



THE SENATE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 9th October, 2018

1. The Senate met at 11:03 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.

2. **Closed Session:**

Closed Session — 11:05 a.m.

Open Session — 11:14 a.m.

The Senate President reported that the Senate in a Closed Session deliberated on issues bordering on the workings of the Senate in particular and the National Assembly in general.

3. **Votes and Proceedings:**

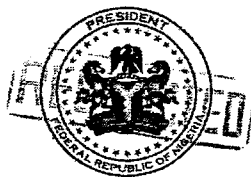
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings(2) of Tuesday, 24th July, 2018.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

4. **Messages from Mr. President:**

The Senate President announced that he had received Twenty-One (21) letters from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, which he read as follows:

(i) *Declining of Assent.*



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

18th June, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**DECLINING ASSENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 (FOURTH ALTERATION, NO. 20)
BILL PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Pursuant to Sections 9(2) and 58(4) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision, on 7th June, 2018 to decline assent to the CFRN, 1999 (Fourth Alteration, No. 20) Bill, 2017, as my attention has been drawn by his Lordship, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, to several provisions in this Bill that should be amended before granting Presidential Assent. In this regard, I have directed the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice to engage with the Leadership of the National Assembly and the Chief Justice of Nigeria to discuss these issues.

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(ii) *Declining of Assent.*



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

18th June, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**DECLINING ASSENT TO FIVE (5) CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 (FOURTH ALTERATION) AMENDMENT
BILLS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NAMELY, BILLS NO.8,
NO.15, NO.22, NO.24 AND NO.281**

Pursuant to Sections 9(2) and 58(4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision, on 7th June, 2018 to decline to assent to the following five (5) Bills.

- a) *The CFRN, 1999 (Fourth Alteration, No.8) Bill, 2017- as Section 7 of this Bill may need to be redrafted to clearly indicate that it is Section 109(1)(e) of the 1999 Constitution that is being amended. Also, there are existing laws that cater for Legislative Service Commissions. Finally, prescribing a specific date in the 1999 Constitution for an annual State of the Nation Address may create practical challenges in diarizing this event;*
- b) *The CFRN, 1999 (Fourth Alteration, No. 15) Bill, 2017 - as Section 5(a) of this Bill should also amend the marginal note to Section 214 of the 1999 Constitution;*
- c) *The CFRN, 1999 (Fourth Alteration, No. 22) Bill, 2017- as Some of the functions proposed to be undertaken by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps are currently the responsibility of other agencies of government. Furthermore, imbedding these functions in the 1999 Constitution may impair future efforts to change the role of the Corps to meet new and emerging challenges;*
- d) *The CFRN, 1999 (Fourth Alteration, No. 24) Bill, 2017 - as this Bill appears not to take full cognisance of the provisions of Section 9(3) of the 1999 Constitution; and*

- e) The CFRN, 1999 (Fourth Alteration, No. 28) Bill, 2017 - Section 2(b) and Section 3(b) of this Bill appear not to take full cognisance of the provisions of Section 58(4) of the 1999 Constitution.

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

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

- (iii) **Conduct of Nigerian Members of the ECOWAS Parliament:**



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

27th July, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**CONDUCT OF NIGERIAN MEMBERS OF THE ECOWAS
PARLIAMENT**

Report reaching me indicates that quite a number of Nigerian Members of the ECOWAS Parliament have been absenting from the activities of the Parliament, while unfailingly signing the attendance register for parliamentary allowances. The persistent absenteeism from sittings by most of our 35 Members out of a total of 115 ECOWAS Parliament Members has whittled down our numerical advantage during deliberations in the Parliament thereby denying Nigeria and the sub-region the expected value addition from their contributions.

I therefore consider it necessary to bring to your attention Mr. Senate President, this disturbing trend for you to take appropriate action to address the situation in the national and regional interests.

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

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

- (iv) **Suppression of Piracy and Other Maritime Offences Bill (2018) for Passage into Law.**



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

20th July, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**SUPPRESSION OF PIRACY AND OTHER MARITIME
OFFENCES BILL (2018) FOR PASSAGE INTO LAW**

Pursuant to Section 58 of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby transmit a copy of the Suppression of Piracy and Other Maritime Offences Bill, 2018 to the Senate, for consideration and passage into law.

