

National Institute for Legislative Studies

Weekly Digest



MEMBERS CHARGED TO REMAIN FOCUSED AS HOUSE RESUMES PLENARY

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Aminu Tambuwal, has charged lawmakers in the House not to get desperate and lose focus particularly in this precarious time of highly volatile political atmosphere. He demanded that they remain committed to the task of delivering service that would assuage the suffering and fears of the people on whose mandate they were elected. Tambuwal added that “without the people there will be no country; nothing to represent or serve”.

The Speaker gave this advice in his welcome address on Tuesday, 16 September 2014 upon resumption of plenary after 8 weeks recess that marked the end of the 3rd session of the 7th Assembly. Tuesday’s sitting signifies the beginning of the 4th and final session of the life span of the current Assembly. The Speaker also led the Reps to observe a minute silence to honour the soldiers and security personnel who lost their lives in combat with insurgents in the North Eastern part of the country. He commended the military and other security agencies for their determination to stamp out insurgency.

On the reports about insurgents taking over some Local Government Areas and towns in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States, one of the Reps from Borno, Hon. Mohammed Monguno, warned that this development

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PROVISIONAL NILS 2015 WORK PLAN IN REVIEW

A draft workplan for the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) has been presented to the management staff of the Institute for deliberation and input before it is finalized and approved. The presentation was done by the Chairman, 2015 Workplan Committee, Dr. A.G. Abiola.

The draft plan covers background and philosophy, review of the 2014 workplan, lessons learnt, challenges faced and recommendations for 2015. The background and philosophy of the draft plan covers ‘emerging issues’ such as security, unemployment, power supply, new sets of legislators coming in after the 2015 general elections etc.

In her remarks, the Director General of the Institute, Dr. Ladi Hamalai, mentioned other areas the 2015 workplan needs to cover including induction courses for new legislators, continuance of international training and the Institute’s post-graduate programmes and building on efforts to strengthen civil-military relations.

She also called for a deep look at the direction of Institute’s research with

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PROVISIONAL NILS 2015 WORK PLAN IN REVIEW

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a view to changing current practices and cultivating innovative ideas that would help carve a niche for NILS in the global research community. Dr. Hamalai called on staff to focus on a distinct databank for the Institute as well as establishing a robust legal research operation. She said the issue of NILS publications needs to be looked at and addressed in the 2015 workplan, adding that “our research needs to make an impact in the National Assembly”

The Director General charged staff to come up with innovative ideas and strategies for carrying out all of the Institute’s mandates, including monitoring elections, coverage of State Assemblies, sensitizing members of the public and curriculum development on relevant matters.

In his remarks, the Director, Research and Training, Dr. Adeyemi Fajimbesi, highlighted the absence of a research policy at the Institute, adding that they have started working on the matter. He said they are looking into any gaps and lapses with a view to covering them. Dr. Fajimbesi added that his ideas include setting up peer review mechanisms such as in-house seminars as well as ensuring that staff specialize in specific areas.

MEMBERS CHARGED TO REMAIN FOCUSED

AS HOUSE RESUMES PLENARY

poses a serious threat to the territorial integrity and corporate existence of Nigeria.

Moreover, the dreaded Ebola outbreak was not left out as Rt. Hon. Tambuwal announced that the National Assembly and indeed other institutions of democracy are to make N200m worth of contribution to combat the outbreak of the disease in the country. He directed relevant committees of the House to work collaboratively with health institutions and ensure full legislative support for whatever measures employed to prevent the Ebola virus from spreading further.

Also, the Speaker directed the Clerk of the House to activate a Bill for the installation of electronic voting system in the chambers. He stated that “as a 21st century parliament, this is a legacy we must bequeath the 8th Assembly”. The House thereafter proceeded into a close session to further deliberate on the security challenges in the country.

In another development, a protest by retired

military personnel disrupted entrance into the national assembly complex. The ex-military personnel were said to have brought their grievance on non-payment of their pension and other arrears to the gate of the National Assembly for redress.

On the next legislative day being Wednesday 17, September 2014 a Bill which sought for the abrogation of legislative powers delegated to Executive, Administrative, Judicial, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government, for the determination, imposition, increase, cancellation, withdrawal or reduction of taxes, duties, tariffs and fees without the approval of the National Assembly, scaled second reading after being debated extensively.

