



# National Institute for Legislative Studies

## Weekly Digest

## THE WORLD BANK SEEK WAYS TO COLLABORATE WITH NILS



The vision of NILS is to be a world class facility that would support the sustenance of dynamic and effective Legislature in Nigeria (at Federal, State and Local level), and the sub-region

The Director General of the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS), Dr. Ladi Hamalai, and the Institute's management team received representatives of the World Bank at the Institute recently. The visit was aimed at building collaboration in strengthening good governance in Nigeria.

The leader of the team, Jens Kristenten, informed the management of NILS that the World Bank is keen to partner with the different organs of the National Assembly to strengthen the latter in achieving good governance in the country.

He added that the World Bank is willing to bring expertise and partner with the Institute as they are extending loans and credit worth 1-2 billion dollars a year. He noted that his organization is aware of the 2015 Induction program for new legislators being organized by NILS and expressed their interest in making input. He assured that they will respond to the Institute's request as they roll in to see if it is within their mandate to partner. He also said they offer knowledge, people and time adding that they don't give grant but provide credit and loans in facilitating programmes.

In her response, the Director General of NILS said the institute will neither take loans nor credit but would rather have the World Bank facilitate some of its programmes by providing reputable resource persons.

### PARLIAMENTARY SUMMIT POSTPONED

The Parliamentary Security Summit scheduled to hold in Nigeria between 15th and 16th September 2014 has been put on hold. The decision is as a result of directives by ECOWAS Commission that all ECOWAS meetings be suspended as a precautionary measure to check the spread of EBOLA virus among the citizens of member states.

The Security Summit, under the auspices of the National Institute for Legislative Studies and the ECOWAS Parliament was set to examine the causal and aggravating factors of transnational crimes and terrorism in West Africa with a global perspective.

## WORLD BANK COLLABORATE WITH NILS

Dr. Hamalai informed the World Bank representatives that the Institute has already approved programmes on the induction of new parliamentarians in 2015. A five day program slated for the National Assembly and a 2-week programme for the State Assemblies taking place in two batches. Most of the programmes, she said, are focused on legislative procedure and practice to acquaint the legislators with the basics of their work. Moreover, communications and inter-parliamentary affairs will be covered, making it a very interesting package.

She said the sessions on ministries, departments and agencies will have the Planning Commission, EFCC, ICPC, Budget Office and Ministry of Fi-

nance to brief the legislators. She suggested that the World Bank can, within this scope, introduce their activities to the fresh legislators.

The Director General posited that State Assemblies need a lot more help in capacity building and it will be of great value if the World Bank can extend its intervention to them. She hinted on efforts made by the Institute to integrate the State Assemblies into its training programmes but funding has been a challenge.

The World Bank Group's collaboration with the Federal Republic of Nigeria received a boost recently with an endorsement of a new country partnership strategy that includes support for a bold and ambitious programme of development targets and interventions for the next four years.

## INTERVIEW WITH DG NILS (LAST PART)



*Q: What are the general targets the Institute is aiming at before the end of the year?*

**DG:** So far we are implementing work plans. We have written and developed a half-year implementation status report that can be reviewed. That will give you an accurate assessment of the progress made so far and the programs that are remaining to be implemented before the year runs out. We also have

one or two challenges in the Institute. Most of the challenges in this institute arise from rumor mongering, lack of good faith and sincerity in the way staff approach their work. Rumors have been flying about how staff are running away from the institute. If you look at the data, an analysis of those who left the institute and the dates, so far 16 staff left since 2012. Most of the staff that left, left not because they were disgruntled working in the institute or they was any problem, because

## INTERVIEW WITH DG CONT'D

some of them left for family reasons. Some of them might have higher offers from different institutions that might have given them higher positions, that is may be about 4 or 5 of them, which is normal actually. Some of them were staff of other institutions and they had to go back to such institutions because they have exhausted their leave-without-pay. So I don't see any problem.

