

NEWSXTRA

Shekarau, Shagari, Ize-Iyamu, Others Arraigned, Granted Bail

Mohammed Aminu in Sokoto, **Ibrahim Shuaibu** in Kano and **Adilbe Emenyonu** in Benin City

Three Federal High Courts in Kano, Sokoto and Benin City yesterday granted bail to some chieftains of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) arraigned in the three jurisdictions of the court for money laundering offences.

Those arraigned and granted bail in Kano were former Minister of Education, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau, Ambassador Aminu Wali and the Campaign Director of President Goodluck Jonathan, Mansur Ahmad.

In Sokoto, former Deputy Governor and Minister of Water Resources, Mukhtari Shagari, Ibrahim Gidado, a former Information Commissioner;

PDP Chairman, Ibrahim Milgoma, PDP Treasurer, Nasiru Dalhatu, as well as the state PDP governorship candidate in the 2015 election, Abdallah Wali.

In Edo State, former governorship candidate of the party, Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu, state party Chairman, Chief Dan Orbih; former Deputy Governor, Mr. Lucky Imasuen; a former member representing Esan South East and Esan North East in the House of Representatives, Tony Azegbemi, and Mr. Efe Anthony were also arraigned and granted bail.

They were all accused of receiving various sums from a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezzani Alison-Madueke, to prosecute the 2015

general election.

The offences were alleged to be contrary to sections 16(2) (b) and 18(a) of money laundering prohibition Act of 2011 (as amended).

In Kano, Justice Zainab Abubakar Kagi after listening to the arguments from the EFCC and the defence counsel, stood down the proceedings for about 40 minutes before rulings.

The judge, after the recess, granted the accused bail on six conditions, saying they should be remanded at the EFCC custody pending when they satisfactorily fulfilled the bail conditions.

The six conditions included N100 million each, two sureties, one with landed property within the jurisdiction of the court.

The landed property must have a C of O and must be verified by the Ministry of Land and be deposited with the court registrar.

The second surety must be a civil servant not below the rank of a director.

Also, he the accused should submit their international passports with the registrar and two copies of recent passport sized photographs.

In Sokoto, Justice Saleh Idrissa, granted bail to Shagari, Gidado, Milgoma, Dalhatu and Wali in the sum of N25million each with two sureties in like sum.

"The sureties should be a civil servant on grade level 13 and a respected member

of the community who must be a resident of the state with a net worth of N25 million.

"The accused persons should also deposit their international passport before the court and deposit affidavit of means worth N25 million," he stated.

According to him, he considered the bail applications by the defendants and counters from the prosecution side.

The judge said all the alleged offences were bailable, as they bordered on issues of money and financial transactions not capital offences.

The same applied in Edo where Ize-Iyamu, Orbih and others were also granted bail.

HOUSE REJECTS BILL SEEKING TO OVERRIDE BUHARI ON ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE CORPS

executive and resolve grey areas," he said.

Hon. Shawulu Kwewum (PDP, Taraba) also cautioned against throwing away the baby with the bathwater.

He said members' contributions had not addressed issues raised by president, stressing that the issue of internal security was not the responsibility of the military.

He said there was no need opposing the passage of the bill if the mandate of the corps doesn't in any way conflict with existing security agencies.

But Hon. Simon Arabo (PDP, Kaduna) urged the lower chamber to override the president's veto adding that the act of veto was not new in parliament.

He cited an instance whereby former President Olusegun Obasanjo had similarly withheld his assent to the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) on accusations of lack of funding and security but was overruled by parliament.

He said: "Peace Corps is not a terrorist organisation, we should invoke Section 58 (5) and override the veto."

At some point in the debate, it became difficult to anticipate the fate of the bill as it looked too close to call.

Nonetheless, Hon. Sunday Adepaju (APC, Oyo) said the fact that the Civil Defence is performing showed Peace Corps would also do a good job.

"Is there any price too much to maintain security in a country like this? There's many benefits to be derived from bill. Let's pass it so Nigerians will be happy for it," he said.

But, Hon. Nicholas Ossai, a PDP stalwart from Delta, unusually, offered praises to Buhari for rejecting the bill which was according to him, "passed in error" by the House.

"I'm in favour of dropping this bill. We should support Buhari on this ground," he said, adding that purse of the nation remained a great concern.

