



Edition #0042

DEPUTY SPEAKER CALLS FOR AN ALL ENCOMPASSING LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.

The Management of the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) led by the Director General paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Yussuf Lasun in his office recently. The Director General, Dr. Ladi Hamalai in her brief informed that the Institute has a key objective to provide quality academic professional research, training and advocacy on democratic governance and legislative practice and procedures at all levels of government in Nigeria.

Dr. Hamalai informed that the Institute has about a 100 highly trained and professional staff in both research and support services and operates a strict regiment of annual workplans that guide its yearly project executions, performance indicator, timeframe and cost.

She further informed that the Institute carried out 349 training programmes, within and outside Nigeria between 2012 and 2014 and has recorded great successes in improving the technical capacity of legislators, legislative staff, committee secretaries and political aides in various aspects of legislative practice and procedure.

One of the key objectives of NILS, she said is to provide

support services in the bill process with the view to enhancing the quality of legislation; against this backdrop, NILS has so far drafted 161 bills that passed through first and second readings in the National Assembly, 95 analyzed and 93 scrutinized by the knowledgeable staff of the Institute.

The Director General however called for the urgent need to harmonize and properly coordinate the activities of the development partners in the National Assembly to reduce the level of overlap in the implementation of capacity development programmes and inefficient use of scarce resources.

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Firth-coming Seminar

Resources Competence in the National Assembly and Legislative Performance

Dr. Ladi Hamalai MFR (Director General, NILS)
Elections, Electoral Outcomes and Political Accountability in Nigeria

Professor Akin Iwayemi (Department of Economics, University of Ibadan)

Date: 6th July, 2015

Time: 10:00am

Venue: NILS Training Room, No.1 River Niger Street, Maitama, Abuja.

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29th June 2015



In his response, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Lasun Yussuf praised the Institute for its various enriching capacity building programmes from which he has also benefited.

He particularly commended the Institute for the rich induction certificate course organized for legislators after their election. However, he made a call for further partnership with the lawmaking body in producing an all-encompassing legislative agenda that will boost the dignity of the citizenry.

He informed that the House plans to set aside quality time to engage the people in a sectoral debate where the issue of economy, power, unemployment and others that affect the development of the nation will be tackled. With this, he hopes the wrong notion about the legislative arm can be corrected and Nigerians will desist from seeing the body in isolation and rather see it as one set up to advance the cause of the ordinary people.

Hon. Lasun appealed to the Institute to carry out advocacy programs to enlighten the public on the all-important role of the legislature while straightening out every misconception about the institution.

The Deputy Speaker is optimistic that with the cooperation and contribution of NILS, the Legislature will be strengthened and indeed the dividends of democracy will be further delivered to the people.

The Deputy Senate President and erstwhile Chairman of the Governing Council of the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS), Senator Ike Ekweremadu also received in his office the Institute's management staff who paid a courtesy visit to him recently. Led by the Director General, Dr. Ladi Hamalai, who informed that the visit was hinged on

felicitating with him on his re-election as Deputy Senate President also said that his leadership clout and goodwill has steered the Institute to great achievements in the past years.

Dr. Ladi Hamalai briefed that under, Senator Ekweremadu's leadership as Chairman of the Governing Council, the Institute's gigantic and state of the art permanent site was conceived and has been constructed to an impressive level. She however canvassed for assistance towards the completion of the edifice which has been stalled for some time as a result of shortage of funds.

She appealed to the Deputy Senate President to engage his Midas touch in ensuring that the Institute access the provision made for it in the budget to bring alive the dream of having a world class legislative outfit for the benefit of the lawmakers in Nigeria and their counterparts in the subregion.

The Director General informed that the Institute is currently developing a strategic plan from 2015 to 2019 which will be shared with the Deputy Senate President for his input and assistance.

In his response, The Deputy Senate President expressed the pride and belief he has in the Institute because of its accomplishments within its short period of existence, he said that the Postgraduate Programme it administers in affiliation with University of Benin (UNIBEN) has been a light in the path of many, opening them up to knowledge in legislative studies and legislative drafting.

He however called on the Institute to double its efforts in training the new lawmakers to ensure that the Legislators are knowledgeable in their dealings and apt at their calling.

He expressed hopes in the relevant institution to resolve the issue of funding that is stalling the completion of the Institute's permanent site which he believes will be a pride not only to the Legislative arm but to the nation as a whole when completed.

IN THE CHAMBERS THIS WEEK (23RD TO 25TH JULY 2015)



The following day, Thursday 25th, June 2015 was rowdy in the House. The session had just begun when a member of the House impulsively started shouting “Point of Order Mr Speaker”, seeking attention from the Chair. The shouting soon became more fierce as some members in seeming solidarity joined in echoing, “Point of Order”. After a lot of pulling and pushing, the Speaker expressed his disappointment with members and adjourned the House until 21st July, 2015.

In the Senate however the plenary session of the Senate on Thursday, June 25, 2015 commenced with the reading of two letters addressed to the Senate President by the Action Progressive Congress (APC) North-East and North-West Senators Caucus of the National Assembly. The letters read on the floor of the Red Chamber by the Senate President, Abubakar

Bukola Saraki contained nominations for positions of Principal Offices of the Chamber.

Accordingly, the name of Sen. Muhammed Ali Ndume was nominated for the position of Senate Majority Leader by the North-East Senators Caucus, while Sen. Bala Ibn Na’Allah was nominated for the position of Deputy Senate Majority Leader by the North-West Senators Caucus. Similarly, the names of Sen. Olushola Adeyeye and Sen. Francis Alimikhana were nominated for the positions of Senate Chief Whip and Senate Deputy Chief Whip respectively. Both of them were nominated by the South-West and South-South Senators Caucus respectively.

