



# National Institute For legislative Studies

## CAPACITY BUILDING AND ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS ORGANISED FOR NILS-CAP STAFF



Edition #0024

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26th JAN 2015



The National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS), in conjunction with the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the World Bank Parliamentary Strengthening Programme, has organized a four-day workshop on strategic legislative programme for senior parliamentary staff drawn from various national Parliaments of the ECOWAS member States. The opening ceremony for the programme was jointly held on Monday, 19 January 2015 with an orientation Workshop for staff of NILS, at the Senate Auditorium, National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

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## NILS-CAP Workshop

Declaring the joint programmes open, the Director of Finance and Administration at the institute, Dr. Kabir Ahmed, said the workshop was informed by the fact that many parliaments are not viable enough to discharge their functions mainly due to skills gap, inadequate financial resources and infrastructure. He added that NILS has been working tirelessly to assist parliaments not only in Nigeria but in the sub-region to build essential capacity for them to be effective. Dr. Ahmed noted that the workshop was organized to equip participants with requisite knowledge that would on the long run bridge the existing capacity gap in the legislatures.

In a presentation titled 'Implementing Capacity Development Programmes; the NILS Experience' the Director General of NILS, Dr. Ladi Hamalai, highlighted some of the key strategies that has helped the

institute attain its lofty heights. She pointed out among others, strategies like National and International certificate programs for legislators; patronizing Ivy League institutions abroad such Harvard University, Oxford University and the International Law Institute (ILI). She also

highlighted some key knowledge management activities adopted by NILS, including legislative databank development; tracking and archiving of legislative documents; development and deployment of IT systems relevant to e-parliament functions; development of templates and frameworks

for legislative activities and functions; assisting legislative Committees on a continuous basis on demand; research, studies and policy analysis activities; facilitation of networking with other parliaments and relevant research institutions and deepening of democratic institutions.



The Vice Chancellor (VC) of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Professor Vincent Ado Tenebe, has expressed gratitude to the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) for helping the University actualize its dream of collaborating with a world class institute for research and academic excellence. The VC led the entire management team of NOUN to NILS for the purpose of signing a Memorandum of Understanding

## NILS SIGNS PACT WITH NOUN

(MoU), to create enabling platform for the establishment of a Study Center, which according to Prof. Tenebe, is to further strengthen the University's operations.

The VC said that NOUN is the only University in Nigeria that is allowed to establish Study Centers and the only institution in West Africa that operates an open and distant learning studies. He added that wherever the institution has a Study Center, it is a replica or miniature University that engages in a full time but indirect teaching approach. In her brief remarks before the MoU was signed, the Director General of NILS, Dr. Ladi Hamalai who doubled as the representative of the Deputy Senate President (DSP), Sen. Ike Ekweremadu, said that the DSP is passionate about this collaboration, and has done his bit to make this MoU a reality. "Without wasting time, we will proceed with the signing, thereafter start to monitor implementation of the aim of this MoU", she added.

The signing and exchange of documents were done as members of the management boards of both institutions recited the second stanza of the National Anthem.

# House New Bills and Motions

## 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

### **PRESENTATION OF BILL**

**Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Statutory Appropriation Bill, 2015 (HB. 766)  
(Executive) - First Reading.**

### **NEW Motions**

**Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Act, Cap. 1'1'88, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide Social Security to all Eligible Citizens of Nigeria who are Ordinarily Resident in Nigeria , whether Employed in the Private or Public Sector, Unemployed and Aged Without Discrimination and for Other Related Matters (HB. 286):**

***Hon. Essien Ekpenyong Ayi:***

**Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service charged with powers of assessment, collection of and accounting for revenues accruable to the Federal Capital Territory; and for Other related Matters:**

***Hon. Emmanuel Jime:***

**Urgent Need for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ensure that all Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) exercise their Franchise in the 2015 General Elections:**

***Hon. Mohammed Tahir Munguno:***

**Need to Investigate the Expenditure of a huge sum of 1113.4 Billion Monthly on payment of Salaries to Staff of the 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 Dahi-Erewa:***

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE PRESS, WEEK TWO: 12TH – 16TH JANUARY, 2015

Date	Newspaper	No. of Story	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Most Featured Sectors
12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2015	Daily Trust	43	13	29	1	Leg, Pol & Econ
	Leadership	22	10	11	1	Pol, Leg & Econ
	Punch	7	6	1	0	Econ & Leg
	This Day	9	5	4	0	Pol, Leg & Econ
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

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National Assembly in the press in the week under review was relatively moderate with legislative activities spread across 10 sectors of the nation's economy, out of which three featured most prominently. The sectors include:

- Legislature - 40 times
- Politics - 18 times
- Economy - 11 times

Other sectors also involved in the week's legislative activities of the apex legislature but on a low key note include; Agriculture, Defence, Education, Executive, Health, Information and Judiciary.

A total of 81 stories concerning the country's highest law-making body were recorded during the week. 34 of them projected the image of National Assembly POSITIVELY. One of image boosting reports was captioned "Budget, PIB top agenda as Reps reconvene tomorrow". According to the story, the members of House of Representatives will be busy with the 2015 budget as they resume from the Christmas and New Year break.

It would be recalled that the 2015 Appropriation Bill was laid before the National Assembly on December 17, 2014 by the Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala. Reports indicated that members of the House would concentrate on the budget as soon as they reconvene.

In addition, the law-makers would also receive the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) Report from the House's Ad-hoc Committee led by the House Chief Whip, Hon Isiaka Bawa. The Committee set up in 2012 had conducted Public Hearing on the Bill in the six geo-political zones of the country in April 2013.

However, 45 stories portrayed the image of the revered Parliament in the NEUTRAL direction. One of the neutral reports reads "Re-election: 51 Senators fail to secure tickets". The Story reported that a total of 51 serving Senators have lost their political parties' tickets to seek re-election in the February 14, 2015 National Assembly election.

The final list of candidates of National Assembly election released by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) showed that no fewer than 51 Senators have lost their bid to return as their names were not on the INEC list.

Meanwhile, only two stories dimmed the image of the apex legislature NEGATIVELY. One of the not too impressive reports was titled "Unsigned Bills" is an editorial which stated that the Nigerian constitution was unambiguous in its provision for Bills passed by the National Assembly that remained unsigned or vetoed by the President. Section 58 subsections (3), (4) and (5) of the 1999 constitution as amended says "where a Bill has been passed by the House in which it originated, it shall be sent to the other House for passage, and shall be presented to the President for assent when it has been passed by the other House and agreement reached by the two Houses on any amendment made on it. Where the Bill is presented to the President for assent, he shall within 30 days thereof signify that he assents or withheld assent. Where the President withheld his assent and the Bill is again passed by each House by two-third majority, the Bill shall become a law and the assent of the President shall not be required."

The House Committee Chairman on Information, Hon Zakari Mohammred had recently complained that 40 Bills are awaiting the President's assent to become Acts. The Chairman was in fact even if unwittingly indicting the National Assembly for failure to exercise its responsibility the report said.

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