

## DG NILS URGES FOR MORE CAPACITY BUILDING



The Director General NILS, Dr Ladi Hamalai has assured the UNDP that the institute will continue to maintain World Best practices in the discharge of its mandate. Receiving a delegation of the UNDP, led by the Deputy Country Director, Programmes, Mandisa Mashologu on 25th of May, the DG stated that the legislators from the State Houses of Assembly lack the requisite facilities needed to effectively carry out legislative duties, hence the compelling need for intensive capacity development.

Buoyed by the successes recorded by NILS at the just concluded Intensive Induction Certificate Course, the UNDP has reassured Nigeria of its commitment towards the goals of strengthening legislative institutions through capacity development.

Meanwhile, the Director General NILS, while acknowledging the assistance from DGD has called on donor agencies for more support to enable it implement fully its work-plan. Dr Ladi Hamalai made the call during an interactive session with the delegation of the UNDP in her office during the week.

The UNDP delegation while outlining areas of collaboration between UNDP and NILS, promised to partner with the Institute in strengthening the capacity of legislators and the legislative institutions.

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# A CALL FOR PRAGMATIC ACTIONS FROM ECOWAS MEMBER STATES



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Poverty, political instability, lack of political will to implement agreed decisions and lack of trust among member states have been identified as the greatest set-backs to ECOWAS goals and aspirations.

In a 646 page book, the studies, under the aegis of the National Institute for Legislative Studies acknowledged the successes recorded through the establishment of relevant agencies, structures and functions, supported by good operating protocols in ECOWAS.

During the book presentation ceremony in Abuja, the Director General, NILS, Dr Iadi Hamalai noted that the structures and protocols are necessary to enable the community achieve its objectives of enhancing human and physical development of member states through the vehicle of integration, and at the same time, realize ECOWAS vision 2020.

“The book which x-rays the 40 years of ECOWAS” as well as captures the treaties, the Acts and protocols, presents a descriptive and historical analysis of ECOWAS from inception to date”. It is described as A Book of Reading.

In line with its mandate to provide research and legislative support services as well as training to all parliaments in Nigeria and other sub-

regional Parliaments of ECOWAS member states, the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) has raised this strong advocacy for the steps that will mitigate the challenges facing ECOWAS Member states.

The project is a full-fledged publication and an initiative of NILS, with support and assistance from the African Capacity Building Foundation and the National Assembly with the objective of deepening institutional knowledge.

The National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) has been involved in providing capacity building services in the form of research and training for National Assembly legislators and staff as well as legislators from other sub-regional parliaments.



## IN THE CHAMBERS LAST WEEK (MAY 26 – 28TH)



The Senate on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at plenary passed into law two Bills, the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2015 (S.B. 547), sponsored by Sen. Emmanuel Bwacha and the Engineers (Registration, etc.) Act CAP E11, LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (S.B.211), sponsored by Sen. Ayogu Eze.

The passage of the National Agency for the Great Green Wall Establishment Bill was sequel to the presentation of the Report of the Senate Joint Committee Agriculture and Rural Development, Environment and Ecology before the Red Chamber for Clause by Clause Consideration and approval. While the second Bill was passed into law following the presentation of its Report by the Senate Committee on Works led by Sen. Ayogu Eze.

The Senate President, David Mark who presided over Tuesday's session congratulated Distinguished Senators on the successful passage of the two very important legislations. He added that the passage of the Bills is very crucial in curtailing deforestation in the south of Sahara and would check the activities of quakes in the engineering sector. The Senate had also received from the President two request of screening and confirmation of Hon. Isa Usman Bello for appointment as the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Abuja and Mr. Pere Ebele for appointment as a member of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

The Senate on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 passed into law the 2015 Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Appropriation Bill into law, a Resolution on National Children's Day Celebration and also confirmed approved three Nominees for appointment. The Nominees confirmed include Hon. Justice Ishaq Usman Bello for the post of Chief Judge of the Federal High Court of the FCT, Abuja in accordance with section 250 (1) of the 1999 Constitution and RT. Hon Peremobowoi Ebebi as member representing Bayelsa State in the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Board. Also confirmed by the Hallowed Chamber was the nomination of Hajiya Ramatu H.B. Usman for appointment as member of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) representing North-Central Zone.

The Motion on National Children's Day Celebration observed annually on the 27th May was sponsored by the Senate Leader, Victor Ndoma Egba and 105 others. It was debated on the floor of the Senate as a mark of honour to Nigerian Children. Sen. Egba congratulated the Children on this

year's event and urged the forthcoming government to continue with the celebration of the event because Nigerian Children have equally contributed their quota in the development of the country. Two prayers of the Motion were passed as Resolutions and they include: 1) The Senate congratulates the Nigerian Children on the celebration of National Children's Day. 1) The Chamber urge government to continue with policies and programmes that would promote the development of the Nigerian Child.

The Senate on Wednesday also considered President Goodluck Jonathan request seeking the Chamber to consider and approve the Report of 2014 National Conference. The President in a letter read on the floor of the Red Chamber presented copies of the report to the Senate for further legislative work.

A valedictory session in honour of the outgoing members of the 7th Assembly was hosted on Wednesday 27 May, 2015 and was presided over by the Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal whose tenure incidentally ended same day, and was sworn-in as the Executive Governor of Sokoto State on May 29. Base on this fact, the office of the Speaker was in line with the standing Orders of the House, declared vacant via a motion ably moved by Hon. Albert Sam-Tsokwa and 21 others. The movers of the motion prayed the House to suspend Order II, Rule 9 of the Standing Orders to enable the Deputy Speaker, Emeka Ihedioha perform the duties and functions of the Speaker for the remainder of the legislative life of the 7th House of Representatives.

During the Valedictory session, the House played host to eminent personalities including former Speakers and leaders of the House, Executive Governor of Zamfara State, representatives of the Service Chiefs, Present and Past leaders of the National Assembly Management, Director General of National Institute for Legislative Studies, Coordinator of Policy and Legal Advocacy Project, former Head of Service, Steven Oronsaye, among others.

The House on Thursday 28th has urged both the Nigerian President and President-elect to do everything within its powers to support the candidacy of the Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina on the grounds that he is not only qualified for the position, but the only Nigerian listed to contest against seven other candidates for the position of the President of AFDB. A resolution was passed to this effect on the heels of a motion moved on the floor of the House urging not only the Nigerian Presidency but all African Economic Stakeholders to give support for Dr. Adesina's candidacy. Dr. Adesina has already won the election according to news report.

Meanwhile, as the 7th National Assembly is gradually coming to an end, the House has embarked on receiving and consideration of more and more reports from various Committees including the Petroleum Industry Bill report. Appropriations Bills of FCTA and NDDC were both considered in the Committee of Supply during sitting on Tuesday 26, May 2015.