Consequently, the four law-makers nominated have assumed duty immediately after the announcement. Speaking on behalf of the other three Principal Officers, the Senate Majority Leader, Ndume expressed gratitude to distinguished Senators for the honour done on them and promised not to betray the confidence reposed on them. He assured his colleagues of leading the Senate expeditiously, with respect, humility and would liaise as well as coordinate the activities of the Chamber and various stakeholders with high sense of responsibility. The Senate President also, announced that the 18 Man Senate Ad-hoc Committee on Drafting of Legislative Agenda for the 8th Senate would be inaugurated today in the National Assembly Complex. The Senate then adjourned plenary session to Tuesday, July 21, 2015.

The Senate on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 discussed matters of national interest including acting fast in order to ensure a brighter future for Nigerians, reviewing of the National Budget for smooth implementation, and looking at the issue of onshore taxes in order to shore up the country’s revenue. The next day, Wednesday, June 24, 2015, the senate debated two motions which ultimately led to the passage of two Resolutions. The Resolutions stemmed from the passage of these Motions titled:

Managing the Challenges of Rainy Season, sponsored by Sen. Andy Uba (Anambra West)

Fuel Tanker Tragedies on Nigeria’s Highways, moved by Sen. Gbenga Ashafa (Lagos East).

The House of Representatives on that day, Wednesday, 24 June, 2015 resolved to set up an Ad hoc Committee to conduct a forensic investigation following allegations of malpractices by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) regarding crude oil SWAP contracts otherwise known as “refined product exchange agreement” between the Pipelines and Product Marketing Company (PPMC) a subsidiary of NNPC and Oil Trading Companies. The House also wrapped up the day’s sitting, with a debate on the Draft Legislative Framework of the House of Representatives of the 8th National Assembly. It was the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Lasaun Yussuf who led the debate, highlighting the prominent points of the Agenda and which he urged members to unanimously endorse it.

Senate New Bills & Motions

New Bills

National Payment System Bill, 2015 (SB.05)-First Reading.

Sen. Hope Uzodinma (Imo West)

Oil and Gas Export Free Zone Act CAP 05 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2015 (SB.06)-First Reading.

Sen. Ibrahim Gobir (Sokoto East)

Crime and Criminal Tracking System Bill, 2015 (SB.3) -First Reading.

Sen. Hope Uzodinma (Imo West)

Infrastructure Development Bill, 2015 (SB.4) -First Reading.

Sen. Barnabas Gemade, OFR (Benue North East).

Nigerian Railway Corporation (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill 2015 (SB. 1) -First Reading.

Sen. Andy Uba, MFR (Anambra South)

Federal Capital Territory Area Councils (Administrative and Political Structure) Bill 2015 (SB. 2) -First Reading.

Sen. Phillip Aduda, MFR (FCT)

Motions

The deplorable state of Obajana - Kabba road, Kabba - Isanlu - Egbe - Ilorin road and Kabba - Igara Iyamoye - Omuo - Ekiti road.

Sen. Dino Melaye (Kogi West)

Landslide in Parts of Isuikwuato (Isu 3) and Arochukwu Local Government areas in Abia North Senatorial Zone, Abia State Nigeria.

Sen. Mao Ohuabunwa (Abia North)

Managing the Challenges of the Rainy Season.

Sen. Andy Uba, MFR (Anambra South)

The rising cases of non-payment of workers' salaries in the Country.

Sen. Ike Ekweremadu, CFR (Enugu West)

House Motions & Urgent Considerations

Need for Intervention in the Closure of the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri:

Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe:

Need for the Publication of the handover Note of the Administration of Former President Goodluck Ebele .Jonathan, GCFR, in the Official Gazette of the Federation:

Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta:

Urgent need for the Federal Government to devise a Rescue Plan to Bail out the Twenty-Two (22) Governments of the States of the Federation which are owing Salaries to Workers:

Hon. Oluwole Oke:

Need for Intervention in the Closure of the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri:

Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe:

Brutal killing of two indigenes of Ogume and Afor Communities of Delta State by unknown Herdsmen:

Hon Ossai 'Nicholas Ossai:

Destruction of major Bridges and Cut-off of Michika/Madagali Federal Constituency by Boko Haram insurgents and need for urgent intervention to Facilitate accessibility to the Areas:

Hon. Adamu Kamale

Urgent need for a Forensic Investigation of the Contract known as "Refined Product Exchange Agreement or Swap Contract" between the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC), a Subsidiary of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and Oil Trading Companies:

Hon. Michael Enyong:

Violent Terror Attack On the people of Barkin Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency of Plateau State by Unknown Gunmen: Hon. Istifanus D. Gyang (Burkin Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituencies presented the subject matter and prayed the House to consider

Urgent Need to Investigate the Attack and Murder of Innocent Villagers at Katsina in Jema'a Local Government Area of Kaduna State: Hon. Shehu Garba (Jemaa/Sanga Federal Constituencies) presented the subject matter and prayed the House to consider

Brutal killing of two indigenes of Ogume and Afor Communities of Delta State by unknown Herdsmen: Motion made and Question proposed:

Urgent Need for Federal Government's Intervention in the continuous loss of Human Lives and destruction of Properties within Safana/Batsari/Dan-Musa Federal Constituency of Katsina State due to the activities of Armed Robbers and Invaders:

Hon. Ahmed Dayyabu Safana:

Need to Commend Honourable members for facilitating a Rancor-free-Election of the Hon. Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 8th Assembly and also salute the Hon. Speaker for being magnanimous in Victory:

Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso: