assembly a body that truly encapsulates the wishes and concerns of the ordinary Nigerian. As a way of making the process of law-making, oversight and advocacy truly participatory, Saraki utilised every opportunity to engage Nigerians. One instance of such engagement was the use of *Twitter* and other new media platforms on a daily basis to inform, educate, explain the rationale for certain actions of the National Assembly and above all to respond in real time to the genuine concerns of the people. Beside, he had also ensured that the debates



of the Senate at plenary are streamed live to Nigerians, who equally take advantage of the social media to make their contributions, ask questions and voice their concerns. However, on January 10, 2016, on hand to receive the representatives of the over 100 CSOs to the National Assembly was Saraki, House Committee on Civil Society Organizations and Development Partners, Hon. Peter Alkpatason, represented the Speaker of the House of Representatives and other members of the House.

The interactive session with CSOs, which has been hailed both in Nigeria and in the international community as "historic and unprecedented", according to the Chairman, Senate Committee on Diaspora and Civil Society Organizations, Senator Rose Okoh, was meant to ensure citizen's participation in the decision making process in the legislature, especially on the 2016 Appropriation Bill now being considered by the federal legislature. Senator Okoh in her welcome address said: "Through your capacities of reach, advocacy and data collection, your contribution to this document (2016 budget) will not only enhance our mandate of appropriation for government, but also ensure that there is citizen participation in the decision making process of government at this crucial level."

Saraki, in his remarks at the event, noted that the country had come a long way since its return to democracy in 1999. According to him, the road had been full of challenges. Consequently, he said, the task before members of the 8th National Assembly, "is to work towards the actualisation of a more effective federal system of governance." He lamented that the budgets of the past 16 years showed that "ineffective implementation and abandonment of projects have caused excessive wastages that have

negatively buckled the Nigerian economy." He told the CSOs that in response to the unacceptable trend, the 8th National Assembly had stepped up its oversight functions to ensure that funds duly appropriated are spent 'how', 'where' and on 'what' they were earmarked for.

He further hinted that since economic diversification is crucial to the success of the nation's economy, the National Assembly is working to enact laws that will "boost internally generated revenues by plugging the loopholes that exist in our system, and encouraging the small and medium-scale business owners in our communities." He commended the CSOs that participated in the interactive session, while acknowledging that the National Assembly counts on the input of all Nigerians to move the country to the next level in her democratic journey. "We know that the work ahead of us is necessary. We also know that the road ahead of us will be lined with challenges. However, we also know that we cannot do this alone. We need all hands on deck for this one," Saraki said. He added that the session was meant to aggregate the wishes of Nigerians concerning governance and to address the concerns of Nigerians who had often criticized the operations of the National Assembly as being opaque, which they contended often tends to various forms of corrupt activities.

On the purpose of inviting the CSOs by the National Assembly, Saraki said it was in response to citizen's concerns and public expectations. "The 8th National Assembly through this platform and the various others that we have set up online, will continue to be accessible to you. We will work tirelessly to address your concerns after all, we are only here because of you," he said.

Onogou writes from Abuja.

## 'Politicians can't steal without collusion of civil servants'

Continued from page 21

there and you are saying you are a government of due process. Those five people, if it comes to exercising physical power, who are obviously in the minority, cannot close the door, but the police is there. What are we saying? This is not the rule of law. For me it is unfortunate that our party, APC is involved in this. I call on Mr President to intervene.

Next week we will meet the House of Representatives. They have been proactive; they have set up a panel to go to Kogi State. It is good, they will come back with a recommendation that the House of Representatives should take over the functions of the House, and they will pass their budget because those five members can not form quorum to do those functions. That is my opinion. And I believe it will be the opinion of the Speakers Conference. That man is not a Speaker. It's unfortunate it's happening in APC state. So, where is the change? I am calling on Mr President not to allow the issue in Kogi to continue. You cannot just sit down as if you are unconcerned when you see the rule of law; the due process is being butchered. You cannot just sit down. He should intervene because if the Commissioner of Police or some state operatives did not intervene; five people cannot overpower the majority. They cannot. So, if you now stand by and do nothing, you are then supporting indirectly impunity and it is happening in APC. If it were a PDP government, I will not even have raised issue but it is happening in APC-controlled state and not the party chairman, not the president, not anybody. It's only the House of Representatives that is talking. This is not the APC

that we thought will do the change.

Some Kogi lawmakers said they were going to court to stop the House of Representatives from taking over the functions of the Kogi State House of Assembly....?

It cannot hold. The Constitution specifically... You see people believe that this thing is about just waking up on a hunch and they bring some issues that the deputy governorship candidate to Audo, Honourable Faleke was in the House when it decided. The constitution says if you are APC, and you are at the wrong side of the law, I am a Nigerian before I am APC member. So, if I see APC rule, constitution or anything goes against the Nigerian Constitution, I will choose the constitution. So, if APC member or governor, or whoever decides to be on wrong side of the constitution, I will choose the constitution. So, if Faleke falls on the right side of constitution, I'm with him. So, it doesn't matter whether Faleke benefits. Whoever benefits, let the constitution rule. That's my point. They can go to court 10,000 times, they cannot win. No court will stop the National Assembly from doing its function. The judiciary is an arm of government. No court can stop another arm of government from performing its constitutional role. That's fundamental. You cannot stop it. Like now, we have passed a budget and you now say you have a query and you want to go to court to get an order to bar the governor from signing. Signing is constitutional duty. The House of Reps has the constitutional duty to take over the functions of any House of Assembly that cannot do its functions. You now say you want to go to court, to do what? No court will give that order because it is a specific



Ahmad

constitutional duty that says the House of Representatives should take over. The previous House did the same thing for the same Kogi State during PDP. What is happening now in APC? I think they should quickly withdraw their support. The least they can do is to tell the commissioner of police to withdraw his police and let the 15 and five people go there and let's see who has the biggest key to enter.

How true is it that problems of Nigeria are more of the operators and not the constitution?

Really, I believe the problem of Nigeria is not really the constitution. I object to the practice that every assembly must amend the constitution. They've made

the constitution like any other law. The respect and sanctity for that law has been defaced. Constitution is not any other law. And when there's a lacuna in the constitution, the judiciary, except that gap is so wide that the court cannot do that except to make any law. We have now reduced the constitution to another law that doesn't have any respect. Every legislature, every assembly comes and say constitution amendment. And they vote N6 billion, N40 billion or whatever and say constitution amendment. I don't succumb to that. It's with that mindset that everyone does what he likes. That's why our constitution is going in pages and pages and you don't know how bulky it becomes. Our problem is not the constitution because the constitution or any law cannot take care of every future circumstance. You just provide the framework and then the courts fill in the gap. That's what happens. The American Constitution has been amended this much for 200 years and ours in just less than 30 years we've amended it and we are in the process... So, it's the operators really. I believe in that.

When will Nigerians get the desired change as promised by APC?

Of course, I'll come on the defence of the APC. We are ready for governance both in the state and the federal. You know, we met a highly battered economy. If it were PDP that's in government today, I can't imagine where we would be. So, Nigerians are lucky that it's APC that's there. That's why it's talking rather long. It's hard, but we're going to get there very shortly. Yes, there's difficulty, there are issues that even we, some of the members are not in agreement with, but we'll find our feet. By the time this government starts its delivery on promises made, Nigerians will be marveled.

## THE 8TH SENATE AND THE ANTI-GRAFT WAR

Mohammed Isa

Since its inauguration on June 9, 2015, the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate left no one in doubt on its stance on the key issues on the agenda of the Muhammadu Buhari administration, including: the fight against insecurity, corruption, youth unemployment, and economic revival. To demonstrate its resolve to be on the same page with the President on the daunting task of fighting corruption, the Senate included the issue as a key item on its Legislative Agenda. The Senate in the last one year not only put in place legislative mechanisms to prevent large scale waste in public spending, but on several occasions investigated and exposed corrupt practices, wastage and diversion of public resource for purposes other than which they were meant in certain sectors. This was in exercise of their powers under the 1999 Constitution. There are instances of these moves to save public resources for public purposes.

The Senate on February 25, after considering the report of its Committee on Banking and other Financial Institutions that investigated the alleged mishandling of the terms of contract in the implementation of Treasury Single Account (TSA) passed resolutions asking the Federal Government to urgently terminate the contract awarded in 2013 between the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and SystemSpecs which owned the Remita platform deployed for the collection of the funds.