The Suppression of Piracy and Other Maritime Offences Bill, 2018 is intended to:

- a. Curtail illegal activities of pirates at sea as well as to reduce the incidence of oil theft in domestic and international waters;*
- b. Domesticcate the relevant provisions of international treaties to which Nigeria is a signatory to, such as the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 ('UNCLOS II') relating to Piracy, as well as the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts ('SUA') against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988 and its Protocols;*
- c. Define the roles and responsibilities of each maritime stakeholder to avert conflicts of roles and overlapping responsibilities vis-a-vis piracy and maritime crimes; and*
- d. Provide for the appropriate administration as well as prosecution of piracy, maritime crimes and other related offences.*

While I trust that this Bill will receive expeditious consideration and passage into law by the Distinguished Senate, please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(v) Resolutions of the National Assembly.



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

23rd July, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**REQUEST FOR THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FOR: (1) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW EXTERNAL CAPITAL
RAISING OF USD2.786 BILLION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL
MARKET APPROVED IN THE 2018 APPROPRIATION ACT; AND (2) THE
EXTERNAL CAPITAL RAISING OF USD82.54 MILLION TO REFINANCE
THE BALANCE OF USD500 MILLION MATURED EUROBOND IN THE
INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKET**

Pursuant to Sections 21(1) and 27(1) of the Debt Management Office (Establishment, Etc.) Act, 2003, I hereby request for distinct and specific Resolutions of the National Assembly to:

- a. Issue USD2.786 billion in Eurobonds and other securities in the International Capital Market for the implementation of New External Borrowing approved in the Federal Government of Nigeria's 2018 Appropriation Act, for the part-financing of the 2018 Budget's Fiscal Deficit, as well as to finance key infrastructure projects in 2018 Budget; and
 - b. Issue Eurobonds and other securities in the International Capital Market for the refinancing of USD82.54 million, being the balance of the 5-year, 5.125% USD500 million Eurobond issued by Nigeria, that matured on 12th July, 2018.
2. The Distinguished Senate may also wish to note that:
- a. For time and cost efficiency, the plan is to issue the Eurobond and other securities for the USD82.54 million together with the issuance of the USD2.786 billion for the part-funding of the Fiscal Deficit and key capital projects in the 2018 Appropriation Act; and
 - b. The final Terms and Conditions of the Eurobonds and other securities to be issued may only be determined at the point of issuance, subject to market conditions prevailing at that time. However, the Federal Ministry of Finance and its team will work assiduously within the context of the market to secure the best Terms and Conditions for Nigeria.
3. I have attached information on the subject programme from the Honourable Minister of Finance for your kind consideration. The Minister would also provide any additional information or clarification which you may require to facilitate the prompt approval of this programme.
4. While looking forward for the timely consideration of this request please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

(vi) Declining of Assent.



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

26th July, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO THE STAMP
DUTIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018 RECENTLY PASSED
BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Pursuant to Section 58(4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision to decline Presidential Assent to the Stamp Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2018 recently passed by the National Assembly.

Specifically, my decision to decline assent to this Bill is based on the following:

- a. Revenues from stamp duties are currently shared across all three tiers of government. Accordingly, transferring collection responsibilities from the Federal and States' Inland Revenue Services to Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) may deprive the States and Local Governments of their share of stamp duties revenues; and
- b. This Bill's proposals for the imposition of stamp duties on savings accounts and electronic transactions may impair the implementation of the Federal Government's Financial Inclusion Strategy, E-payment Programme and Cashless Banking policies.

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

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

(vii) Declining of Assent.



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

27th July, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO THE INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT (INCOME TAX RELIEF) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018
RECENTLY PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Pursuant to Section 58(4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision to decline Presidential Assent to the Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) (Amendment) Bill, 2018 recently passed by the National Assembly.

My reason for declining assent to this Bill is to enable ongoing consultations by the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on the tax holidays incentive regime for Expansion Projects, Investments in Rural Areas, as well as for Agriculture/Agro-processing to be concluded.

It is our expectation that these consultations would result in fiscal measures that would greatly enrich the quality of the tax holidays' incentive regime for these types of projects and investments. We also expect that these fiscal measures, once finalized, would be subsequently submitted to the National Assembly by way of Presidential Executive Orders, or Executive Bills for consideration and passage into law, by the Federal Legislature, in due course.

