



National Institute For legislative Studies

Weekly Digest, Edition 29

March 02, 2015

LAST WEEK IN THE CHAMBERS



Last week, the Federal House of Representatives commended the Nigerian Armed Forces for the level of victory recorded recently in an intensified combat with the insurgents in the North-eastern States. The House on Tuesday 24 February charged the military to sustain the tempo and completely reclaim all the town that are under siege by the dastardly terrorist group in the area. This charge was at the instance of a motion moved by Hon. Mohammed Tahir Mungono who pleaded with the House to salute the gallantry of the military. However the Nigeria Police did not receive any accolade.

Hon. Aliyu Madaki sought through a motion for the House to condemn in strongest terms the uncivil utterances and actions of Assistant Inspector General of Police, Joseph Mbu which he claimed is at variance with the expected conduct of an officer of the Nigerian police. He averred that his motion came against the backdrop of a recent statement allegedly made by AIG Mbu that “if one police officer is killed during the March 2015 elections, between twenty to a hundred citizens would be killed in return”.

Matters of the police and the army came to a peek on Wednesday 25 February, 2015 sitting of the House of Representatives that was marked with tumults and melodrama following a motion introduced by the Minority leader, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, questioning the constitutionality of deployment of military personnel for purposes of election. In his motion, Hon. Gbajabiamila stated that the maintenance of public safety and order under sections 214 and 215 of the

constitution is the function of the Nigerian Police Force.

The Senate on the other hand passed the Harmonized Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement Administration Act, 2003 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2015 (S.B.264) into law, and equally passed for second reading “A Bill for an Act to Repeal and Re-enact the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) Act Cap N102 LFN 2011 Bill 2015 (S.B.371)”.

The Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Bill was passed into law by the National Assembly in the fourth quarter of 2014 but with differences in the two versions of the Bill passed by the two Chambers. Consequently, a Conference Committee of both Chambers was assigned to harmonize the differences and report back to the Houses for adoption and final passage into law and the Senate ultimately passed its own version into law.

The Senate on Wednesday February 25, 2015 has approved the 2015 -2017 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper. It would be recalled that the 2015 – 2017 MTEF was referred to the Joint Committee on Finance and National Planning, Economic Affairs and Poverty Alleviation after its second reading a few weeks ago for further legislative works. The Committee led by Sen. Ahmed Makarfi presented its report before Senate for consideration and approval today. Several Senators contributed in favour of the Committee’s recommendations and MTEF was put to vote and it ultimately sailed through and passed. The Senate also passed into law the “National Biosafety Management Agency (Establishment etc.) Bill 2015 (S.B.308)” and two consolidated National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO) Bills for second reading on Thursday February 26, 2015.

In fulfilment of its mandate in section 2 sub section (j) of the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) ACT, a team from the Institute has been accredited by the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) to monitor the 2015 general elections across the 6 geo-political zones of the federation.

Edition #0029

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02nd Mar 2015

NEW MOTIONS & HARMONISED BILLS

House

Unconstitutional Deployment of Military Personnel for Election Purposes:

Hon. Femi Gbajabamila:

Motion for Rescission Pursuant to Order IX Rule 57 (6) of the House Standing Orders: *Food Security Advancement Fund Establishment Bill, 2012 (HB. 355):*

HON. Kaka Kyari Gujbawu:

Need for Clarification of the True Position of Imam Abubakar Shekau, Leader of Boko Haram Sect:

Hon. Benjamin 1. Aboho:

Need to Salute the Bravery and Patriotism of Wing Commander Chimda Hedima and his Colleague:

Hon. Emmanuel Jime:

Violation of the Constitution and Disrespect to the Rule of Law by Assistant Inspector General Of Police (AIG) Mbu Joseph Mbu

Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki:

Alleged Non Distribution of Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) in Owerri Federal Constituency, Particularly in Owerri North Local Government Area: ,

Hon. Ezenwa Onyewuchi:

Re-consideration of Outstanding Bill from the Preceding Assembly: *Environmental Managers Registration Council Bill, 2014 (HB. 586):*

HON. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta:

Senate

Harmonized Transport Sector and Other Reform Bills.