Similarly, the resolution halted further deductions the Federal Government could have paid beyond the N25 billion already deducted by the platform provider based on the charge of one per cent transaction fee for all collections. The Senate also asked the CBN to ensure that the total refund of the portion of the deductions were retained by the CBN and the Deposit Money Banks (DMBs), and present evidence of compliance to the appropriate Senate Committee.

The Senate directed that N656,504,100, instead of the claim of N7,650,925,566.40, be provided as transaction costs for fund transfers and collections for the period ending November 30, 2015. Senate President, Dr. Bukola Saraki, who vowed that the Senate would not be distracted by what he described as series of blackmail, however, urged the lawmakers to ensure that they saw the proof that the money had been refunded.

On June 6, 2015 the Senate, worried by huge amounts lost through granting import waivers by the Federal Government, set up a nine-man Committee under the chairmanship of Sen Adamu Aliero (APC, Kebbi Central) to look into all waivers, concessions and grants, and review all such related policy to recover all government revenues and block leakages. In his remarks, the Senate President said the Ad-Hoc

Committee was hinged on the determination of the new administration to cut revenue leakage, and the urgent need to protect the nation's Agriculture sector to ensure local sufficiency rather than relying on importation. He expressed displeasure at the impunity with which people who owed government billions of naira continued to do businesses unfettered.

After months of diligent investigation, the Committee on May 24, 2016 presented a report with a shocking revelation of the loss of a whopping N447.4bn to import duty waivers, concessions and grants fraud from 2011 to 2015.

The Senate, based on the 2013 Audit Report submitted to it by the Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) is set to debate what may become the largest fraud against the nation's economy. The report exposed mind-boggling revelations of mismanagement in the oil and gas sector.

Receiving the report, Saraki said: *"This is just 2013, one year's report. It is not cumulative. In one year's audit report you are talking about figures of over \$3.8billion. At that time, I am sure the rate was close to N150 per dollar. So you are talking about N650billion. Then you are talking about another N358billion which brings it close to about N1trillion."*

Already, the Senate has extended an invitation to the NEITI Executive Secretary to appear before it and shed more light on the report before the commencement of debate on it. The planned debate of the report had already begun generating reactions from stakeholders, with the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) welcoming the move, which they described as the first in the nation's history.

CISLAC Executive Director, Auwal Musa, said in a statement that the latest audit report, released on May 23, pointed to recurring shortfalls in remittances from the oil sector to the Federal Government, prompting CISLAC's call for the Senate to use the report as a *"springboard to expedite the passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill,"* noting that, *"this will be the first time the audit findings of a NEITI report will be debated in the legislature."*

In line with its Legislative Agenda, the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate has initiated the setting up of an independent Transparency and Delivery Commission that will review and improve the oversight system of the Senate. The Commission which is to be launched soon, according to the Senate President, would work closely with the Senate and the Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes to draw up a robust oversight



scheme, as well as strengthen the internal structuring and capacity of the National Assembly to fulfil its role as an anti-corruption institution.

"The Commission's work will be two-fold. Initially it will concentrate on analysing the processes and tools by which the Senate and the National Assembly in general can, using its legislative remit, assist the anti-corruption agenda of President Buhari and, more specifically, strengthen the institutions through legislative reforms. "The following medium-term goal is to then deliver recommendations for better ways of working within the Senate and to ensure that it meets the highest global standards, including the newly announced Commonwealth Secretariat anti-corruption 'kitemark' system," it said.

Looking at the achievements of the Senate in its resolve to plug the loopholes in our national purse and cause a departure from the past, President Buhari, no doubt, has an ally in his avowed commitment to eradicate corruption. As a strategic institution with unlimited role in reforming and strengthening anti-corruption agencies and institutions, the resolve of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate, in particular, and the National Assembly in general, must support the ongoing war against corruption. As equal stakeholders, it behoves upon the Executive to reciprocate the Legislative support by implementing resolutions and decisions of the parliament, particularly as it relates to anti-corruption campaigns.

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Politics

# NASS: Still a misunderstood institution?

**L**AST week, after the National Assembly adjourned to commence its annual recess in compliance with the provision of Section 60 of the Constitution, Mr. Teju Falana, a Senior Advocate, issued a statement published in the newspapers in which he called on the Accountant General of the Federation to deduct the payment for the period in which the federal legislators did not sit at plenary from their salaries. Mr. Falana is a respected lawyer and public commentator whose views I hold seriously.

In the statement, without providing empirical evidence or giving us figures, he claimed that the Senators and House of Representatives members have not fulfilled the requirements of Section 63 of the constitution which requires them to "sit for a period of not less than one hundred and eighty-one days in a year". Well, Mr. Falana is a man who always gives out all facts to substantiate his position. So I had expected him to give figures as to how many days the National Assembly actually sat and by how many days they were short of the constitutional requirement so that we can know how many days pay the Accountant General will deduct. When I did not see these details in the statement, I know something was wrong. That was unlike the human rights activist lawyer.

My deduction is that the statement by Falana is just another instance of how many Nigerians commented on the activities, events around and issues in the National Assembly just for the sake of knocking the federal legislature. The Lawmakers have become the black sheep, Guinean pigs or the whipping boys for those who are not happy with the going-on in the country.

This may be because the legislature is the one that has stayed the least in our administrative structures since independence. Between and now, the legislature has only existed for about half of the time the two other arms - executive and judiciary - have been with us. To be precise, we have had full legislature for 28 out of 56 years of post-independent Nigeria. Thus, the legislature is the least known and least familiar to the people. With this situation, many Nigerians are still not conversant with the rules, procedure and process governing the operations of the institution.

In any case, it is easy to criticise the National Assembly with 469 elected members than the executive where only two people enjoy the people's mandate while others



•Saraki •Dogara

By Yusuf Olaniyemi

To address some of the issues arising from the lawyer's position, Section 60 of the constitution which states that "Subject to the provision of this constitution, the Senate and House of Representatives shall have the powers to regulate its own procedure for summoning and recess of the House" allows the National Assembly to go on vacation just like every individual engaged in any type of work. It should also be noted that the National Assembly works through different fora. The sitting of all the members in plenary is just one of them and that is the forum that is suspended when the Legislature goes on recess.

Members of the National Assembly during recess continue to sit and work through committees. See Section 62 (1, 2, 3, and 4) of the constitution. They work through visiting the focus in quo in exercise of their duties under Section 88 of the constitution. More importantly, they work through constituency engagements

which is recognised by the constitution and other laws as a key duty of the legislators. All these other duties other than sitting as the committee of the whole in plenary usually go on undisturbed during the recess period. That is why expert commentators on the legislature agree that more legislative work are done in the committees than at plenary. In other words, most of the work on bills are done at committee stage. Some are oversight and consideration of public petitions by the committee so assigned the work.

That is why despite the Senate being on recess, members of its committee met for several hours between last Tuesday and Thursday to hold confirmation hearing for over 40 ambassadorial nominees of President Muhammadu Buhari. Also, Senate President, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki has been resuming in the office since Monday to attend to foreign dignitaries, heads of institutions and bodies seeking to engage with the Senate about their activities and about laws that can have positive impact on Nigerians.

Therefore, apart from law making, the constitutional responsibility of Senators and Representatives include investigation or what is called oversight functions, advocacy, approval of executive appointments and relating with the constituents. A great aspect of these responsibilities take place outside the plenary.

Today, the committees in the Senate are striving to meet the deadline given to them by the Senate President that all pending reports from various committee assignments or investigation must be ready for consideration after the recess. Also, many lawmakers utilise this period to hold various consultative and empowerment sessions for their people. An example of this latter use of the recess period was the July 23 event to announce scholarship awards and youth empowerment programme held in Ikegawu, Emuigbo State by Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu.

It is therefore wrong to think that once the federal legislature is on recess, members simply shut off, go to sleep and wake up to collect salaries and allowances. Members of the National Assembly represent Nigerians and if we continue denigrating the Legislature, it can only translate to undermining the nation's democracy.

*Olaniyemi is Special Adviser (Media) to Senate President.*

## Why Obaseki's choice is fitting

By Ikponwosa Eruse

As inspiring development. His steps from the mainstream of Oshiomhole's cabinet to APC candidacy inspires so much hope and comes a very apt antidote to the fear that the achievements of the outgoing administration may not be sustained.