The sponsor of the Bill, Hon. Garba Datti Muhammed, led the debate highlighting the general principles of the Bill. He made case for the legislature, arguing that the power to appropriate exclusively belongs to the parliament and that it was an error to have delegated such power to other organs of the government.

He said the reason for canvassing for the abrogation of section 59(1) (b) of the 1999 Constitution is the reckless abuse of it. The power delegated has resulted in corruption and all sorts of unwarranted duties, taxes and fees imposed on innocent citizens.

Speaking in support of the Bill, Hon. Emmanuel Jime argued that the Bill is not a non-delegation Bill. It seeks specifically to address delegations related to taxes and fees. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila also lent his voice in support of the Bill. He said the Bill should be objectively looked at, adding that “we must begin to check the real excesses of separation of powers”.

Other Reps who spoke in favor of the Bill were Hon. Friday Itulah and Hon. Ogbuefie Ozormbanuchie. They averred that recent events have revealed that supporting the Bill is very important and relevant to the survival of the economy. Moreover, the Bill brought to the fore the process of democratization of the society. “There is no legislation or taxation without representation. The Bill will help us to recapture the powers of the legislature”, they added.

On the other hand, those who spoke against the Bill, including Hon. Leo Ogor, expressed concern that passing the Bill the way it is might have unforeseen implications that might affect even the legislature. He said continuing debate on the Bill is tantamount to a ‘white goose chase’. Hon. Patrick Ikhariale posited that there is nowhere in the world delegation of powers does not exist between the legislature and the executive.

Another member, Hon. Uzo Azubuike, was of the opinion that the Bill is unwarranted, unnecessary and unrealistic. He added that though he believes in the principle of separation of powers, yet there are situations where each arm of government delegates power to another to allow for expedient functioning of government.

The Bill was referred to the Special Ad-hoc Committee on review of 1999 Constitution for further legislative inputs.

NILS SET TO RECRUIT MORE RESEARCHERS

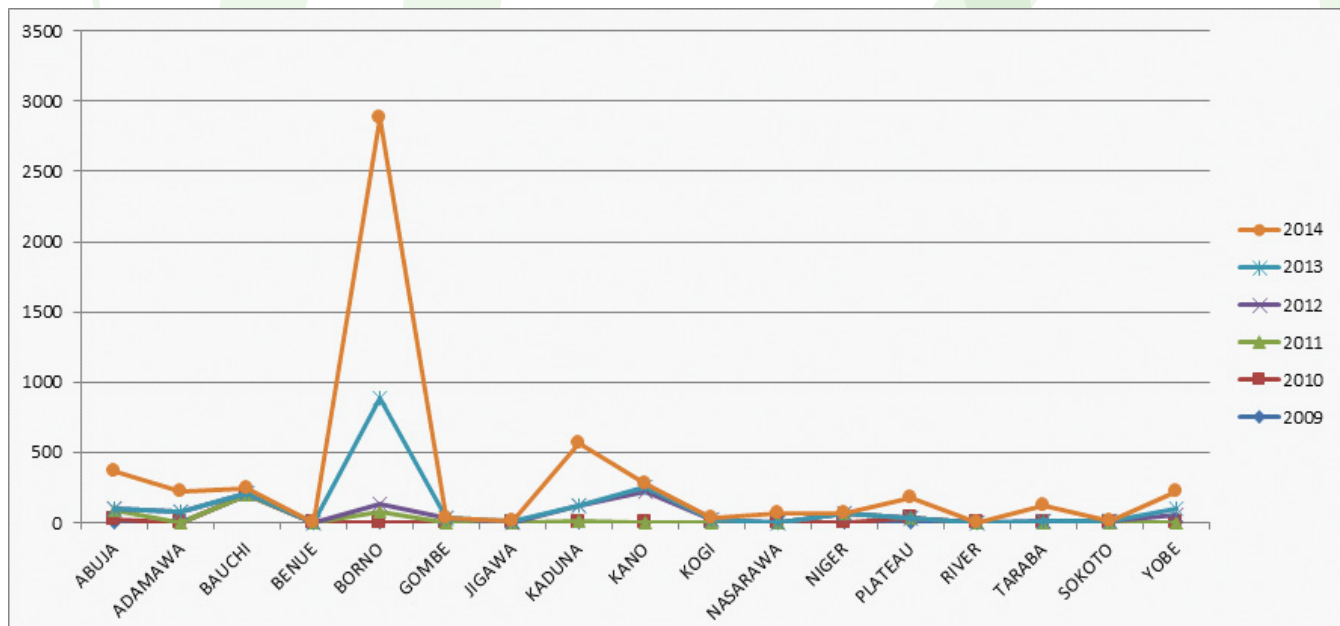
Following advertisements placed in some newspapers by the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) calling for applications to fill vacant positions in the Institute, a panel constituted to review applications and conduct interview met recently to deliberate on the best practices required in the selection process. Part of their deliberations had included compliance with the Federal Character Commission's guidelines in recruitment process as well as consideration of the Nigerian Universities Commission's approved ratings with regards to qualification. The categories advertised include Senior Research Fellow - Social Sector/Political Division, Research Fellow 1 - Public Finance, Senior Research Fellow, Research Fellow 1 and Research Fellow 2 - Legal Research Division and the Institute's Librarian. The Panel, which comprises of highly knowledgeable and experienced members, agreed that short-listed candidates will be duly informed of the dates

