



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 22nd February, 2017

1. The Senate met at 10:43 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 21st February, 2017.
Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.
3. **Messages from Acting President:**
The Senate President announced that he had received four letters from Acting President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:
 - (a) **Withholding of Assent to Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill, 2016:**



**VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

SH/AG. PRESIDENT/02/06/

7th February, 2017

His Excellency,
Senator (Dr.) Bukola Saraki, CON
President
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja

Dear Senate President,

WITHHOLDING OF ASSENT TO DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016

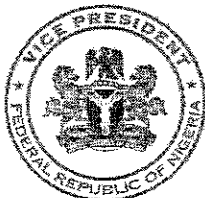
Pursuant to Section 58(4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, as amended, I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision to withhold Assent to the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill, 2016 recently passed by the National Assembly.

2. The rationale for withholding Assent to the Bill are the concerns regarding certain words and phrases utilised in the draft Bill that may be inconsistent with the Principal Act (for example section 6 of the Bill with section 21 of the Principal Act) and the spirit behind the proposed amendments.
3. Distinguished Senate President, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON
Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

(b) **Withholding of Assent to National Lottery (Amendment) Bill, 2016**



**VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

SH/AG. PRESIDENT/02/07/

7th February, 2017

His Excellency
Senator (Dr). Bukola Saraki, CON
President
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja

Dear Senate President,

WITHHOLDING OF ASSENT TO NATIONAL LOTTERY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016

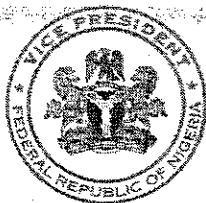
Pursuant to Section 58(4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, as amended, I hereby convey to the Senate my decision to withhold Assent to the National Lottery (Amendment) Bill, 2016 recently passed by the National Assembly.

2. The rationale for withholding Assent to the Bill is the existence of pending legal challenge to the competence of the National Assembly to legislate on the subject matter.
3. Distinguished Senate President, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON
Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

(c) **Withholding of Assent to Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2016:**



**VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

SH/AG. PRESIDENT/02/04/

7th February, 2017

His Excellency
Senator (Dr). Bukola Saraki, CON
President
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja

Dear Senate President,

**WITHHOLDING OF ASSENT TO AGRICULTURAL CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FUND
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016**

Pursuant to Section 58(4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, as amended, I hereby convey to the Senate my decision to withhold Assent to the Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2016 recently passed by the National Assembly.

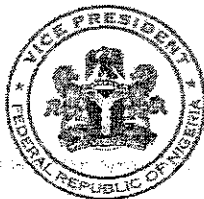
2. The reasons for withholding Assent to the Bill are the concerns surrounding board composition, funding arrangements, limitation of liability of funds, and proposals to increase levels of uncollateralised loans from ₦5,000.00 to ₦250,000.00.

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

(Signed)

Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON
Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

(d) **Withholding of Assent to Currency Conversion (Freezing Orders) (Amendment) Bill, 2016:**



**VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

SH/AG. PRESIDENT/02/05/

7th February, 2017

*His Excellency
Senator (Dr). Bukola Saraki, CON
President
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja*

Dear Senate President,

**WITHHOLDING OF ASSENT TO CURRENCY CONVERSION (FREEZING ORDERS)
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016**

Pursuant to Section 58(4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, as amended, I hereby convey to the Senate my decision to withhold Assent to the Currency Conversion (Freezing Orders) (Amendment) Bill, 2016 recently passed by the National Assembly.

2. *The rationale for withholding Assent to the Bill is the concern regarding modalities for the communication of asset forfeiture orders.*
3. *Distinguished Senate President, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.*

(Signed)

Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, GCON
Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

4. Announcement:

Acknowledgement:

The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Students of Efodest Academy, Kubwa, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate Proceedings.

5. Petitions:

- (a) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ovie A. Omo-Agege (*Delta Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to two petitions from:
 - (i) Shedrack Ogboru, over unpaid contract by the Nigeria Liquified Natural Gas Company Limited (NLNG); and
 - (ii) Mr. Olaye Saduana, over appeal for reinstatement by the Nigeria Police.

He urged the Senate to look into the matters.

Petitions laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

- (b) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Ahmed S. Ogembe (*Kogi Central*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from C. A. Eichie & Company on behalf of Major Ali Abdullahi (Rtd), against the Chief of Army Staff and Minister of Defence, over refusal to pay judgment sum. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

- (c) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from his constituent, Cpl. Joseph Kadiri, over unlawful dismissal by the Nigeria Police. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

- (d) Rising on Rule 41, Senator Matthew A. Urhoghide (*Edo South*) drew the attention of the Senate to a petition from Onyenemerem & Associates on behalf of the dependant of Late Mr. Cyril N. Anyaibe, over inhuman, degrading and frustrating situation by Management of Heritage Bank Plc. He urged the Senate to look into the matter.

Petition laid and accordingly referred to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions [Rule 41(3)] to report within two (2) weeks.

6. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) drew the attention of the Senate to the recent withholding of assent to the National Lottery Amendment Bill, 2016 by the Acting President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo. He expressed dismay over this action by the Executive which is putting our democracy to test. He further stated that the role of the Executive rests on assenting to Bills passed by the National Assembly, since the powers of each of the Three Arms of Government have been adequately captured in Sections 4,5 and 6 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended).

Returned Bills to be forwarded to National Assembly Legal Directorate for further advice.

7. Committee on Land Transport:

Report on the National Transport Commission Bill, 2017 (SB. 242):

Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

8. Committee on Industries:

Report on the Nigerian Independent Warehouse Regulatory Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 255):

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Report of the Committee on Industries on the Nigerian Independent Warehouse Regulatory Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (*Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade — Benue North-East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report Laid.

9. Committee on Works:

Report on the National Road Funds (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 218):

Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Conference Committee

Report on the Agricultural Credit and Guarantee Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 239 & HB.17)

Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions:

Motion made: That the Senate do receive the Reports of the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions in respect of:

- a. Petition from Mr. Anthony Joe Ikpeme against First Bank of Nigeria Plc. for Extrajudicial Termination of his Appointment by the Bank;
- b. Petition from Association of Federal Government Doctorate Degree Students in Russia against the Federal Ministry of Education/Federal Scholarship Board for delay and non-payment of their Stipends;
- c. Petition from Mr. Ndubuisi Nwosu against First Bank of Nigeria Plc for alleged unlawful Termination of his Appointment by the Bank; and
- d. Petition from PC Vembe Abraham against the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) for alleged wrongful dismissal from the Force (*Senator Samuel N. Anyanwu — Imo East*).

Question put and agreed to.

Reports Laid.

12. **National Health Insurance Scheme Act CAP N42 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2017 (SB.278):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

13. **Company and Allied Matters Act 1990 CAP C20 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (SB.355):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

14. **Secured Transaction in Moveable Assets Bill, 2017 (SB. 261):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

15. **Proceed of Crimes Bill, 2017 (SB.376):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

16. **Federal University of Agriculture, Kabba (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB. 402).**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

17. **Local Government Act No.8 of 1976 (Repeal) Bill, 2017 (SB. 365):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

18. **Nationwide Toll-Free Emergency Number (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (SB.107):**

Consideration of Bill deferred to another Legislative Day.

19. **Adjournment:**

Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Tuesday, 28th February, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. to enable Standing Committees conclude work on the 2017 Appropriation Bill (*Senate Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 11:29 a.m.

Abubakar Olubukola Saraki, CON
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.