

# SARAKI

A RECORD OF DELIVERING REAL SOLUTIONS











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**Foundation**

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To all the people who have worked with me  
over the years to make Nigeria better.

*Abubakar Bukola Saraki*







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Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki in office as President of the 8th Senate 2015



## INTRODUCTION

Throughout my life, I have always had the drive to make a positive difference.

Growing up, my siblings and I had opportunities that were not readily available to a majority of people.

But I never took my privileges for granted. Our parents never failed to remind us that to those whom much is given, much is expected.

They taught us to be prepared to work hard in the service of others and to always ask, 'how can I help?', 'how can I make things better?', 'how can I contribute to making the world a better place?'

This deep-seated desire to help people inspired me to study medicine. Through dedication and determination, I completed my studies, and successfully worked as a hospital doctor, before going into the banking sector.

However, seeing all that was happening around me, the great suffering of our people, both in my home state of Kwara and across our country; the lack of opportunities for our teeming youth population, and the relegation of our women, I decided to enter politics to help find a better way.

I was Governor of Kwara State from 2003 to 2011 and President of the Nigerian Senate from 2015 to 2019. In these positions, I tried to find new solutions to old problems. With fresh

ideas, courage, and a determination to make a difference, I was able to provide the leadership that succeeded in moving the needle forward on several indicators of progress.

In the pages of this book, you will see many examples of how those real solutions helped rebuild my state and strengthened our nation. Many of the ideas we introduced were new. Some would even say they were ahead of their time. For this reason, we faced a great deal of resistance, especially by political opponents and detractors alike. However, due to the courage of conviction, an unwavering commitment to something that I always believed was bigger than myself, we pushed through and delivered change.

We did not solve all the problems, but with my contribution and leadership, we made our nation safer, we created more jobs, we set our economy on a better path and we strengthen the unity of our people as one Nigeria. The work is, however, not done. The insecurity that ravages our communities and the wanton killings and destructions; the deep frustration and feeling of hopelessness among our youths, the worsening condition of poverty, and the ever-rising cost of living; all these call for leadership. It also means that I must rededicate myself to the service of my country.



Today, Nigeria needs a fresh start, with fresh, big, and bold ideas that can deliver a better quality of life for all citizens, regardless of their religion, region, or ethnicity. Our youths need us to give them hope for a better future and to help them reach their full potential. These, doubtlessly are huge challenges. But they are by no means insurmountable. They only demand of us a brand of leadership that is modern, forward-thinking, courageous, and adaptable.

This book offers a birds-eye view of what can be achieved with visionary and courageous leadership. I continue to draw my inspiration from some of these accomplishments. They serve as evidence that the challenges that we face may be stiff and steep, but they are not beyond our capacity to solve, working together with fresh ideas, innovative thinking, and above all, patriotism and courage.

*Abubakar Bukola Saraki*

DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAOKI





**COMMUNITY  
LEADER**  
(2019 TILL DATE)











Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki addressing a crowd of supporters in Ilorin, Kwara State

Since leaving office in 2019, Dr Saraki has continued to provide real solutions to the problems faced by his community, through the establishment of The Abubakar Bukola Saraki Foundation (known as the ABS Foundation).

The ABS Foundation is a non-governmental organization that continues Dr Saraki's record of exploring fresh ideas and developing policies and programmes that increase opportunities for people in the fields of education, health, the environment and job creation.

Drawing on his significant business and political network, the ABS Foundation engages in meaningful programmes and develops real partnerships in the community, which help improve the quality of life for people, especially young people.

On a regular basis, the ABS Foundation undertakes a wide range of projects, providing real solutions to issues faced by the our community.

During the COVID pandemic, Dr Saraki was troubled by the consequences of the government's restrictions on movement was having on businesses and the restricted access people had to food and other critical supplies. The ABS Foundation assembled a team of medical personnel, representatives from gender-based groups and others to distribute food and critical supplies, such as face masks, hand sanitizer and gloves to those in need.

The ABS Foundation also plays a strong role in the agricultural sector, providing support such as improved seeds, fertilizer, mechanical equipment and access to funding through a micro finance bank.



Dr Saraki believes that all youth should have the opportunity to succeed. This is why the ABS Foundation foundation also undertakes post-secondary and tertiary level educational programmes to support high performing students with stipends, housing and fees coverage to meet the financial demands of their academic pursuits.

The ABS Foundation also actively participates in the global climate effort and the fight for our planet, with environmental protection and climate change mitigation at the centre of its operations.

Building on Dr Saraki's record of job creation, the ABS Foundation partners with local and international organizations to offer appropriate training that gives workers real opportunities to upgrade their skills in the competitive and ever changing labour market.

For unskilled workers, the ABS Foundation provides vocational training and equipment support to enable them to carry out their jobs in a productive and efficient manner.

In 2020, the ABS Foundation facilitated the attendance of three Nigerian start-ups to the 'Africa Meets Business' Conference in Berlin, Germany.

The organisations, KoboPay, an e-payments platform; Enov8 Solutions, a tech company headquartered in Lagos; and Eyowo, an e-payments platform that creates instate accounts for users with their phone numbers.

In early 2022 the foundation partnered with the Ilorin Emirate Descendant Progress Union (IEDPU) Youth Wing to deliver 'Access to Healthcare', a community wide programme that bridges the gap of financial hardship and out-of-pocket expenses on quality health care.

As a result of this initiative, some children under 5 years of age, women of reproductive age, people over 60 years with hypertension & diabetes, and adolescents can have their health needs attended to regardless of how much money they have in their wallet or where they live.

The foundation's efforts continue to be focused on showing fresh leadership and delivering real solutions, especially on those programmes that provide Nigerians, and young Nigerians, with real hope and opportunity for a better future.

In November 2021, the ABS Foundation sponsored the participation of a Nigerian climate advocate, Mr. Olasupo Abideen, to COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Summit in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, from 31 October to 13 November 2021. The summit brought together leaders from 120 countries, and 40,000 participants from across the world.

On his return, Mr. Abideen, while speaking to Dr. Saraki emphasised that young people must participate in policy debates, and that he was grateful to the ABS Foundation for providing him with the opportunity.



# POLITICAL JOURNEY





**SPECIAL ASSISTANT ON  
BUDGET MATTERS TO  
PRESIDENT OLUSEGUN  
OBASANJO**

2000 - 2002

**GOVERNOR OF  
KWARA STATE**

2003 - 2011

**CHAIR OF  
THE NIGERIAN  
GOVERNORS  
FORUM**

2007 - 2011

**REPRESENTING THE  
KWARA CENTRAL  
SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

2011 - 2015

**PRESIDENT OF  
THE NIGERIAN  
SENATE**

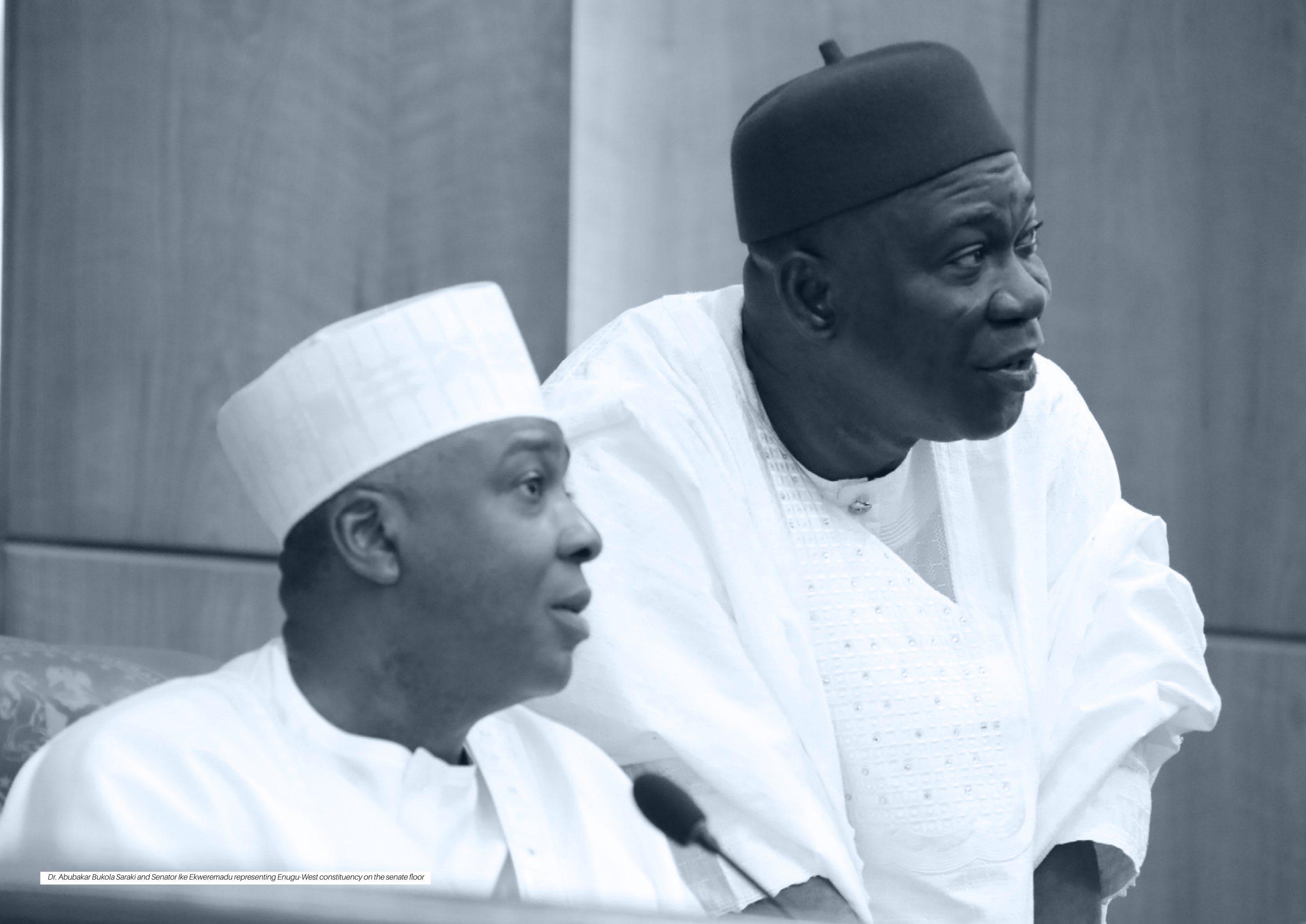
2015 - 2019



ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
THE 8TH SENATE UNDER  
**THE LEADERSHIP OF  
DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA  
SARAKI**







*Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki and Senator Ike Ekweremadu representing Enugu-West constituency on the senate floor*





## OVERVIEW: HOW DID SARAƘI’S 8TH SENATE PERFORM?

Under the leadership of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, the historic 8th 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.

319 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 8th Senate 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 to history, leaving a lasting legacy for the legislature in Nigeria.



L-R Super Eagles midfielder John Ogu, NFF President Amaju Pinnick, Super Eagles defenders Shehu Abdullahi, William Troost-Ekong, Dr Abubakar Bukola Saraki, Super Eagles defender Kenneth Omeruo, and former Super Eagles coach Gernot Rohr





Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki in a meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 8TH SENATE UNER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAHI IN THE SECURITY SECTOR

The first indication that the 8th Senate led by Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki would take the issue of National Security very seriously was its prompt visit to Borno State to have a first-hand assessment of the security situation in that state that has been ravaged by Boko Haram insurgents. This was on August 3, 2015, just about two months after its inauguration.

Amidst tears, then Governor of Borno State, Kassim Shettima said it was the first time the National Assembly formally visited the state in response to the security threats confronting that part of the nation. Saraki also led the Senate to visit various camps inhabited by victims of the security crisis where he donated relief materials and further assessed the situation for the purpose of providing necessary legislative interventions. After all, one of the key attributes of leadership is showing compassion. The Senate President also visited the IDP camps inside the

Umaru Shehu College of Education and Government College, both in Maiduguri, the Kuchingoro IDP camp in Abuja, and the Makurdi Children Camp.

In response to the experiences during the visits to the camps, the 8th National Assembly commenced work on the North East Development Commission (NEDC) Bill, 2015 which was aimed at resettlement, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of the people and the environment in the North-East. Today, the commission under the chairmanship of a retired General, Paul Tarfa has since been inaugurated. The Saraki-led Senate followed up with the passage of the Police Reforms Bill and the Police Trust Fund Bill, both of which were targeted at improving the efficiency, training, welfare, and equipment of the Police. It also enacted the Abduction, Wrongful Restraints, and Wrongful Confinement for Ransom Bill 2017 which was targeted at curbing the menace of kidnapping.

The 8th Senate organised a two-day security summit in Abuja attended by all security chiefs, experts and relevant stakeholders. The Summit, which was declared open by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, was organised to review the security architecture of the country and sharpen its response to the security challenges. The outcome of the summit was a 21-point recommendation presented to the executive for adoption and implementation.

Apart from its regular motions and resolutions on the security situation aimed at keeping the relevant agencies on their toes and ensuring that the issue remained on the front burner of the national agenda, the Senate under Saraki continuously allocated more budgetary funds to meet the need of the security agencies and the various emergencies constantly confronting them in their operations.







One major area where Saraki and his colleagues demonstrated astuteness in leadership was when during a visit to Capitol Hill in the US, they made the issue of the sale of necessary security equipment that the Nigerian military required to tackle insurgency a major focus of the discussion with various congressional leaders and caucuses.

The visit was reciprocated on August 30, 2017, when a US Congressional delegation led by Senator Chris Coons visited Saraki in the National Assembly. The then-Senate President again ensured that the focus of the discussion was the issue of the US sale of arms to Nigeria. He assured the visiting American legislators

that the National Assembly would ensure that the military equipment to be sold will not be used in violation of citizens' rights. The US in compliance with the provisions of the Leahy's law had refused to sell military hardware to Nigeria based on complaints of human rights violations by the Nigerian military.

The intervention of the Saraki-led 8th Senate led to the eventual change of mind in the US Congress which then supported the White House in the decision to sell 13 Turcano Jets to Nigeria. The jets that the Nigerian military has taken delivery of are the latest equipment being deployed in the fight against terrorism.



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki with Former Nigerian Inspector-General of police Mohammed Abubakar Adamu, Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume and a cross section of security personnels during a security summit in Abuja







Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe of the Abia-South Senatoria constituency showing Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki made in Nigeria goods

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 8TH SENATE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAHI IN THE ECONOMY SECTOR

When the 8th Senate was inaugurated on the 9th of June 2015, the greatest challenge confronting Nigeria was an economic downturn. Crude oil prices had plummeted, the nation's federal revenue-generating capacity had dropped, the manufacturing sectors had contracted, and both local and international companies had started to announce layoffs and closures.

### PROMOTING 'MADE IN NIGERIA': 2015

“

*Government agencies spend as much as N2.1 trillion annually. 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.*

”

-Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki admiring locally manufactured leather goods with Abia State marketing and Quality Management Agency Mr Sam Hart

In the last quarter of 2015, the Naira fell by nearly 20 percent against the US Dollar. At around the same time, global oil prices dropped by over 70 percent. This meant that an oil-dependent economy like Nigeria had to come up with innovative solutions and strategies to mitigate the impact of the economic storm caused by the decline in oil revenue.

In this regard, under the leadership of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, the 8th Senate launched a strategic campaign to grow the local industries, which centered around the amendment of the Public Procurement Act. The amendment was aimed at updating relevant sections of the 2007 Act to favour Nigerian manufacturers and ensure the speedy completion of government projects. The amendment also included a crucial clause that stipulated that government agencies had to patronise local manufacturers and suppliers, and could only go to foreign suppliers after all local options had been exhausted.

During the 'Made in Nigeria' campaign, Dr. Saraki worked with groups and companies like the Aba Manufacturers Association, Innoson Motors, and several others, to promote Nigerian-made goods to the public and other government agencies.