Bouyed by Ossai's submission."

Hon. Alhassan Ado Doguwa (APC, Kano) said the opinion of the president should be respected as a retired army general and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, particularly on issues of security.

"Allow the president's veto stand on grounds that he knows better. Please, see reason with Mr President," he said.

Hon. Babajimi Benson (APC, Lagos) said overriding the president cannot solve the problem of insecurity, rather, he said the state governments

should be allowed to amend their constitution to allow for state police.

Hon. Oguma Johnson (APC, Edo) said members should not go into altercation with the president but rather step down the bill.

Hon. Istifanus Gyang (PDP, Plateau) said: "We should throw away baby with bathwater,"

He said parliament must not deny the youth the opportunity of gainful employment.

"We should deny not them opportunity and yet brand them as being lazy," he said, referring to recent statement by Buhari where he labelled Nigerian youths are being lazy.

However, Hon. Musa Sarikin Ada (APC, Sokoto) said: "We are going to compromise our owner they way we going."

He said Peace Corps can't provide what police has failed to provide since 1914.

He cited the instances of Akor, who was said to have collected the sum of N50,000.00 from recruits, claiming he wanted to lobby lawmakers.

At this point, Hon. Gbewfi raised a point of order, drawing attention to the fact that the president never cited any instance of corruption as reasons for withdrawing assent to the bill.

The Speaker, therefore, sustained his point of order and asked members to restrict their arguments to the subject matter as demanded by House rules.

Eventually, the mover of the bill was given an opportunity to close the debate- which could have provided him the opportunity to save the bill by stepping it down for further consideration and lobbying, perhaps it could be resurrected some day for debate.

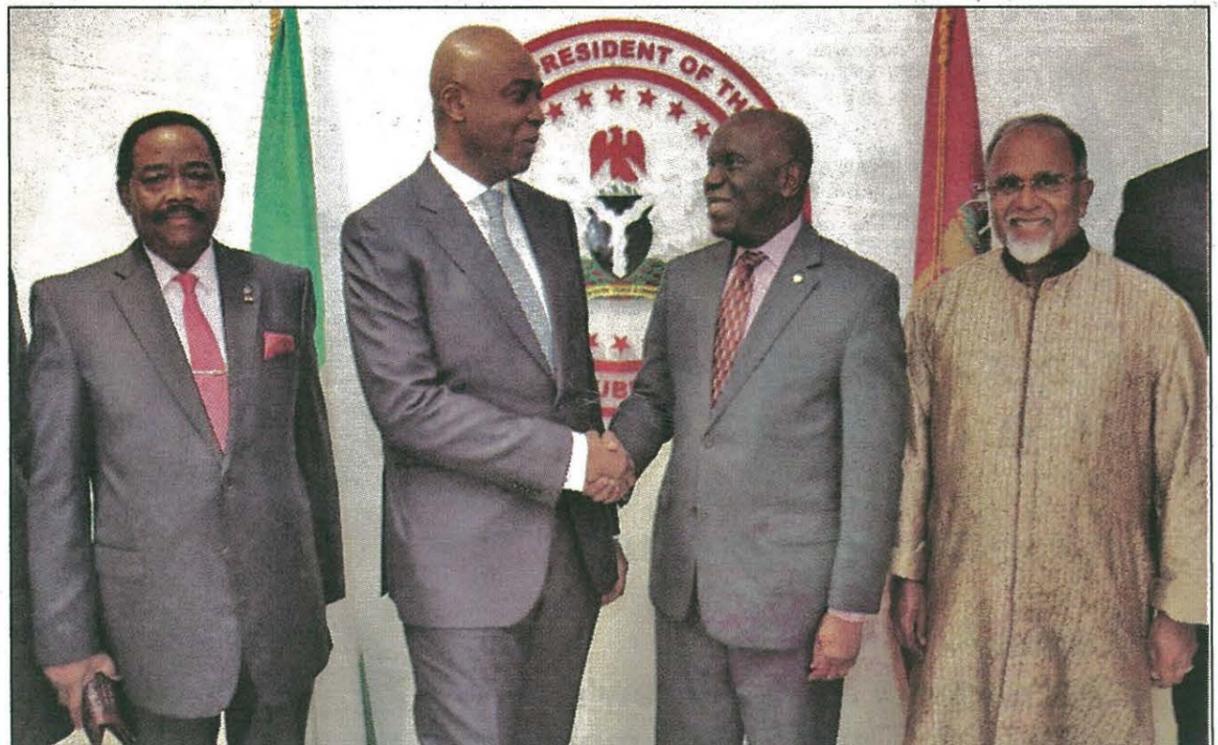
But he said, "I'm exercising my right of reply", adding that suggestion that Buhari, as a retired general should not be questioned over security issues, doesn't hold water.