*Q: What is your advice to the staff of this institution?*

**DG:** I think the management retreat brought out all the major issues. Staff felt clearly that there is a need for more focus and dedication to the institute. I think that was the major conclusion. And staff also felt there is a need for more positive attitudes and sincerity in all that we do. The management on its part also have made effort to replace those that have left. In fact the positions of many that have left have been streamlined because given the experience we had during the past two years, we discovered there are many redundant positions and if you have so many redundant positions in an institution, it is not healthy. Staff will be at lost to their specific duties, they will be at lost to their specific capacities to fit in. So we have extensively revised the scheme of service of the institute. We have removed some of these gray areas and redundancies. So far most of the staff that have left, 70% of the staff that left their positions will not be filled, however you know there are positions that have been vacant right from 2012 recruitment exercise. Most of these positions were not filled at that time because the institution did not receive good CVs. However given the experience and visibility of the institution

now, I believe we will attract the best people. So we have already advertised for positions not yet filled as of 2012. We have also made plans to do things differently so that we get the best qualified personnel rather than just dwelling on interviews alone as we did. We take other measures to ensure that only the most qualified and competent people who can actually do the kind of policy work the institution want. We also identify people who are good and we encourage them to respond to the advert, but from experience what happened in 2012, the adverts were left open. Most of those who responded to the advert were actually people who failed to fit in other institutions, who have no good understanding of the kind of work being done at the institute. We also have people who came with a lot of misperceptions about how the finances of the institute are being managed and the National Assembly as a whole. Most of them have come to realize such misperceptions, if they were misperceptions at all, and have settled down to do their work. I encourage staff to continue their work.



# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE PRESS, WEEK 35: 25TH – 29TH AUGUST, 2014

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8th Sept 2014

Date	Newspaper	No. of Story	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Most Featured Sectors
25 <sup>th</sup> -	Daily Trust	25	7	18	0	Leg & Pol
29 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership	20	9	11	0	Pol & Leg
Aug,	Punch	8	2	6	0	Leg & Pol
2014	This Day	9	5	4	0	Pol & Leg
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

R E M A R K S :

Press coverage of the National Assembly in the week under review was low. Legislative activities cut across 10 sectors of the nation's economy, out of which two were accorded prominent reportage. Among them were:

- Politics - 23 times
- Legislature - 22 times

Other sectors also featured in the week's legislative activities of the country's apex legislature but on a low key note include; Agriculture, Defence, Education, Executive, Health, Religion, Sports and Transportation.

On the whole, 62 stories concerning the nation's highest law-making body were recorded during the week and 23 of them projected the image of the National Assembly POSITIVELY. One of the favourable reports was captioned "Nigerians desirous of free, fair election – Tambuwal". According to the story, the Speaker of House of Representatives, Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal has urged members of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) to ensure adherence to the rule of law. He stated this at the opening ceremony of the NBA Conference in Owerri, Imo State, where he described lawyers as vanguard of democracy.

Hon. Tambuwal stated that Nigerians are apprehensive as the 2015 general elections draw close, instead of looking forward to the exercise with hope, the nation crave

for free and fair election and the Judiciary has a role to play to ensure that it is achieved. He lamented over what he called the high level of poverty, violence and insecurity in the land. The Speaker admitted that he is in government and would not exonerate himself of blame saying "we all have a role to play to get it right".

Meanwhile, 39 stories portrayed the image of the revered parliament in the NEUTRAL direction. One of such stories was titled "Tambuwal, Fashola presidential ticket can crush PDP-Rep". Accordingly, The Deputy Chairman of House of Representatives Committee on Finance, Hon. Yomi Ogunnusi has said that if the All Progressive Congress (APC) can present a strong presidential candidate in the next year's election, it will defeat President Goodluck Jonathan who may seek re-election. Hon. Ogunnusi added that the APC would do well at the poll next year if it presented the Speaker of House of Representatives, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal as its presidential candidate and Lagos State Governor, Babatunde Fashola as his running mate.

Hon. Ogunnusi described Fashola as a hardworking governor who was generally loved for his accomplishment and also described Tambuwal as a humble leader.

While, on the flip side, no story was recorded on the NEGATIVE direction in the week under review.

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