of the interview through letters, text messages and emails. The interview will be carried out on 26th and 27th of September at the Conference Room of the Institute in Abuja. The Director General of NILS, Dr. Ladi Hamalai (MFR), emphasized that the recruitment process will be carried out in the most professional manner with the aim of selecting candidates with analytical thinking and writing skills who will further boost the productivity of the Institute. She reiterated that the National Institute for Legislative Studies, which is a world class facility providing support to the sustenance of dynamic and effective legislature in Nigeria and the sub region, will not relent in the provision of quality academic and professional research, policy analysis, training, documentation and advocacy on democratic governance and legislative practice.

NILS DATABANK SHOWS RELENTLESS INCREASE OF DEATH FROM VIOLENT INSURGENCIES

NILS special data project tracking the number of deaths from insurgencies in Nigeria has revealed a sharp upsurge of deaths in Benue, Borno and Gombe States. Borno State in particular recorded the highest number of deaths. Jigawa, Kaduna and Kano States have also recorded an upsurge of killings. The North East and the North Central

Areas continue to witness the most increases in deaths due to violent insurgencies showing exceptional increase in death between 2013 and 2014. See the graph below that shows the yearly accounts of death (state by state) from 2009 to 2014.



HOUSE MOTION WEEK ENDING FRIDAY 19TH SEPT 2014

The Need to investigate the attempt to smuggle the sum of \$9.3m Cash into South Africa.

Hon. Suleiman Abdulrahman Kawu Sumaila:

The House:

Notes the report in the City Press Newspaper of South Africa that on September 5, 2014, two Nigerians and an Israeli citizen flew into Lanseria International Airport, Northwest of Johannesburg in a Challenger 600 Jet piloted by one Captain Tunde Ojongbede while carrying the sum of \$9.3 Million cash;

Also Notes that the three people, upon interrogation by the South African authorities, claimed that the money was meant for purchase of arms for the Nigerian Intelligence Service;

Concerned about the alarming rate at which arms are smuggled into the country through the nation's porous air/sea ports and land borders, a situation that is scary and poses a great Challenge to the survival of the nation as a united entity;

Aware that since the money was not declared at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja and is above the prescribed limit, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) impounded and has taken it to the country's Central Bank while investigation is ongoing;

Worried that the people who brought in the money provided documents showing that they came to South Africa in official capacity to purchase weapons on behalf of the Nigerian Government, even though the South African National Conventional Arms Control Committee, which has to approve the import and export of any weapon, as well as issue permits for such transaction was not aware of any application in this case;

Further worried that while many South African Security Agencies, including the National Prosecuting Authority, are involved in the matter because of its gravity, nearly all the relevant Nigerian Agencies, especially the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), the Nigerian Airspace Management Authority (NAMA), the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) do not have any information on the matter;

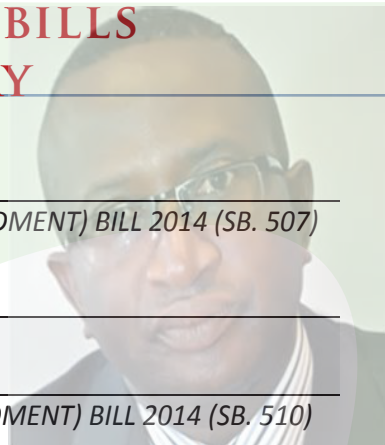
Concerned that the development would further tarnish the image of Nigeria in the eyes of the international community;

Further concerned that if urgent legislative action is not taken in response to this national embarrassment which raises doubt on the conduct of relevant agencies in the Nigerian air services, especially given the high rate of insecurity in the country, the situation may further degenerate and overheat the polity;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Defense, and Aviation to thoroughly investigate [he matter and report back to the House within two weeks.