1. The National Transport Commission Bill, 2015.

2. The National Inland Waterways Authority Bill, 2015.

3. Nigerian Ports and Harbours Authority Bill, 2015.

4. Nigeria Railway Authority Bill, 2015.

5. The Federal Road Authority Bill, 2015.

6. The National Road Fund Bill, 2015.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE PRESS, WEEK SEVEN: 16TH – 20TH FEBRUARY, 2015

| Date | Newspaper | No. of Story | Positive | Neutral | Negative | Most Featured Sectors |
|--|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|
| 16 th - 20 th Feb, 2015 | Daily Trust | 36 | 18 | 18 | 0 | Leg, Pol & Econ |
| | Leadership | 20 | 16 | 4 | 0 | Pol, Leg & Exec |
| | Punch | 20 | 12 | 8 | 0 | Leg, Pol & Econ |
| | This Day | 18 | 16 | 1 | 1 | Econ, Leg & Pet |
| Total | 4 | 94 | 62 | 31 | 1 | 5 |

REMARKS :

National Assembly in the press in the week under review was relatively moderate with legislative activities spread across 13 sectors of the nation's economy, out of which five featured most prominently. The sectors include:

| | | | |
|-------------|---|----|-------|
| Legislature | - | 56 | times |
| Economics | - | 8 | times |
| Politics | - | 8 | times |
| Executive | - | 6 | times |
| Petroleum | - | 4 | times |

Other sectors equally involved in the week's legislative deliberations of the country's apex legislature but on a low key note include; Defence, Health, Information, Judiciary, Labour, Social, Transportation and Works. Interestingly, 94 stories concerning the nation's highest law-making body were recorded during the week. 62 of the stories projected the image of the National Assembly POSITIVELY. One of the favourable reports was titled "NASS Transmits Disability Prohibition Bill To Jonathan For Assent". According to the story, the National Assembly has finally transmitted the Persons with Disability Prohibition Bill to President Goodluck Jonathan for assent. This was disclosed by the convener of Subsidy Re-Investment Programme (SURE-P) Culture and Tourism Stakeholders Meeting, Chike Okegwu. The meeting was aimed at ensuring effective implementation of legal framework that seeks to protect persons living with disabilities. He disclosed that the Bill transmitted to the President penultimate week when assented to will end gross marginalization against over 24 million Nigerians living with disabilities, their families and impact

positively on their socio-economic conditions. Nevertheless, 31 stories portrayed the image of the revered parliament in the NEUTRAL direction. One of the neutral reports reads "Ndoma Egba Condoles with Bayelsa, First Lady Over Death Of Women Leaders". Accordingly, following the death of 11 Bayelsa State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Women Leaders in a car crash over the weekend along the East-West Road, Senate Leader, Victor Ndoma Egba has extended his condolence to the Bayelsa State Government and First Lady, Dame Patience Jonathan. Sen. Egba described the incident as unfortunate especially at this time that the nation is preparing for general elections, stressing that it is a sad loss. Meanwhile, only one story tilted the image of the apex legislature NEGATIVELY. The only story captioned "Ewuga Allegedly Attacks Journalist Over Jonathan's N200m Booty Report". According to the report, the Nasarawa State correspondent of the Pilot Newspaper, Mr. Peter Ahemba was allegedly attacked by Sen. Solomon Ewuga and the Director General of Alhaji Yusuf Agabi (PDP Governorship Candidate) over a published story by the Reporter about the alleged mismanagement of N200 million by some of the party members. The Senator and the DG who were aggrieved over the story summoned the reporter and attacked him publicly in the State Secretariat of the party in Lafia.

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