



Federal Government of Nigeria's 2018 Budget

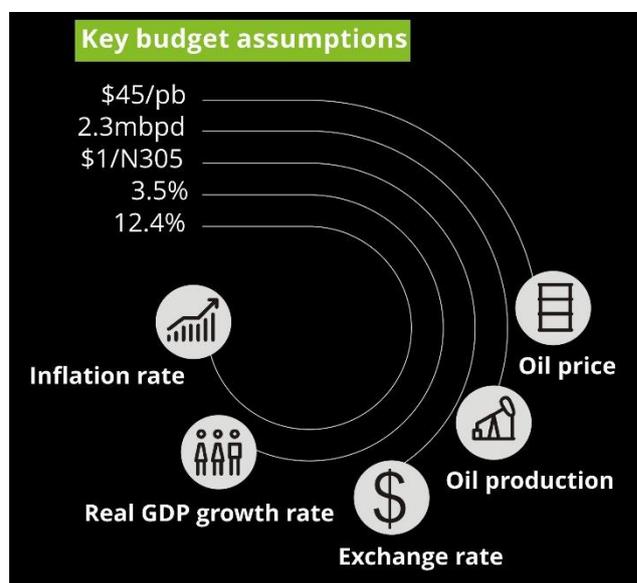
"The 2018 budget is geared towards building on economic recovery accomplishments and achieving sustainable economic growth in the medium term, while ensuring increase in non-oil revenues and capital expenditure"

Introduction

President Muhammadu Buhari presented the 2018 Budget of the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) to a joint session of the National Assembly on Tuesday, 7 November 2017. The Budget, tagged Budget of Consolidation, is aimed at ensuring growth and stability as Nigeria recovers from a period of economic recession. The President had earlier submitted the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper for 2018 to 2020 (MTEF/FSP) to the National Assembly for approval.

Total expenditure for 2018 is projected at ₦8.61 trillion with expected revenue of ₦6.61 trillion resulting in a deficit of ₦2.0 trillion.

A snapshot of the projections and underlying assumptions are set out below.

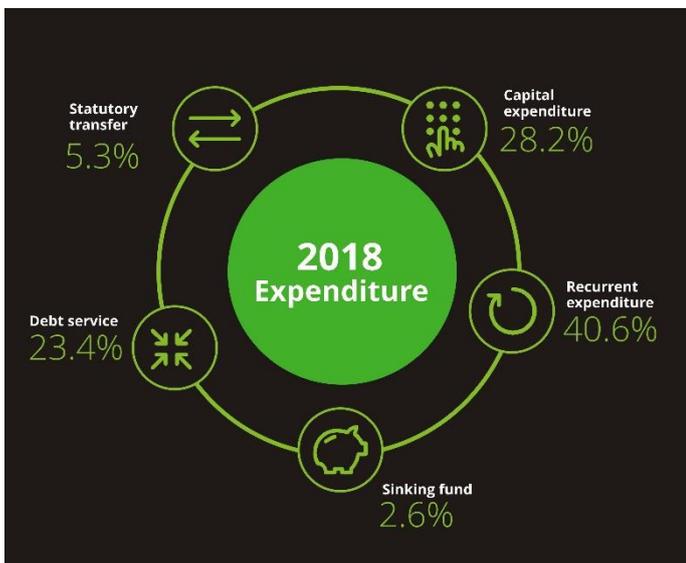


Revenue	2018 #billion	2017 #billion
Oil revenue	2,442	2,122
Companies income tax	794	808
Value added tax	208	242
Customs & excise duties	325	278
Independent revenue	848	872
Recoveries	512	565
Share of tax amnesty income	88	-
Proceeds from restructuring of FG equity in JVs	710	-
Sundry income	678	198
Total	6,606	5,085
Expenditure		
Statutory transfer	456	434
Non-debt recurrent expenditure	3,494	2,991
Sinking fund	220	177
Debt service	2,014	1,664
Capital expenditure	2,428	2,175
Total	8,612	7,440
Budget deficit	(2,005)	(2,355)