SENATE NEW MOTIONS & BILLS WEEK ENDING FRIDAY 19TH SEPT 2014



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*INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED INSURANCE BROKERS OF NIGERIA ACT 2003 (AMENDMENT) BILL 2014 (SB. 507)
– FIRST READING*

SEN. ADEGBENGA SEFIU KAKA (OGUN EAST)

NIGERIA INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION PLAN BILL 2014 (SB. 508) - FIRST READING

SEN. DOMINGO OBENDE (EDO NORTH)

*NIGERIAN DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY ACT CAP N30 LFN 2011 (AMENDMENT) BILL 2014 (SB. 510)
– FIRST READING.*

SEN. VICTOR NDOMA-EGBA, SAN, CON (SENATE LEADER)

FCT CHRISTIAN PILGRIMS BOARD (EST, ETC) BILL 2014 (SB. 509) - FIRST READING

SEN. SMART ADEYEMI, CON (KOGI WEST)

1. Threat to National Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Nigeria by Insurgents

Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba, SAN, CON (*Senate Leader*)

Co-sponsors

Sen. Nkechi J. Nwaogu	Sen. Uche Chukwumerije CON	Sen. Enyinnaya Abaribe	Sen. Tukur B. Mohammad
Sen. Mohammed U. Jibrilla	Sen. Ahmed, B. Hassan	Sen. Chris Ngige, DON	Sen. Andy E. Uba, MFR
Sen. Margery C. Okadigbo	Sen. Ita S. J. Enang	Sen. Helen Esuene	Sen. Aloysius A. Etok
Sen. Abdul A. Ningi, CON	Sen. Ike Ekweremadu, CFR	Sen. Babayo G. Gamawa	Sen. Abdulkadir Jajere
Sen. Adamu I. Gumba	Sen. Paulker Emmanuel, CON	Sen. Clever Ikisikpo	Sen. Heineken Lokpobiri
Sen. Barnabas I. Gemade	Sen. George Akume	Sen. Ahmed Zanna	Sen. Maina Ma' Aji Lawan, CON
Sen. Mohammed A. Ndume	Sen. Ayade Benedict	Sen. Bassey Edet	Sen. Sahabi Ya'u Alhaji
Sen. Jfeanyi Okowa	Sen. James Manager, CON	Sen. Paulinus N. Igwe	Sen. Philip T. Aduda, MFR
Sen. Christopher Nwankwo	Sen. Sunday Ogbuaji	Sen. Odion M. Ugbesia	Sen. Domingo Obende
Sen. Ehigie Uzamere	Sen. Babafemi Ojuda	Sen. Olunmi Adetumbi	Sen. Anthony Adeniyi
Sen. Gilbert Nnaji	Sen. Ayogu Eze, CON	Sen. Mohammed Goje, CON	Sen. Joshua M. Lidani
Sen. Ahmed Sa'id Alkali	Sen. Chris Anyanwu, MFR	Sen. Hope Uzodinma	Sen. Matthew Nwagwu
Sen. Abudullahi Danladi	Sen. Abdulaziz Usman	Sen. Abdulmunini M.H	Sen. Mohammed Saleh
Sen. Nenadi E. Usman	Sen. Ahmed M. Makarficou	Sen. Hayaru B. Gwarzo, CON	Sen. Basheer M. Garba
Sen. Kabiru I. Gaya	Sen. Abubakar S. Yar'adua	Sen. Abubakar H, Sirika	Sen. Abu Ibrahim
Sen. Abubakar A. Bagudu	Sen. Isa Mohammed	Sen. Magnus Abbe	Sen. Nurudeen A Usman
Sen. Aidoko Ali A. Usman	Sen. Smart Adeyemi, CON	Sen. Abubakar O. Saraki	Sen. Mohammed S. Lafiagi
Sen. Simeon Ajibola	Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, OON	Sen. Gbenga B. Ashafa	Sen. Ganiyu O. Solomon
Sen. Solomon Ewuga	Sen. Suleiman Adokwe	Sen. Abdullahi Adamu, OON	Sen. Dahiru A. Kuta
Sen. Ibrahim Musa	Sen. Zaynab Kure CON	Sen. Olugbenga O. Obadara	Sen. Sefiu A. Kaka
Sen. Babalola Odunsi	Sen. Akinyelure Ayo	Sen. Robert A. Boroffice, OON	Sen. Kunlere Boluwaji
Sen. Olusola A. Adeyeye	Sen. Babajide C. Omoworare	Sen. Mudashiru Husain	Sen. Ayoade Ademola
Sen. Hosea A. Agboola	Sen. Olufemi Lanlehin	Sen. Joshua Dariye	Sen. Gyang Pwajok
Sen. Victor Lar	Sen. George T. Sekibo	Sen. Mohammed MagorooFR	Sen. Wilson A. Ake
Sen. Ibrahim A. Gobir	Sen. Muhammad Maccido	Sen. Umaru Dahiru, OON	Sen. Abubakar Tutare
Sen. Aisha Alhassan	Sen. Emmanuel Bwacha, CON	Sen. Bukara. Ibrahim, CON	Sen. Ahmad Lawan, CON
Sen. Ahmed Rufa' I Sani	Sen. Kabir M. Garba	Sen. Edesiri Aguariavwodo	