That, he also clearly buttressed at his declaration in Benin City when he said, "It will be a sin against God and my people if I walk away from Edo State with the knowledge and experience that I have gathered. It will be unpatriotic not to stand and be counted. Over the last thirty years, I have had successful experience in the private sector and, over the last seven years, I have been part of the most successful administration in Nigeria which is Edo State."

From that point, every Edo man became fixated on him considering his illustrious background and even the pockets of opposition to his ambitions.

Unknowingly, those opposed to his aspiration failed to realize that Obaseki's emergence was a predestined idea and, as such, even contributed to making his candidacy a dream come true. After all, why would there be so much angst over someone exercising his inalienable right?

His victory at the party primary election, amid unnecessary opposition, was a direct response to his critics, who wanted

to take Edo back to the days of yore, that nothing can stop a well-intentioned project. It is important to note that apart from the claim of the incumbent supporting Obaseki, the latter worked for his emergence by diligently performing all the required exercise across the 18 Local Government Areas, LGAs, of the state.

With determination to excel, he marketed his vision across these LGAs more than any other aspirant and, in the process, winning the support of the people. That is one area, where Obaseki soared above other aspirants.

While those aspirants were more concerned with intrigues and subterfuge, the Edo-born economic expert established a somewhat umbilical connection with those he aspired to lead, thereby making it easy for the delegates to give him their mandate at the primary.

In democratic contests, victory comes from the ability of an aspirant to market his ideas and vision to the electorate. These, when juxtaposed with the aspirant's pedigree, provided the natural aura of acceptance around the aspirant. That was what happened in Obaseki's case in the primary election and will also be a factor at the polls.

His path to victory was cemented by the division in the ranks of those against him who believed that they could individ-

ually have outsmarted Obaseki who had the overwhelming support of the people. Having emerged the APC candidate with the promise of taking the state beyond its present lofty heights, many people are daily becoming confident that he would keep to his words.

This is one area where the electorate is very certain about, given that having him as governor is akin to a continuation of the laudable jobs of the incumbent. The mood of Edo over his emergence was better summed up by Oshiomhole at the meeting the primary when he expressed confidence in the ability of Obaseki to steer the ship of governance successfully.

He said: "If you listen to Obaseki's acceptance speech, the guy is sound, he is at home to issues, he is not a stranger to governance. He has been at home with the issues; he has been part of the system in the past seven years, so there is no space for learning. The guy is ready to hit the ground running. For me, I feel fulfilled."

Nigerians and other interested stakeholders around the world watched the event live on television. I got calls to show people are happy, we are celebrating democracy, and Edo is leading by example. Of course, the choice is for the people to make given that leaders are not imposed on the electorate in a democratic setting but chosen. The emergence of Obaseki is a precious parting gift to Edo people by the present administration.

*Eruse, a civil society leader, writes from Benin City.*

## EIGHTH SENATE: MILESTONES ON THE ROAD TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chuks Okocha

Just as proverbs are the oil with which words are spoken, Motions and Bills are the lubricants of democracy and democratic governance. They are the ingredients which the legislature uses to weave and sustain democracy. A parliament or the National Assembly, as the case is in Nigeria, is adjudged by the number of motions, bills and other interventions that impact positively on the lives of citizens.

By June 9, the National Assembly would complete 365 days of its inauguration. To this extent, how has the National Assembly under the chairmanship of Dr. Bukola Saraki and the Senate, for which he is the President, fared in the last 365 days?

It is taken for granted, as it is part of its routine, that the National Assembly has passed the 2015 supplementary budget for the country as well as the Federal Capital Territory supplementary budget. It also in a special way passed the 2016 Budget for the nation and for FCT.

But in the actual business of the day, the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) has been adopted by the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate as the main Legislative Agenda of the Red Chamber. By this, the PIB has become a priority bill that must be given attention at all reasonable cost. This bill is fundamental, as it is capable of turning around the petroleum sector for the general good of the country. The bill, according to the Senate President, will stimulate the sector for the overall good of the economy. He urged members of the Senate Committees on Petroleum to pay very close attention to the Bill and treat it with dispatch.

The PIB was first introduced in 2008 following the submission of the report of the Rilwanu Lukman-led Oil and Gas Sector Reform Committee. It is intended to combine 16 different petroleum laws into a single document and provide a legal, fiscal and regulatory framework for the Nigerian petroleum industry in such a way that increases the revenue from the sector to the country.

Also as part of its main legislative duties, the Senate a fortnight ago passed the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2016, in a bid to ease the problems associated with accessing credit for business by Nigerians. For many Nigerian businesses, the issue of credit has become a severe problem. The lack of a functional bankruptcy and insolvency law has significantly raised the risk and,

therefore, the cost of borrowing to an unsustainable level, creating an environment of very high levels of non-performing loans.

This state of affairs has in turn severely restricted availability of credit to key businesses and raised cost of borrowing. With the passage of the bill, banks would, with other things considered, be in a better position to give loans to business at more manageable cost.

Saraki said regarding the Bill: *"With the event of today, the Senate has taken a giant step towards fulfilling its promise under the legislative agenda to provide the necessary legal, institutional and regulatory framework that would facilitate the availability of credit. The Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016, is one of the priority bills of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate. This Bill was considered priority because of the important role as a key contributor to better credit risk management and also as a vital credit availability and business administration."*

Another crucial Bill passed by the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate within the period under review is the Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Educational Institutions (Prohibition) Bill. The Bill, sponsored by Senator Ovie Omo-Agege from Delta State, enjoyed the support of the whole Senate. The Bill specifically makes it a criminal offence for any educator in a tertiary educational institution to violate or exploit the student-lecturer relationship for sexual favours.

The Bill, that has passed its Third Reading at the Red Chambers, sought and obtained a tighter statutory protection for students against sexual hostility and all forms of sexual harassment in tertiary institutions. It also stipulates as offences solicitation of sex or sexual advances by lecturers which result in intimidation, hostile or offensive environment for students. It is expected that the Bill will be expanded to make it an offence in other spheres of life within the country.

In keeping with the Legislative agenda of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate to ensure a transparent leadership, the Senate opened the books of the National Assembly for public scrutiny. This became an issue against the backdrop of campaigns by Nigerians that the National Assembly should open its books for everyone to see. It is on record that in line with Saraki's campaign manifesto of transparency, the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate is the first to state what the budgets of the National Assembly look like.

It was the first time that the books of the Senate and House of Representatives were

opened and since then, whatever the National Assembly is embarking upon has remained an issue in the court of public opinion. It is on record that due to the campaign promise of the Senate President, Nigerians have come to know that N105.4 billion has been set aside for recurrent expenditure and Ng.6 billion for capital projects.

Also in line with the legislative agenda of the Eighth Senate, which is forging a people-oriented relationship and identifying with the people at the grassroots on all issues that affect them, the Senate under the leadership of Saraki has lived up to that expectation. In this instance, the Senate was able to broker a deal that eventually led to the removal of the N700 monthly mandatory fee charged all electricity consumers by the National Electricity Regulatory Commission.

When the Nigeria Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress declared a protest rally and picketing of some government offices that included the Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOS) and the Generation Companies (GENCOS), the Senate was able to broker a deal with the unions. This facilitated a meeting between the Minister of Power, Works and Housing and the protesting labour leaders.

Though the meeting with the labour leaders was impromptu because the Senate President was billed to attend the opening ceremony of the Made in Aba Trade Fair holding in Area 11, Garki, he still found it expedient to attend the NLC and TUC rallies after they had picketed the National Assembly.

Addressing the rally comprising NLC, TUC, Civil Society Organisations, and electricity consumers who besieged the National Assembly Complex, Abuja, to protest the recent increment in electricity charges across the country, Saraki reiterated the commitment of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly to collaborations with the executive arm of government in entrenching people-friendly policies.

The Senate President said the Senate believed in the struggle to ensure that the right thing was done, saying he would do everything in his power within the shortest time possible to resolve the impasse between NERC, Discos, and electricity consumers in order to avert further unrest.

Today, due to the intervention of the Senate, the mandatory fee paid by electricity consumers is history. Thanks to the Motion sponsored by the former Governor of Ebonyi State, Sam Egwu. Through the Motion, there was an agreement by NERC to remove bulk metering and charging of mandatory fee by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria.

The economy has remained in the centre stage of the activities of the Senate under the supervision of Saraki. For this reason, it organised a workshop where laws of the federation considered obsolete were reviewed. Hitherto, it was gathered that Nigeria ranked 169 out of 189 economies in the World Bank Doing Business Report. Nigeria was among the worst countries with laws inimical to investment.