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(viii) *Declining of Assent.*



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

26th July, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**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 Senate, my decision to decline Presidential Assent to the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2018 recently passed by the National Assembly;

My reasons for withholding assent to the Bill are due to some drafting issues that may affect the interpretation and application of the Principal Act. In addition, some of the proposed amendments may adversely affect the operation of elections by the Independent National Electoral Commission.

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(ix) *Declining of Assent.*



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

29th July, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO THE
PETROLEUM INDUSTRY GOVERNANCE BILL 2018**

Pursuant to Section 58(4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision to decline Presidential Assent to the Petroleum Industry Governance Bill, 2018 recently passed by the National Assembly.

My reasons for declining assent to the bill include the following:

- a. The Provision in Section 26(2)(f) permitting the Petroleum Regulatory Commission to retain 10% of the revenue generated unduly increases the funds accruing to the Petroleum Regulatory Commission to the detriment of the revenue available to Federal, States, Federal Capital Territory and Local Governments.*
- b. The inclusion of part IV of the Bill appears to introduce and expand the scope of the Petroleum Equalisation Fund (PEF) which contains some important points of divergence from the policy of this Administration. Also pertinent to note is the conflicting provisions establishing an independent PEF as provided in part IV or merged with the Regulatory Commission as provided in sections 130 to 132.*
- c. The creation of a single regulator for the entire Industry (upstream, midstream and downstream) endows the Petroleum Regulatory Commission with enormous powers which may be abused and potentially lead to increased inefficiency and bureaucracy.*
- d. There are a number of drafting issues that may affect the interpretation and application of the Bill if passed into law in its current form.*

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(x) Vacation.



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

1st August, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

VACATION

In compliance with Section 145 (1) of 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), I wish to inform the Distinguished Senate that I will be on vacation for 10 working days from 3rd August, 2018. While I am away, the Vice President will act in my capacity.

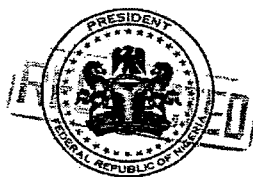
Please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

(xi) Resumption of Office.



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

18th August, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

RESUMPTION OF OFFICE

In compliance with Section 145 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), I write to intimate the Senate that I have resumed my functions as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with effect from today, Saturday 18th August, 2018, after my vacation.

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

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

(xii) Declining of Assent.



**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.*

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**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 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 Presidential 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 (1 B) 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,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari

(xiii) Declining of Assent.



**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.

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO THE CHARTERED
INSTITUTE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ESTABLISHMENT) BILL, 2018**

Pursuant to Section 58(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 Chartered Institute of Entrepreneurship (Establishment) Bill, 2018 recently passed by the National Assembly.

I am declining assent to the Bill because;

- a. *I believe it is unnecessary in view of the fact that potential entrepreneurs have various existing options to hone their skills such as universities which currently offer entrepreneurship as a course of study;*
- b. *The creation of the institute by legislation is not coextensive or coterminous with capacity development, and*
- c. *The proposed Bill may constrain citizen's rights and freedom of action.*

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)*

Muhammadu Buhari

(xiv) **Declining of Assent.**



**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.*

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO THE SUBSIDIARY
LEGISLATION (LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY) BILL, 2018**

Pursuant to Section 58(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 Subsidiary Legislation (Legislative Scrutiny) Bill, 2018.

I am declining Presidential assent to this Bill because I am concerned that:

- a. *The Bill will slow down the administrative process for implementing agencies;*
- b. *The Bill does not leave room for administrative discretion borne out from administrative experiences that would enable sectors work faster in handling or addressing urgent matters;*
- c. *The Bill may also impede the Federal Government's drive for increased revenue collection since an implementing agency that drives revenue from licenses will now have to go through a legislative process every time it intends to update its administrative process of increase license fees.*

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(xv) *Declining of Assent.*



**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.*

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO THE NATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM (ESTABLISHMENT) BILL, 2018**

Pursuant to Section 58(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 National Institute of Hospitality and Tourism (Establishment) Bill, 2018 recently passed by the National Assembly.

