

**HUSCH  
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STRATEGIES**

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**DELEGATION FROM THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

A delegation of Senators and Representatives from the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Nigeria) will visit Washington DC for three days beginning July, 9<sup>th</sup> 2018. The delegation is led by the President of their Senate, the distinguished Senator Bukola Abubakar Saraki, who has been considered as a potential candidate for President of Nigeria. Travelling with him are 8 elected officials (identified in brief descriptions below)

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the mission is to develop closer ties at the highest levels between the governments of the United States and Nigeria and to continue to develop close business and working relations. To that end, they are scheduling meetings with their legislative counterparts in the United States Congress; State Department; the US Agency for International Development and with the United States Chamber of Commerce and other business interests.

At these meetings they will discuss mutual issues of concern including regional security, anti-terrorism and trade policy. While Nigeria's strong economy is based on energy, including oil, agriculture and other developable ores and minerals, they have a strong interest in diversifying their economy even more so that they are much less dependent on oil revenues. They are the fastest growing telecommunications market. The Nigerians also have a strong interest in global health policy and education.

**Background on the Nigerian Government:**

Nigeria is a former British protectorate and its official language is English. In a continent of turmoil, Nigeria has been a stable democratic nation for decades.

Its government is a federal republic patterned after the United States with President who is head of state and chief executive, and a General Assembly. The General Assembly is composed of a Senate with 109 seats (3 for each state) and a House of Representatives with members apportioned by population. The hierarchy of leadership on the General Assembly is like the United States and they organize legislation and oversight through Committees with various jurisdictions.

The current President is Muhammadu Buhari a retired military General who replaced the former President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathon, in 2015. Their next election is next year – 2019.

**Nigerian Economy:**

Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa though its population is very young (almost half under 18 years old.) It also has the largest economy of any country in Africa (GDP – est. between \$0.5 and \$1.5 trillion with oil as its major export. About 30% of the population is employed in agriculture. However, Nigeria is moving successfully into a host of other technological areas including public services sector and manufacturing. They are one the fastest growing telecommunications markets and a thriving financial services marketplace.

**Delegation:**

- **Senator Bukola Abubakar Saraki** – President of the Nigerian Senate
- **Senator Ahmed Ibrahim Lawan** – Majority Leader of the Senate.
- **Senator Phillip Aduda Tanimu** - Minority Whip of the Senate and Chairman of the Downstream Petroleum Committee
- **Senator Baba Kaka Garba** - Chairman of the Senate Rules/Business Committee; Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa and NEPAD
- **Senator Rose Oko** – Chairwomen of the Diaspora and Civil Societies Committee , Vice Chairman Committee on Education
- **Honorable Fijabi Saheed Akinade** - Chairman House Telecommunications Committee
- **Honorable Evelyn Oboro Omavowan**- Chairwoman of the Women in Parliament Committee
- **Honorable Marshal Sunday Karung**
- **Honorable Gabriel Okoye Ouyenwife** - Chairman of the House Freedom of Information Committee
- **Professor Ladi Hamalai** - Director General, National Institute for Legislative Studies is accompanying the group.