It was through the efforts of the workshop that some laws were recommended for review. The workshop organised between the Senate and some commercial lawyers with sponsorship from the British DFID specifically recommended that the Company and Allied Management Act (CAMA) and the Land Use Act should be reviewed.

The report further lamented that some of the 1914 commercial laws inherited from the British colonial masters were still in existence in the country's statute books, especially in cases where there is arbitration. The report of the workshop noted that there were conflicts of interest and powers in the laws regulating the Nigeria Ports Authority and the National Inland Waterways (NIWA). It also queried why the railway laws should remain in the Exclusive List of the Constitution. The report called for the delisting of Railway Act from the Exclusive List. This explained the reforms and reviews of the Railway Act.

Speaking at the workshop, the Senate President said the present economic crisis facing Nigeria should be seen as an opportunity for its leaders to show leadership and courage by ensuring articulated legislation to rescue the country. He said Nigerians should use the present economic situation to set the stage for a post-oil era in which the private sector will steer the ship of the economy while government provides the enabling environment.

Saraki said: *"The National Assembly through the legislative agenda seized on the moment to chart a new course for the nation's economy. The legislative agenda we have adopted is one framed largely around good governance, accountability, opening up of the economy for greater investment, ease of doing business and security of lives and property."*

On a specific note, the Chairman of the National Assembly said that the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly would give priority to the amendment of obsolete laws, saying since some of the affected laws require constitutional amendment, the planned process would be expedited to ensure that all stakeholders concerned make the changes happen as soon as possible.

BY YUSUPH OLANIYONU



The National Assembly Complex

## Beyond the din, 8th Senate defines its focus

As part of its contributions to the economic revival agenda of government, the Senate has also expressed its commitment to frugal management of the meagre resources now available to the government after the drastic fall of the price of oil

...which will enable the private sector invest and participate in running a vibrant railways sector is in the last stage before being passed. It is glad that the 8th Senate is the one reviewing the almost a century old Railway Act. In fact, it is not for the decision to constitute a committee of experts to review the work of the Senate committee on Land Transportation and help strengthen the technical aspects, the Railway Act would have been passed.

The Senate has equally commended the review of the Public Procurement Act to make it compulsory for government to patronise local manufacturers, except in cases where the needed goods and services are not locally available. The objective here is to ensure that a substantial percentage of the N16 trillion that is in the 2016 national budget is retained in the local economy and put in the pockets of our people.

...of a bill to establish the North-east Development Commission which may be passed into law next Thursday. The lawmakers had earlier passed a resolution on the establishment of a Presidential Committee on the rehabilitation of the people who are presently in the various Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. Again, the leadership has continually rallied international support for the rehabilitation and war efforts in the area. Not only has the Senate President, Saraki, made the issue of international assistance for restoration of peace and rehabilitation of people in the North-east a recurrent issue in all his international speaking engagements, he repeatedly canvassed these issues when he meets with diplomats and development partners who are frequently on courtesy visit to his office.

The current Senate has intervened on the electricity tariff issue and their efforts led to the abolition of the fixed charges. Last week, the Senate held a well-attended public hearing on the recent increase in the same tariff and it will soon announce the result of the investigation.

The Senators are also considering laws that will protect women against sexual assault. The proposed law against sexual molestation or harassment of female students by male lecturers and others in higher institutions of learning has gone to committee stage. The Senate has also intensified the campaign to ensure that all state Houses of Assembly adopt and enact the Child Rights Law in their respective states. It has re-energised and is still investigating several cases of child abuse.

One other way through which the Upper chamber has continued to serve the people is through investigations of petitions and public complaints submitted by ordinary people. Through these petitions, many aggrieved persons have got redress, without having to spend a kobo on legal fees. As at today, 152 petitions have been submitted, 32 already closed with conclusively and 62 under consideration. The rest were found to lack merit, probably because they are subject of litigation or that the committee found out the claims were frivolous.

Able to demonstrate support for the anti-corruption war by the Federal Government, the 8th Senate has equally engaged with anti-corruption agencies like the EFCC, ICPC, CCB and the rest on how to improve their efficiency through a review of their enabling laws as well as provision of more funds for them to procure necessary facilities and train their officers.

The Senate has also commenced the process of setting up an independent Transparency and Delivery Commission which will help draw up a robust scheme and strengthen the internal structure and capacity of the National Assembly to fulfil its role as an anti-corruption institution. The commission will help the Senate to use its oversight tools to act as catalyst for greater transparency and efficiency in fighting corruption.

More importantly, the Senate has decided that no single bill or motion will be debated in the present Senate except it adds value to the objective of redigning the economy, eliminating insecurity, enhancing social justice, fighting corruption and making lives better for the generality of the people.

By giving priority to laws and issues that affect the ordinary, the present Senate has defined its own focus. They would also have helped to supplant the country for achieving greatness and serving the interests of Nigerians.

*Olaniyonu is Special Adviser to the Senate President*

The Senate President stated that the collaboration with the private sector, development partners, professional groups, like the Nigeria Bar Association and the academia, in the on-going process to review laws affecting doing business, will give birth to a new business environment that will boost the economy, solve the problem of unemployment, curb social vices and restore national values and pride.

He stressed that the Senate and the House of Representatives were on the same page with President Muhammadu Buhari on his policy on diversification of the economy.

According to Saraki: "Our President has laid out a vision to fully diversify the economy beyond oil and has been committed to the actualisation of the project.

"The overarching objective of the agenda targets private sector investment and business development as a major plank of the plan. This is because of our belief in the ingenuity, creativity, entrepreneurship of our people and that in order to create jobs, give our people better opportunities; the private sector remains our best option.

"This is at the heart of the clamour for diversification."

Saraki stated that the collaborative efforts between the National Assembly, DFID/ENABLE programme, and GEM3, with strong participation of the organised private sector led by the Nigeria Economic Summit Group was the first of its kind. He added that the Senate had offered to the country a detailed plan and a cohesive legislative agenda for renewed national cohesion and development.

Overall, over 165 Motions and Resolutions with far-reaching impact on the well-being of Nigerians were passed.

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APPRENDIX

## EIGHTH SENATE: 100 DAYS OF PEOPLE-CENTRED MOTIONS, BILLS

Sanni Onogu

How time flies. On Wednesday, September 16, the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate led by Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki marked 100 days in office. For Saraki and the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate, it has been 100 days of work, work and more work in the service of the fatherland. Needless to say that it has not been all bed of roses, as in all matters of politics and leadership. The events that preceded June 9<sup>th</sup> – the historic inauguration of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly and Saraki's subsequent election – pointed to a man of destiny.

Since his emergence as *primus inter pares* in the upper chamber, a legislative engine room populated by some of the most brilliant Nigerians the nation can boast of, Saraki has shown sure-footedness in words and deeds. He has perfectly matched his promises with actions to the admiration of friends and foes alike. The Kwara Central Senatorial District lawmaker has clearly demonstrated that he is sufficiently imbued with the mental acumen and legislative shrewdness to discharge the enormous responsibilities placed on his shoulders as the Senate President in a culturally diverse and politically sophisticated country like ours.

No doubt, Saraki's commitment and clamour for transparency, accountability and due process has earned him large followership in and outside the National Assembly. His novel and courageous acts have continued to spur his colleagues into taking actions aimed at redirecting legislative practices aimed at making the masses the *raison d'être* for being in the legislature. To this end, the Senate has initiated people-centric Motions, Bills, oversights and policies that make common sense. It is worthy of note that Senators taking a cue from Saraki's vision of a new Senate have continued to tailor their Motions and Bills in such a way that they would be of utmost gain to the people rather than for the interest of a select few.

The first 100 days of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate has offered signs of progress as it promises to be one of the most productive legislative sessions in recent years. Notwithstanding that statutory breaks and vacations have been accommodated, the Senate through relevant Motions and Bills – read for the first time – has positively impacted our society and also demonstrated its potential to make big impact. From inception, the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate had hit the ground running, with ample signals that it would exceed the expectations of Nigerians in the months and years ahead. Today, it is unambiguous to say that Saraki's courageous and exemplary approach to legislative activities has led to a surge in proficiency, efficiency, effectiveness and, above all, productivity in the upper chamber.