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki with the cross section of local manufacturers



### NASSBER: FEBRUARY 2016

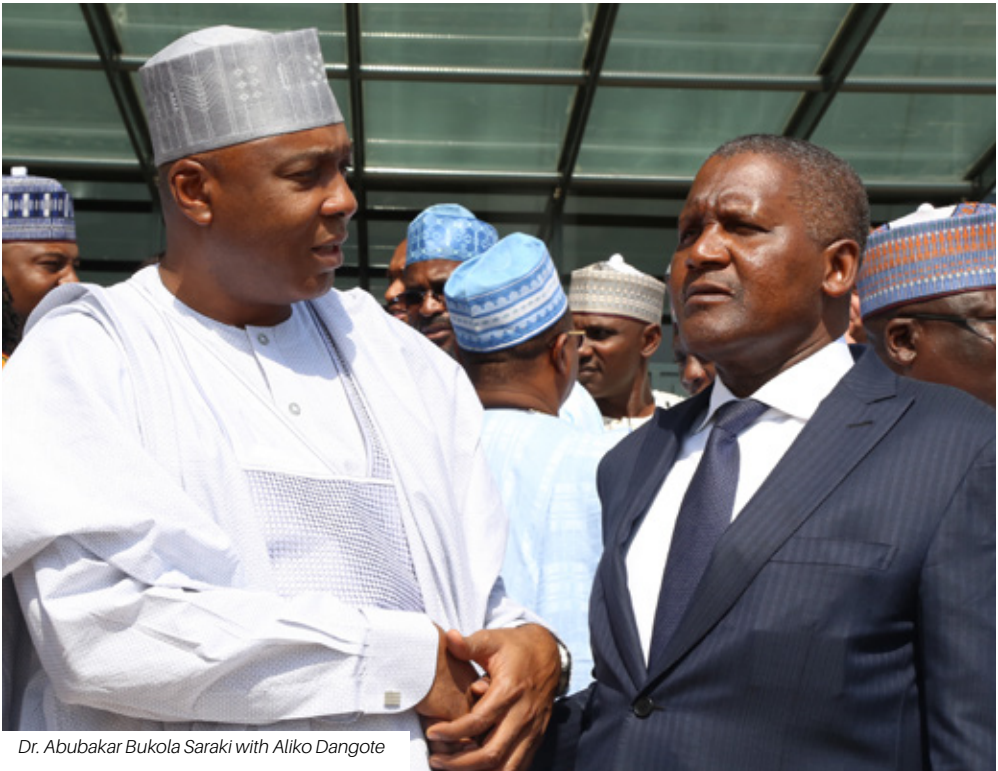
In early 2016, working with the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), UK-DfID (Nigeria), and the Nigeria Bar Association's Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL), Saraki convened the National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable.

The objective of the roundtable was to form 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.

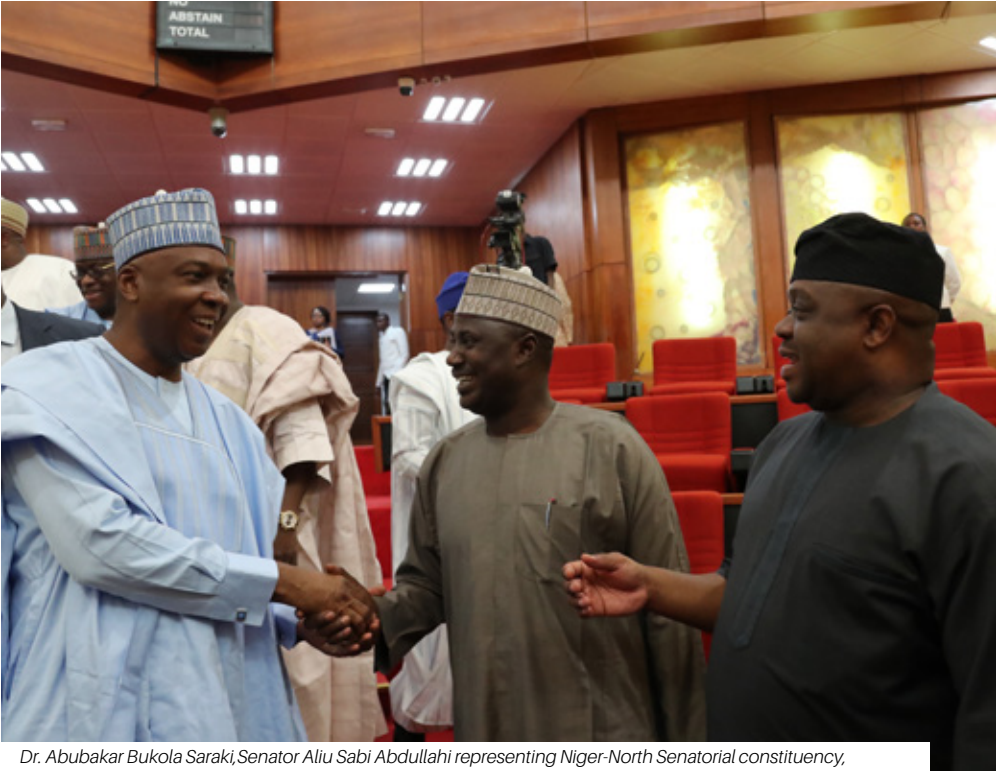
Saraki commissioned a team of experts working with the National Assembly to research and review all institutional, regulatory, and legislative instruments operational in the country. They were to identify the impact of these on the ease

of doing business in Nigeria and come up with recommendations. 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. This report helped to form the basis for the conceptualization and drafting of the Senate Economic Reform Bills, that the 8th Senate worked on, alongside their counterparts in the House of Representatives, to help save the Nigerian economy.

These economic bills, which received accelerated consideration by the 8th Senate, were aimed at creating 7.5 million new jobs and reducing poverty by 16.4 percent when passed into law.



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki with Aliko Dangote



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, Senator Aliu Sabi Abdullahi representing Niger-North Senatorial constituency, and Senator Lanre Tejuosho representing Ogun-Central Senatoria constituency on the floor of the 8th Senate

### POLICY DIALOGUE WITH BUSINESS LEADERS: SEPTEMBER 2016

With the announcement on July 21, 2016, that the country was 'technically in recession,' the grim reality of the economic crunch could no longer be ignored.

In September 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 President of the 8th Senate, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, convened a policy dialogue with business leaders to discuss policy options for tackling the economic crisis. This took place in Lagos, the bustling economic capital of the country.

The dialogue identified factors that contributed to the economic slump, including the nation's dependence on oil; fiscal and revenue leakages; as well as corruption.

Saraki then rallied the business leaders to help formulate a policy and legislative framework that would help to address the issues. This formed the core of the Senate's swift response to the economic crisis — which became known as the '8th Senate's 21-Point Economic Plan.'



## 8TH SENATE'S 21-POINT ECONOMIC PLAN: SEPTEMBER 2016

- 1 The executive should forward an Economic Stimulus Bill containing all the fiscal stimulus packages, investments, and incentives that 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/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
  - Agricultural value chain
  - 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 with their enabling laws.
- 12 The Legislature (through law) and the Executive (through policies) must take action to encourage telecommunications companies to float their shares in 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:

- 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

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 bringing succour to Nigeria.



Senator Abdulfatai Buhari representing Oyo-North Senatorial constituency with Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki on the floor of the 8th Senate





Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki with the cross section of pupils from Model Secondary School Maitama, Abuja

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 8TH SENATE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAKI IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

“ I realise that our future as a nation can only be assured by education  
-Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki ”

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

This was why, upon its inauguration, the Senate under the leadership of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki carried out a

holistic review of Nigeria's education sector to identify avenues for legislative intervention.

Based on Dr. Saraki's recommendations and the legislative agenda produced at the beginning of the 8th Assembly, the Senators paid particular attention to the recommendations of the 22nd 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 N38 trillion government spending between 1999 and 2016 had failed to bring about the needed turnaround in education.

### ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION

The Senate then proceeded to craft several pieces of legislation to upgrade existing educational facilities or establish new ones accordingly. Over 45 new tertiary institutions were proposed by the 8th National Assembly. Additionally, an amendment to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) Act of 2011, made provision for Colleges of Agriculture to be included as beneficiaries of the fund.

In addition, the 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 in the job market. The Tertiary Institutions and TetFund on Federal Polytechnics, Item, Abia State (Establishment, Etc.) were also among the many Bills passed to improve higher learning in the country.



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki with the cross section of pupils from Model Secondary School Maitama, Abuja



## FREE EDUCATION UP TO SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL

“ Our vision is to see to the attainment of 100 percent literacy rate for all Nigerian children aged 12 and below  
-Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki ”

To ensure a solid foundation for those who pass through the education system, the 8th Senate under Dr. Saraki's leadership passed an amendment to the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Amendment Act, which was aimed at guaranteeing free and compulsory education for all Nigerians up to the secondary school level.

Because 33 States and the Federal Capital, were unable to access their

UBEC funding due to the 'counterpart funding clause' in the original act, the 8th Senate's amendment aimed to provide easier access to UBEC intervention funds by state governments by reducing the benchmark for counterpart funding from 50% to 10%. The new law went a long way towards freeing up access to these funds, as more state governments have since been able to access their counterpart funds which had accumulated for years.



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki commemorating childrens day 2018 with children from different schools



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki commemorating childrens day 2018 with children from different schools





## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 8TH SENATE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAHI IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Primary and universal healthcare was a key item in the Legislative Agenda of the 8th Senate.

This led to the launch of the Legislative Network for Universal Health Coverage in 2017 by its committee on health. The commitment to this aspect of the Agenda was demonstrated during the preparation of the 2018 Appropriation Law, The 8th Senate insisted that the provision of the National Health Act 2014 that 1% of the Consolidated

Revenue Fund be set aside for the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund must be included in the budget.

This move which makes a significant improvement in funding of the basic health sector was targeted at reducing poverty, mortality, and 'makes Nigeria Stronger'. It was a measure that received global support from the World Health Organisation (WHO), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, music superstar, Bono, and many others.

The Senate also passed very important laws aimed at radically improving the health of Nigerians. These include National Primary Healthcare Development Agency Reforms Bill, Federal Capital Territory Health Insurance Agency Bill, National Drug Control Bill, and National Mental Health Bill. It also passed the Free Integrated Maternal and Child Healthcare Bill to address the troubling statistics on maternal and child mortality in Nigeria.



Co-Founder of the ONE Campaign and lead-singer of the Irish multi-award winning rock-band, U2, Mr. Paul David Hewson, also known as Bono (U2), in April 2019 visited the National Assembly to thank the Senate President and the 8th National Assembly for including a clause in the 2018 budget that guaranteed the use of 1% of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation for primary healthcare.

However, one law that the Eighth Senate enacted which President Buhari quickly signed into law in 2017 was the Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot Act. This law will save the lives of countless Nigerians, by boldly addressing the reluctance of hospitals to treat victims of gun violence.





Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki speaking with Senator Abiodun Christine Olujimi representing Ekiti-South constituency on the floor of the 8th Senate

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 8TH SENATE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAKI IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

During the four years that he served as the President of the Senate, Dr. Saraki surrounded himself with a retinue of aides that were under-35 years old.

*70 percent of the aides in the Office of the Senate President, were youth who were carefully selected for their skillsets in various areas.*

This is why, the 8th Senate was able to keep social issues on the front and center 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.

## Passing the #NotTooYoungToRun Bill

Due to his consistent commitment to ensuring the inclusion of more young Nigerians in politics and governance, when '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,' was introduced in the 8th Senate, Dr. Saraki immediately began advocating for its passage amongst his colleagues.

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 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 8th Senate of the Federal Republic, because it made it possible for Nigerians as young as 25-years-old to seek political office.

## Passing the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Bill

“Make no mistake, both the Senate and the House feel very strongly about the impact of this Bill. This is because its passage will further empower people living with disabilities (PLWDs) and ensure that they are not discriminated against in any way.

-Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, 28th February, 2018

”

Under Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki's leadership, the 8th Senate passed the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Bill in 2018 to provide legally-binding social protection for the over 20 million Nigerians living with disabilities and provide a strong legislative framework that would safeguard them from discrimination.

Following several meetings with Disability Rights groups in 2018, Saraki committed to passing the bill in both chambers of the National Assembly within 30-days stating that “there is no doubt that once this Bill is passed, it will transform the lives of millions of Nigerians across the country, hence, the sooner that we start implementing the act, the better for all of us.”



## THE GENDER & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BILL

During the four years of the 8th National Assembly, Dr. Saraki tried to rally his colleagues in the Senate to pass the Gender & Equal Opportunity Bill. The Bill, which was sponsored by Senator Biodun Olujimi, sought to give effect to the provisions of Chapter II and IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, while also intending to promote the equality, development, and advancement of girls and women by providing safeguards against discrimination in the areas of education,

employment, occupation, on the grounds of marriage, marital status, maternity, or health status.

After two rejections by the National Assembly, Dr. Saraki worked behind the scenes to have it reintroduced. While the bill gathered its highest momentum ever, reaching the third and final reading stage after its third introduction, a majority of the senators disagreed with some provisions on the grounds of religion and tradition.

## THE ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT BILL

*“As a father, I’m appalled by the actions of lecturers captured in the #SexForGrades exposé. We cannot allow this sort of deplorable behaviour to fester*  
- Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, 2019 (Tweet)

Due to the rising incidents of ‘sex-for-grades’ in Nigeria’s tertiary institutions, between 2017 and 2018, Dr. Saraki directed that the 8th Senate should fast-track its work on the ‘Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Education Institution Bill’ to protect students— especially young women from predatory lecturers.

The Bill, which prescribed a jail term of up to five years but not less than two years for any person in a position of authority found guilty of sexual assault in any tertiary

institution in Nigeria, was passed by the 8th Assembly, but never signed into law.

After he left office, following a BBC African Eye investigation that further showcased the brazenness with which many Nigerian lecturers abused their positions of authority by harassing their students for sexual favours, Dr. Saraki once again called on President Muhammadu Buhari and the 9th National Assembly to revisit the Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill which was passed under his leadership

## THE POVERTY ERADICATION BILL

*“Eradicating poverty is the responsibility of government and establishing a commission on this was a right step.*  
- Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, November 2016

Under the leadership of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, the 8th Senate passed ‘A bill for the Establishment of a National Poverty Eradication Commission (NPEC).’ The Bill was aimed at providing a modern and comprehensive legal framework for all policies and programmes of the federal government which are aimed at eradicating poverty. The main focus of the bill was also to reduce the number of Nigerian citizens living below the international and national poverty lines through concerted efforts by all ministries, departments, and agencies at the state and federal levels.



## THE PRISONS REFORM ACT

*“The twin issues of prison reform and decongestion have always been at the front burner of our social impact agenda at the 8th Senate...*  
- Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, 13th February, 2018.



11-years after it was first introduced on the floor of the National Assembly, in 2019, the 8th Senate, passed a comprehensive Prison Reform Bill, called the ‘Nigerian Correctional Service Bill.’ The Bill, which changes the name of the Nigerian Prisons Service to Nigerian Correctional Service, also establishes a new legal framework that addresses the fundamental lapses in the Prisons Act. The prison reform bill also addresses the primary issue of the funding of Nigeria’s correctional system; the rehabilitation of prisoners; as well as the human rights and welfare of inmates in Nigeria’s correctional system.

