



# National Institute For legislative Studies

Weekly Digest, Edition 34  
April 20th, 2015

*Weekly Digest*

## NATIONAL LEGISLATORS RESUME PLENARY



Legislators resumed plenary session on Tuesday April 14, 2015 with vigour after the Easter and Nigeria's general elections break. The first legislative assignment undertaken by the Senate was the swearing in of Sen. David Umaru representing Niger Central Senatorial District following the Court of Appeal judgment.

Thereafter, Senate President, David Mark addressed Distinguished Senators on the recently concluded general elections which he said was successful. He commended President Goodluck Jonathan for his statesmanship for conceding defeat even before the announcement of result and congratulated the President Elect, Gen. Muhammadu Buhari (rtd) on his victory at the March 28, 2015 Presidential Polls. He equally congratulated Nigerians for the display of high sense of patriotism, maturity and the peaceful manner they conducted themselves before, during and after the general elections.

Sen. Mark also applauded Prof. Attahiru Jega and his team over the successful conduct of the 2015 general elections and appealed to Distinguished Senators

to redouble their efforts to finish outstanding legislative businesses. The Senate received the 2015 FCT and NDDC appropriations bills and screened Justice Amiru Sanusi for appointment as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

Meanwhile after reconvening the House joined the 'Bring Back our Girls Group led by an Ex-Minister of Education, Oby Ezekwesili, to urge the Federal Government of Nigeria under the leadership of President Goodluck Jonathan and indeed world leaders and United Nations to do everything necessary to ensure the safe recover of the 209 Nigerian secondary school female students. The matter was brought to the fore by Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa who took the floor to remind the Lawmakers that it's been a year now since the girls were abducted. On 14th April, the House also considered the 2015 budget for the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) of the total sum of sixty Billion, two hundred and fifty-eight Million, three hundred and ninety-seven thousand Naira, (N60, 258,397,000) only.

The Senate on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 received an Executive Communication from President Goodluck Jonathan informing the Chamber why he withheld assent to the recently concluded amendments to the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The President, in a letter read on the floor of the Red Chamber by the Senate President, David Mark, hinged his refusal to assent to the amendments on shortfalls on constitutional requirements and in some cases conflict with the powers of the President in the area of appointment of judicial officers. The Senate on the following day 16th April asked

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Mr. President to return the original copy of the Amended Constitution to the National Assembly. And in returning the original Bill, the signature page of the Amended Bill should equally be returned along with the original Bill. These were the decisions of the Chamber on issue.

Another outstanding issue discussed in House on Thursday 16, April 2015 was the unwarranted and undemocratic killings of Nigerians and other African immigrants by South Africans. It was the Chairperson, House Committee on Diaspora, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa who drew the attention of the House to this subject matter, coming under matters of urgent public importance, enshrined in the House Standing Rules.

The House however resolved to urge President Zuma to conduct a timely investigation into this matter and address the situation as well as bringing the culprits to book.

## “NILS OFFERED FREE MEMBERSHIP BY USA BASED CALI-CENTRE FOR COMPUTER ASSISTED LEGAL INSTRUCTION”

The center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction, also known as CALI, has confirmed the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) membership. By virtue of this membership NILS can upload a catalogue of the Abstracts of all NILS publication. Also, NILS could use the CALI ICT platform to teach its Masters in Legislative Drafting students and prospective Diploma students. This is significant because it appears NILS is the first Nigerian organisation to enjoy this privilege from CALI. Lecturers and students at NILS now have unlimited access to the nearly 900 interactive tutorials on the CALI website, along with other CALI resources. All of the lessons are written by U.S. law school faculty and librarians and are regularly reviewed and updated. Currently they are being used by students at 207 U.S. law schools and nearly 20 law schools in other countries.



## Senate New Bills

### PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. 2015 Federal Capital Territory Statutory Budget Proposals (SB. 546) - *First Reading*  
Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba, SAN, CON (*Senate Leader*)
2. National Agency for the Great Green Wall (Est., etc.) Bill 2015 (SB. 547) - *First Reading*  
Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba, SAN, CON (*Senate Leader*)

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### PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Compulsory Treatment and Care of Victims of Gunshots Bill, 2015 (HB. 265) - *First Reading*  
Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba, SAN, CON (*Senate Leader*)
2. Nigerian Metallurgical Industry Bill 2015 (HB. 689) - *First Reading*  
Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba, SAN, CON (*Senate Leader*)

## House Motions

### **Reconsideration of Outstanding Bill from the Preceding Assembly: Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists (Registration, etc.) Bill, 2013 (HB. 584)**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

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 negatived, or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence were made or negatived 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*;

Need to Investigate the Purported Completion of the Okpella Water Scheme:

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

### **Need to Investigate the Purported Completion of the Okpella Water Scheme:**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* the allegation by the Government of Edo State, that the Federal Ministry of Water Resources siphoned the sum of Eight Hundred Million Naira (N800,000,000) earmarked for the completion of Okpella Water Scheme;

*Also notes* the defense offered by the Ministry that the money which the Government of Edo State alleged to have been siphoned was actually the amount which the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), after a review exercise in year 20<sup>th</sup>11, determined to be the amount needed to complete the project, however, the money was never released due to paucity of funds;