Key highlights of the Budget

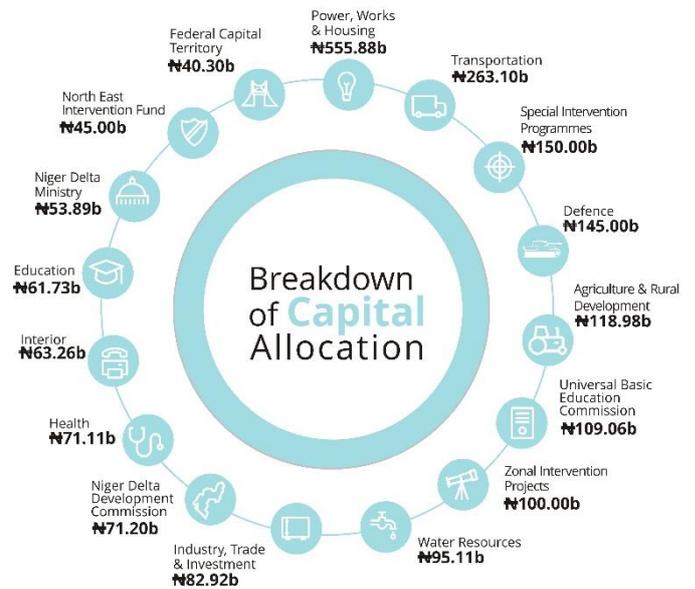
a. Expenditure projections

Total expenditure for 2018 is projected at ₦8.61 trillion. This represents a nominal increase of approximately 16% over the 2017 budget estimate of ₦7.44 trillion.



In line with the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), capital expenditure (inclusive of statutory transfers), constitutes 30.8% (₦2.43 trillion) of aggregate expenditure, compared to 29.2% (₦2.17 trillion) in 2017. Capital allocations in 2018 represents an increase of about 12% over the 2017 estimates.

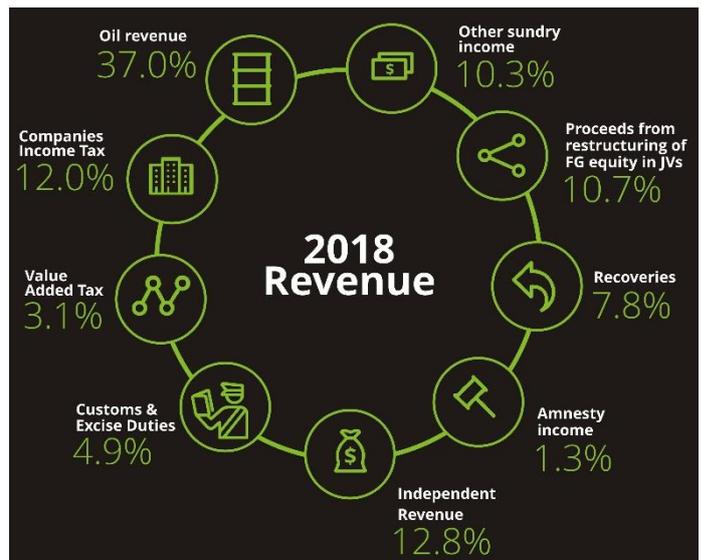
Ministry of Power, Works and Housing is poised to receive the highest capital allocation with a budget of ₦555.9 billion followed by the Ministry of Transportation comes with projection of ₦263.1 billion.



b. Revenue projections

Aggregate FGN revenue for 2018 is projected at ₦6.61 trillion, with oil revenue contributing ₦2.4 trillion (36.9%) and non-oil revenue of ₦4.17 trillion (63.1%). This is based on estimated crude oil production of 2.3 million barrels per day at an exchange rate of ₦305/ \$1.

