



National Institute for Legislative Studies

Weekly Digest

Edition #007

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1st Sept 2014



Skills Training for NASS Staff (Cont P2)

The National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) is leaving no stone unturned in ensuring effectiveness and efficiency in every bit of legislative work. Pursuant to this commitment, the Institute has organized a 3-day training workshop on professional service skills for domestic staff of principal officers of the National Assembly.

Declaring the workshop open, the Deputy Director, Research and



6th Meeting of DGD Committee (to P2)

Activities included in the project set up to support the key committees and processes in the National Assembly are pushing towards the conclusive stage. The subcommittees gave progress report at the 8th committee meeting held recently.

Components of the project, which is scheduled to be implemented between March and December 2014, include “review of the existing parliamentary in



Abuja Second Residency Program at NILS (To P2)

The National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS), as a capacity building organization, has started the final round of intellectual exchange and interaction between foreign experts on parliamentary administration and their local counterparts. The residency program is being facilitated by eminent resource persons from McGill University, Canada, in affiliation with the World Bank.

The one-week program started on Monday, 25 August, 2014. The core objectives



Roundtable on Gender Mainstreaming

The National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) has, in collaboration with UNDP/DGD, has organized a one-day roundtable discussion with Civil Society and Community-based Organizations. The event took place at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja.

The roundtable was on gender mainstreaming in the National Assembly (NASS), part of a NILS-DGD project to support key committees and processes in NASS. The end result of the project is to produce a gender strategy document and a gender training manual.

Earlier this year, the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) with the support of the Democratic Governance for Development (DGD), commissioned a gender audit of the National Assembly with the aim of understanding the status of gender within the legislature and ascertain what works and guides the development of a set of principles in line with the mandate of the National assembly to mainstream gender and women’s rights within the legislature and beyond.

The audit report was presented at a validation forum. It was intended to guide the process of developing a gender strategy for the National Assembly.

Skills Training for NASS Staff (Cont'd)

Training, Dr. Asimuyu Abiola, who represented the Director-General, Dr. Ladi Hamalai, expressed his delight to host the caliber of participants with their sensitive role in the good performance of the legislators.

He added that “the success and productivity of a very busy boss depends greatly on the quality of domestic aides at their disposal”. Dr. Abiola declared that as domestic staff, the progression of their bosses is largely hinged on how effective and efficient they discharge their duties. He said he is optimistic that at the end of the workshop, the participants would have acquired the necessary skills to get their work done in a more professional manner.

6Th Meeting of DGD Committee (Cont'd)

formation sharing mechanism (internal and external) and proffer solution for better communication and outreach”. The team in charge of this component presented a prototype of the new website to be hoisted.

On the other hand, the subcommittee handling a book project which highlights the contributions of the legislature to democratic governance will have a peer review done by the end of August while the book will be signed for publication in November 2014.

The subcommittee working on “Gender mainstreaming in the National Assembly” will host a consultative forum on gender strategy and draft a manual for the National Assembly.

The specific objectives of the project include:

- Increasing, through capacity building, the effectiveness of the National Assembly as a representative agent of oversight and reform
- Supporting key committees and processes in the National Assembly
- Enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of the key committees through capacity building
- Strengthening accountability and accessibility to the important processes of the National Assembly
- Developing the institutional, human and operational capacities of parliamentarians and staff of the National Assembly in order to have an improved and expedited legislative committee system
- Encouraging gender sensitivity in the entire legislative process

It will be recalled that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/ Democratic Governance for Democracy (DGD) signed a grant agreement with the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) early in 2014. The intervention will be managed through the review of existing policies/ practice, training of parliamentarians, committee staff and legislative support staff, website review, orientation and technical training programmes as well as parliamentary internships and use of CSOs policy expertise.

Abuja Second Residency Program (Cont'd)

of the program are to boost the capacity building strength of NILS; to enhance knowledge and understanding of parliamentary functions amongst the 60 participants expected to be in attendance including NILS's staff; to uphold a curriculum based on international best practice; and to sustain a professional staff to ensure dependable legislative memory.