For example, some of the critical bills that have scaled First Reading within the first 100 days of the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate include: the National Railway Corporation Act 1955 N129 LFN 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill 2015 sponsored by Sen. Andy Uba; Federal Capital Territory

Area Councils (Administrative & Political Structure Bill 2015), sponsored by Sen. Philip T. Aduda; Crime and Criminal Tracking System Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Hope Uzodinma; Infrastructure Development Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Barnabas Gemade; National Payment System Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Hope Uzodinma; Oil and Gas Export Free Zone Act CAP D5 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Ibrahim Gobir; Chartered Institute of Entrepreneurs (Est., etc) Bill 2015 sponsored by Sen. Ibrahim Gobir; and the National Development Bank of Nigeria (Est., etc) Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Ibrahim Gobir.

Others are: Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act CAP B2 LFN 2011 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, sponsored by Sen. Barnabas Gemade; National Centre for Cancer and Treatment (Est., etc) Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Mao Ohuabunwa; Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (Est., etc) Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Uche Ekwunife; Electronic Transaction Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Hope Uzodinma; Nigeria Agricultural Processing Zones (Est., etc) Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Francis Ailimikhena; Labour Transport Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Babajide Omoworare; and Erosion Control and Prevention Commission (Est., etc) Bill 2015, sponsored by Sen. Hope Uzodinma.

Furthermore, the impactful motions that have been moved, debated and appropriate resolutions taken in the interest of the masses by the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate are: Managing the Challenges of the Raining Season by Sen. Andy E. Uba (Anambra South); Fuel Tanker Tragedies on Nigeria's Highways, by Sen. Olugbenga Ashafa (Lagos East); Motorable State of Obajana-Kabba-Isanlu-East-Ilorin Road - Kabba-Iyara Iyamoye-Omu-Ekiti Road, by Sen. Dino Melaye (Kogi West); The State of Disrepair and Total Collapse of the Ikot Epkene-Itu-Calabar Federal Highway, by Sen. Basse A. Akpan (Akwa-Ibom North East); Landslide in parts of Isikwuato (Isu 3) and Arochukwu Local Government Area in Abia North Senatorial Zone, Abia State and other areas within the country where gully erosion is prevalent, by Sen. Mao Ohuabunwa (Abia North); and the Immediate Rehabilitation of the Kano-Gwarzo-Dayi Federal Highway, by Sen. Barau I. Jibrin (Kano North).

Others are: The State of the Economy: Naira Depreciation and its Implications, by Sen. Nazif Suleiman (Bauchi North); Flood and Erosion Disasters in Awka, Isuanaocha, Obosi and other Communities of Anambra Central, by Sen. Uche Ekwunife (Anambra Central); The Ban on Nigeria Agricultural Exports Products by European Union (EU), by Sen. Francis A. Alimikhena (Edo North); Land and Water Resources Crisis and the Menace of Typha Grass in Hadejia-Jama'are-Komaciuga-Yobe Basin, by Sen. Muhammed U. Shittu (Jigawa North East); Danger posed to rural bank customers by the bank verification exercise, by Sen. Biodun Olujimi (Ekiti South); Unfair trade practices of Electricity Distribution Companies (Discos) in Nigeria, by Sen. Samuel Egwu (Ebonyi North); and Harassment of the Senate, Senators and their spouses and National Assembly Management by security agencies of

government, by Senator Samuel Anyanwu (Imo East).

While the Bills are geared towards providing solid legal foundations for some of the fundamental changes that would better the life of the ordinary Nigerian, the motions were meant to tackle serious challenges confronting the people across the country that require urgent interventions. For example, the 8<sup>th</sup> Senate in line with Saraki's pledge to work closely with PMB to revamp the economy, had - following Senator Rafiu Ibrahim's Motion entitled: 'Indiscriminate Use and Abuse of Waivers for Rice Importation' - empaneled an Ad-Hoc Committee chaired by a former Governor of Kebbi State and former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Senator Adamu Aliero, to investigate and determine the extent of the illegality perpetrated by the immediate past administration of ex-President Goodluck Jonathan and to suggest ways through which the Federal Government can recover the humongous amounts lost to the unwholesome practice and also work out modalities to prevent future occurrence. The Committee is already sitting and taking evidence from witnesses.

The Senate in response to Senator Ekwunife's Motion on the ravages of 'Flood and Erosion Disaster in Awka, Isuanaocha, Obosi and other communities of Anambra Central', promptly constituted the Senator Barnabas Gemade-led Ad-Hoc Committee on Works, with a mandate to visit the affected communities and other parts of the country suffering the same malaise, to assess the extent of damage. It also enjoined the Ecological Fund Office to immediately provide succour for victims and raise Bill of Quantities for urgent reconstruction of the communities. The red chamber further mandated the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials in support of the victims.

Senator Melaye's Motion on the 'Collapse of Road Infrastructure in Nigeria' was also given the attention it deserved by the Senate as it called on the Federal Government as a matter of urgency to reorganize the Federal Ministry of Works and its agencies, especially the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), to be more alive to its responsibilities. They also urged the Government to immediately commence the rehabilitation and dualization of major highways and interstate roads across the country. It also directed its Committee on Works, when constituted, to audit all road projects across the country to avail the Senate of raw data for further necessary legislative action. The Committee was also asked to liaise with the appropriate government agencies to ensure the rehabilitation and or completion of all abandoned and on-going road projects across the country.

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## Saraki: The chief salesman of made in Nigeria goods

By Yusuf Olaniyomi

**D**ON'T be surprised if the salesman you will see in your neighborhood next time is a six-footer, smooth-looking and well-spoken man. His face will look familiar because you have encountered him physically or through the media, particularly television, the print and online. You will wonder if he is not the man holding that top public office. What does he want? What is wrong with him? What is he selling? Or are you mistaking him for somebody else?

As you ponder on the questions, you probably will realise he is the person you actually thought of—the number three man in the country—that is the Senate President, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki. What is wrong is the fact that Nigeria's economy is in a bad shape. There is, therefore, the need for change of attitude and positive, practical actions to save the nation, rebuild its economy and put its youth back to work.

Saraki as the head of the nation's legislature has identified his role as a lawmaker who is constitutionally charged to focus on oversight responsibility on executive bodies and also advocating for the direction that will bring overall development to the country. He has also decided to offer himself as the salesman for made in Nigeria goods.

The Senate President has at various fora articulated the viewpoint that the right response to the falling value of the Naira against the dollar (N358 to \$1) is for the country to increase its productive capacity and change from an importing, foreign goods-crazy and oil dependent country to a nation which is self-reliant, with many buoyant local industries and hundreds of thousands of youths gainfully employed. He envisaged that the employed youths will become tax payers. Thus, domestic taxes will become a veritable source of revenue for funding infrastructural development and social services.

These positions have been espoused by the Senate President in many prepared and off-the-cuff speeches he made at different fora, particularly while receiving many of the numerous groups, organizations, foreign missions and individuals that have paid courtesy call on him in his office.

Recently, the man has decided to put his words into action. First, when a group of artisans and local manufacturers from Aba town in Abia State sought to pay him a courtesy call and their contact man, Senator Enyinyanya Abaribe, said the visit was to promote their locally manufactured products with the Senate President concurring to open their trade fair, they got an immediate appointment.

It was during the visit that the Senate President unfolded his plan to immediately initiate the amendment of the Procurement Act, particularly Section 34 of the law which gives discretion to government agencies about patronising locally produced goods. He added that the word 'may' will become 'shall' to compel agencies to only buy locally made goods. In cases where there is no option to imported items, the said agency must get clearance from the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).

"This is the only way we can create jobs, solve the problem of unemployment and stop the growing army of aggrieved youths who pose danger to society. We can do it.



Chairman of Inson Motors, Chief Innocent Oshiwura (second right), presenting a key to one of the range of cars manufactured by his company to the Senate President, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki (second left). With them are left to right: Chairman, Senate Committee on Industries, Senator Sam Egwu; Secretary of Procurement, Estate and Works of the National Assembly, Mr. Adedani Orolabi; chairman, Senate Committee on Public Accounts, Senator Andy Uba and chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions, Senator Rafiu Ibrahim, at the National Assembly.

We have the population which translates to a huge ready market. This is how we can genuinely help our people.

"The chairmen of our relevant committees are being put on notice to ensure that they focus their oversight on these areas. We must make sure that government agencies like the Armed Forces can patronize the shoe making industries in Aba and other places", he said.

Saraki went on to declare open the Made in Aba Trade Fair at the Area 10 Playing Ground, Abaja, where he gave assurances to the local producers that they have an ally in him and that he has dedicated himself to fighting their cause through legislations, oversight and advocacy activities. He promised to personally speak with heads of security agencies to stop importation of their foot wears and other kits as they can be easily produced in Aba and other towns.