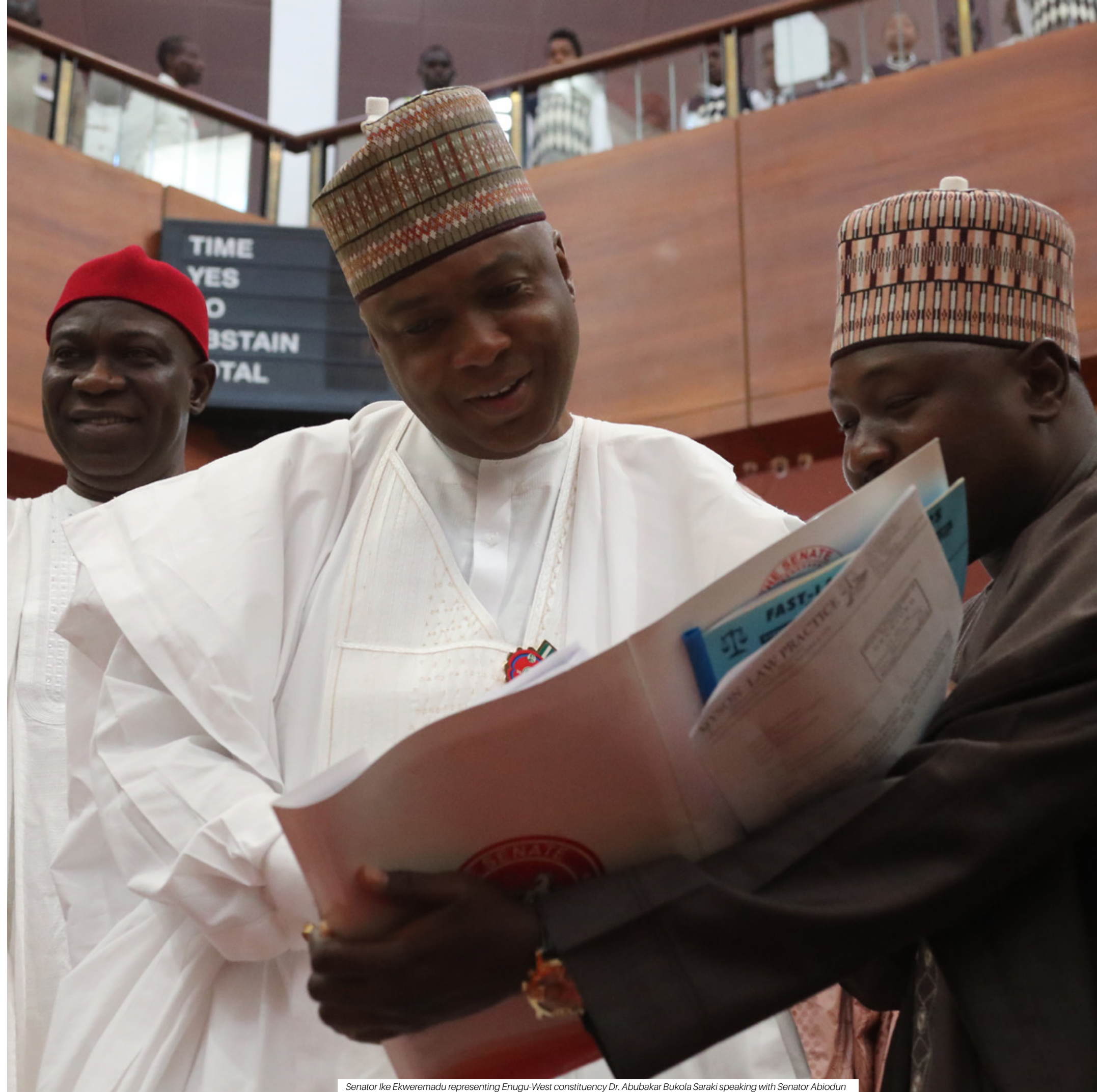


## THE ANTI-TORTURE BILL

As part of his work to reduce the cases of human rights violations in Nigeria, in 2017, Dr. Saraki presided over the 8th Senate's passage of the 'Anti-Torture Act.' The Act, which was initiated by the 8th National Assembly and signed into law by President Buhari on the 29th of December 2017, imposes a fundamental duty on government at all levels to ensure that "all persons, including suspects, detainees, and prisoners are respected at all times and that no person under investigation or held in custody is subjected to any form of physical/mental torture."

The Bill also guarantees all citizens the right to file complaints in cases whereby torture has been committed or is alleged to have been committed.

Finally, the bill prescribes stiff penalties for those who are found guilty of torture, as well as advocates for the training and constant re-education of all personnel that are involved in the "custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment."



Senator Ike Ekweremadu representing Enugu-West constituency Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki speaking with Senator Abiodun Christine Olujimi representing Ekiti-South constituency on the floor of the 8th Senate





Aerial view of the 8th Senate under the leadership of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES OF THE 8TH SENATE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAHI IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Dr. Saraki has always believed that though the current anti-corruption efforts directed at apprehending suspects after the commission of the crime are good, the focus should be on the preventive measures which could deter or make it difficult and even impossible for people to carry out corrupt acts.

That is why the Senate that he led included the war against corruption as one of its Legislative Agenda. Thus, several laws and measures that can stop corruption were introduced between 2015 and 2019 when the Senate was in session.

| FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA |                                      |                      |                     |                 |                |                  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 2018 BUDGET                   |                                      |                      |                     |                 |                |                  |
| NATIONAL ASSEMBLY             |                                      |                      |                     |                 |                |                  |
| CODE                          | OFFICE                               | TOTAL PERSONNEL COST | TOTAL OVERHEAD COST | TOTAL RECURRENT | TOTAL CAPITAL  | TOTAL ALLOCATION |
| 0112001                       | NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OFFICE             | 8,576,260,225        | 4,536,048,933       | 13,112,309,158  | 2,276,926,754  | 15,389,235,912   |
| 0112002                       | SENATE                               | 1,856,510,517        | 28,791,110,014      | 30,647,620,531  | 4,934,465,168  | 35,582,085,699   |
| 0112003                       | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES             | 4,923,743,127        | 47,735,756,179      | 52,659,499,306  | 4,765,638,487  | 57,425,137,793   |
| 0112004                       | NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SERVICE COMMISSION | 1,175,626,305        | 1,250,662,999       | 2,426,289,304   | 309,791,962    | 2,736,081,266    |
| 0112005                       | LEGISLATIVE AIDES                    | 9,517,127,214        | 534,968,714         | 10,052,095,928  | 150,000,000    | 10,202,095,928   |
| 0112006                       | PAC - SENATE                         | -                    | 118,970,215         | 118,970,215     | -              | 118,970,215      |
| 0112007                       | PAC - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES       | -                    | 142,764,258         | 142,764,258     | -              | 142,764,258      |
| 0112008                       | GENERAL SERVICES                     | -                    | 8,967,743,268       | 8,967,743,268   | 3,416,928,811  | 12,384,672,079   |
| 0112009                       | NASS LEG. INSTITUTE                  | 433,771,911          | 1,223,988,826       | 1,657,760,737   | 2,716,052,859  | 4,373,813,596    |
| 0112010                       | SERVIDE-WIDE-VOTE                    | -                    | -                   | -               | -              | 1,145,143,254    |
|                               | TOTAL                                | 26,483,039,299       | 93,302,013,406      | 119,785,052,705 | 18,569,804,041 | 139,500,000,000  |
|                               |                                      |                      |                     |                 |                |                  |
|                               |                                      |                      |                     |                 |                |                  |

2018 National Assembly budget breakdown as released by the Office of The Senate

## TRANSPARENCY IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET

Dr. Saraki believes that transparency is necessary for sustainable governance.

Following the calls for increased transparency and accountability in the funding of the National Assembly, for the first time in Nigeria's history, Dr. Saraki directed the management of the National Assembly to publish the details of the National Assembly budget online.





## PUBLIC HEARING ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET

The Senate under Saraki initiated holding public hearings on the national budget for stakeholders to critique the budget and express their preferences as a guide to the budget defence sessions with the MDAs.

### NIGERIAN FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT (NFIU)

Under Dr. Saraki, the 8th Senate enacted the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit Act of 2017 in line with international standards and went further to separate the agency from the EFCC. This law helped to lift 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.

### WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAMME BILL

The Witness Protection Programme Bill of 2015 was passed by the 8th Senate to protect individuals and institutions that provide information, evidence, or assist law enforcement agencies in the course of an investigation, thereby encouraging the cooperation and support of witnesses to crimes. The Bill also sought to improve the delivery of justice in Nigeria using the testimonies and evidence that could lead to the proper prosecution of criminals, while also providing confidentiality by fully restricting the release of information about the location or change of identity of "protectees" or "former protectees."

### MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BILL

In the same manner, it passed the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill 2016 to prohibit and restrict the laundering of illegal funds or proceeds of crime. This Bill empowered law enforcement agencies to enable the identification, tracing, freezing, restraining, recovery, forfeiture and seizure of proceeds and benefits of crime wherever they are located, while further expanding the scope of supervisory bodies that deal with financial crimes.

### THE WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION BILL

The 8th Senate passed the Whistleblowers Protection Bill which ensures that persons who make disclosures and those in danger of reprisals about such disclosures are protected under the law. This Bill specified the proper procedures for making disclosures, while also detailing the kind of protection that will be made available to whistle blowers who may be at the risk of physical and/or violent attacks.

### FEDERAL AUDIT SERVICES COMMISSION BILL

Under Dr. Saraki's leadership, the 8th Senate passed the Federal Audit Service Commission Bill which empowers the Office of the Auditor General of the Federation to ensure proper accountability in government spending. This helped to promote transparency, accountability and integrity in the management of public funds of the federation, by ensuring that Nigeria has a modern Audit Act that deals with contemporary public accounts.





Dr. Abubakar Bukola, Comptroller General of the Nigeria Immigration Service Muhammed Babandede and Governor Godwin Obaseki during the Senate Roundtable on Migration and Human Trafficking, Benin, Edo State, 2018

## INNOVATIONS & INTERVENTIONS OF THE 8TH SENATE UNDER

### DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAHI

In 2015, when the 8th Senate assumed office, one of the questions that Nigerians were asking was “How does this National Assembly affect my life?”

Under the stewardship of Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, the 13th President of the Senate and Chairman of the 8th National Assembly, the 8th Senate brought into being many innovative policies, ideas, and methodologies that have gone a long way in 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, inclusiveness 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.

## SENATE ROUNDTABLES

### *Drug Abuse, Migration & Human Trafficking, Job Creation, and Education*

Staying true to his commitment to promote greater interaction between citizens and the legislature, the Saraki-led Senate, organised a series of Roundtables around the country targeted at specific social problems. Notable among these were Roundtables on Drug Abuse, Education, Migration and Human Trafficking, as well as 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, 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.



Chief of Staff to the President of the 8th Senate, talks to a victim of drug abuse at the Senate Roundtable on the Drug Abuse Epidemic.

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 inadequacies when following up on youth empowerment programmes.

This level of activity and success in Roundtables and similar Interactions were unprecedented in the Nigerian parliament. Without a doubt, the Senate clocked a major milestone in bridging the communication gap between Nigerians and their leaders during this period.



## 2015 FIXED AND BULK METERING OF CONSUMERS:

In August 2015, the Senate, under Dr. Saraki's leadership 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 deemed contrary to the interest of consumers.

## FRAUD IN TREASURY SINGLE ACCOUNT (TSA) MANAGEMENT:

In November 2015, the Saraki-led Senate detected fraudulent activities in the implementation of the Treasury Single Account. Subsequently, the Senate passed a resolution calling on the executive branch of the Federal Government to end the fraudulent practices. This intervention saved Nigeria upwards of N25 billion.

## 2016 HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE NORTH EAST:

In March 2016, due to the spike in the number of internally displaced Nigerians, Dr. Saraki spearheaded the 8th Senate's inclusion of an additional N10 billion in the annual budget for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the North East, to alleviate the adverse humanitarian consequences of insurgency in the region.

## FRAUD IN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTH EAST:

On October 4, 2016, the Senate launched an investigation into alleged corruption in the management of the humanitarian crisis in the North East. Dr. Saraki then sent a fact-finding technical team to conduct an on-the-ground assessment of the situation. The technical team's discovery ultimately led to the dismissal of Babachir Lawal, Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), for the misappropriation of N200 million meant for IDPs.

## 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.

## PREVENTING A TELECOMS DATA PRICE HIKE

Following the report of a planned increase in the price of data for consumers, Dr. Saraki facilitated a Point of Order and a subsequent Motion on the issue. As a result of the Motion, Dr. Saraki personally intervened in the issue with the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), which stopped the planned data price hike by the telecommunications companies.

## ENDING FRAUD IN REVENUE GENERATING AGENCIES:

To ensure more transparency and accountability in Nigeria's governance institutions, the 8th Senate under the leadership of Dr. Saraki conducted several investigations into the activities of Nigeria's revenue-generating agencies. This investigation discovered several leakages, issues of non-remittance, and misuse of generated revenue. The investigation also revealed that a majority of the ministries, departments and agencies had, over a long period, spent billions of generated funds without the necessary annual appropriation by the legislature.

## QUEENS COLLEGE AND OTHER UNITY SCHOOLS:

On May 2, 2017, following the death of three students of Queens College Lagos - one of Nigeria's Unity Schools, as a result of contaminated water, - Dr. Saraki called for a Public Hearing on the tragedy and the state of Nigeria's schools. 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 schools across the nation.

## ACCESS TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE (FOREX) FOR BUSINESSES:

2017

In 2017, due to the policies of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) that limited the access to necessary foreign exchange to small and medium scale enterprises that provided upwards of 60 million direct and indirect jobs across the country, the Saraki-led Senate intervened. The intervention led to a review of the CBN policy, thus enabling small business owners to access necessary Forex for the import, export, and service delivery needs.

## CLOSURE OF LAUTECH:

In July 2017, following the closure of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), due to funding and ownership issues, Dr. Saraki called for a meeting of stakeholders that included the students, faculty, and federal and state agencies involved in the administration of tertiary education institutions. Shortly after, this intervention which brought all stakeholders back to the discussion table after several months of impasse, the institution was re-opened and students were back in the classroom.



#### ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT INTO THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE:

In August 2017, Nigerians were angered by several news stories that detailed the secret recruitment into the Nigerian Civil Service without recourse to due process. The Senate, under Dr. Saraki moved a motion on the issue, and also worked to fast-track the passage of the Existing Vacancies in the Federal Civil Service (Prohibition) Bill, to curb illegal recruitment in government agencies.

#### FUEL SCARCITY INTERVENTION:

Between December 2017 and January 2018, following the cases of fuel scarcity queues in 30 out of the 36 states of the federation, the Senate, through its Committee on Downstream Petroleum, intervened in the lingering fuel scarcity crisis across the country. A Public Hearing was organized to investigate the scarcity and proffer short, medium, and long-term solutions to the problem.

#### ADDRESSING DRUG ABUSE:

In December 2017, following several reports of the rising incidents of drug use and abuse across the nation, The 8th Senate held a two-day Roundtable on the Drug Use Crisis in Nigeria in Kano State — one of the epicenters of the codeine-abuse epidemic.

The Roundtable was a major pushback against drug abuse in our communities and helped to galvanise a larger public response, including a BBC documentary. The 8th Senate worked with the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to move against the unregulated sale and distribution of Tramadol. The Roundtable led to the initiation of two important bills in the Senate: the National Drug Control Bill and the National Mental Health Bill.

#### RESOLVING THE ISSUE OF UNPAID SCHOLARSHIPS

*"I was in Russia last month to participate at the 137th 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,"*

The above quote was from Dr. Saraki on November 1, 2017, in a meeting with the 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.

Following the meeting, Dr. Saraki rallied his colleagues to pass a resolution to direct 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 the necessary appropriations for their settlement.

Dr. Saraki also called for a comprehensive review of scholarship policies, to save the country from embarrassment and prevent undue hardship to Nigerian students overseas.

#### 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. Dr. Saraki met with Minister of Health Prof. Isaac Adewole, Minister of Labour Dr. Chris Ngige, and JOHESU leaders. As a direct result, the strike was suspended on the 44th day due to Dr. Saraki's intervention.

#### ARBITRARY CHARGES BY BANKS:

2018

For many years, Nigerians complained about the arbitrary and oftentimes inexplicable charges from their banks. In January 2018, Dr. Saraki directed his team to research the subject. Following the investigation, the Senate intervened in the issue, by calling on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to proffer clearer guidelines on bank charges and correct the often conflicting and vague remedies offered by the CBN to victims of excess and illegal deductions by commercial banks. This intervention led to a policy revision by the CBN.

