



National Institute for Legislative Studies

Weekly Digest

NILS EDUCATE NASS COMMITTEE CLERKS ON MTEF ANALYSIS

Edition #0014

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3rd Nov 2014



Since the advent of this current democratic dispensation in Nigeria, it has become a tradition for the Executive arm of government to transmit a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) to the legislature for in-depth examination and analysis, covering 2 estimated fiscal years. The extent to which this is critically analysed, allows for proper fiscal policy by the government and expedient public revenue expenditure framework.

It is in a bid to actualizing the essential objectives of the MTEF which experts identified to include proper costing of projects and programmes, improvement of budgeting basics and fundamentals, improving macroeconomic balance by developing consistent and

realistic estimates of available resources from all known revenue sources, that the National Institute for Legislative Studies takes a proactive step to organize a 3-Day training workshop for relevant Committee Clerks of both Houses of the National Assembly on understanding and enhancing capacity on MTEF and budget analysis using international best practice as a yard-stick.

The 3-Day training workshop started on Wednesday 29, October 2014 at the National Assembly complex, in Abuja. The facilitator of the workshop, a senior research fellow with NILS, Dr, Kanayo Ugajuba bared his mind on the relevance of the training especially now that the Executive has just sent a copy of the 2015-2017 MTEF to the National Assembly for adequate consideration and legislative inputs.

ECOWAS PARLIAMENTARY STAFF ACQUIRE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SKILLS

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The National Institute for Legislative Studies' capacity building project (NILS CAP) has organized a workshop conceived to improve competence of ECOWAS parliamentary research staff. The workshop which started on Monday 27, October 2014 was declared open by Mr. John Azumah, an ECOWAS Parliament staff and member of NILS-CAP Technical Committee. In his remarks, Mr. Azumah said that the essence of the capacity building project is most importantly to guide the legislature in particular and Policy makers in general in making informed evidence-based and people targeted policies especially in emerging democracies. The Programme Manager, Valentia Tetteh assured participants at the workshop of pragmatic exposure to

the fundamentals of legislative research and indeed the rudiments of legislative activities and practices which would be effortlessly facilitated by skilled resource persons that has been assembled and through experience sharing by the participants. She was hopeful that at the end of the 3-Day workshop, participants would have gained better insight of modern methodologies and advanced skills and techniques in research and policy analysis. Also to provide evidence-based information to legislators that will guide in the making of informed legislation and anchor the oversight of implementation of government policies among others. The resource persons were drawn from experienced academia and experts in legislative research. Notable among them were Mr. Constant Honnougan from Benin National Assembly and DG NILS, Dr. Ladi Hamalai.

ANOTHER BOOK PRESENTATION IN NILS



For the last six months in 2014, the institute has hosted 3 book presentations painstakingly written by its staff. The latest is a book titled 'Legislators in Changing and Challenging Times' authored by Professor Okechukwu Oko a staff of NILS serving in the capacity of the Director, Legislative Support Services. He is a Dodson-Hook Professor of Law at Southern University Law Centre, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During the public presentation of the his book on Tuesday 28 October, 2014 some selected guests at the occasion including Professor C. O. Okonkwo has this to say about the author; "the author is a motivated person

in contributing to legal studies having lectured both in Nigeria and the United States. A reader is sure to draw good lessons from the quality and substance of the book.

THIS WEEK IN THE HOUSE



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Plenary in the House of Representatives in the just concluded legislative week saw a dramatic and unfamiliar defection of the Speaker Rt. Hon. Aminu Tambuwal from the ruling party (PDP) to opposition party (APC). Tambuwal who presided plenary session on Tuesday, 28 October waited until the last minute after the House leader, Hon. Mulikat Adeola-Akande, had moved a motion for adjournment, then he beckoned the attention of the members who were already making their exit from the chambers to announce his defection to the All Progressive Congress (APC). "I am now a member of the APC", he declared. The Speaker's statement immediately turned the chambers into a rowdy mood as members were taken aback by the uniqueness of the notice of defection. But his colleagues were left dump-founded and helpless since the notice came after the motion for adjournment until 3rd December. The obvious implication of this situation is that Tambuwal remains the Speaker even after his defection against the wish of the ruling PDP. The big question now is what happens when the House resumes sitting? Also, the House passed a resolution on a motion which was described as a patriotic one by

majority of the members. In the resolution which came on the heels of a motion moved by Hon. Olajumoke Okay-Thomas, the House urged the Federal Government to immortalize late Dr. Stella Adadevoh and compensate the families of the health workers who died after contracting Ebola Virus Disease as a result of their exposure to the Liberian carrier of the disease. Hon. Okay-Thomas expressed sadness that as result of physical contact with late Patrick Sawyer, Dr. Adadevoh contracted the disease and consequently died on the 14th of October, 2014. She pointed out that the gallantry, patriotism and professional competence of Dr. Adadevoh went a long way in curbing the spread of the deadly disease. She thinks that naming a medical institution after her name would be an honour well deserved. Many members supported the mover of the motion, congratulating her for bringing to the House such an interesting matter that encourages patriotism and selfless service to humanity.

MOTIONS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 29TH OCTOBER 2014

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Senate Motion

Rescission of the Senate decision on clause 3(2) and inclusion of a second schedule in the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Centre Bill, 2014.

Sponsors:

Senator Victor Lar (Plateau South)

Senator Hosea Agboola

Senator Boluwaji Kunlere

Senator Umaru Dahiru

Senator Uche Chukwumerije

The Senate,

Notes that the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Centre Bill, 2014 was passed on Thursday, 17th July, 2014. Observes that the resolution on clause 3 was not appropriate.

House Motions

Need to immortalize Late Dr Stella Ameyo Adadevoh and Compensate the Families of the Health Workers who Died after Contracting Ebola Virus Disease:

Hon. Olajumoke Okoya-Thomas:

The House:

Notes that prior to the coming in to Nigeria of late Mr Patrick Sawyer, a Liberian -American, there was no recorded case of Ebola Virus Disease in the country;

Reckless Borrowing and Consequent Indebtedness of Akwa Ibom State:

Hon. Robinson Uwak:

The House:

Cognizant of the Second Schedule, Part I of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 which deals with the Exclusive Legislative List, where item 7 places the borrowing of moneys within or outside Nigeria for the purposes of the Federation or any State within the legislative competence of the National Assembly:

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