



# National Institute for Legislative Studies

## Weekly Digest

Edition #0013

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## NILS MATRICULATES FIRST SET OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS



The National Institute for Legislative Studies has received encomium over its rapid growth and giant strides recorded in its short time of existence as an Institute. The accolades came during the commencement ceremony at the inauguration ceremony for fresh post graduate students of the institute.

While speaking at the event, the Senate President, distinguished Senator David Mark GCON said that the National Institute for Legislative Studies represents the National Assembly's effort at creating a world class institute that would serve to build the capacity of legislators not only in Nigeria but also in Africa as a whole. He further said that the institute is a brainchild of the National Assembly stemmed from a realization by legislators that their work as representatives of the people must be built on solid research backed by empirical facts.

Senator David Mark expressed delight at the fact that NILS is collaborating with other reputable international organizations like Johns Hopkins, Oxford, Harvard and McGill University while positing that the collaboration with the University of Benin (UNIBEN) which brought about the Postgraduate programmes in legislative Studies will go a long way in uplifting the legislature in required knowledge necessary for the discharge of their legislative functions.

In his remarks, the Deputy Senate President and Chairman, Governing Council of the National Institute for Legislative Studies, Distinguished Senator Ike Ekweremadu CFR said that legislators cannot afford to fall short of being worthy of their mandates and the trust reposed in them

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and it is in light of the great responsibility that the National Institute for Legislative Studies was established with the mandate of supporting and strengthening the legislature in the pursuit of the ideals of democracy through research, training, legislative support, advocacy and networking.

Senator Ekweremadu further informed that the partnership between NILS and University of Benin is one of those milestones and a testament to the institute's achievements and growing relevance.

While congratulating the first set of students undertaking Master's degree programmes in Legislative Drafting and Legislative Studies, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Alternate Chairman of the Governing Council of NILS, Rt. Hon. Emeke Ihedioha CON said that the quality of student intake and staff employed as well as the excellent facilities at the institute makes it apparent that a citadel of learning, teaching and research in consonance with the mission of the institute is being created to the attainment and sustenance of quality academic and professional research on democratic governance and legislative practice.

The Postgraduate programme which

offers a unique opportunity to drafters, legal officers, policy makers and those interested in the process of law making to acquire postgraduate certificates is a brain child of the National Institute for Legislative Studies in collaboration with the University of Benin. The 2014 set has about 30 men and women who have enrolled for Legislative Drafting and Legislative Studies.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Benin represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor(Administration), Prof. Lawrence Ezemonye welcomed the fresh students to the fold of University of Benin family which strives for excellence at all times.

In her vote of thanks, the Director General of the National Institute for Legislative Studies, Dr Ladi Hamalai, MFR emphasized that the many successes achieved by the institute till date can be attributed to the unmitigated support of the National Assembly leadership and commitment demonstrated by the management and staff of the institute. She said that the Governing Council of the institute has given purposeful leadership and made valuable contribution towards ensuring that the institute reaches excellence.

The commencement ceremony also saw the students take the Matriculation Oath followed by signing of the matriculation register.

## NILS AND NOUN ON THE PATH TO COLLABORATION



The Vice Chancellor of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Prof. Vincent Tenebe has expressed the University's move to collaborate with the National Institute for Legislative Studies in bringing education closer to legislators and their staff amidst their busy schedule. This came to the fore at a courtesy visit by the principal officers of the University to the Deputy Senate President and Chairman of the Governing Council of the National Institute for Legislative Studies, Senator Ike Ekweremadu CFR. The visit which had the Director General of the National Institute for Legislative Studies, Dr. Ladi Hamalai MFR in attendance was carried out against the backdrop of drawing up strategies in achieving the establishment of a study center that will cater for Legislators and their staff interested in obtaining Degrees in various fields of study other than those already being offered by the institute's Postgraduate programme. Responding to the team, the Deputy Senate President said that the move is a welcome development because the role of education cannot be overemphasized due to the fact that it enlightens the populace and empowers people to know their rights and responsibilities. While assuring them of provision of infrastructure and cooperation in making the study center the best in the country, Senator Ekweremadu warned that they should not compromise quality and standard towards the realization of analytical and intellectual minds to tackle some of the common difficulties in the nation.

## SENATE PASSES CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

The Senate on Tuesday October 21, 2014 at plenary session passed into law two very important legislations. The Bills passed were the "Review of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Further Amendment) Bill 2014 (Senate Bill 77), sponsored by Deputy Senate President, Sen. Ike Ekweremadu and Border Community Development Agency Act CAP B10 Law of the Federation of Nigeria 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2014 (Senate Bill 143), sponsored by Sen. Umaru Dahiru and Sen. Kabiru Gaya." The passage of the Constitution Amendment Bill was sequel to the presentation of the Report of Conference Committee on the Review of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 led by Sen. Ike Ekweremadu before the Senate for Consideration and passage into law. The Red Chamber resolved into the Committee of the Whole, considered the report and ultimately passed it into law through voice vote. In fact, 22 Sections and Second Schedule Part I and II of the 1999 Constitution were amended. The amendment included sections 4, 7, 9, 45, 50A and 90A which enshrine in the Constitution the establishment of National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly Service Commissions. While sections 58 and 100 resolve the impasse where the President or Governor of a State neglect to signify his assent or withhold such assent. Other sections passed included 59, 65 and 106, 67, 81, 82 and 122, 84 (4) (A - F), 89 and 129, 121, 124, 134 and 179, 174 and 211, 225, 228, 241, 251, 285 as well as the Second Schedule Part I and II. The Second Schedule Part I and II deals with (Legislative Powers) which addresses the Exclusive Powers under Part I to the Schedule of the Constitution which was congested, cumbersome and unwieldy and decongest Exclusive Legislative List by maintaining only items of utmost importance to the Federation as a whole and transferring some items to the Concurrent Legislative List.