#### POLICE REFORM INTERVENTIONS:

2019

This followed calls by Nigerians to improve the activities of the Nigerian Police in order to make it more effective and efficient. Between January and April 2019, the Senate resolved to completely review and amend the Nigeria Police Act. This culminated in the passage of the Police Reform Bill and the Nigeria Police Trust Fund Bills.



# THE FIGHT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE LEGISLATURE

## BARRICADING THE HOMES OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT AND HIS DEPUTY

- IN JULY 2018, Police officers, acting on instructions from the Inspector General of Police, barricaded the homes of the Senate President and the Deputy Senate President to prevent them from presiding over plenary that day. However, in a dramatic turn of events, the Senate President was able to make it to plenary to preside over the defection of 15 APC Senators to the People's Democratic Party (PDP).



Picture of Barricade on Lake Chad

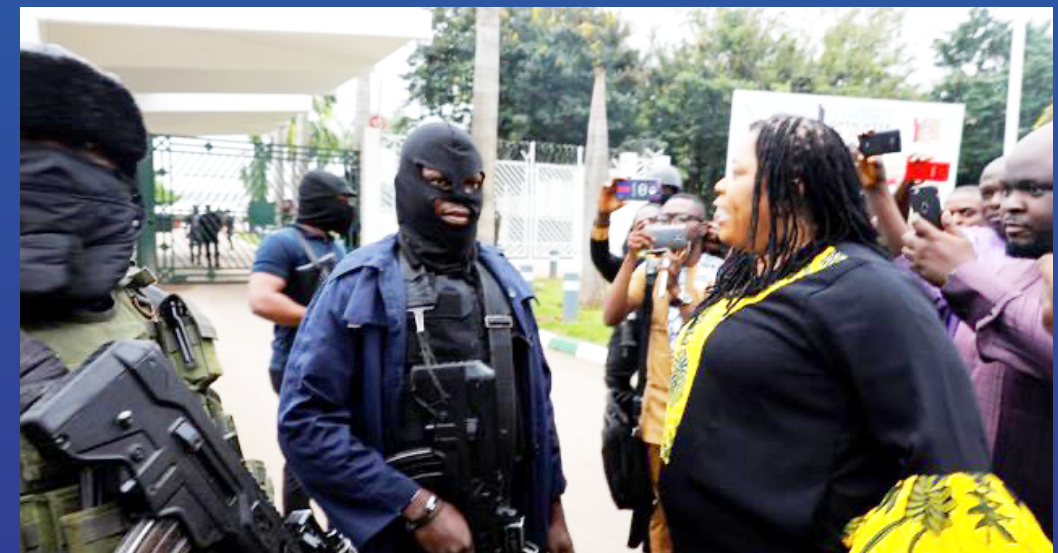
## INVASION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- IN AUGUST 2018, Department of State Services (DSS) operatives wearing dark masks and holding automatic rifles sealed off all the entrances of the Nigerian National Assembly complex to prevent legislators in the opposition party, PDP, from entering the National Assembly complex.

In what became known as a 'Failed Legislative Coup,' lawmakers from both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as regular citizens, stormed the National Assembly complex to demand the removal of the DSS officials from the gate of the parliament.

The next day, in a World Press Conference, the President of the Senate, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki described the invasion of the National Assembly by agents of the Executive branch as a 'show of shame.'

"The National Assembly, the seat of democracy in Nigeria, was under lockdown. The ensuing standoff was a show of shame. The siege was also an act of cowardice by those seeking to carry out an illegal impeachment of the leadership of the Senate in flagrant disregard of the law. People seek control at all costs, by whatever means, never minding the injury to democratic norms. I have to say that this is not about me, Abubakar Bukola Saraki, as an individual. It is not about Ike Ekweremadu, nor is it about Yakubu Dogara. I am speaking for my colleagues when I say that this is about the soul of Nigeria, what we represent as a country, and our standing in the comity of nations," Dr. Saraki said in his World Press Conference.



Member of the 8th House of Representatives, Hon. Boma Goodhead, confronts masked DSS operatives who barricaded the entrance of the National Assembly.



On Wednesday, August 8th, 2018, a day after the National Assembly invasion by armed officers of the Department of State Services (DSS), the President of the Senate, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, held a World Press Conference at the White House Foyer of the National Assembly to condemn the siege laid by the security operatives of the DSS on the National Assembly.

“

It is a matter of record that yesterday, lawmakers and staff of the National Assembly were prevented from entering the National Assembly Complex by heavily armed security agents of the Department of State Services (DSS). All entries to the Complex were blocked. The National Assembly, the seat of democracy in Nigeria, was under lockdown. Senators and Members of the House of Representatives were prevented from gaining access. ”

***-Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, President of the Senate, speaking at a World Press Conference at the National Assembly White House before a meeting between the National Assembly Leadership and a delegation from INEC, a day after the invasion of the National Assembly by masked and armed operatives of the DSS, August 8th, 2018***

“

The ensuing standoff was a show of shame that played itself out over several hours in full view of the country. In no circumstances should this have happened. And we as a nation reaped the bitter fruits instantaneously, as evident in media images relayed around the world, images that shame us as a democratic nation. The siege was also an act of cowardice by those seeking to carry out an illegal impeachment of the leadership of the Senate in flagrant disregard of the law. People who seek control at all costs, by whatever means, never minding the injury to democratic norms. ”

***-Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, President of the Senate, speaking at a World Press Conference at the National Assembly White House before a meeting between the National Assembly Leadership and a delegation from INEC, a day after the invasion of the National Assembly by masked and armed operatives of the DSS, August 8th, 2018***

“

Happily, by the actions that Nigerians took yesterday, they demonstrated our strong resolve as a nation not to give ground to oppression. The legislature, more than any other institution in this country, more than any other arm of government, represents the will of the people. We are elected by the people, and an assault on the legislature is an assault on the people of Nigeria. The forcible shutdown of the legislature was an unconscionable assault on a national institution, and thanks to all your efforts, the aggressors have been put to shame. ”

***-Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, President of the Senate, speaking at a World Press Conference at the National Assembly White House before a meeting between the National Assembly Leadership and a delegation from INEC, a day after the invasion of the National Assembly by masked and armed operatives of the DSS, August 8th, 2018***

“

The resistance mounted by staff of the National Assembly, my colleagues in both chambers and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) who refused to leave the entrance of this Complex until the siege was broken, strengthens my faith in the people of this country. The rain fell, the sun rose, but Nigerians stood their ground in defence of democracy. With the strength of will demonstrated by everyone against unwarranted and unconstitutional militaristic might, the siege could not stand. ”

***-Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, President of the Senate, speaking at a World Press Conference at the National Assembly White House before a meeting between the National Assembly Leadership and a delegation from INEC, a day after the invasion of the National Assembly by masked and armed operatives of the DSS, August 8th, 2018***

“

I want to thank Nigerians, Senators, Members of the House of Representatives and National Assembly Staff, for standing up to be counted for democracy during yesterday’s siege. I thank the thousands who monitored the situation on radio, television and social media, voicing their outrage at the siege, thereby sending a clear message to those that hatched the plot that the Nigerian public would not buy this act of gangsterism using instruments of state such as the DSS. ”

***-Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, President of the Senate, speaking at a World Press Conference at the National Assembly White House before a meeting between the National Assembly Leadership and a delegation from INEC, a day after the invasion of the National Assembly by masked and armed operatives of the DSS, August 8th, 2018***





Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, President of the Senate, speaking at a World Press Conference at the National Assembly White House before a meeting between the National Assembly Leadership and a delegation from INEC, a day after the invasion of the National Assembly by masked and armed operatives of the DSS, August 8th, 2018



# ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAKI

AS THE SENATOR REPRESENTING  
KWARA CENTRAL IN THE 7TH  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY







Dr. Saraki was a leading Senator, that brought strong leadership and fresh solutions to the Senate.

### OGONI OIL SPILL

As a first-time senator, Dr. Saraki was elected Chairman of the Committee on the environment and a member of the committees on capital markets and finance.

In this capacity, he championed the passage of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency Amendment (NOSDRA) Bill which sought to ensure all oil companies paid compensation to communities affected by oil spills and put in place structures to prevent and detect any form of oil spills.



Ogoni Oil Spill



*An effective legislative framework for oil spill management needs to go far enough to ensure that apart from remedying the environment that it can provide enough deterrent for bad environmental behaviour.*

-Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki



### SAVING BAGEGA

In 2013, Dr. Saraki became actively involved in the issue of the lead poisoning crisis in the mining areas of Zamfara State. Alongside the members of his committee and investigators from the National Assembly, Saraki conducted on-the-spot analysis of the lead poisoning crisis alongside the State's Environment Minister.

Following a letter of recommendations to President Jonathan, a few days after the Committee's visit, then-President Goodluck Jonathan released funds for the remediation of the Bagega Community in Zamfara State.

According to Doctors Without Borders, Before Dr. Saraki's intervention, over 400 children had died. However, his coordinated response to the crisis helped to save the lives of over 1500 children.



### BUILDING INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

During the 7th National Assembly, Dr. Saraki was elected as the first President of the Nigerian Chapter of the [Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment \(GLOBE\)](#) — a non-profit international, inter parliamentary organisation which was established in 1991 to support political leadership across the world on issues related to climate and energy security, land use, and the changing ecosystems.

In 2012, Dr. Saraki was also appointed to the Leadership Council of the [Global Alliance for Clean Cook-Stoves](#), an initiative of the United Nations Foundation that aims to use public-private partnerships to create a thriving global market for clean cook-stoves and fuels for over 100 million people by 2020. His appointment in the Leadership council alongside world leaders like Hillary Clinton, Mary Robinson, Mitchell Bachelet, and Kofi Annan, put a spotlight on Nigeria in the global scheme of addressing desertification, deforestation, forest conservation, and reduction in black carbon emission.



## FUEL SUBSIDY MOTION

In 2011, Dr. Saraki single-handedly moved a motion on the floor of the Senate calling for an investigation into how the N240 billion budgeted for fuel subsidy for the whole of 2011 had skyrocketed to over N1.2 trillion in under ten months.

In his motion, Dr. Saraki observed that there was upswing in the first three months of the 2011 budget year, where NNPC and independent marketers did not exceed N62 billion monthly. He then asked why the figures had moved astronomically to between N159 billion and N186 billion. This finding further exposed the various sharp practices and shoddy operations within the system.

Following Dr. Saraki's Motion, the House of Representative set up an Ad-hoc committee on Oil Subsidy to probe the subsidy payments made to oil marketers. Subsequently, N500 billion was saved annually on fuel subsidy in Nigeria.

| FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA   |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ORDER PAPER                   |   |
| Thursday 15th September, 2011 |   |
| 1.                            | Prayers   |
| 2.                            | Approval of the Votes and Proceedings   |
| 3.                            | Oaths   |
| 4.                            | Announcements (if any)  |
| 5.                            | Petitions   |
| PRESENTATION OF BILLS         |   |
| 1.                            | Abolition of Discrimination against Women Bill 2011 (SB. 39) – First Reading<br>Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba OFR, SAN, (Cross River Central)   |
| 2.                            | Council of Auctioneers Bill 2011 (SB. 40) – First Reading<br>Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba OFR, SAN, (Cross River Central)  |
| 3.                            | Nigeria Police Service Bill 2011 (SB. 41) – First Reading<br>Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba OFR, SAN, (Cross River Central)  |
| 4.                            | Fertilizer and Agricultural Remedies Authority Bill 2011 (SB. 47) – First Reading<br>Senator Matthew I. Nwagwu (Imo East) and 36 Others   |
| 5.                            | Industrial Development Authority (Promotion and Incentives) Bill 2011 (SB. 48) – First Reading<br>Senator Matthew I. Nwagwu (Imo East) and 36 Others  |
| ORDERS OF THE DAY             |   |
| MOTIONS                       |   |
| 1.                            | Demise of High Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke, CFR:<br>Senator Andy E. Uba, MFR (Anambra South)<br><br><b>THE SENATE,</b><br><b>NOTES</b> with profound sadness the death of High Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke, CFR, the former Speaker, House of Representatives on Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> August, 2011 after a brief illness at the age of 75 years;<br><br><b>NOTES</b> also that the Late Chief Edwin Ume-Ezeoke was born on September 8, 1935 in Amichi in Nnewi South Local Government Area of Anambra State; |

Fuel Subsidy Investigation Motion moved by Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki on the 15th of September, 2011.

## 2. Investigation into the Current Fuel Subsidy Management: Senator Abubakar B. Saraki (Kwara Central)

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Co-sponsors:</b>                       |                                       |
| Sen. Isa M. Gafaudu (Kebi North)          | Sen. Nurudeen A. Usman (Kogi Central) |
| Sen. Andy Uba (Anambra South)             | Sen. Barnabas Gemade (Benue N/East)   |
| Sen. Sunny Oghuaji (Ebonyi South)         |                                       |
| Sen. Gobir Ibrahim (Sokoto East)          | Sen. Shaaba Lafajai (Kwara North)     |
| Sen. Okowa A. Ifeanyi (Delta North)       |                                       |
| Sen. Simeon Ajibola (Kwara South)         | Sen. Adeyeye Oluola (Osun Central)    |
| Sen. Adetunmbi O. Onaolape (Ogun Central) |                                       |
| Sen. Tukur Bello (Adamawa Central)        | Sen. Robert A. Boreffice (Ondo North) |
| Sen. Robert A. Boreffice (Ondo North)     | Sen. Wilson Ake (Rivers West)         |

### THE SENATE:

**NOTES** that the Federal Government of Nigeria operates a fuel subsidy scheme with the policy purpose of making petroleum products available in order to cushion the effect of the true market prices of petroleum products on the populace;

**RECOGNIZING** that the fuel subsidy scheme is a long-standing government palliative action to help the Nigerian masses. This motion does not aim by any guise to remove the fuel subsidy;

**RECOGNIZING** in the meantime, the need to make the scheme more transparent, corruption free and competitive within an appropriate legislative framework and in compliance with the Appropriation Act.

**NOTES** that in furtherance to the implementation of the fuel subsidy, an amount is budgeted in the Appropriation Act. In 2011 the sum of N240bn (N20bn Monthly) was allocated;

**NOTES** that of the N20bn monthly allocation, N11.2bn was allocated for Domestic Fuel Subsidy (NNPC) and N8.8bn for Domestic Fuel Subsidy (Market) as stated in the Appropriation Act 2011;

**OBSERVES** that although N20bn was set aside for subsidy on a monthly basis in the Appropriation Act 2011, in August 2011 the total figure expended was N165bn of which NNPC was N88bn and Independent Marketers was N77.7bn;

**OBSERVES** that although N240bn was budgeted for the entire year, so far as at end of August 2011 N931bn has been spent. This is a variance of N771bn or 700% above budget;

**WORRIED** that in the first three months of the year both NNPC and the Independent Marketers did not exceed N62bn monthly but within the last three months figures have ranged between N150bn and N186bn;

**OBSERVES** that with this trend, by the year-end we will have a fuel subsidy bill of over N1.2tr (one trillion, two hundred billion naira) as against the N240bn (two hundred and forty billion naira) budgeted in the Appropriation Act;

**OBSERVES** that this expenditure is treated as a first line charge and by implication all other expenditures including Capital expenditures and even distributions to the states and local government, which we represent, is secondary;

**NOTES** that the implementation of 2011 Appropriation Act will surely be in troubled waters if a variation of N1.2tr arises as a result of the level of expenditure incurred on fuel subsidy so far;

**NOTES** that the wide disparity between what was budgeted for fuel subsidy scheme and what is expended goes to the integrity of the budget and an erosion of the authority of the National Assembly;

**NOTES** that the processes, audit, scrutiny and value for money in the entire subsidy management system lacks transparency and control as the costs have continued to maintain an upward swing;

**CONCERNED** that the National Assembly spends an enormous amount of energy to conclude a Capital budget of N1.1tr (one trillion one hundred billion naira) for the entire country and a single Agency of government can incur the same amount without due approval of the National Assembly poses a grave challenge and therefore an urgent need arises to review the subsidy scheme in order to strengthen the institutional integrity, transparency and accountability;

**CONCERNED** that if nothing is done to address this situation urgently we risk the non-implementation of the 2011 budget and the hopes of Nigerians that much can be achieved this year will be a mirage.