Just before commencement of the training, the resources persons took turns to give brief overview of the program. The first to do this was Mr. Rick Stapenhurst. He exposed that his robust experience working on Parliamentary programs at the World Bank left him with demands for university level courses in parliamentary administration. He said the program is divided into two sessions: residency and e-parliament. He added that the international experts will be paired with their local counterparts.

“Parliament and parliamentarians must be focused and transparent, this is the golden part that will sustain the institution” declared another person, Mr. Paul Belisle. He highlighted some of the key topics including democracy, accountability and parliament, core functions of parliament (representation, oversight and legislation), benchmarking parliamentary performance, role of parliamentary staff and corporate management of parliaments.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE PRESS, WEEK 34: 18TH – 22ND AUGUST, 2014

Date	Newspaper	No. of Story	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Most Featured Sectors
18 th - 22 nd Aug, 2014	Daily Trust	38	16	22	0	Leg, Pol & Educ.
	Leadership	26	14	12	0	Pol & Leg
	Punch	15	9	6	0	Leg & Pol
	This Day	14	5	9	0	Pol & Leg
Total	4	93	44	49	0	3

R E M A R K S :

National Assembly in the press in the week under review was relatively moderate with legislative activities spread across 11 sectors of the nation's economy, out of which three featured most prominently. The sectors include:

- Legislature - 54 times
- Politics - 23 times
- Educatio - 2 times

Other sectors also featured in the week's legislative activities of the apex Parliament but on a low key note include; Defence, Economy, Energy, Executive, Health, Petroleum, Social and Sports.

In fact, 93 stories concerning the country's highest law-making institution made headlines in the four newspapers reviewed during the week. 44 of them projected the image of the National Assembly POSITIVELY. One of the heartwarming reports reads "Doctors may end strike after meeting with Mark". According to the story, the striking members of Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) may end their more than two months industrial action after the intervention by Senate President, David Mark. The Doctors have been on strike over demand for improved condition of service by the federal government.

The story added that the spokesman of the Senate President, Paul Mumeb said the President of the NMA, Dr. Kayode Obembe has hinted of an impending suspension of the strike recently in Abuja after a prolonged meeting with Sen. Mark. The meeting which held at the instance of Sen. Mark along with Delta State Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, who is a medical doctor, Sen. Tunde Ogbeha and Senior Special Assistant to the President on Public Affairs, Dr. Doyin Okukpe with the doctors lasted from Tuesday night to Wednesday morning in Sen. Mark's Apo residence, Abuja.

Sen. Mark had at a closed door meeting with the striking doctors reminded them of the implication of the industrial dispute on the health of the citizens if they continue. Responding, the President of the NMA, Dr. Obembe said he would not give exact date and time when the strike will be called off, until he reported back to his members. He further revealed that the meeting with the Senate President has been very useful and successful.

However, 49 stories portrayed the image of the revered parliament in the NEUTRAL direction. One of the neutral reports was captioned "Mark, Oru mourn Aziza's death". Accordingly, the Senate President, David Mark and the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Dr. Steve Oru have condoled with the family of late General Patrick Aziza, who passed away recently in Abuja at the age of 67.

Senate President has described late Gen. Aziza as one of the best and fertile minds the Nigerian Military ever produced. He added that even in the trying times in Nigeria's contemporary history, Gen. Aziza was among the Military Officers who stood to be counted on the premise that peace and unity of Nigeria must be held sacrosanct at all times. The deceased was the President General of the Urhobor Progressive Union (UPU) in Delta State until his demise.

Also, the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Dr. Oru has described the death of Gen. Aziza as very sad, stressing that "we will all surely miss him".

While on the flip side, no story dimmed the image of the apex legislature NEGATIVELY during the week.

National Assembly in the Press is a Publication of Information Unit, NILS.