



## CNA LAUNCHES NEW NASS WEBSITE

The Clerk to the National Assembly (NASS), Alhaji Salisu Abubakar Maikasuwa, has launched the new website for the National Assembly with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and competing with the contemporary international parliamentary standard. He was represented by the Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly, Mr Ben Efeturi, who commended the efforts of the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) and the UNDP/DGD lead Consultants. He also called on NILS Management to collaborate with the ICT Department of the National Assembly to create synergy. The Clerk congratulated NILS on maintaining the NASS website.

Earlier in her welcome address, the Director General of NILS, Dr. Ladi Hamalai traced back the history of the National Assembly website to its 2006 launching. The new NASS website, which contains a variety of information, was sponsored by NILS-UNDP/DGD project. The Resident Representative of the DGD, Daouda Toure, expressed his pleasure on the UNDP/DGD partnership with NILS in deepening democracy in Nigeria.

In his presentation, the lead consultant on the new NASS website, Mr. Sunday Ikpe, said the new website will help build a new integrated, interactive platform in an e-government standard. Similarly, Mr. Flavio Zeni did a presentation on NASS Bungeni Pilot which will build a sophisticated workflow system for the legislature.

## NILS COMMENDED FOR FULFILLING MANDATE

The President of the Senate, David Mark, has commended the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) for judicious utilization of limited resources at its disposal. He said NILS is gradually doing what is expected - being a Centre for research and institutional memory. The Senate President made these remarks at the unveiling of the book series titled "A Century of Lawmaking in Nigeria: 1914 - 2014, Vol. I - IV" published by the Institute as its contribution to Nigeria's centenary celebration. Sen. Mark noted that what NILS is doing for the legislature in Nigeria is very significant to the sustenance of democracy, adding that "if democracy fails, the legislature suffers same fate". He called on other institutions in the country to emulate the excellent performance of NILS. He also encouraged the management and staff of NILS to do more research so that the national parliament can have a robust reference point. Speaking at the event, the Director

General of NILS, Dr. Ladi Hamalai, described the book as not just a contribution to centenary celebration, but a historical revolution. She hinted that the Institute under her leadership staff were motivated to undertake the tedious compilation of bits and pieces of legislative history in Nigeria from 1914 to date. Dr. Hamalai added that both old and new legislators will no doubt benefit from the reservoir of legislative knowledge which the book contains. She pointed out that NILS is also presenting alongside the book, 3 other publications focused on Committees in the National Assembly, Legislative functions, 2003 - 2013 and the legislature and democratic governance in Nigeria. The DG maintained that the institute will not relent in the assemblage of legislative documents that are significant to the effective existence of the legislature. She said materials are being gathered on regional legislations, treaties and pre-colonial legislations.

House Leaders Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola and other women candidates at the occasion.



## NILS DEVELOPS GENDER STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

In a bid to strengthen the National Assembly's response to gender and human rights in Nigeria and to create equal opportunity for all citizens irrespective of sex, disabilities and social status, the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS), with support from development partners such as Democratic Governance for Development (DGD), United Nations Development Project (UNDP) and the International Republican Institute (IRI). Gender mainstreaming strategy will assist the legislators to aim for gender awareness in their decision-making, it will also improve the capacity of officials to provide gender sensitive information and ensure that personnel policies and practices are gender inclusive. It is on this premise various stakeholders were invited to what was tagged "Leadership and Agenda Setting Forum for Women Candidates of Political Parties" to provide foundation for deeper gender dialogue with the 8th National Assembly and with women who may emerge on other platforms. The forum was held on

Monday, 15 December 2014 in Abuja. In her keynote address, Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola, Leader of the House of Representatives, recapped that in February 2014, her office convened the Nigeria Women Strategy Conference and followed it up in June with a Stakeholders meeting to concretize commitments to the resolutions that provided female politicians and advocates with a direction for expanding the political space for women. She restated her excitement in knowing that through definite and purposeful partnership, the agenda setting forum provides a platform for generating ideas and action for female candidates endorsed by their respective parties and accepted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). "This Forum will focus on themes that lend women candidates' solidarity and better prepare them for the race ahead", the House Leader added. In her goodwill message, the Director General of NILS, Dr. Ladi Hamalai, pointed out that the key objective of the forum was to galvanize

action and assistance for women candidature and participation in politics across all political parties. "Through the agency of this forum, we hope to build momentum for increased women's political participation in the 2015 elections" she declared. On the gender strategy, Dr. Hamalai said it builds upon key findings from a gender audit of the National Assembly. She said both the forum and the gender strategy are geared towards identifying and categorizing the series of actions which political parties can take to support women's participation in different phases of the electoral cycle. Other notable goodwill messages were given by the representatives of DGD, Mintwab Zalelew, and IRI, Robina Namusisi. Participants at the forum, which is the first of its kind, included women affairs committees from both the House and the Senate, women in parliament, State level female party and legislative leaders, representatives from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Nigeria Women's Fund, 100 Women Group, NHRC, INEC, CSOs, UN Women and the media.