Accordingly resolves to:

- SET** up a Special Committee to investigate the operation of the fuel subsidy scheme with a view to determine that it is still run within the parameters of the law and if not find ways and means to make it much more transparent, accountable, efficient, sustainable and within the Appropriation Act;
- INVESTIGATE** and establish the structure of operations and financing of the fuel subsidy scheme with a view to establishing if there are cases bothering on misappropriation, misallocation and infractions that aid or lead to abuse of the Appropriation Act and/or violate the law;
- REVIEW** the standards of legislative oversight reporting with a view to enforce stricter compliance and enforcement of the Appropriation Act and rein in government agencies to the control of enabling laws passed by the National Assembly.



# ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ABUBAKAR BUKOLA SARAKI

AS THE CHAIR OF THE NIGERIAN  
GOVERNORS FORUM







L- R Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, Former Edo State Governor Lucky Igbinedion, Former Ogun State Governor Olusegun Osoba, Former Akwa Ibom Governor Victor Attah

## THE STATE PEER REVIEW MECHANISM: KEEPING STATES ACCOUNTABLE

The evolution of the NGF can be tied to two phases; the first being from 1999 to 2008 and the second being from 2009 till date. The first phase is characterized by very minimal activity by the Forum as well as a paltry meeting attendance by members and a weak secretariat.

The second phase started in earnest in 2009, two years after Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki became the Chairman of the Forum. He spearheaded a major restructuring and redefining of the NGF. One of the landmark achievements in the history of the forum is the introduction of the States Peer Review Mechanism — which was spearheaded by Saraki.

In 2009, after completing the restructuring of the Secretariat, Dr. Saraki charged it to develop a framework for the formal State Peer Review Mechanism (SPRM) that was to build on his earlier peer-review tour of states. This peer-review initiative was a clear departure from the politics of the past. The NGF became known for its focus on development issues, governance issues, and areas of best practice. The SPRM became a way of encouraging healthy competition and stimulating states to focus on key issues. It became apparent to all outsiders that the Forum no longer focused on politics but policy issues, and better governance for the benefit of the people.

The SPRM was considered unique at the time because it was specifically designed to assist states to foster good governance and accelerate the pace of their development through periodic reviews of progress in the implementation of their development policies, plans, and programmes. This was achieved by sharing experiences amongst states and reinforcing the positive practices that were garnered through inter-state dialogues.

As a first step, the Nigeria Governors' Forum Secretariat (NGFS) embarked on an assessment of development projects across States between 2009 and 2010. Although the reviews were not based on benchmarking standards, they provided an opportunity for the states that were visited to highlight their achievements and share their areas of challenges with the NGF review team. The Secretariat consequently developed a robust database and a set of reports on all 36 States. In 2009, the NGF collaborated with the State Partnership for Accountability, Responsiveness, and Capability (SPARC), a UK Department for International Development (DFID) funded programme, to produce a systematic peer review process, as part of the induction programme for new and returning governors.



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki with the Former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon

Important milestones that followed included the finalisation of the SPRM Base Document in July 2011, the inauguration of an 11-member steering committee in November 2011 (with the former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Mohammed Lawal Uwais, as Chairman) and the training of 107 consultants, drawn from across the country, to assist the Steering Committee during the Technical Review Mission in May 2012.





L - R Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, Former Enugu Governor Sullivan Chime, Minister of Transportation of Nigeria Rotimi Amaechi, Former President of Nigeria Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

These 107 consultants were selected through a national competition in which about 4,000 experts applied. Two training sessions were held to induct the consultants. The first was led by Justice Uwais and the second was presided over by Dr. Saraki, who had become Vice Chairman of the Steering Committee.

Since its inception in 2011, the SPRM has demonstrated its usefulness as a tool for advancing good governance and improving development performance at the sub-national level. It has become the NGF's flagship programme. The SPRM is also acknowledged as the first of its kind at the sub-national level in the world and is already helping to re-invigorate the art of governance in the States in which it has been implemented.

## THE ROLE OF NGF IN SETTING UP THE SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND

National savings has long been a contentious issue amongst the various tiers of government in Nigeria. In 2011, when the Nigerian government began plans to establish a Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), an overwhelming majority of Nigeria's 36 state governors were opposed to the plan. This is because the NSIA was established to manage a Sovereign Wealth Fund that could be invested and diversified on behalf of the federal government.

Understanding the long-term benefits of such an initiative, as the Chairman of the Nigerian Governors Forum, working with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the SWF would be beneficial to the development of the states, Dr. Saraki convinced his colleagues to agree to the plan.

Today, Nigeria has more than \$3.5 billion in assets that is currently being managed by the NSIA.

## ROLE OF NGF IN FIGHTING POLIO IN NIGERIA

Nigeria's response to polio had initially consisted of a top-down approach that entailed the federal government working with international partners to tackle polio. However in 2009, under Dr Saraki's tenure as the Chairman of the Nigerian Governors Forum, Nigeria adopted a more concerted approach that entailed multinational donors working with the Nigerian Governors Forum Secretariat to coordinate their polio interventions in Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital. Dr. Saraki became the anchor point for leading the states to be more active and determined to make a success of the fight to eradicate Polio.

This role re-assured the development partners and other non-governmental bodies as they could then see the proper direction and focus in the anti-polio efforts by state governments.

Dr. Saraki's role in developing new strategic partnerships with global organisations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was fundamental in the development of the Forum's ability to fund and support programmes relating to polio eradication and routine immunisation.

The Immunisation Leadership Challenge (an initiative designed to reward states that made significant improvements in the eradication of polio and routine immunisation by the end of 2012) and the Abuja Commitment (Bill Gates ensuring the commitment of the 36 governors to collectively wage war against polio and advance immunisation in February 2009) has helped the NGF in playing a pivotal role in the eradication of polio across Nigeria.



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki and Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates, at the signing of the agreement between the Nigerian Governors Forum and the Gates Foundation.





## Nigeria: Bill Gates Commends NGF's Effort On Polio Eradication



**VANGUARD**

19 JULY 2010

Ilorin — The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has sent words of commendation to Nigeria Governors' Forum, NGF, following the progress made on polio eradication in the country. The foundation also called on the forum to regularly evaluate and issue updates on their polio efforts in their respective states with a view to ensuring total eradication of the deadly virus.

Co-chairman of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Mr. Bill Gates, made the call in a letter to Kwara State Governor and Chairman of the Forum, Dr Bukola Saraki.

## THE DOCTRINE OF NECESSITY: RESOLVING THE 'YAR'ADUA - JONATHAN' IMPASSE

The 'Doctrine of Necessity' was the intervention of the NGF under Saraki's leadership that saw to the resolution of the impasse that almost grounded the country over the recognition of Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan as the Acting President during the ailment and absence of Late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua in 2010.

Nigeria was deep in tension and uncertainties in 2010 when the then-President, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, who had been in Saudi Arabia to receive medical treatment without handing over power to his Vice President,

Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, created a vacuum in the nation's executive leadership at the federal level. No letter was transmitted to the National Assembly in line with Section 145 of the 1999 Constitution to empower Jonathan to act in Yar'Adua's absence.

Protests by civil society groups under the umbrella of Save Nigeria Group dominated the political landscape. On January 11, 2010, Professor Wole Soyinka led the group to the National Assembly, demanding that Jonathan be made the acting president.

On February 5, 2010, Dr. Abubakar Bukola

Saraki, as the Chairman of the Governors Forum, threw the NGF's weight behind the call for the introduction of the 'doctrine of necessity' to resolve the impasse.

Four days later, on February 9, 2010, the National Assembly passed a resolution invoking the 'Doctrine of Necessity' and Goodluck Jonathan was named the acting president.

On the adoption of the doctrine, Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, Governor of Niger State 2007-2015, remarked thusly: "Many people give credit to the National Assembly

for so many things, but even the 'Doctrine of Necessity' started from the NGF, and then we went to the National Assembly.

But it is not something we take credit for directly because we know that what we want is that things must be done in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Any community that does not respect its rules will not progress, and that is our principle. When we come together and look at the issues, we want to make sure that democracy is entrenched properly."



Chairman of the Nigerian Governors Forum, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki (center) addresses the National Democratic Institute panel in Washington D.C., while (left to right) Billy Nwoye, coordinator of the NGF's visit to the United States; Gov. Oshiomhole and Ashishana Bayo Okauru, director general of NGF, listen. May 20, 2009.



# ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. SARA KI

AS GOVERNOR OF  
KWARA STATE





## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: AT A GLANCE







Donation of Vehicles, Motocycles, Bullet proof Jackets etc By His Excellency, Dr. Bukola Saraki on Friday, April 14, 2006.

## SECURITY

“My government is determined to recover all weapons in the hands of all unauthorized persons in the state. I hereby announce a 14-day moratorium for anyone in possession of such weapons to hand them over to the police. In addition to guaranteeing amnesty to anyone who hands in such weapons within the specified time, such individuals shall also be enrolled in the programme of employment for youths...”

—Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, Inaugural Speech as Governor of Kwara State

### AMNESTY PROGRAMME

When Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki first came into office as the Governor of Kwara State, two of the key issues that the state was facing were the proliferation of firearms, and the unrestrained cultism in schools and communities across the state.

In his inauguration speech on May 29th, 2003, Dr. Saraki announced strong and decisive measures, which included an immediate ‘Gun Amnesty’ programme, that included a 14-Day

moratorium for anyone in possession of guns and other dangerous weapons to hand them over to the police. In addition to guaranteeing amnesty to anyone that handed in their weapons within the specified timeframe, Dr. Saraki’s amnesty programme, which was later replicated by the federal government in the Niger Delta region, helped to ensure that young people that submitted their weapons, would also be enrolled in empowerment and employment schemes.



Former inspector general on the Nigeria Police Force, Ogbonna Okechukwu Onovo, with Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki donating Vehicles, Motocycles, Bullet proof Jackets etc on Friday, April 14, 2006.



## TACKLING CULTISM

in 2004, the Saraki Administration also worked to strengthen the state's legal framework to deal with the issue of cultism, with the introduction of the 'Anti-Cultism' law. Prior to that time, the police had to rely on the existing penal code, which had a limited interpretation of 'cultists' as 'students.' However, under the new law which

was signed into law by the Saraki administration, the definition of 'cultist' was expanded, while the punishments for engaging in cultism were also made stiffer. Due to this law, after three years, the number of cult-related crimes across Kwara State significantly reduced.



## INTRODUCTION OF CCTV CAMERAS

The Saraki administration in 2009, constructed new police stations in Ilorin, the state capital, and updated police equipment, providing them with bulletproof vests, new vehicles and upgrading

their communication gadgets and surveillance equipment, including CCTV cameras, to ensure that the state's police force had the tools to keep the citizenry safe.



Former inspector general on the Nigeria Police Force, Ogbonna Okechukwu Onovo, with Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki donating Vehicles, Motorcycles, Bullet proof Jackets etc on Friday, April 14, 2006.



Former inspector general on the Nigeria Police Force, Ogbonna Okechukwu Onovo, with Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki donating Vehicles, Motorcycles, Bullet proof Jackets etc on Friday, April 14, 2006.





## ECONOMY

In 2003 when Saraki became governor of Kwara State, the state was largely a civil servant state where little economic activities were taking place. The administration, therefore, knew that it must be creative, and think out of the box to change the situation, mindset, and worldview. It, therefore, devised an integrated plan in which private partnership, infrastructural development, and even provision of social amenities become parts of a bouquet to stimulate economic activities, drive investments, open the eyes of the people to new

possibilities, and encourage siting of new industries.

Thus, many efforts you will later read about in this book in areas of aviation, agriculture, infrastructure, urban development, tertiary education, and establishment of government agencies by state and the federal government were deliberately done to create a viable and thriving economy that can absorb more workforce and people into it.





Accordingly, the Saraki government established the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in 2009 to serve as the intellectual base for the creation of the social and economic framework such as the Kwara State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (KWASEEDS) to facilitate the translation of state development policies and strategies into positive economic reality. It also facilitated

the opening of the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE) and the branches of major financial institutions in the state as a clear manifestation of the positive dividends of the policy. Mega industries such as Dangote Flour Mill, Tuyil Pharmaceutical Company, Chelarams PLC for motorcycles, Olams LTD all of whom manufacture a wide range of consumer and industrial products also commenced operations in the state in that period.

The administration also injected new life into some of the defunct commercial ventures owned by the state, including the Kwara Furniture Company (now run in partnership with ETHNIX DESIGN of South Africa), the former Kwara Paper Converter Limited (now operating in partnership with Messrs Delrot (Nig) Ltd, and the Kwara State Textile Industrial Limited (which is also presently operating in partnership with a private company).



# DEVELOPING KWARA STATE’S HOMEWARE INDUSTRY: ETHNIX DESIGNS

The Kwara State-owned Furniture Company had become moribund when Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki became governor and in an effort to breathe new life into it, his administration entered into a Public-Private Partnership arrangement with Ethnix Design South Africa. This which gave birth to the Kwara Ethnix Design Plc.

The Saraki administration resuscitated the company through the infusion of fresh capital, new management, and over 100 sophisticated modern machinery. This created thousands of direct and indirect jobs, and in the process positively impacted the livelihoods for Kwarans and Nigerians.

Today, the Kwara Ethnix Designs PLC is a leading furniture company in Nigeria and has worked with several high-profile clients, including hotels, cooperate entities, universities, ministries, states, and local government councils. Among them are:

- Federal Palace Hotel, Lagos: where it furnished 166 Bedrooms as well as the public areas;
- Southern Sun Hotel, Ikoyi, Lagos with 80 Bedrooms furnished alongside the public areas;
- Four Points By Sheraton Hotel, Lagos: 250 Bedrooms furnished as well as the public area drapery;
- Victoria Crown Plaza Hotel. Lagos: 65 Bedrooms furnished;
- Golden Tulip (Owu Crown Hotel), Ibadan: Public area furniture and bedroom drapery completed;
- Kwara Hotel, Kwara State: 80 Bedrooms completed
- Various boutique hotels and guest houses in Lagos;
- Yellow Chilli Restaurants, Lagos
- Q. Hotel, Maitama, Abuja
- Sandralia Hotel, Jabi, Abuja
- Kwara State University, Malete
- Bon Hotel – Asokoro, Abuja
- Bon Hotel – Maitama, Abuja
- Legacy Holding, Bayelsa
- SBTJUUL Africa, Bayelsa

Dr. Bukola Saraki, as one of the champions of the company, uses their furniture in his Abuja and Ilorin homes.



Southern Sun Hotel, Ikoyi, Lagos



Southern Sun Hotel, Ikoyi, Lagos





Dr. Saraki's Kwara residence is also furnished by Ethnix Furniture.





Shonga Farm

# AGRICULTURE

## KWARA STATE FARMERS CENSUS

- Kwara State under Abubakar Bukola Saraki was the first state to conduct a comprehensive farmers' census.
- During the census, images of Farms were captured using a Global Positioning System (GPS) to determine Farm capacity and the type of support that each required.