# THIS WEEK IN THE HOUSE

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Activities in the House of Representatives in the week ending saw a resolution which directed relevant Committees on Security to summon the heads of security outfits and Service Chiefs to explain the reasons for the use of face masks and hoods by personnel of their various outfits when conducting civil assignments. The directive came following a motion moved by Hon. Nathaniel Agunbiade. He expressed concern that some military and Department of State Service personnel, have been repeatedly sighted wearing masks and hoods openly, particularly while monitoring elections and executing other civil duties. Hon. Samson Osage lent his voice in support of the motion. He said "anything that will make institutions of State to lose the confidence of the people is not worthy to be condoned". He pointed out that obviously, face masks and hoods are used by hoodlums and even insurgents to commit criminal activities, and therefore wearing them threatens public safety. Also the House passed a resolution on a matter of urgent public importance urging the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to unravel the mysterious death of the son of a former Bayelsa State Governor in Dubai. The resolution came on the heels of a motion moved by Hon.

Abike Dabir-Erewa. She exposed that for the past two months, about 6 Nigerians have died under mysterious circumstances and that if the trend is not quickly checked, many more deaths may follow. Meanwhile, the House in a Committee of the Whole has considered and approved the request of President Jonathan on the need for his administration to borrow not more than \$1 billion for the purpose of tackling the current national security challenges. The House urged the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to expedite action through fund sourcing for the immediate completion, commissioning and utilization of the Northern Ishan Water Supply. The resolution was informed by a motion dispassionately moved by Hon. Friday Itulah. The House also passed three important Bills for second reading. The first was a Bill which sought to amend the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) Act and make provision for opportunities of competition and participation in Nigeria and indeed the world market. The sponsor of the Bill, Hon. Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed, argued that foreign investors took advantage of enabling laws in Nigeria to institute services in the industry that are adversely affecting consumers in the country. The second Bill that also scaled second reading was a Bill which sought to improve on the welfare of traffic wardens by establishing the 'Traffic Wardens Service' that gives more opportunity for persons in this profession to attain the peak of their career. The Bill was sponsored by Hon. Afam Victor Ogene who was concerned that though the work of the traffic wardens in Nigeria is very tedious and risky, yet it leaves them with no prospect. Another Bill that scaled second reading was a Bill that sought to prohibit racketeering with human pregnancy or operation of baby production factories, harboring of pregnant persons under the age of 18 years and above, selling or attempting to sell newly born babies in Nigeria standing in the name Hon. Eddie Mbadiwe.

## HOUSE MOTIONS

Urgent Need to Complete and Commission the Northern Ishan Water Supply Scheme:  
**Hon. Friday Itulah:**

The Urgent Need to Rescue Abadam/Mobbar/Guzamal/Kukawa Federal Constituency in Borno State which has fallen under the Control of the Boko Haram  
**House suspended Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.**

Indiscriminate Killing of Nigerians in Dubai, United Arab Emirate :  
**House suspended Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to**

Receipt and Adoption or the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to ensure full Integration of Persons with Disabilities into the Society and to Establish a National Commission For Persons with Disabilities and Vest it with the Responsibilities for their Education Health Care and the Protection or Their Social. Economic and Civil Rights (HB, 70) 2012:

**Motion Made and Question Proposed:**

Need for Explanation of the Failure to Construct the N3.7 Trillion Green Field Refineries at Lagos, Bayelsa and Kogi States Four (4) Years after the Award of the Contract:  
**Motion Made and Question Proposed:**

Need to Stop the Use of Face Masks and Hoods by Military and Department of State Service Personnel:  
**Motion Made and Question Proposed:**

## SENATE NEW BILLS

Compulsory Free Universal Basic Education Act 2000 (Amendment) Bill 2014 (SB. 517) -  
*First Reading*  
**Sen. Suleiman Adokwe (Nasarawa South)**

Niger Delta Development Commission Act CAP N86 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2014 (SB. 518) – *First Reading*  
**Sen. Andy Uba, MFR (Anambra South).**

Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act CAP 117 LFN 2011(Amendment) Bill 2014 (SB. 519) - *First Reading*  
**Sen. Gbenga Ashafa (Lagos East).**

Nigeria Infrastructure Fund (est., etc) Bill 2014 (SB. 520) - *First Reading*  
**Sen. Andy Uba MFR (Anambra South).**