He said the fact that Buhari failed to expand on the security aspect of his excuse, leaves room for speculation.

He said the president's two reason for declining assent to the bill was not sufficient.

However, Dogara, before putting the question to members, clarified that passing the bill for second reading "don't mean anything because it still needs two-thirds majority vote."

When he eventually put the question that the bill be read for the second time, there was a resounding "Nay".



COURTESY VISIT

L-R: Vice President, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Mr. Olawale Cole; Senate President, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki; President, LCCI, Mr. Babatunde Ruwase; and Vice President, LCCI, Mr. Varkey Verghese, during a courtesy visit to the senate president in Abuja...yesterday

Suntrust Oil Asks Court to Restrain San Leon Energy, Six Others from Parading Selves as Shareholders

Ejiofor Alike

Suntrust Oil Company Nigeria Limited has asked a Federal High Court in Lagos to issue a restraining order against San Leon Energy Plc and six other respondents in respect of the ownership of the third respondent, Martwestern Energy Limited.

Apart from San Leon Energy, which is the first respondent, the six other defendants in the suit number FHC/L/CS/793/2018 are Midwestern Leon Petroleum Limited, Martwestern Energy Limited, Midwestern Oil and Gas Company Limited, Mart Resources Inc; Minister of Petroleum Resources and the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

In the motion on notice dated May 22, 2018 and issued on behalf of Suntrust Oil by a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Fidelis Oditah, the plaintiff is seeking among other reliefs "an order of interlocutory injunction restraining the second

respondent, Midwestern Leon, from parading itself as a shareholder of the third respondent, Martwestern Leon, or exercising any shareholder right until the hearing and final determination of these proceedings."

Suntrust Oil also wants "an order of interlocutory injunction restraining the third respondent from paying to the third defendant and/or the first defendant, San Leon Energy, any dividends/distributions or transfers of money howsoever described, including without limitation, any purported repayment of capital or payment of interest in respect of any purported debt instrument to the first and/or second respondent and/or their agents, nominees and/or privies until the final hearing and final determination of these proceedings."

In the statements of claim before the court, Suntrust Oil alleged that in order to acquire an indirect economic interest in

Oil Mining Lease (OML) 18, San Leon Energy Plc began acquiring direct and indirect interests in Martwestern Energy's shareholding from March 2016, contrary to the November 2013 shareholders' agreement between the plaintiff, Martwestern Energy, Midwestern Oil, and Mart Resources Inc.

"To achieve its aim, San Leon Energy and Midwestern Oil and Gas formed Midwestern Leon Petroleum Limited as a special purpose vehicle to acquire and restore the entire shareholding in the Martwestern Energy outside the framework of the shareholders' agreement," Suntrust Oil alleged.

The plaintiff also told the court that Midwestern Oil and Mart Resources Inc. transferred all their shareholdings, four million shares each, to Martwestern Energy to Midwestern Leon Energy (Sale Shares), adding that Midwestern Leon did not execute the Deed of Accession as required by Clause 13 of the shareholders' agreement.

Suntrust Oil further alleged that none of the sale shares was offered to it whether pursuant to Clause 11 of the shareholders agreement or otherwise, adding also that at no point did it waive its right of first refusal.

In its claim, the plaintiff is seeking 18 reliefs, including "a declaration that by virtue of Clause 11.1 of the shareholders agreement dated November 2013 between the plaintiff and the third, fourth and fifth defendants, no shareholder has the right to sell or transfer or otherwise dispose of all or any part of its shareholding in the third defendant unless and until the shareholder first gives the other shareholders a right of first refusal to buy such shares evidenced by a transfer notice stating the selling shareholder's intention to sell such shares and setting forth the full terms including the price at which it intends to sell the specific shares."