*As a result, it was established that the 102, 969 Farms are supported by 524,837 family labour and 466,426 hired labour. This brings the total number of people directly involved in farming in Kwara to 1, 094, 232 about 42 percent of the population, which is significantly less than the assumed figure of 70 percent.*

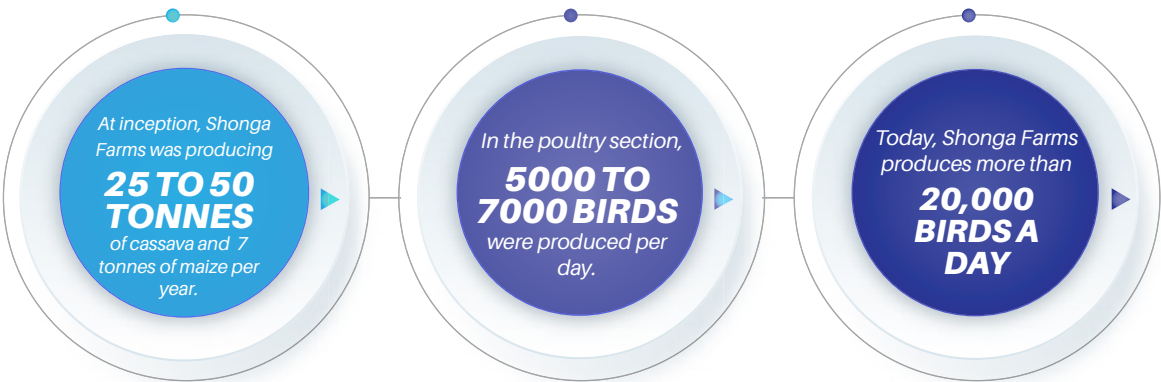
## SHONGA FARMS

The Saraki administration established Shonga Farms in a bold attempt to introduce large-scale commercial farming into the country and make local farmers learn new techniques, modern technology, and efficient operational system from the relocated farmers which can be replicated across the country.

The Shonga Farms initiative was premised on the invitation of white farmers who were expelled from Zimbabwe to come and establish farms in Kwara state in partnership with the government and four commercial banks.

At inception, Shonga Farms was producing 25 to 50 tonnes of cassava and 7 tonnes of maize per year. Bananas and pineapples were also produced in large quantities. In the poultry section, 5000 to 7000 birds were produced per day.

Today, the poultry section of Shonga Farms has witnessed tremendous investment and is one of the biggest suppliers of poultry in Nigeria, producing more than 20,000 birds a day.





OUTGROWERS SCHEME

The Saraki administration introduced the Outgrowers Scheme for Rice Farmers implemented as a PPP where farmers were trained and supplied with all necessary production inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, herbicides, and machinery. Through this scheme, rice production dramatically increased from 18,710 tonnes in 2003 to 400,431 tonnes in 2009. As a result, Kwara moved from Number 22 to the second-largest rice producer in Nigeria since 2005. To accentuate this new status, the government built two more rice mills.

The Programme was to be expanded to cover soybeans and maize, for which the State has a comparative advantage.

The Saraki Administration in Kwara also established a cashew processing industry in Ogbondoroko and this investment attracted the Olam Cashew Processing factory which revived the company with funds from Singapore. The plant then had over 1,500 workers on its payroll and all of them were provided with free accommodation and a subsidized transport system.

OLAM FARMS

In 2008, as part of the industrialization programme of the Saraki administration, it invited Olam (Nigeria) Limited to take over an abandoned facility belonging to the government to establish a cashew nut processing factory.

Olam managed to develop an abandoned warehouse in Ilorin where women gathered to pick cashew nuts into a major multi-million dollar company that started by exporting cashew nuts out of Kwara State to other parts of the world.

Today, the factory also has a fish feed manufacturing facility to boost feed supply which is helping to meet rising demand in Nigeria for fish. The factory recently got a \$50 million (N10.0 billion) investment. It has an initial capacity of 75,000 metric tonnes of fish feed per annum that can be further scaled up. Thousands of people have been employed directly and indirectly in the complex.



Shonga Farm







Ilorin International Airport, Kwara State

## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Through a dedicated and focused programme, the Saraki administration rebuilt the infrastructure of Kwara state, which in turn helped to boost the state's economy in a significant manner.

### ILORIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Dr. Saraki knew that infrastructure had an enormous opportunity to stimulate an economy and create jobs. This was why his administration conceived of an aviation master plan where the state will be developed into an aviation hub. A key component of that aviation master plan was to ensure the Ilorin airport achieved its full potential and serve as a serious economic hub, creating real jobs and opportunities.

Whilst Ilorin had an international airport since the 1970s, when Dr. Saraki became Governor, the airport was comatose. The State Government rebuilt the airport terminal to a modern standard and secured a viable MOU on route services with Overland Airways in 2003 which was first of its kind in Nigeria. Under the MOU, the State Government subsidised each flight leg by guaranteeing to pay for the unsold portion of half of the route capacity. In return, the airline was to ensure schedule integrity of the published flight times.

This model became very successful and has been replicated by other state governments to kick-start flights from their own airports. Today, Ilorin International Airport is served by numerous airlines with ever increasing route capacity.

The administration also maintained a high level collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Aviation and its agencies such as FAAN and NAMA to ensure the airport continued to receive necessary attention. Through this, the airport enjoyed the use of modern equipment such as Instrument Landing System (ILS) and modern VOR navigation system.

Scheduled domestic flights and chartered international flights became seamless and successful. The Ilorin Airport now serves as a major hub for journeys to the Hajj in Saudi Arabia.



# INTERNATIONAL AVIATION COLLEGE, ILORIN

The second phase of the administration's aviation master plan was the establishment of the International Aviation College, Ilorin (IAC) to train pilots up to the required ICAO standard of Commercial Pilots Licence (CPL) and beyond. In addition, modular flight training would be provided such as PPL, Multi-Engine (ME), Instrument Rating (IR). Other technical aviation ground training such as flight dispatcher courses would be provided.

The administration then equipped IAC with modern state-of-art fully digitalised glass cockpit Diamond DA40 (single engines) and DA42 (multi-engines).

IAC, being only the second such aviation training institute in West Africa at the time, became an instant success. Today, pilots trained by IAC fly for major commercial airlines in the country.



International Aviation College Ilorin, Kwara State



Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki with the Aviators at the Ilorin International Airport, Kwara State



Aircrafts at the Ilorin International Airport, Kwara State







# ROADS



First Fly Over Bridge in Kwara State Built By the administration of His Excellency Dr. Bukola Saraki on Wednesday, May 24, 2006

The real thrust of the Saraki administration's infrastructure programme was the building of roads. To facilitate rapid commercial growth, the Saraki administration rebuilt the state's road networks to allow a better flow of traffic, promote inter-state commerce, and the transportation of people, goods and services from one part of the state to another.

Some of the roads constructed by Dr. Saraki's administration include:

- Rebuilding the road network to allow better connections across the entire state with key projects such as the dualisation of the Geri Alimi - New Yidi Road and Geri Alimi-Yebumot Road. This created a bypass for people moving between the South West and North of Kwara, which eased traffic in Ilorin, reduced pressure on the city's infrastructure, and expanded economic activity to the areas surrounding the city, providing a greater number of job opportunities;
- The Saraki government constructed the first flyover in Kwara State at the Post Office Area in Ilorin. The project became the most remarkable example of civil construction embarked upon by the administration.
- One of the most strategic roads constructed by the Saraki administration is the 33 Kilometre Ilesa-Baruba-Shikanda Road in Kwara North. Travel time between Ilorin and the area was 13 hours but the construction of the road by the Saraki administration reduced it to three hours. The road also opened up commercial activities and property development in that axis of the state leading to the Nigeria - Benin Republic border areas.

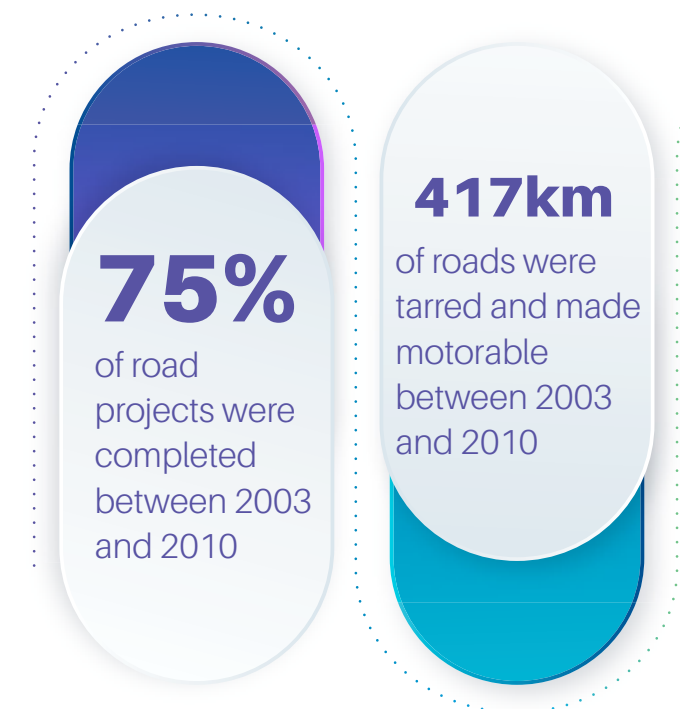
The Saraki Administration completed over 417 km of tarred motorable roads between 2003 and 2010. Before Dr. Saraki's administration, there were no defined road networks and inland travel within Kwara State was tedious. Additionally, transportation and logistics were almost impossible for farmers.

This is why, the Saraki Administration worked to create a veritable road network in Kwara State that assisted in the movement of produce from the commercial farms (Shonga, Malete, etc.) to mainland Kwara and other states.



The Saraki Administration also constructed several township roads in Ilorin, Offa, Omu-Aran, Jebba, Patigi, Kaiama, Eruku, and Ilofa/Odo-Owa.

The unprecedented road-building programme opened up new economic areas that were previously not utilised in the State and resulted in greater business investment and development.





# POWER



With new industries and businesses coming to Kwara, more pressure was being put onto the State's power supply and the Saraki administration was determined to ensure the grid was fit for purpose and could support the economic growth.

To achieve this, the Saraki Administration was the first to complete the Nigeria Independent Power Project (NIPP) by re-energizing the Ganmo Power Station in Ilorin in 2009.

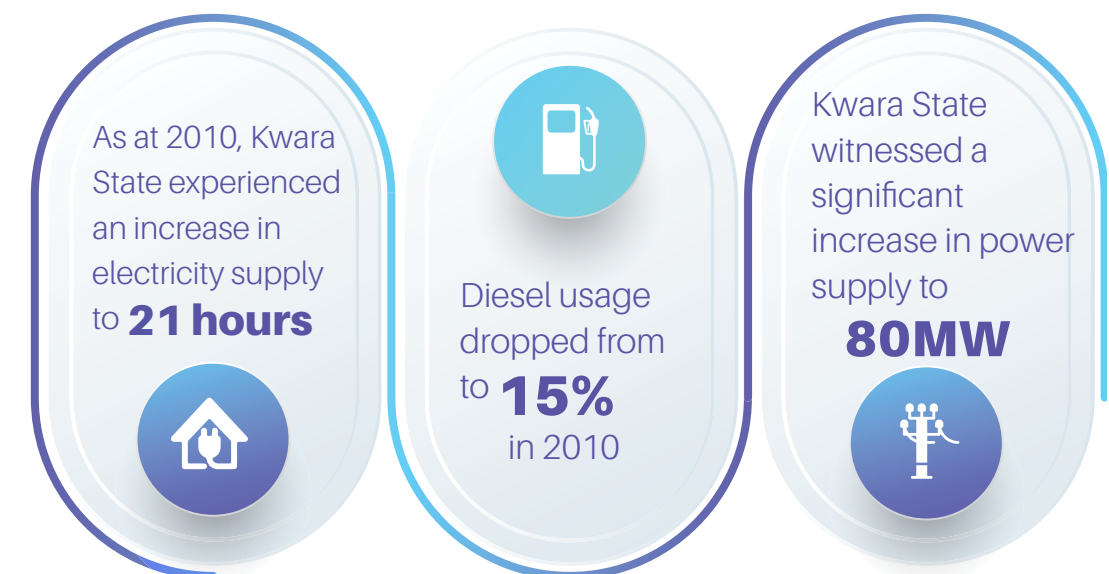
The power station generated only 90 MVA but after the reconstruction in collaboration with the Federal Government, the power generation capacity of the sub-station increased to an impressive 150 MVA with an installed capacity of 300 megawatts, resulting in an average daily power supply of 18-22 hours per day in the areas it serviced.

To fully utilize and maximize the power supply coming from the National Grid through Ganmo, the Saraki administration initiated and completed seven 15 MVA sub-stations.

Furthermore, 725 Power transformers were installed by the Saraki administration in various parts of the State. In fact, due to the various creative investments made in the area of provision of power supply to the nooks and crannies of the State, the then Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) adjudged Kwara State under Saraki as the "best state in Nigeria in terms of power supply investment".

The Saraki administration was determined to ensure that no community was left out of the economic growth plan. The administration therefore oversaw the connection of 375 rural communities to the national grid. This was achieved by advancing rural electrification projects at Aigbeyangi, Kpada, Gaa Lanba, Gaa Gata, Eleyele, Pututa, Bizera, and Okutala, and several others.

The Saraki administration also undertook the electrification of Alalu-Bosa Village in Ilorin East Village and provision of rural feeder roads, electricity, and drinking water, through the construction of five deep wells in each of the 16 LGAs.



Till date, no other administration in the history of Kwara State has done as much to bring rural electrification to the state.



# URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING



Ensuring that different areas had better access to better power and water was part of Dr. Saraki's broader vision to regenerate urban areas and, in doing so, provide more homes and better homes for families to live in and for communities to grow.

That is why the Saraki administration established the Kwara State Housing Corporation and tasked it with facilitating partnerships with private sector companies to deliver mass housing units throughout the State.

Part of this urban development was to encourage homeownership across the community and build stronger and better communities.

Additional state agencies like Surveyor-General Office, Land Information System (LIS), the Bureau of Lands, and the Kwara Geographic Information System (KWAGIS) were created and they employed skilled engineers and technicians to enforce building regulations and ensure qualitative surveying of towns when building business spaces, homes and roads.

Through these agencies, the state conducted 300 field surveys and identified 1600 plots of land for residential and commercial use. 80,000 hectares of land were also identified for commercial agriculture and this has been used by the Shonga Farms and Gil Flour Mills Limited.



It is these efforts that led to the modern Kwara that we now have.

To build more housing, the Saraki administration constructed 10 new housing estates, some in areas that were previously unsafe and no-go areas.

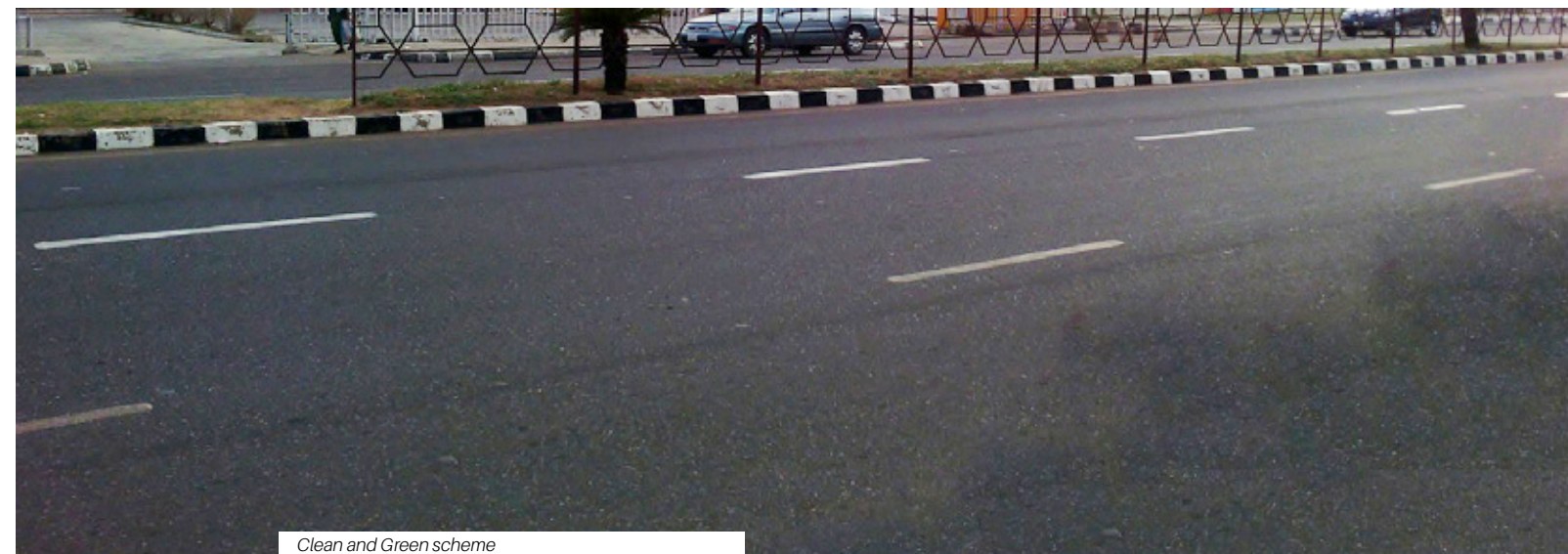
All these residential housing estates generated new homes for civil servants and other low-income earners.