Saraki on his twitter handle thereafter call on Nigerian manufacturers to send him a tweet of products they are producing and their addresses so that he can re-tweet. Immediately the offer was made online, many young Nigerians entrepreneurs responded. And thus, the Senate President became an advertising platform for Made in Nigeria products.

Perhaps taking a cue from the comradeship demonstrated by Saraki with the Aba manufacturers and other local producers of goods, the owner and management of Inson Motors based in Nnewi quickly approached the Senate President that they will want to meet and acquaint him with their products as the only local manufacturers of automobiles in Nigeria.

Less than 48 hours after they sent words to him, they got an appointment. Spokesman of Inson Group, Mr. Sunny Nwosu commended Saraki and the Senate leadership for the prompt response to the request for audience sent by the company, an opportunity that had eluded them in the past.

"In less than 48 hours of contacting the Senate President, we were told to come over. We are encouraged by your views on Made in Nigeria goods. What we need is the support, encouragement and inspiration from decision makers like you", he said.

Their host however said he was only doing his job and exhibiting his passion by identifying with them. He said one of the

actions government should quickly take at this point to save the national economy is to ensure that local industries are patronized by government agencies so that Nigerian manufacturers can enjoy the advantages accruing from the big market that her population offers.

"That is why this eighth Senate is determined to amend the Procurement Law to ensure that government agencies patronize Made in Nigeria products. I am sure the House of Representatives is in support of this. It is our joint responsibility to ensure that you succeed. If you are successful, a lot more small and medium scale enterprises will draw inspiration from you and they will become successful.

"That will help to create jobs, which is one of the mandate presented to us by the youths of this country during the last elections. We in the legislature will look at all laws and help to create an enabling environment for local businesses to thrive in Nigeria", he said.

The Senate President said using laws to protect locally made goods is not peculiar to the country as it has been done in the United States under President Herbert Hoover in 1933 while China and South Africa have also enacted similar laws in the past.

He lamented a situation where a company like Inson only sold about 3,000 vehicles in 2015 when Nigerians buy about a million vehicles annually, adding that if Nigerians patronise Made in Nigeria cars it will force foreign manufacturers to set up plant here. The Senate President further promised Inson Group that he will get in touch with them as he has collected the price list and the information booklet on the automobiles produced by the company. He also had a short drive in one of the SUVs produced by the company, thereby providing a testimonial endorsement for the Nigerian manufacturer.

With the plan to amend the Procurement Act of 2007, Saraki and his colleagues are seeking to reenact the Buy American Act signed into law on March 3, 1933 by Hoover which compels US government and its agencies to prefer US made products in their purchases. Section 217 (3) Of the South African constitution provides a framework for the policy of preferential procurement for government agencies. Also, the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act 5 of 2000 and

the regulations published under it in 2001 prescribed requirements regarding Black economic empowerment considerations.

In China, Article 10 of the Government Procurement Law provides that domestic goods, projects and services must be used for government procurement except when the required goods are not available in China, the objects of procurement are for use outside China or it is specified otherwise in other laws and administrative regulations.

Thus, what Saraki and his colleagues seek to do with the Procurement Act is putting the law on the same pedestal with what obtains in some developed economies.

Shortly after the Inson Group left Saraki, a group called South East Traders Association visited him and pleaded that he should help them intervene on difficulties they are facing in their importation business. The Senate President did not mince words in telling them that he is not in support of importation. He enjoined them to start producing some of the goods they import locally and they will have his total support.

The pattern that is emerging from all these encounters by the nation's chief legislator is that the man has become the Ambassador of Made in Nigeria goods. Call it protectionism. Call it backward integration. Or local content and backward integration campaign. These are some of the concepts that we have heard of in the past. What Saraki seemed determined to achieve is to put the weight of his office, the influence of his name and the richness of his personal and official resources into helping Nigerians who have dared to be different by undertaking production of goods that will offer quality alternatives to their fellow country men and women...

This definitely is a noble campaign. It is also an idea, as Victor Hugo said, whose time has come. We pray that he succeeds in this endeavour. So, when next you see this suave, prominent and determined salesman of Made in Nigeria products in your neighborhood, don't be surprised. Just support, accept and encourage him. It is another way of salvaging a country in economic crisis, particularly outside the hallowed legislative chambers.

**• Olaniyomi is Special Adviser (Media and Publicity) to the Senate President.**

## APPENDIX V

# LAW



## LIST OF 293 BILLS PASSED BY THE 8TH SENATE

### SENATE BILLS

1. Nigerian Railway Bill 2015
2. Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act CAP B2 LFN 2011 (Repeal and Re-enactment) 2015
3. National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (Est., etc.) Bill 2015
4. Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill 2015
5. Electronic Transaction Bill 2015
6. Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme Act (Amendment) Bill 2015
7. Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme (Est., etc.) Bill 2015
8. Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Bill 2015
9. National Poverty Eradication Commission (Est., etc.) Bill 2015
10. North East Development Commission (NEDC) (Est., etc.) Bill 2015
11. Erosion Control and Prevention Commission (Est., etc.) Bill 2015
12. Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods (Miscellaneous Provision) Amendment Bill 2015
13. Federal University of Petroleum Resources Effurun (Est., etc.) Bill 2015
14. Food Security Bill 2015
15. Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015
16. Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015
17. Nigeria Institute of Soil Science (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015
18. Nigeria Football Federation (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015
19. National Sports Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015
20. Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Bill 2015
21. Witness Protection Programme Bill 2015
22. Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2015
23. Defence Space Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015
24. High Court of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja (Amendment) Bill 2015
25. Air Force Institute of Technology (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015
26. Credit Bureau Reporting Bill 2015
27. 2015 Appropriation Act (Amendment) Bill 2015
28. 2016 Appropriation Bill
29. Federal Roads Authority (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016
30. National Assembly Budget and Research Office (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016
31. Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill 2016
32. Federal Capital Territory Statutory Appropriation Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
33. National Lottery Act 2005 (Amendment) Bill 2016
34. Electoral Act No. 6 2010 (Amendment) Bill 2016
35. Public Procurement Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
36. Petroleum Industry Governance Bill 2016

37. National Inland Waterways Act Cap N47 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2016
38. Nigerian Ports and Harbours Authority Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
39. JAMB Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
40. Nigerian Customs Service Bill 2016 and Nigerian Customs Service Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2016
41. Warehouse Receipts Bill 2016
42. Secured Transactions in Movable Assets Bill 2016
43. Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Educational Institution Bill 2016
44. Federal University of Wukari (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016
45. Maritime University of Nigeria, Okerenkoko (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016
46. 2016 FCT Appropriation Bill
47. Appropriation Bill, 2017
48. Nigerian Peace Corps (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015 and the National Unity and Peace Corps (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2015
49. National Open University of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill 2017
50. Federal University of Maritime Studies, Oron Bill, 2017
51. National Institute for Legislative Studies Act (Amendment) Bill 2017
52. National Research and Innovation (Est., etc.) Bill, 2017
53. Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2016 and Universal Basic Education Act 2003 (Amendment) Bill 2016
54. Nigeria Financial Intelligence Agency (Est., Etc.) Bill, 2017
55. Institute of Chartered Biochemist and Molecular Biologist Bill, 2016
56. Whistle Blowers Protection Bill 2015
57. Abduction, Wrongful Restraints and Wrongful Confinement for Ransom Bill 2017
58. Prohibition and Protection of Persons from Lynching, Mob Action and Extra Judicial Executions Bill, 2017
59. Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2017
60. Hydroelectric Power Producing Area Development Commission (Amendment) Bill 2015
61. Chartered Institute of Entrepreneurs (Est., etc.) Bill 2015
62. Chartered Institute of Capital Market Registrars Bill 2017
63. Presidential Inauguration Bill 2016
64. National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016
65. FCT Statutory Appropriation Bill 2017
66. Federal University of Agriculture Kaaba (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016
67. Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill 2017
68. Niger Delta Development Commission (Amendment) Bill 2017
69. Nigeria Arabic Language Village, Ngala (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017
70. Nigeria French Language Village, Badagry (Est., etc.) Bill, 2017
71. Demutualization Bill, 2017
72. The Revised Edition (Laws of the Federation of Nigeria) Bill, 2018
73. 2017 FCT Appropriation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018

