



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

30th August, 2018

Distinguished Senator Abubakar Bukola Saraki
President of the Senate,
Senate Chambers,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Handwritten signature: 3/9
Dear Distinguished Sen. Pres.

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

Pursuant to Section 53(4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision, on 30th August, 2018 to decline Presidential Assent to The Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2018 recently passed by the National Assembly.

I am declining assent to the Electoral Amendment Bill due to some drafting issues that remain unaddressed following the prior revisions to the Bill. I invite the Distinguished Senate to address these issues as quickly as possible so that I may grant President Assent to the Electoral Amendment Bill.

The outstanding issues are as follows:

- a. There is a cross referencing error in the proposed amendment to Section 18 of the Bill. The appropriate amendment is to substitute the existing sub-section (2) with the proposed subsection (1A), while the proposed sub-section (1B) is the new sub-section (2A).
- b. The proposed amendment to include a new Section 87(14) which stipulates a specific period within which political party primaries are required to be held has the unintended consequence of leaving INEC with only 9 days to collate and compile lists of candidates and political parties as well as manage the primaries of 91 political parties for the various elections. This is because the Electoral Amendment Bill does not amend sections 31, 34 and 85 which stipulate times



for submission of lists of candidates, publication of lists of candidates and notice of convention, congresses for nominating candidates for elections.

- c. Qualifying language should also be considered to the provisions of Section 36(3) since an unintended effect of the current drafting may be to unduly increase the cost and administrative burden of conducting elections in the event that any candidate, no matter how inconsequential to the overall electoral process passes away during the elections.

Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

M Buhari
Muhammadu Buhari