2. The Ebola Virus Disease in Nigeria

Senator Ifeanyi Okowa (*Delta North*)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE PRESS, WEEK 37: 8 – 12 SEPTEMBER, 2014

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Date	Newspaper	No. of Story	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Most Featured Sectors
8 – 12, Sept, 2014	Daily Trust	24	4	19	1	Leg & Pol
	Leadership	28	8	19	1	Pol & Leg
	Punch	9	3	6	0	Leg & Pol
	This Day	17	5	12	0	Pol & Leg
Total	4	78	20	56	2	2

R E M A R K S :

Press coverage of the National Assembly in the week under review was on the low side. Legislative activities cut across 12 sectors of the nation's economy, out of which two were accorded prominence. The sector include:

Politics	-	34	times
Legislature	-	26	times

Other sectors equally featured in the week's legislative activities of the apex Parliament but on a low key note include; Agriculture, Defence, Education, Energy, Environment, Executive, Judiciary, Petroleum, Social and Sports.

On the whole, 78 stories concerning the country's highest law-making institution were recorded during the week and 20 of them projected the image of the National Assembly POSITIVELY. One of the image boosting reports was captioned "NASS and the Leadership Question by Ifeoma Beko." According to the write up, the legislative arm of government has not been lacking in representation at the leadership podium, as the dynamic trio of Senate President, David Mark, Speaker of House of Representatives, Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal and the Clerk to the National Assembly, Alhaji Salisu Maikasawa have continued to complement the political and administrative arms of the apex parliament as a means of fast tracking legislation, representation and oversight of the vast Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) bureaucracy.

The story added that, there is a high degree of cooperation and coherence in the leadership strata of the National Assembly. This has in no small way contributed in advancing the 7th National As-

sembly as carefully implemented by both the political and the bureaucratic leadership which is geared towards reorganizing, repositioning the revered legislature for more responsive and efficient service delivery to the Nigerian people. This is done through the revamping and strengthening of the Committee System, with renewed emphasis on professionalism, competence and exemplary performance, couple with strict adherence to transparency, accountability and the rule of law in all legislative activities.

Meanwhile, 56 stories portrayed the image of the revered parliament in the NEUTRAL direction. One of the neutral reports reads "Mark mourns Col. Onuka." Accordingly, the Senate President, David Mark has described the death of former Military Administrator of Edo State, Col. Mohammed Onuka as unfortunate and devastating. He said the Late Onuka was one of the finest artillery officers in the Nigerian Army who stood to be counted when it mattered, stressing that his death at this time was most regrettable but we cannot question the will of the Almighty, he declared.

Conversely, only two stories skewed the image of the apex legislature NEGATIVELY. One of the stories was titled "Non-passage of Bio-safety Bill threatens Food Security". According to the report, achieving food and nutrition security could be slowed down in Nigeria as modern agricultural Bio-technology method could not be deployed to boost food production due to the non-passage of the bill, the Director General, National Bio-technology Development Agency (NABDA), Prof. Lucy Ogbadu said. She added that if the bill is not passed into law, the Agency will not be in a position to contribute fully in food and nutrition security in the country through improvement of yield and nutritional content of farm produce.

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