74. Arbitration and Conciliation Act Cap A18 LFN 2004(Repeal and re-enactment) Bill 2018
75. Emergency Powers (Repeal and re-enactment) Bill 2018
76. Federal University Gashua (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
77. National Transport Commission (Est., etc.) Bill, 2018
78. Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2018
79. River Basin Development Act Cap R9 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2018
80. National Centre for Disease Control Prevention (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
81. Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
82. Chartered Institute of Directors of Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
83. Chartered Polymer Institute of Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill, 2018
84. Companies and Allied Matters Bill 2018
85. 2018 Appropriation Bill
86. Federal Polytechnics Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
87. Federal University of Health Sciences Otukpo (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
88. Federal University of Education, Zaria (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
89. Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
90. Federal University of Education, Kano (Est., etc.) Bill, 2018
91. Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
92. Federal College of Education Misau (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
93. Chartered Institute of Forensic and Investigative Auditors in Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
94. Facility Management Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016
95. Nigerian Postal Services Act Cap N127 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2018
96. National Commission for Peace, Reconciliation and Mediation Bill, 2018
97. National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency Act 2006 (Amendment) Bill 2018
98. FCT Appropriation Bill 2018
99. FCT University of Science and Technology (Est., etc.) Bill, 2018
100. Federal Polytechnic Aba, Abia State (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
101. Federal Polytechnic Silame Sokoto (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018
102. Federal College of Education Gumel Bill, 2018
103. Federal College of Education Sabon Birini, Sokoto (Establishment etc.) Bill 2018
104. Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2015
105. Fire Arms Act CAP F28 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017
106. Federal University of Education Aguleri, Anambra State (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
107. National Institute of Construction Technology and Management (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
108. Federal Polytechnic Langtang, Plateau State (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
109. Federal University of Technology Manchok (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
110. Federal College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
111. Federal Polytechnic Kwale, Delta State (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018

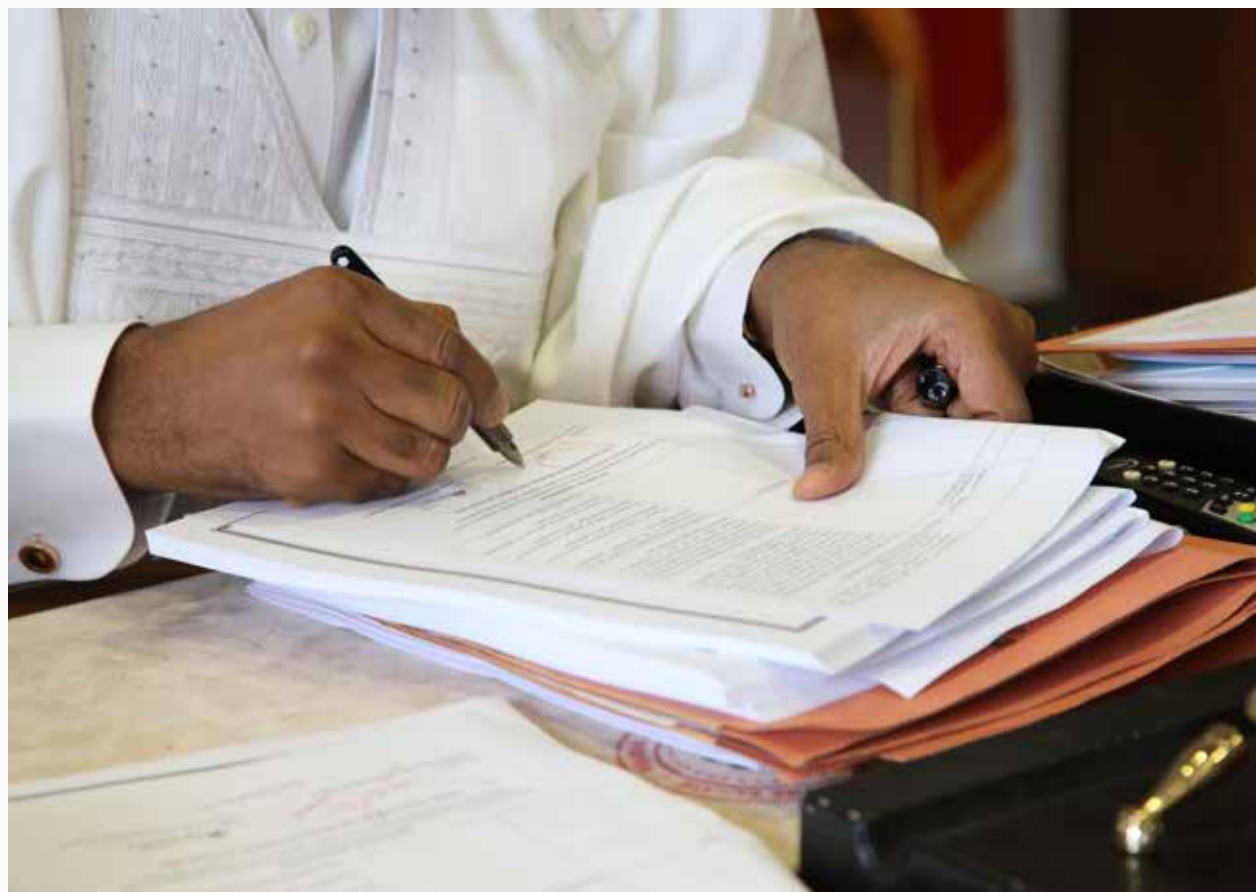


112. Federal Polytechnic, Ikom, Cross River State (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
113. Federal College of Education, Usugbenu-Irrua (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
114. Federal Polytechnic Daura, Katsina State (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
115. Federal Polytechnic, Kobo, Kano State (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
116. Federal Polytechnic Adikpo, Benue State (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
117. Federal Polytechnic Kaltungo (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
118. Federal Polytechnic Kwale Delta State (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
119. Federal College of Education Omuo-Ekiti, Ekiti State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2018
120. City University of Technology Auchi (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
121. Federal Polytechnic Mpu, Enugu State (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2018
122. National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Bill 2018
123. Federal Polytechnic Item (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
124. Prisons Act CAP P22 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill 2018
125. Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria Bill 2018
126. South East Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016
127. Defence Research and Development Bureau (Establishment) Bill 2019
128. Institute of Mediators and Conciliators Bill 2019
129. National Minimum Wage Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2019
130. National Orientation Agency Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
131. National Fertilizer Quality (Control) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
132. Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) Act CAP E3 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2018
133. Chemical Weapon (Prohibition) Bill 2017
134. Electricity Theft (Prohibition and Prevention) Bill 2017
135. National Board for Technical Education (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2018
136. Gas Flaring (Prohibition and Punishment) Bill 2016
137. Proceed of Crimes Bill 2016
138. Jamb Amendment Bill 2019
139. Federal College of Education Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2018
140. National Health Insurance Act 2003 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2016
141. Police Act Repeal and Re-enactment Bill 2018
142. FCT Health Insurance Agency (Est., Etc.) Bill 2018
143. FCT Primary Health Care Board (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
144. National Commission for Colleges of Education Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2018
145. Federal Cooperative Colleges Bill 2019
146. Federal University of Education Kontagora (Est., etc.) Bill 2018