As part of the deliberate efforts aimed at creating a modern state, commercial property development was deliberately embarked upon and that led to the refurbishment of Kwara Hotel, Guthrie Nigeria Limited, and the old Satellite Motel

in Ilorin which was upgraded to a three-star facility.

To help build stronger communities and create job opportunities around new housing areas, the Saraki government redeveloped two key markets, Ojo Oba and Kulende which were given demarcated walls, partitioned market stalls, and reconstructed roads to make it a more commercially vibrant district.

Dr. Saraki was committed to ensuring all communities were economically viable, and suitable for habitation.



Clean and Green scheme

## THE CLEAN AND GREEN SCHEME

In August 18, 2003, the Saraki Administration launched the 'Clean and Green' scheme, a waste management, and environmental beautification project to manage surface-level sanitation and drainage in order to prevent flooding and erosion during the raining season. Suburban streets and roads were transformed into tree-lined groves, while the forestry development put up secretariat parks both within Ilorin and beyond.

The project not only created jobs for over 2000 youths, but also created a living environment free of waste and filth, kept in check by a weekly and monthly sanitation programme, and the work of the newly established State Task Force for environmental sanitation. As a result of the Clean and Green initiative, Ilorin, the State Capital was given an award as the cleanest state capital in the country.



# HEALTHCARE



Spurred by several years of medical training, Dr. Saraki has maintained a commitment to the improvement of the healthcare systems at all levels and has prioritized healthcare delivery throughout his career.

## KWARA STATE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

In 2003, working with local and international partners like the Dutch Government, the Kwara Health Insurance Fund, Hygeia Community Health, PharmAccess Foundation, and others, as the Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Saraki started the pilot phase of the Kwara State Health Insurance Scheme.

The PharmAccess Foundation provided technical support, including monitoring and evaluation, while Hygeia Nigeria Limited was contracted as a Health Maintenance Organisation to facilitate the provision of healthcare services in the programme.

The goal of the Kwara State Health Insurance Scheme was to provide access to heavily subsidised voluntary health insurance and to initiate quality upgrades in healthcare facilities across the state.

Through the scheme, with the payment of N200, every individual was entitled to medical treatment for a period of one financial year. Beneficiaries enjoyed free consultation, supply of drugs, medical investigation, blood transfusion, ultrasound scans, and minor surgeries such as caesarian sections, appendectomy, circumcision, evacuations, and others. The insurance scheme also covered maternal and child care, chronic diseases, hypertension and diabetes, minor surgeries such as hernia, as well as the treatment of some non-communicable diseases and other primary healthcare activities. The enrollees also had the right to visit the healthcare facilities whenever they were ill.



Kwara Advanced Diagnostic Centre (HADC) Ilorin



By the time Dr. Saraki left office in 2011, the scheme had covered 10 out of the 16 local government areas of Kwara State. Within the same period, over 3,000 births and more than 600 caesarean sections were performed. The scheme was limited to rural areas because Saraki was concerned about how to subsidize healthcare and make it more affordable for those living on one dollar and below per day.

Among other results, Kwara has shown an impressive rise in women giving birth in the hospital, including women who aren't in the health insurance programme; hospital deliveries rose from 50% in 2009 to 70% in 2013, an increase which can be attributed to the scheme. World Bank data also shows that since the start of the scheme, Kwara has become the second-best performing Nigerian state in maternal and child care.

The successful implementation of the insurance scheme informed the award for Innovation in Healthcare Delivery, which was conferred on Dr. Saraki by the Financial Times of London, 2014.



New Ward at Ilorin General Hospital



Cottage Hospital Adewole Ilorin, Kwara

## REHABILITATION OF PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CENTERS & RECRUITMENT OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

To build confidence in the healthcare system, the Saraki administration rehabilitated 103 primary health centres across the state to a minimum specified standard which included equipment for outpatient services, family planning consultations, nutritional items added supplements for patient management, ante, and post-natal services, modern laboratory equipment and cleaning facilities.

To man these facilities, the Saraki administration recruited and trained 1,500 health workers of different categories, including 94 physicians, three pharmacists, 852 nurses/midwives, 32 laboratory technicians/medical scientists, 18 medical record officers, and 350 community health workers. It also trained radiographers in cutting-edge ultrasound techniques and also trained doctors and midwives in emergency obstetric care and extended life-saving skills.



## FIGHTING MALARIA & POLIO

The Saraki administration implemented a statewide polio programme which culminated in a zero-level prevalence of the Wild Polio Virus (WPV). The state under the administration achieved over 90 percent coverage in routine immunizations, significantly higher than the national average of 80 percent.

Between 2003 and 2011, the Kwara State government distributed over 300,000 Long-lasting Insecticide-Treated (LLIT) nets, 187,000 Artemis Combination Therapy Drugs (ACT), 370,000 Sulphadosine Pyrimethamine (SO), and 105,000 units each of Paracetamol, Vitamin V, B-Complex / multi-vitamins across the state resulting in the reduction of reported cases of malaria in pregnant women by 20 percent and the reduction of reported malaria cases in hospitals in general by 10 percent between 2008 and 2009 alone.



*Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki administering the Polio vaccine to a child*



*Kwara State College of Nursing Oke - Ode, Kwara State*

## NEW COLLEGE OF NURSING

The Saraki administration also established a new College of Nursing, commissioned in December 2010, to train nurses. The college was designed to "provide a balanced array of educational programs to prepare nurse leaders for practice, research, and education" in the areas of Nursing and Midwifery Education, Nursing research and Nursing practice.

## FIGHTING HIV

Under Dr. Saraki's leadership, the Kwara State government succeeded in reducing HIV prevalence by 36% through the establishment of HIV counselling and testing centres in all local governments and collaborations between the Ministry of Education, development partners and private hospitals.

## BETTER EYESIGHT FOR ALL KWARANS

In partnership with Sight Savers International (SSI), the Saraki administration moved to combat the trend of visual loss among the less privileged. By 2009, 48, 526 patients had been attended to and screened while the number of cataract surgeries increased from 120 in 2003 to 2, 630 in 2009.

## PROVIDING EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE

The Saraki administration introduced an articulated Accident and Emergency Programme and established ambulance points on major roads leading into and out of the State Capital. Located at Budo Awero, (Ogbomosho Road), Olokonla (Jebba Road), Odo Owu (Kabba Road), and Ijagbo (Osogbo Road), these fully equipped state-of-the-art ambulances were purchased to provide emergency first aid services and evacuate accident victims to the nearest hospital.



### KWARA ADVANCED MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC CENTER (HADC)

The Saraki administration conceived, built, and equipped the Kwara Advanced Medical Diagnostic Centre, a state-of-the-art Centre with imaging and laboratory divisions, complete with a 64-slice CT scanner, 1.5 Tesla MRI scanner, ultrasound, echocardiograms, mammograms, and routine X-rays machine based in Ilorin as part of a holistic vision for improving the healthcare delivery system of the state and serving as a referral diagnostic Centre for all the states in North Central Nigeria.

The Centre also has a full-fledged Laboratory services division, complete with automated haematology, biochemistry, immunology, and microbiology units.



Kwara Advanced Diagnostic Centre (HADC) Ilorin



Kwara Advanced Diagnostic Centre (HADC) Ilorin



# EDUCATION



Newly constructed classrooms at Mayaki School, July 2006

The underpinning philosophy of the Saraki administration's education policy in Kwara State between 2003 and 2011 was that an educated populace is easy to govern and can also easily maintain and sustain the developmental projects and policy being embarked upon by the government. Thus, the education sector got a lot of attention.

- The administration employed enforcement of school attendance, additional recruitment, and redistribution, especially among rural and urban schools to dramatically reduce the actual pupil-qualified teacher ratio from 34: 1 in 2006 to 13: 1 in 2009 for primary, from 50: 1 to 19: 1 for junior secondary school and from 45: 1 to 16: 1 for senior secondary schools.
- Massive construction and renovation of classrooms reduced the pupil-classroom ratio in the state from 51: 1 to 34: 1 in 2009 for primary and kept at 42: 1 and 35: 1 for junior secondary and senior secondary respectively.



## TEACHER DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT (TDNA)

- In 2008, Kwara Government started an initiative called [Teacher Development Needs Assessment \(TDNA\)](#) under which 23, 000 teachers sat for a competency test in literacy and numeracy to determine the level of retraining they needed. It was the first time such a test was conducted in Nigeria. The State Schools Improvement Team (SSIT) was formed to train and support Schools Support Officers (SSO) who in turn began to provide ongoing support and training to teachers.
- All these measures implied that the Saraki administration increased the literacy rate with massive pushing up of the **Gross Enrollment Rate for primary schools from 78 percent in 2006 to 115 percent in 2009**, with a gender disparity of less than one percent. Similarly, **Gross Completion Rate was pushed up from 72 percent in 2006 to 95 percent in 2009**. Also, the transition rate from junior to Senior Secondary School was raised from 78 percent in 2006 to 81 percent in 2009, with a gender disparity of five percent.





The Kwara State University, established in 2009 by the Saraki Administration

## KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY

In attending to the needs for tertiary education, the government found that the existing institutions, University of Ilorin, Federal Polytechnic, Offa, and Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, were unable to absorb the thousands of youth seeking tertiary education. This led to the establishment of the Kwara State University, Malete, in 2009. Today, the university is ranked as one of

the best universities in terms of facility and quality of instruction received by students. Its mandate was to balance global perspective with community relevance and therefore to demonstrate its capacity to drive progress by producing global citizens for community development.



Governor Abubakar Bukola Saraki inspects the facilities at Kwara State University (KWASU) alongside Justice Mustapha Akanbi and the then Vice-Chancellor of KWASU, Prof. Abdul-Rasheed Na'Alla. May 15, 2011.



# SPORTS

## KWARA FOOTBALL ACADEMY

The Saraki administration established the Kwara Football Academy, the first-ever state - owned football training institution in Nigeria, to identify and train young talents. The KFA was set up in a serene environment on 35 hectares of lush green land and has four standard football pitches as well as tennis and basketball courts, a well-equipped gym, student hostels/dormitories with common rooms, kitchens and cafeteria, a fully functional medical Centre, staffed with a dedicated medical expert and physiotherapist, as well as classroom blocks.

The KFA has gone on to nurture world-class talent like Emmanuel Dennis, who currently plays for Watford FC in the English Premier League, Ahmed Abdul-Taofik who is playing for FK Ventspils of Latvia Premier league. In 2009, three of the students from KFA were in the Nigerian U-17 team, which won silver at that year's U-17 World Cup. Former Nigerian Coach, Mr. Clemens Westerhof was KFA's first director and in 2009 Jose Mourinho, one of the most successful coaches in the world, visited the academy to conduct seminars and coaching clinics for indigenous coaches.



*José Mourinho, then coach of Inter Milan FC, pays a courtesy visit to Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki at the Kwara Football Academy in Ilorin, April 2009.*



Emmanuel Dennis, who currently plays for English Premier League side, Watford, attended the Kwara Football Academy



## GENDER DEVELOPMENT

The Saraki administration established the “Clean & Green Initiative”, a waste management and environmental beautification project to take care of surface-level sanitation in the State. The Initiative created hundreds of permanent and part-time jobs for women in the state.

Dr. Bukola Saraki always ensured that women filled at least 30% of the seats in the Kwara State House of Assembly during his tenure as Governor from 2003 to 2011.

In 2010, all the 16 LGA Councils in Kwara State elected female Vice-Chairpersons under Dr. Saraki’s leadership. Ilorin West and Ilorin South LGA were led by female Chairpersons.







*(Late) Joel Afolabi Ogundeji former Deputy Governor, Kwara State with Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki*

## GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### PROJECT MONITORING UNITS

As Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Saraki instituted a project monitoring system that made sure all ministries and agencies of the state government had at least two evaluation processes. In collaboration with the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit (BMPIU) and the Project Monitoring Unit, these evaluation processes helped Kwara State to record unprecedented project completion rates, minimise project costs, and cut down corruption due to the oversight work of the project monitoring units that created more transparency and accountability in the process.

### SECURING KWARA'S STATE'S FITCH RATING

In April 2008, Kwara State was the first sub - national entity in Nigeria to receive a Fitch Rating. These ratings are undertaken by Fitch, a credit rating agency that helps to analyse the viability of investments in order to allow entities to access credit. Under Dr. Saraki's leadership, Kwara State was awarded a long-term foreign and local currency ratings of 'B+' and a national long-term rating of 'AA-.'

### ANTI-CORRUPTION: KWARA STATE GIVEN 'CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH'

In September 2006, the Chairman of the Economic & Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), while briefing the Senate on the activities of the commission, gave Kwara State a 'clean bill of health' — by listing it as one of the six states that did not have any corruption cases amongst the 36 states of Nigeria.



# ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. SARAHI

## AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT ON BUDGET MATTERS TO PRESIDENT OLUSEGUN OBASANJO



Dr. Saraki got his first political appointment in 2000 when he was appointed by President Olusegun Obasanjo to serve as Special Assistant to the President on Budget.

Some of his key responsibilities included:

- The preparation of the 2000/2001 budget alongside the Minister of Finance;
- Working closely with the legislators in the National Assembly — serving as the liaison between the executive branch and the parliament on all budget-related matters;
- Spearheading the initiation and establishment of the Fiscal Responsibility Bill while serving on the Economic Policy Coordination Committee.

While serving on the Economic Policy Coordination Committee, Dr. helped to formulate and implement several key policies including the enactment of the Public Procurement Act; and the implementation of the backward integration of cement, which stopped the importation of bagged cement into the country — this fiscal policy led to the development of the nation's domestic cement industry.





## THE ALLEGATIONS, THE FACTS







Former Senate President, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, and Former Deputy Senate President, Sen. Ike Ekweremady react to cheers from their supporters after the Attorney-General of the Federation withdrew charges against them at the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, October 7th, 2016.

In the course of his political career, the media has reported different stories about which allegations of corruption against Dr. Saraki. However, the facts and the outcomes of the cases (without any exception) have shown that they are all politically motivated cases. It was obvious that each of the cases came up after he spoke truth to power or fought for what he believed in. In Nigeria, the easiest way to nail a political opponent is to pin the label of corruption on them.

While Dr. Saraki was Governor of Kwara State Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, then EFCC chairman read his report inside the Senate chamber on September 27, 2006, and gave a clean bill of health to five states. Kwara was one of them.

After he left office in 2011, unlike some of his colleagues who were within two months of the expiration of their immunity invited by the EFCC for questioning, Saraki was not invited. It was only in 2012 after raising the motion on the fuel subsidy scam that he was invited by the EFCC to give an account on issues about his tenure as Governor. At the same time, he was also invited by the Special Fraud Unit (SFU).

After that, the Federal Ministry of Justice cleared him of the allegations raised by the SFU. Also, the EFCC never pursued the case further.

Mr Saraki rejected the verdict and filed an appeal at the Supreme Court seeking to quash the remaining three charges.

In its response to the appeal, the prosecution countersued, asking the apex court to restore the 15 counts quashed by the Court of Appeal in addition to the three counts.

A five-member panel of the Supreme Court, led by Justice Dattijo Mohammed, held that the decision of the appeal court to agree with the tribunal in one breath and order Mr Saraki's return to the CCT in another, amounted to a "judicial summersault."

The justices in a decision read by Justice Centus Nweze held that the prosecution was duty-bound to produce a witness with a direct links to the evidence.

