

# National Institute For legislative Studies

## A BOOK ON ECOWAS BY NILS TO BE OUT SOON



Efforts are underway to showcase the existence and work of the Economic Community of West Africa (ECOWAS) in a book. The National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS), in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation, is set to develop, publish and present the book to the public in May, 2015 to coincide with activities commemorating 40 years of the existence and work of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS).

The modalities in achieving this feat were discussed recently at a meeting where the regional coordinator of the Foundation, Dr. Klaus Peter-Trydte, said the project, which will wear a national outlook, will also greatly benefit regional audiences.

The Director General of the National Institute for Legislative Studies, Dr. Ladi Hamalai, emphasized that the Institute, in its usual excellent approach, will go the whole length in realizing an impeccable publication. She added that the legal, economic and political instrumentations will be infused to realize a rich and in-depth publication that will project the performance of the ECOWAS institutions.

The Friedrich- Ebert –Stiftung (FES) Foundation, a non-profit organization, aims at furthering political and social education of individuals from all walks of life in the spirit of democracy and pluralism as well as contributing to international understanding and cooperation.

The National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) on the other hand does not only seek to promote and reinforce the constitutionally assigned roles and functions of parliamentary institutions, but is also increasingly building an excellent and international reputation based on the quality of its work and commitment to applying academic skills to real challenges.



# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE PRESS, WEEK FIVE: 2ND - 6TH FEBRUARY, 2015

Date	Newspaper	No. of Story	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Most Featured Sectors
2 <sup>nd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 2015	Daily Trust	23	5	17	1	Leg & Pol
	Leadership	17	9	8	0	Pol & Leg
	Punch	5	1	4	0	Leg
	This Day	11	6	5	0	Pol & leg
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

## **R E M A R K S :**

Press coverage of the National Assembly in the week under review was low. Legislative activities cut across nine sectors of the nation's economy, out of which two were accorded prominence. Among them were: Legislature - 34 times  
Politics - 9 times  
Other sectors equally featured in the week's legislative activities of the apex legislature but on a low key note include; Economy, Executive, Health, Labour, Niger Delta, Social and Steel & Mines. A total of 56 stories concerning the country's highest law-making institution were recorded during the week. 21 of them projected the image of the National Assembly POSITIVELY. One of the heart-warming reports was captioned "Jonathan signs HIV/AIDS Anti-Discrimination Law." According to the story, President Goodluck Jonathan has signed the HIV/AIDS Anti-Discrimination Bill passed by the National Assembly into law, thereby reflecting Nigeria's commitment to stopping all forms of stigmatization and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS. It is hoped that all acts of discrimination in recruitment and termination of employment, denial of access to services including healthcare, education, association and other social

services will be quickly reduced and ultimately ended according to analysts. The passage of the legislation is one of the latest commitments by the country to end HIV/AIDS endemic by 2030. Meanwhile, 34 stories portrayed the image of the revered parliament in the NEUTRAL direction. One of the neutral reports reads "Okoya-Thomas' death, a colossal loss." Accordingly, the Senate President, David Mark, the Kwara State Speaker, Rasak Atunwa and the Lagos State House of Assembly Speaker, Adeyemi Ikuforiji have lamented the death of business mogul, Chief Molade Okoya-Thomas. They said his demise was a loss of one of Nigeria's finest philanthropists and nationalists. On the flip side, only one story dimmed the image of the apex legislature NEGATIVELY. The story being an editorial was titled "Obstacles to LG autonomy." The newspaper's position noted that one of the major drawbacks in the recent constitution review exercise was the failure to introduce amendment that assure full fiscal and operational autonomy to the local councils in Nigeria. The Story added that the failure was orchestrated chiefly by the State Governors and sealed by their State Houses of Assembly. It added that as at the last count, 23 out of the 36 State Houses of Assembly had voted against the change.

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