Estimated non-oil tax revenue includes proceeds from the proposed restructuring of FGN's equity in joint ventures in the oil and gas sector as well as recoveries and proceeds from the on-going tax amnesty programme (Voluntary Asset and Income Declaration Scheme).



c. Financing the deficit

The 2018 fiscal deficit of ₦2.0 trillion represents 1.77% of GDP; a reduction by approximately 20% from the 2017 deficit of ₦2.4 trillion (2.18% of GDP).

It is envisaged that the fiscal deficit will be funded largely by net borrowings sourced locally and internationally, estimated at ₦1.70 trillion and proceeds from sale/restructuring of government non-oil assets estimated at ₦306 billion.

d. Key budget assumptions

The above revenue projections are based on the following assumptions.

i. Oil revenue baseline assumptions

Average oil production is estimated to hit 2.3mbpd¹ for 2018 representing a growth of 4.5% over 2017 oil production estimates.

Given that average oil production in 2016 was 1.82mbpd and 1.9mbpd as at July 2017, and also bearing in mind the impact of the palliative measures used to tackle production challenges that beset the country, this projection appears realistic. This is more so as the actual oil production peaked at 2.2mbpd in June 2017.

The budget also proposes a benchmark oil price of \$45pb for 2018. This is based on World Bank's expectation of positive movements in global oil prices in the near term due to predictions of rise in oil demand, extension of OPEC/non OPEC² output cut agreements, greater compliance by producers, and supply outages among major exporters.

The medium term benchmark prices appear conservative considering that actual oil price in 2016 was \$42pb against a benchmark of \$38pb, and \$49.8pb as at July 2017 compared to benchmark price of \$44.5pb. This is to cushion the effects of price fluctuations.

ii. Non-oil revenue baseline assumptions

Non-oil revenue projections are guided by expected growth in non-oil output and improved efficiency in revenue collection as described below.

- *Custom duties*: The proposed 17% increase (from 2017 of ₦278bn) in expected customs revenue is a reflection of FGN's drive and actions; particularly increased efficiency. Other measures include continuity of improved flexible forex regime, introduction of common external tariff, and expected decrease of average duty rates. It is envisaged that these would boost trade volume and increase customs revenues over the three year period.
- *Companies income tax (CIT)*: While the MTEF anticipated growth in revenue from CIT, the actual 2018 Budget appears conservative in view of the 2% reduction in expected revenues from this stream. This becomes more alarming in view of the assumption under the MTEF that companies' profitability ratio will increase due to government's ongoing efforts to improve the business environment with the ease of business campaign, leveraging private sector capital and increase in tax collection efficiency.
- *Value added tax (VAT)*: Based on MTEF, VAT revenue is estimated on aggregate national consumption which is projected to hit ₦90.48 trillion in 2018 compared to the estimated target of ₦83.84 trillion for 2017. Additionally there is expected 42% increase in VAT collection in 2018.

The Budget however does not speak to this assertion as VAT revenues in the Budget declined by 14.1% when compared to 2017 corresponding figures.

- *FGN independent revenue and amnesty proceeds*: It is expected that FGN's efforts to tackle leakages in government revenues and expanding the tax net through a tax amnesty programme, will yield substantial improvements in remittances to the consolidated revenue fund in the medium term.

Conclusion

The 2018 budget is geared towards building on economic recovery accomplishments and achieving sustainable economic growth in the medium term, while ensuring increase in non-oil revenues and capital expenditure. However, taking a cue from the underperformance of the 2017 budget implementation, the FGN will need to take steps that will ensure full implementation of the budget in 2018 to facilitate the achievement of FGN's set goals for the year.

¹ Million barrels per day

² Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

Contact us:

Yomi Olugbenro

Lead Partner, Tax & Regulatory Services

Mobile: +234 1 904 1724

Email: yolugbenro@deloitte.com.ng

Seye Arowolo

Partner, Tax & Regulatory Services

Mobile: +234 1 904 1723

Email: oarowolo@deloitte.com.ng

Patrick Nzeh

Partner, Tax & Regulatory Services

Mobile: +234 8 493 3103

Email: pnzeh@deloitte.com.ng

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