

**A PRESS STATEMENT BY PUBLISH WHAT YOU PAY (PWYP) NIGERIA
ON
THE LINGERING PASSAGE OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY BILLS (PIBS)**

DURING A MEDIA BRIEFING ORGANIZED BY PWYP NIGERIA

IBETO HOTEL, ABUJA, JUNE 25, 2018

Introduction

Unknown to many Nigerians, there has been a protracted attempt at enacting a more effective and socioeconomically beneficial law to regulate the petroleum industry in Nigeria. This attempt has lasted for close to two decades, eighteen years (2000 – 2018) to be precise, cutting across different administrations, without commensurate results.

It is important to note that the substantive law presently guiding the operations, administration, and overarching regulation of the petroleum industry in Nigeria (the Petroleum Act of 1969), was enacted **about** fifty years ago. Some of the provisions of this act have since been overtaken by significant changes in the domestic and global realities of the industry. In spite of this obvious need to restructure the regulatory frameworks of the entire petroleum value chain in Nigeria, successive administrations have failed to achieve this.

Recent Developments

We are aware of the recent efforts of the present administration to accomplish the aforementioned, which has necessitated the disaggregation of the initial **Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB)** into four distinctive bills, the **Petroleum Industry Governance Bill (PIGB)**, the **Petroleum Industry Administrative Bill (PIAB)**, the **Petroleum Industry Fiscal Bill (PIFB)**, and the **Petroleum Host and Impacted Community Bill (PHAICB)**. These bills are at various levels of statutory legislative processes of enacting a law.

Of the four bills, the **Petroleum Industry Governance Bill (PIGB)** was recently passed by the National Assembly, which was expected to have been transmitted to the President for his assent before now, but was recalled by the National Assembly for a review.

Our Positions and Entreaties

From the foregoing, PWYP Nigeria has deemed it necessary at this point to state and appeals as follows.

1. We wish to remind the governing and the governed that the passage of, and signing into law of these bills is in the collective interest of all Nigerians, as this will create a more functional administrative structure, significantly reduce financial leakages, encourage foreign and domestic investments, provide succor for host communities, among others.
2. We recognize and appreciate the various innovative efforts made so far by the present administration, as well as the valuable time dedicated on the bills by the National Assembly towards accomplishing the passage of these bills. We commend these efforts, and appeal to them not to relent.
3. Although we hope and expect that the President will assent to the PIGB and the other bills whenever they are transmitted to him, but we also recognize that it is his right to refuse assent. If the latter happens, it will be disappointing to well-meaning Nigerians, resulting in another round of legislative reconsiderations, political intrigues, delays, and public frustrations. This will be a major setback in our collective interest in establishing a more responsive and socioeconomically impactful Nigeria Petroleum Industry, as well as send the wrong signal to Nigerians and the global community at large.
4. We appeal to the national assembly to immediately refocus on the passage of the Bills, and intentionally dedicate substantial time for the legislative processes required for the passage of the bills, before they become engrossed in the obviously heightening political activities towards the 2019 general elections.
5. We implore the National Assembly to take the path of national reverence in passing the bills. This is our expectation on the National assembly, and we are confident that when the time comes, they will do so with visible swiftness, in the interest of all Nigerians.
6. In anticipation of the transmission of the bills to the President, we entreat him to act in line with his incessantly proclaimed stance on corruption and expedite action on his assent to the bills.

Conclusion

Although we are aware that the statutory legislative processes and executive actions required for the enactment of such important instruments are usually enormous, and takes time, but we are also not ignorant of the fact that some matters of national importance can be accelerated. We therefore plead with the National Assembly and the Presidency to consider the enactment of these laws as issues of national importance, and act accordingly, as we are losing substantial amount of revenues by the day, and community livelihoods are degenerating by the minute without these laws.

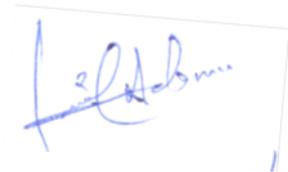
The present administration have a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity of writing its name in the annals of achievements by passing and signing these bills into laws.

We hereby beseech both the National Assembly and the Presidency to carry out their respective actions without further delays in the interest of the dwindling economy and the lives being affected by the minute.



Peter Egbule

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