## CONSTITUTION ALTERATION BILLS

1. Alteration of the Constitution to Provide for Time Passage of Laws (Assent).
2. Alteration of the Constitution to Provide for Funding of the State Houses of Assembly Directly from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.
3. Alteration of the Constitution to Include Former Heads of the NASS in the Council of State.
4. Alteration of the Constitution to Reduce the Period within Which the President or Governor May Authorise Withdrawal from the CRF in Absence of an Appropriation Act from Six to Three Months.
5. Alteration of the Constitution to Provide for Immunity of Legislature in Respect of Words Spoken or Written at Plenary.
6. Alteration of the Constitution to Abrogate the State Joint Local Government Accounts and Empower Each Local Government Council to Maintain its Own Special Account.
7. Alteration of the Constitution to Strengthen Local Government Administration in Nigeria
8. Alteration of the Constitution to Provide the INEC with Sufficient Time to Conduct By-Elections and Grounds for De-registration of Political Parties.
9. Alteration of the Constitution to Delete the Public Complaints Commission Act from the Constitution.
10. Alteration of the Constitution to Delete the National Securities Agencies Act from the Constitution.
11. Alteration of the Constitution to Delete the National Youth Service Decree from the Constitution.
12. Alteration of the Constitution to Delete State Independent Electoral Commission from the Constitution.
13. Alteration of the Constitution to Specify the Period within Which the President or Governor Shall Present the Appropriation Bill before NASS or SHA.
14. Alteration of the Constitution to Reduce the Age for the Qualification for the Offices of President, House of Representatives and State House of Assembly.
15. Alteration of the Constitution to Reflect the Establishment of the ISA in the Constitution.
16. Alteration of the Constitution to Remove Law Making Powers from the Executive Arm of Government.
17. Alteration of the Constitution to Provide for the Procedure for Passing a Constitution Alteration Bill Where the President Withholds Assent.
18. Alteration of the Constitution to Reflect the Establishment and Core Functions of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps.
19. Alteration of the Constitution to Provide Time for the Determination of Pre-Election Matters.
20. Alteration of the Constitution to Further Strengthen the Judiciary for Speedy Dispensation of Justice.
21. Alteration of the Constitution to Establish the AGF and Separate the Office from that of the Minister for Justice (Likewise in the States).
22. Alteration of the Constitution to Establish the Office of the Accountant General of the Federal Government Separate from the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation.
23. Alteration of the Constitution to Make the Office of the Auditor General of the Federation and States Financially Independent by Placing Them on the CRF (States).
24. Alteration of the Constitution to Disqualify a Person Sworn-In as President or Governor to Complete the Term of the Elected Person from Being Elected to the Same Office for More Than a Single Term.

25. Alteration of the Constitution to Change the Name of the Police from the Nigerian Police Force to the Nigerian Police.
26. Alteration of the Constitution to Provide for Independent Candidature in Elections.
27. Alteration of the Constitution to Provide for a Change in the Names of Some Local Government Councils.
28. Alteration of the Constitution to Provide for the Appointment of a Minister from the FCT to ensure FCT is Represented in the FEC.
29. Alteration of the Constitution to Require the President and Governor to Submit Names of Nominated Ministers or Commissioners Within Thirty Days of Taking the Oath of Office for Confirmation.



## HOUSE BILLS (CONCURRENCE BILLS)

1. Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
2. National Judicial Institute Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
3. Prevention of Crimes Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
4. Water Resources Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
5. Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
6. Agricultural and Rural Management Training (Amendment) Bill 2016
7. Telecommunications and Postal Offences Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
8. Treaty to Establish African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament (Accession and Jurisdiction) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
9. Utilities Charges Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
10. Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
11. Petroleum Product Pricing Regulatory Agency Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
12. Petroleum Training Institute Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
13. Quantity Surveyors (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
14. Bees (Import Control and Management) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
15. Advertising Practitioners (Registrations, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
16. World Meteorological Organization (Protection) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
17. Currency Conversion (Freezing Orders) (Amendment) Bill 2016
18. Builders (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
19. Town Planners (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
20. University of Abuja Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
21. Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
22. Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development Agency (Amendment) Bill 2016
23. National Agricultural Land Development Authority Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
24. Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) (Amendment) Bill 2016
25. National Crop Varieties and Livestock Breeds (Registration etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
26. National Archives Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
27. Value Added Tax Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
28. Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
29. Chartered Institute of Human Capital Development of Nigeria Bill 2016
30. Dangerous Drugs Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
31. Chartered Institute of Loan and Risk Management of Nigeria Bill 2016
32. Veterinary Surgeons Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
33. Federal Capital Territory Civil Service Commission Bill 2016
34. Chartered Institute of Public Management Bill 2016
35. Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (Establishment) Bill 2016

36. Oaths Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
37. Institute of Local Government and Public Administration Bill 2016
38. Chartered Institute of Project Management of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill 2016
39. Nigerian Council for Social Work (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016
40. Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
41. Mortgage Institutions Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
42. National Film and Video Censors Board Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
43. Official Secrets Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
44. Federal Capital Territory Districts Courts Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
45. Pensions Rights of Judges Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
46. Anti-Torture Bill 2016
47. Federal Capital Territory Hospitals Management Board (Establishment, etc.) Bill 2016
48. National Child Protection and Enforcement 2016
49. Police Procurement Fund Bill 2016
50. Federal Capital Territory Water Board Bill 2016
51. Senior Citizen Centre Bill 2016
52. Animal Health and Husbandry Technologist (Registration, etc.) Bill 2016
53. Compulsory Treatment and Care of Victims of Gunshots Bill 2016
54. Corporate Manslaughter Bill 2016
55. Railway Loan (International Bank) (Amendment) Bill 2016
56. Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act (Amendment) Bill 2016
57. Chartered Institute of Export and Commodity Brokers of Nigeria Bill 2017
58. Avoidance of Double Taxation Between the Federal Republic of Nigerian and the Kingdom of Spain Bill 2017
59. Avoidance of Double Taxation Between the Federal Republic of Nigerian and the Republic of South Korea Bill 2017
60. National Postgraduate College of Medicine Laboratory Science Bill 2017
61. Avoidance of Double Taxation Between the Federal Republic of Nigerian and the Kingdom of Sweden Bill 2017
62. National intelligence Agency Pension Bill 2017
63. Nigeria Academy of Science (Establishment etc.) Bill 2017
64. Chartered Institute of Treasury Management (Est., Etc.) Bill 2017
65. Federal School of Medical Laboratory Technology Science (Est., Etc.) Bill 2017
66. Franchise Bill 2018
67. Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy Bill 2017
68. Federal Capital Territory Transport Authority (Establishment) Bill
69. Nigerian Automotive Industry Development Plan (Fiscal Incentives Assurances and Guarantees) Bill 2017
70. Chartered Institute of Customer Relationship Management Bill 2017
71. Dishonoured Cheques (Offences) Act (Amendment) Bill 2017
72. Vigilante Group of Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill 2017
73. Subsidiary Legislation (Legislative Scrutiny) Bill 2017
74. Courts and Tribunal Fines and Financial Penalties Bill 2017
75. Radiographers (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill 2017
76. Medical Residency Training Bill 2017
77. National Road Funds (Est., etc.) Bill 2018

78. National Climate Change Bill
79. National Agricultural Seeds Council Bill 2018
80. Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport of Nigeria Bill 2018
81. National Security Agencies Protection of Officers Identity Bill 2018
82. Institute of Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
83. National Biotechnology Development Agency (Est., etc.) Bill
84. Nigeria Aeronautical Search and Rescue Bill, 2018
85. Federal Audit Service Commission Bill 2018
86. Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
87. Digital Rights and Freedom Bill 2018
88. Chartered Institute of Financial and Investment Analysts of Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
89. Energy Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
90. Stamp Duties Act Cap S8 LFN2003 (Amendment) Bill 2018
91. Chartered Institute of Training and Development (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
92. Extradition Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
93. Chartered Institute of Pension Practitioners of Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill, 2018
94. Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
95. National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
96. National Institute of Credit Administration (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
97. National Broadcasting Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
98. Nigeria Institute of Mining and Geoscience, Jos Bill 2019
99. Nigeria Film Corporation Bill 2018
100. Maritime Security Operations Coordinating Board Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
101. Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
102. Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
103. National Orientation on the Agency for National Ethics and Values (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
104. Engineering (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
105. Chartered Institute of Commodity Brokers of Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
106. Immigration Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
107. Small and Medium Scale Development Agency Act 2003 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill 2018
108. Fisheries Institute of Nigeria (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
109. Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria Act Cap F16LFN2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill 2018
110. National Housing Fund Act (Amendment) Bill 2018
111. Federal Capital Territory Emergency Management Agency (Est., etc.) Bill, 2018
112. Presidential Programme on Rehabilitation and Reintegration (Establishment & Implementation) Bill 2018
113. Ajaokuta Steel Company Completion Fund Bill 2018
114. School of Mines and Geological Studies (Est., etc.) Bill 2018
115. National Institute for Security Studies (NISS) (Est., etc.) Bill 2019
116. Nigeria Police Trust Fund (Est., etc.) Bill 2019
117. Harmonized Retirement Age for Teachers in Nigeria Bill 2019
118. Animal Disease Control Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2019

• *List Compiled: May 7, 2019.*



UNITY AND FAITH PEACE AND PROGRESS

TIME  
YES  
NO  
ABSTAIN  
TOTAL

TIME  
YES  
NO  
ABSTAIN  
TOTAL

12:54

12:54

The assembly hall is filled with members of parliament seated in rows of wooden benches. Many are wearing traditional white attire and caps. The central stage area is occupied by several individuals, including a speaker at a podium and other officials. The room is well-lit, with large windows on the right side. The overall atmosphere is formal and organized.







Office of the President of the Senate  
Federal Republic of Nigeria