I am declining assent to the Bill because:

- a. There is no compelling reason for the requirement in Section 5(3)(k) that 25% of the revenue generated for the Federal Government should be used directly by the Institute. The retention of such a high amount is to the determinant of the revenue available for funding the budget of the Federal Government and is far in excess of what the Federal Inland Revenue and the Nigeria Customs Service are able to retain which is 4% and 7% respectively; and*
- b. A number of provisions in the First Schedule to the Bill in respect of the Supplementary Provisions relating to the Board are not in accordance with good practice in corporate governance.*

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(xvi) *Declining of Assent.*



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.*

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO THE NATIONAL
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL (ESTABLISHMENT), BILL 2017**

Pursuant to Section 58(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 National Research and Innovation Council (Establishment), Bill 2017 recently passed by the National Assembly.

My reasons for withholding assent to the bill include the following:

- a. The requirement for 5% of the annual allocation of 14 entities listed in section 17 of the Bill to be paid into the Research and Innovation Fund is unwieldy and may be practically difficult to implement in some instances, example the Tertiary Education Trust Fund does not receive any federal allocation.*
- b. Furthermore, the requirement that 1% of the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to be sourced from the Federal Government should be paid into the Research and Innovation Fund is also practically unworkable as the GDP is an economic measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a period of time, it is not cash or revenue accruable to the Federal Government.*
- c. There are also incorrect references to some of the entities specified in Section 17 of the Bill. For instance, the Information Technology and Development Fund should be the National Information Technology Development Fund.*

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(xvii) *Declining of Assent.*



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.*

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO THE NIGERIAN
MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY AGENCY
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017**

Pursuant to Section 58(4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision to decline Presidential Assent to the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2017 recently passed by the National Assembly.

I am declining assent to this Bill because the amendment will create distortions to the operationalization of the NIMASA Act. I urge the Senate to focus on passing the Suppression of Piracy and Other Related Offences Bill currently before the National Assembly to achieve a more comprehensive review of operations in the Maritime Sector, with the objective of realigning its agencies for more efficient service delivery and focus on the security of our maritime frontiers.

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(xviii) Declining of Assent.



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

27th August, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO THE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SEEDS COUNCIL BILL, 2018**

Pursuant to Section 58(4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision, on 27th August, 2018 to decline Presidential Assent to The National Agricultural Seeds Council Bill, 2018 recently passed by the National Assembly.

I am declining assent to this Bill because there already exists a National Crop Varieties and Livestock Breed (Registration, Etc) (NVRC) Act which covers some of the proposed functions of the National Agricultural Seed Council Bill, 2018. For example, Sections 4(3) of the NSAC duplicates Sections 6(a) and (b) of the existing NVRC with respect to the registration and release of crop varieties.

The passage into law of this, Bill would thus create confusion as to the proper authority to regulate crop varieties in Nigeria.

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(xix) Declining of Assent.



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

27th August, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO DECLINE ASSENT TO
THE ADVANCE FEE FRAUD AND OTHER RELATED
OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017**

Pursuant to Section 58(4) of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), I hereby convey to the Senate, my decision, on 27th August, 2018 to decline Presidential Assent to the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences (Amendment) Bill 2017 recently passed by the National Assembly.

I am declining Presidential Assent to this Bill which would reduce the minimum punishment for the offences under the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act due to the prevalence of the offences, the need to deter the offences and the need to adequately punish offenders. I am also concerned that the amendment to the Principal Act have watered down the sentences by giving the courts too much discretion in respect of the minimum sentence.

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

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(xx) *Confirmation of Appointment.*



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

27th July, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF
OLANIPEKUN OLUKOYEDE, ESQ AS THE SECRETARY OF THE
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION (EFCC)**

In compliance with the provision of Section 2(3) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act 2010, I write to request for confirmation of Olanipekun Olukoyede, Esq for appointment as the Secretary of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. Find attached a copy of his Curriculum Vitae.

While looking forward for the usual expeditious consideration of the Distinguished Senate, please accept, Mr. Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

(xxi) *Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) 2018 Statutory Budget Proposal.*



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

4th October, 2018

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

Dear Distinguished Senate President,

**NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NDDC)
2018 STATUTORY BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Pursuant to the Niger Delta Development Commission (Establishment) Act, I forward herewith the 2018 Budget Estimates of the Commission, for the kind consideration and passage by the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The Commission's Revenue and expenditure profile is as shown in the table below:

	2017 Approved Budget -N- Million	2018 Proposed Budget -N- Million
A. REVENUE		
Revenue Brought Forward	15,532.00	10,500
Federal Government Contribution	64,023.55	81,882
Unpaid Arrears by Federal Government	50,000.00	33,981
Oil Companies Contribution & Others	219,902.55	220,000
Ecological Funds	15,000.00	-
Other Realised Income	50.00	150
Total Revenue	364,508.1	346,513.0
B. EXPENDITURE		
Recurrent		
Personnel	17,797	19,522
Overhead	12,459	12,737
Capital		
Internal Capital	4,402	2,883
Development Projects & Coastal States Special Projects	329,850.1	311,371
Total Expenditure	364,508.1	346,513.0

While hoping that this request will receive the expeditious consideration of the Senate, please accept, Distinguished Senate President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Yours Sincerely,
(Signed)
Muhammadu Buhari*

5. Announcements:

Letter of Appreciation:

The Senate President read a letter from Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade (Benue North-East) as follows:



Senator Barnabas A. I. Gemade
(Nom Iyange u Tiv)
Benue North-East Senatorial District

NASS/8S/GEM/28/118

8th October, 2018

*His Excellency,
Sen. (Dr.) Abubakar Bukola Saraki CON,
President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly Complex,
Abuja.*

Your Excellency,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of myself, family, Constituents and Clergy of NKST Church Low Level Makurdi, Benue State, I hereby convey our appreciation and gratitude to you and some of my Colleagues for making out time amidst your crowded schedule to grace and participate in the occasion of my 70th Birthday Celebration and Thanksgiving Service which took place on Sunday, September 9th, 2018.

Indeed, we appreciate not just your presence but the goodwill messages which were very insightful as well as your generous donations towards the Church Project.

It is therefore our prayer that the Almighty Lord in His infinite mercies grant you sound health and more wisdom to continue to steer the ship of our nation state.

Once again, accept our sincere gratitude and best wishes to you and your family at all times.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

SEN. (DR.) BARNABAS A. I. GEMADE OFR, FNSE

(Nom Jyange u Tiv)

6. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Ahmad I. Lawan (*Yobe North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the Executive Communications from Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation over his declined Assents to Fifteen (15) Bills. He urged the Senate to Constitute a Technical Committee to carefully look into the issues raised on the Bills.

By leave of the Senate, a Technical Committee shall be constituted to look into issues raised.

7. Personal Explanation:

Rising on Rule 43, Senator Ahmad I. Lawan (*Yobe North*) drew the attention of the Senate to the demise of Hon. Olufunke Adedoyin (*Irepodun/Isin/Ekiti/Oke-Ero, Federal Constituency of Kwara State*) who died on Friday, 28th September, 2018. He urged the Senate to observe a minute silence and also suspend today's Senate proceedings in her honour.

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the Deceased and all Senate proceedings suspended.

8. Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters:

Report on the Confirmation of Nominations of Senator Abba Aji and Mr. Mohammed Sagir for Appointment:

Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

9. Joint Committee on Power, Steel Development & Metallurgy and Gas Resources:

Report on the urgent need to save the 215 Megawatts (MW) Kaduna Power Plant:

Presentation of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.

10. Executive Communication:

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) 2019 Election Budget:

Consideration of request deferred to another Legislative Day.

11. Motion:

Withholding of Assent.

Consideration of Motion deferred to another Legislative Day.

12. **Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions:**
Report on the confirmation of the Nomination of Mr. Banire, Muiz Adeyemi Ph.D, SAN:
Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.
13. **Committee on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions:**
Report on the Nomination of Mr. Folashodun Adebisi Shonubi for Appointment as the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria:
Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.
14. **Committee on Federal Capital Territory (FCT):**
Report of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Appropriation Bill, 2018 (SB. 690):
Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.
15. **Committee on National Identity Card and National Population Commission:**
Report on the Screening of Twenty Three (23) Nominees for Confirmation of Appointment as Commissioners:
Consideration of Report deferred to another Legislative Day.
16. **Adjournment:**
Motion made: That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 10th October, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
(Senate Leader).
Adjourned accordingly at 12:13 p.m.

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