



In the Chambers Last Week

Seeking for Lasting Solutions to IDPs: NILS Partner UNHCR

Coming on the heels of the huge and emerging challenges of internally displaced persons across the globe, the Director General, National Institute for legislative Studies (NILS), Dr Ladi Hamalai has assured the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of the institute's support in ensuring that appropriate legal framework that would galvanize action towards finding holistic and sustainable solutions to the hardship of Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria, receives priority attention in the legislature.

The DG made this declaration while receiving a delegation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in her office today.

The leader of the four-man delegation and the UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Angele Dikongue-Atangana had earlier requested for a concerted effort of relevant government agencies towards the actualization of national policies on the issues of internally displaced persons and statelessness. "Nigeria was one of the first member states to sign and ratify the convention, it therefore follows that it should take the lead in ensuring its domestication." She observed.

Speaking on the inherent dangers of statelessness which she described as a silent and deep seated phenomenon, she noted that the UNCHR has a mandate to lead advocacy for refugees and displaced persons.

While acknowledging the laudable contributions of stakeholders, Angele Dikongue-Atangana emphasized the need for the domestication of international convention on the status and reduction of statelessness as she pledged the UNHCR technical assistance to Nigeria to ensure the internal domestication of the IDP Convention in Kampala.

Meanwhile, the Director General, Dr. Hamalai assured the UNCHR that the institute would facilitate and propel the legislative process and continue to promote high level participation of the legislature in dialogue sessions and conferences that would address the twin issues of IDP and statelessness and proffer solutions for the citizens.

The meeting was attended by officials of both NILS and the UNHCR.

The House of Representatives has mandated its Standing Committee on Financial Crimes to investigate the non-remittance of court ordered confiscated funds and properties into the federation's account in line with section 31(2) of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) Act. The resolution was passed on the floor of the House during plenary session on Tuesday 27, October 2015, on the heels of a motion of 'matter of urgent public importance' moved by the Minority leader, Hon. Leo Ogor. He averred that his motion is informed by the recent directive by the Federal Government that the EFCC should probe its boss, Lamorde on allegations of assets diversion, which is a Clear violation of the principle of fair Hearing. "Nobody should be a judge in his own case" he stated. Still on Tuesday's plenary, the House has extended its legislative intervention

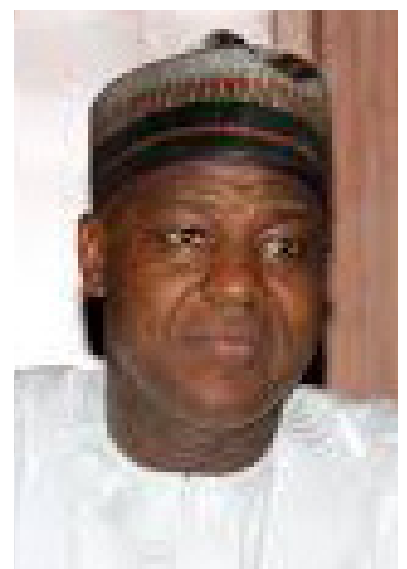
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to and called for State of Emergency in the unemployment crisis in the country. In a motion sponsored by the leader of the House, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila and 78 others, the House demonstrated determination to discharge its responsibility for the security and welfare of the citizenry and concern that if the tide of unemployment is not stemmed, it will portend great danger to the peace and stability of the nation. The Senate on Tuesday October 27, 2015 continued the screening exercise of Ministerial Nominees with the successful screening of six persons during the plenary session of the Red Chamber. The Senate President, Bokola Saraki at the end of the exercise rendered progress report of what transpired at the Committee of the Whole and subsequently referred the confirmation of the Nominees to another legislative date. On Wednesday 28th of October, House moved to investigate Aviation Ministry over CNN Survey Report on the world's best and worst aviation terminals in four areas of comfort, conveniences, cleanliness and customer service in which Port Harcourt international Airport was classified as the worst terminal, The House mandated its Committee on Aviation to investigate what happened to the annual budgetary Appropriations alongside internally generated revenue meant for the steady maintenance and servicing of the airports under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Aviation. the country's chain of airports reputed to be the second busiest airports in the continent, especially now that the Executive will soon send the 2016 budget estimates to the National Assembly for consideration. In another development, the House has mandated its Committee on Banking and Currency to invite the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor and the Director of Finance for the apex bank to appear before it to explain why buyers of foreign currencies should disclose their Bank Verification Number (BVN), and for the implementation of the policy to be extended to give ample time for the CBN to embark on a nationwide awareness campaign to educate Nigerians on what the policy is all about.

