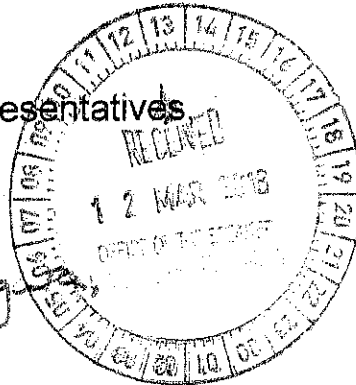


**PRESIDENT,  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

**Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara**  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
National Assembly Complex,  
Three Arms Zone,  
Abuja.

*Dear Rt. Hon. Y. Dogara*

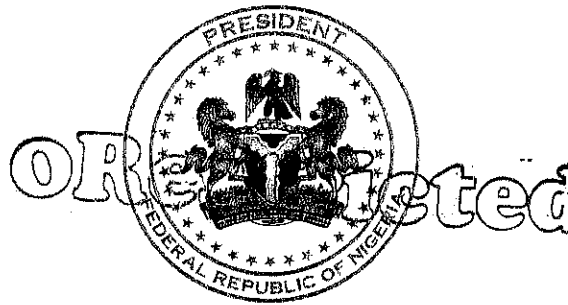


**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT  
TO THE ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018**

Pursuant to Section 58(4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby convey to the House of Representatives my decision, on (3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018) to decline Presidential Assent to the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2018 recently passed by the National Assembly.

2. Some of my reasons for withholding assent to the Bill include the following:

- a. The amendment to the sequence of the elections in Section 25 of the Principal Act may infringe upon the constitutionally guaranteed discretion of the Independent National Electoral Commission to organize, undertake and supervise all elections provided in Section 15(a) of the Third Schedule to the Constitution;
- b. The amendment to Section 138 of the Principal Act to delete two crucial grounds upon which an election may be challenged by



candidates unduly limits the rights of candidates in elections to a free and fair electoral review process; and

c. The amendments to Section 152(3)-(5) of the Principal Act, may raise constitutional issues over the competence of the National Assembly to legislate over local government elections.

3. Please accept, Right Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Yours sincerely,*

*M. Buhari*  
**Muhammadu Buhari**