They said the failure of the prosecution to produce such a witness rendered its case defective.

Mr Nweze said it was ironical for the appeal court to submit that the prosecution failed to bring those with direct knowledge of the evidences and still proceed to rule that some of the charges were meritorious from the same set of evidences already declared as hearsay.

"This court will not lend its jurisdiction to such a charade and caricature of justice," the Supreme Court ruled describing the decision of the appeal court as a grave error.

'Supreme Court dismisses Saraki's false asset charge.' Published by Premium Times on the 6th of July 2018.

In September 2015, without any invitation or prior notice, an 18-count charge was preferred against him at the Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT). That was about two months after the emerging Senate President.

He won the cases at the Tribunal, the Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court which cleared Saraki of all the charges. The nation's apex court in its lead judgment of July 6, 2018, read by Hon. Justice Centus Nweze stated that:

"This court will not lend its jurisdiction to such a charade and caricature of justice. It carries a grave error in holding that a prima facie case has been established against the appellant".

Despite winning the cases, he was taken before the court again on October 21, 2019,

when the EFCC applied for the forfeiture of Saraki's property in Lagos and Ilorin. Again, he won both cases. In the case of the Lagos property, Hon. Justice Mohammed Liman of the Federal High Court, Lagos, held that the documents put before the court by the EFCC in support of its application for final forfeiture did not establish any link showing that Kwara State government funds were used to purchase the property. On his property located in Ilorin, Justice Rilwanu Aikawa on July 16, 2020, the court held that

***"the evidence before me showed the purchase of the properties was legal and as such cannot be said to be done with the proceeds of crime".***

So, Saraki won all five cases. There is no pending case against him.





Former Senate President, Bukola Saraki

## Offa Robbery: AGF Malami clears Saraki, says police lack evidence against Senate President

By Samuel Ogundipe — July 26, 2018 5 min read

Nigeria's Attorney-General, Abubakar Malami, has told the police that there was no evidence that linked Senate President Bukola Saraki and Kwara State Governor Abdulfattah Ahmed to the armed robbery attack that left 31 persons dead in Offa, Kwara State, in April, PREMIUM TIMES can now confirm.

Mr Malami advised in a June 22 letter to the Inspector-General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, that the police would need to ramp up their investigation and also painstakingly explore all critical areas before identifying the Senate President as a suspect in the carnage, much less filing charges against him.

Yusuf Abdulwahab, Mr Ahmed's chief of staff who was amongst state officials arrested for allegedly conspiring with the prime suspects, was also cleared, with the prosecutor saying "no evidence is credible enough to sustain any charge based on any offence known to law against him."

There was also an attempt to frame Dr. Saraki in a robbery incident in which some hoodlums robbed banks in Offa, Kwara State on April 5, 2018. The incident happened at a time the Senate was having a running battle with the then Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, over his refusal to appear before the lawmakers to give an account of the high level of insecurity

across the country. The plot was to compel some of the arrested suspects to name Dr. Saraki as their accomplice. However, the plot fell through when on two different occasions, the Director of Public Prosecutions in the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation issued legal advice that there was nothing in the police investigation that linked Saraki with the robbery incident.

As of today, Dr. Saraki has never been convicted of any charges of corruption or for any crime whatsoever. He remains the most investigated and prosecuted public official. And it is obvious that all the cases are politically motivated and always surfaced after his standing up against the government of the day and speaking up on certain ideals that are in the public interest.

Rather than be labeled with corruption, Saraki has fought against corruption in the public offices that he has held.

For example,

### AS THE GOVERNOR OF KWARA STATE

He was the first Governor to set up the Price Intelligence Unit and Project Monitoring Unit which later led to the adoption of the decision by the Nigerian Governors Forum under his chairmanship that the various states should enact the law setting up the Bureau of Public Procurement.

### AS A SENATOR

He moved the motion on fuel subsidy which exposed the biggest fraud in government in the history of the country. The motion ended up saving the country about \$500m.

### AS SENATE PRESIDENT

He initiated the #OpenNass policy in which the line by line details of the annual budget of the National Assembly was published on the website.

Knowing how important it is for a public official to earn public trust, we have decided to put all these details on record for public scrutiny.





# PRIVATE SECTOR

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

After graduating from the London Hospital Medical College, London, where he obtained the M.B.B.S, Dr. Saraki practiced medicine in a number of hospitals in the UK such as Rushgreen Hospital, Essex, Royal Free Hospital, also in London, from 1988 to 1989, before returning to Nigeria.

## PRIVATE SECTOR

In 1990, Dr. Saraki was appointed as the Executive Director of Societe General Bank of Nigeria (SGBN) in early 1990. In this role, he was in charge of developing new strategies for the expansion of the bank and bringing in more customers from the private sector.

Being a constant innovator, one of the many achievements that Dr. Saraki's visionary leadership bequeathed to the Nigerian banking and financial industry was the introduction of the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) to Nigeria in 1989.

For over 20-years, Dr. Saraki has served as one of the promoters of a property development company that has invested in the

establishment, expansion, enlargement, and renovation of several high-rise buildings across Nigeria. Between 1992 and 1993, his company, Carlisle, became one of the leading property development companies in Nigeria.

In 1992, Dr. Saraki also established a trading business, where he became one of the major importers of rice, sugar, and other commodities. Through this business, Dr. Saraki learned a lot about trading and retail, establishing a strong network of retailers and small and medium scale business owners across the country.

Dr. Saraki is also a promoter of a national beverage company that supplies retailers across the nation with soft drinks and other everyday consumable products.



# NOTABLE NATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

## VISION 2020 (1996 TO 1997)

Dr. Saraki's first foray into the public service actually happened while still working in the bank. He was appointed as the youngest member of the Vision 20: 2020 Committee, a body set up by the Abacha government on November 27, 1996 to prepare a plan that will make Nigeria one of the largest economies in the world.

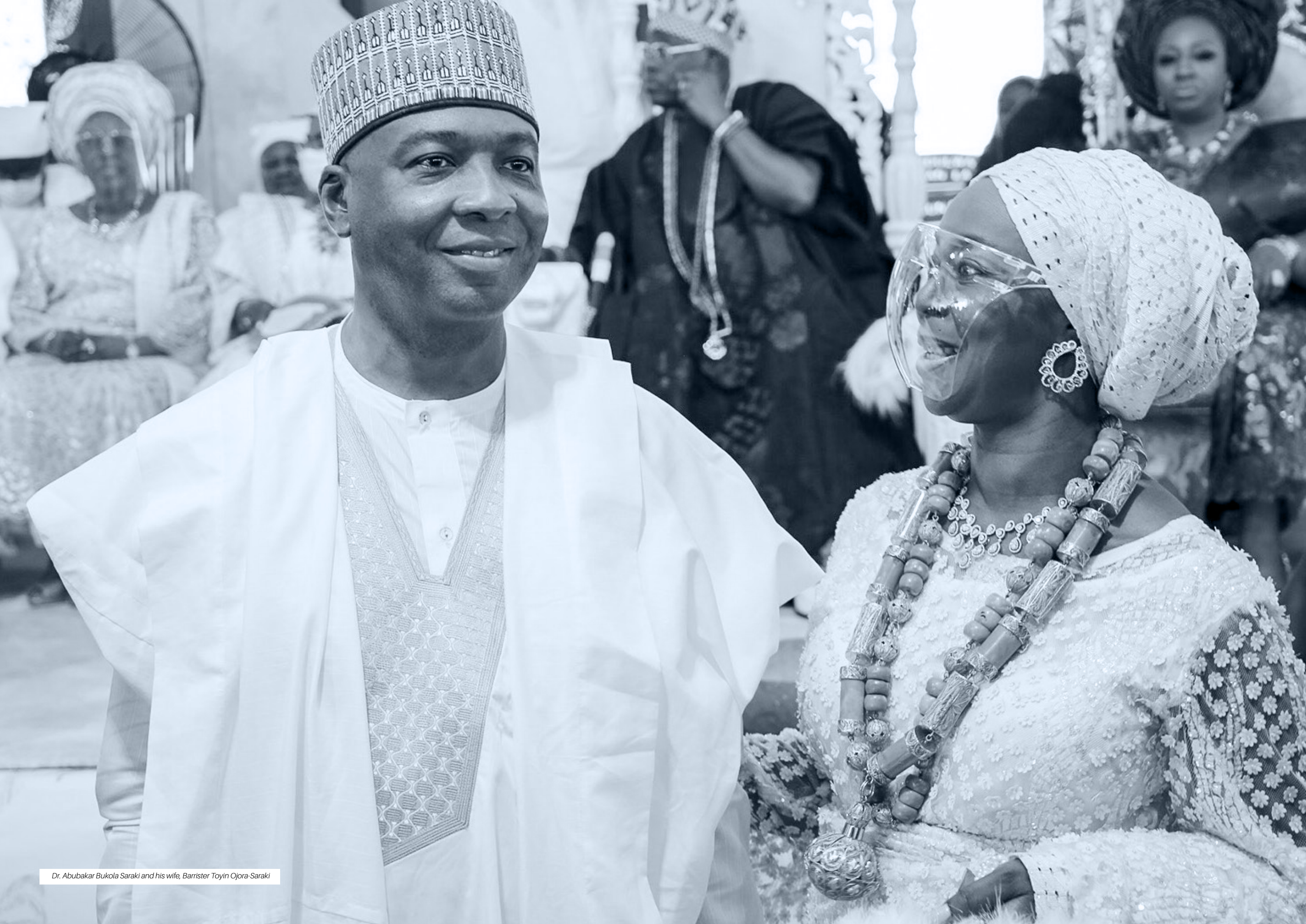
The body was headed by the former head of Interim National Government, late Chief Ernest Shonekan and consisted of 248 members, including 25 foreigners.

## PDP NATIONAL RECONCILIATION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE (2020 TO 2022)

Dr. Saraki is a committed and loyal party man who has undertaken several serious assignments on behalf of the party. The most recent of such assignments was on December 2nd, 2020 when he was nominated as the chairman of the National Reconciliation and Strategy Committee (NRSC) of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) charged with the responsibility of resolving disputes and uniting members in state chapters where there were crises. The assignment was given to Saraki and five others at a time when PDP was hemorrhaging and key members were leaving in droves.

The interventions by Saraki and the NRSC brought stability to the party and put it in good stead to hold its national convention on October 30-31, 2021 where its current leadership was elected without any rancour and to the surprise of the opposition and other sceptics.





*Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki and his wife, Barrister Toyin Ojora-Saraki*





# PERSONAL LIFE

*Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki and his wife, Barrister Toyin Ojora-Saraki*

Born on December 19th 1962, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, is a statesman, businessman, and politician, with a public service record of over 25-years; and a background in the medical profession.

Dr. Saraki attended the prestigious, Kings College, Lagos, where he graduated in 1978. He then attended Cheltenham College, in Gloucestershire, England, for his A-Levels.

In 1987, Dr. Saraki graduated with a University Degree from the London Hospital Medical College in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Saraki is married to Toyin Ojora-Saraki, a lawyer and the Founder-President of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBF Africa), a pan-African maternal health and wellbeing charity.

WBF Africa has become one of the most influential and active organisations in the area of maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH).

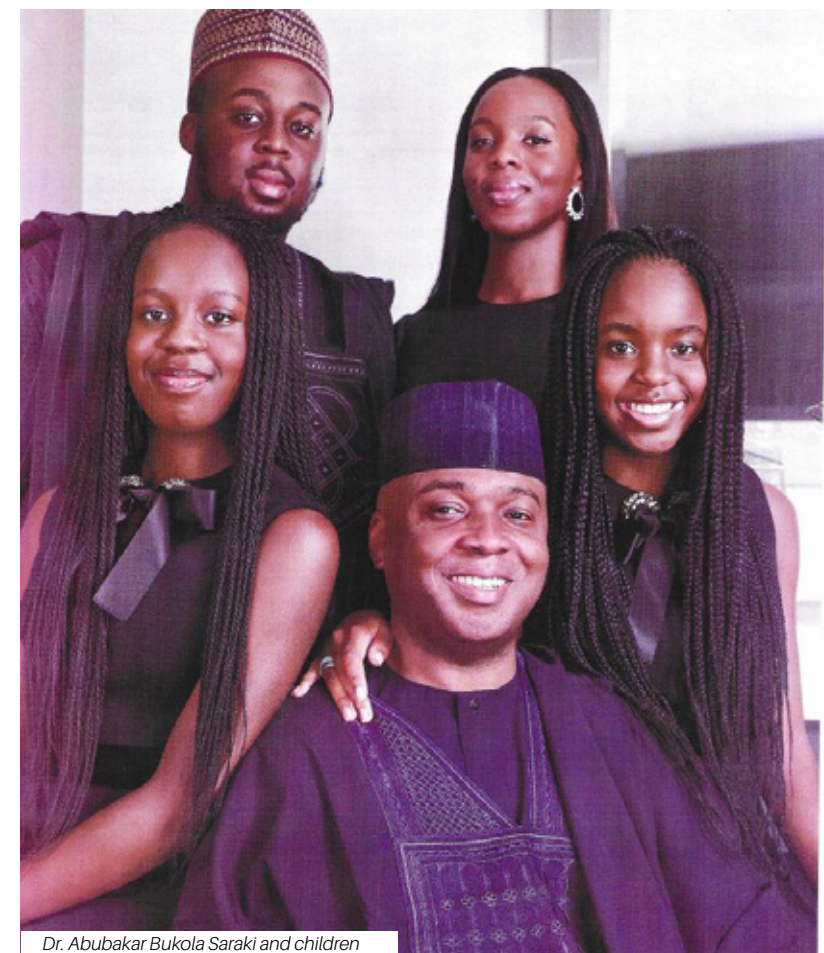
Together, they have four children and two grandchildren.



*Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, his mother, Mrs. Florence Saraki, and his wife, Barrister Toyin Ojora-Saraki*



*Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki and his late father, Dr. Abubakar Olusola Saraki at Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki's turbaning as the Turaki of Ilorin.*



*Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki and children*



## AWARDS & HONOURS





# AWARDS & HONOURS

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | Governor of the year, THISDAY AWARDS, Lagos, Nigeria, 2004   |
| 2.  | Best Governor in Agricultural Development by City People Magazine, Abuja, Nigeria, 2004.   |
| 3.  | Harvard. Business School Africa Club Award Massachusetts, United States of America, 2005.  |
| 4.  | Governor of the Year Award by THISDAY Newspaper, Nigeria, 2005   |
| 5.  | Best Governor in Africa by Kenneth Kaunda Foundation, Abuja, Nigeria, 2006   |
| 6.  | African Governor of the Year in Agricultural Development’ by African Union Media Group in Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa, 2007.                                  |
| 7.  | Best Governor food Security in Nigeria by ThisDay Newspapers, Abuja, Nigeria, 2008.  |
| 8.  | Outstanding Governor on Energy by the Nigerian Compass Abuja, Nigeria 2009.  |
| 9.  | Award of Excellence by the Nigerian Bar Association, Abuja, Nigeria, 2010.   |
| 10. | Award of Excellence by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria, 2010.  |
| 11. | Emerging Tiger of Nigeria (Leadership Award) by THISDAY Newspaper, Lagos, Nigeria, 2010.   |
| 12. | Award of Excellence in Development of Education and Healthcare Delivery in Nigeria by the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, 2012.                          |
| 13. | Emerging Political Icon of Africa by the African Leadership Magazine, Abuja, Nigeria, 2013.  |
| 14. | Financial Times award for innovation in Healthcare delivery London, United Kingdom, 2014.  |
| 15. | .Outstanding Politician of the Year by The Sun Newspapers, Lagos, Nigeria, 2018  |
| 16. | Life Fellowship of All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS), Abuja, Nigeria, 2009.   |
| 17. | Doctor of Science and Public Administration Award’ by the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria, for his Administration’s focus on Agriculture, 2009. |
| 18. | Nigerian Referee Association Grand Patron, Abuja, Nigeria, 2007  |





# GALLERY











*Abubakar Bukola Saraki*