## NILS MOVES TO STANDARDIZE LEGISLATIVE RULES

Having identified procedural differences in rules of practice across levels of legislatures in Nigeria, as one of the challenges of effective legislative administration and compliance, the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) in collaboration with the Democratic Governance for Development (DGD) and United Nations Development Project (UNDP) has organized one Day interactive conference on standardization of legislative rules of practice and procedure, for members of Federal and State legislatures. The conference was hosted in Abuja on Wednesday 17, December 2014. The Chairman of the conference, Prof. O. Osunbor, an Executive Chairman, Nigerian Law Reform Commission expressed his appreciation of the conference, said it was necessary to review existing rules of various legislative Houses in the country for purposes of standardization.

He made reference to the International Standards Organization being the regulatory body of all practices and procedure of organizations across the globe. Prof. Osunbor added that standardization of rules within the parliament would shape legislative activities and add quality as well as force of action to resolutions. "I think the more of standardization we have, the less problems we have with implementation of laws" he emphasized. Just before declaring the conference open, the Chairman did not fail to commend NILS and its partners for living up to its mandates.

One of the Resource



## NILS-CAP ORGANIZES ITC TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

A four day training workshop on Information Communication Technology for effective legislative service delivery for Parliamentary staff of ECOWAS Parliament, National Parliaments from ECOWAS and State Houses of Assembly in Nigeria has been declared open in Nigeria. The training workshop which starts on

December 15th will run through to the 18th.

The training workshop is organized by the National Institute for Legislative Studies Capacity Building Project (NILS-CAP). It is one of the series of capacity training programmes aimed at enhancing Parliamentary service delivery across

the ECOWAS sub-region.

Declaring the workshop open, the Director General of NILS, Dr. Ladi Hamalai asserted that contemporary Parliamentary activities are knowledge driven predicated on efficient application of information/technology.

persons that made presentations at the Conference was the Senate Committee Chairman Rules and Business, Sen. Ita Enang. In his keynote address, he said the conference will help initiate an action plan for reviewing the Standing Orders of both Federal State Assemblies with a view to bringing them to standard. He identified some of the gray areas to focus on, such as amendment of the Constitution, convening a joint session where the President declines assent with regards to money Bills, said the rules are

inadequate as to how the parliament could override the President's veto. Other areas of constraint, identified by Sen. Enang was that members do not get to see the clean copies of Bills read the third time and passed before it's transmitted to Mr. President for assent.

Sen. Enang called on the Attorney General of the Federation, DG of Budget Office and the Minister of Finance to start paying adequate attention to the provisions of the law in relation to way and manner the National budget is prepared and presented

to the National Assembly. He advised for NILS to endeavor to tackle some of these challenges before the incoming legislators are inaugurated in 2015. Other resource persons who made insightful technical assessment of what is obtained in other jurisdictions with respect to rules of practice and procedure were Chairman, House Committee on Rules and Business, Hon. Albert Sam-Tsokwa, Former Clerk to the National Assembly, Mr. Ogunyomi Oluyemi and Mr. Dan Wandura Ogalo, a consultant from Uganda.

# NEW BILLS & MOTIONS

## SENATE NEW BILLS

**Legislative Houses (Powers & Privileges Act CAP L12 2011 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill 2014 (HB. 436) - First Reading.**

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

**Local Refineries (Licensing) Bill 2014 (SB.536)- First Reading**

**Sen. Magnus Abe** (Rivers South East)

## SENATE MOTIONS

**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

**Presentation of the 2015 Budget Estimates:**

**Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola:**

"That the House do invite the Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister for the Economy, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala to lay the 2015 Budget Estimates",

**Need to Investigate the Expenditure of a huge sum of N3.4Billion Monthly on payment of Salaries to Staff of Moribund Ajaokuta Steel Company:**

**Hon. Abbas Tajuddeen:**☐

**Reconsideration of Outstanding Bill from the Preceding Assembly:**

**(National Centre for Women Development (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (HB. 692)**

**Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa:**

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order XII, Rule 94, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence were made or negated, or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence were made or negated or which were passed by the National Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bills, upon being re-gazetted or clean copies circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced de-novo;☐