The Senate on Wednesday October 28, 2015 concluded the screening exercise of 36 Ministerial Nominees sent to the Chamber by President Muhammadu Buhari. The Chamber successfully screened the last five nominees in its today's sitting, thus completing the screening exercise and deferred the confirmation of 18 nominees to another legislative date. Earlier, the Senate has considered and passed a Motion titled "The Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja Second Runway Contract", sponsored by Sen. Dino Melaye (APC Kogi West). The Motion was seconded by Sen. Enyinnaya Abaribe (PDP Abia South). Leading the debate on the Motion, Sen. Melaye noted that the contract for the construction of Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja Second Runway was cancelled by the last administration after allegations of over inflation of contracts were established. He added that the contract was awarded by the Federal Executive Council at the cost of N64 billion naira after ratification by the Bureau of Public Procurement. The House of Representatives during sitting on Thursday, 29 October 2015 mandated its Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to liaise with the National Universities Commission (NUC) with the aim of setting up machinery for upgrading the Federal College of Education Oyo, being a Special institution to the status of a degree awarding University. The resolution was passed on the heels of a call for social justice to be extended to the physically challenged persons in our society, by Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi. Still on education, the House rejected a motion that sought for the suspension of the directive by the NUC for Universities in the country to review the existing 5-points grading system moved by Hon. Mojeed Alabi. He thought it would be necessary to invite the NUC Executive Secretary to appear before relevant Committee of the House to explain the propriety or otherwise of the planned restoration of Pass Degree in relation to competitiveness of the labour market, falling standard of education and image implication of the policy. Meanwhile, the House has mandated the Committee on Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to conduct an



investigative hearing aimed at determining the status of undeveloped allotted lands in FCT and their owners, and recommend measures to ensure the enforcement of the terms, conditions and covenants contained in the Rights of Occupancy or Certificate of Occupancy given to each allottee of undeveloped land in FCT. The plenary session of the Senate on Thursday October 29, 2015 witnessed the much awaited confirmation of the remaining 18 Ministerial Nominees screened by the Chamber two weeks ago. Similarly, the Hallowed Chamber has also screened and confirmed for appointment of the Chairman and five Commissioners of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) sent by President Muhammadu Buhari in accordance with Section 154 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as Amended.



House New Bills & Motion 1

House New Bills

Chartered Institute of Human Capital Development of Nigeria Bill, 2015 (HB. 28) (Hon. Gideon Gwani) - First Reading.

Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 29) (Hon. Gideon Gwani - First Reading.

Federal Capital Territory Area Councils (Administrative and Political Structure) Bill, 2015 (HB. 30) (Hon. Uroma Nkem-Abonta and Hon. Zephaniah Jisalo) - First Reading.

Commodities Exchange Bill, 20 IS (HB. 31) Hon. Uroma Nkem-Abonta - First Reading

House New Motions

Need to Reintroduce History/Social Studies as a Subject in the Curricula of Primary and Secondary Schools:

Hon. Binta Bello:

Call for a State of Emergency and Legislative Intervention in the Unemployment Crisis in Nigeria:

Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila and 77 others

Call for Rehabilitation and upgrading of Sam - Mbakwe International Cargo Airport, Owerri, Imo State:

Hon. Bede Eke:

Call for Rehabilitation of Sagamu-Ogijo-Mosimi-Ikorodu Road:

Hon. Oladipupo O. Adebutu:

Deplorable Condition of Abuja-Kogi-Edo-Delta Road:

Hon. Joan Onyemaechi Mrakpor:

Need to Resuscitate the Gari Irrigation Project along the Border of Kano and Jigawa States:

Hon. Sani C. Bala and Hon. Muhammad Gudaji Kazaure:

Call for Implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by Governments in Nigeria.

Hon. Olajide Boladale Olatubosun:

Call on the Federal Government to Review the Downgrade of Four Federal Universities of Education:

Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi:

Lopsided Admission System of Unity Schools in Nigeria:

Hon. Garba Check Hamman Julde:

Need to Complete the Construction of Kishi-Kaiama -Wawa-Agwara-Rofia Road:

Hon. Umar Muhammed Rofia:

Call for Restoration or Electricity Supply to Seme Border Area, Badagry, Lagos State:

Hon. Bamgbose Hontonyon Joseph:

Abandonment of Rehabilitation Works on the Owerri-Port Harcourt Road:

Hon. Chike John Okafor:

Call for Construction of Pedestrian Bridges at Soka and Sanyo in Oluyole Federal Constituency of Oyo State:

Hon. Samson Olusunbo Olugbemi:

Need to Fast-Track the Renovation/Maintenance Works at the Port Harcourt International Airport Omuagwa, Rivers State:

Hon. Boniface S. Emerengwa:

House New Motions & Bills 2

Call for Provision of Enough Manpower and Healthcare Facilities in the Federal Capital Territory, Ahuja:

Hon. Lovette Ederin Idisi:

Devastating Gully Erosion in Orumba North/South Federal Constituency of Anambra State:

Bon. Sopoluchukwu E. Ezeonwuka:

Call for Declaration of a State of Emergency in the Power Sector:

Hon. Segun A. Adekola

Suicide Bomb Attack by Suspected Boko Haram Insurgent on Worshipers at Jambutu Jummat Mosque Jimeta , Adamawa State:

Hon. Abubakar Lawal Garba:

Call for Upgrade of' the Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo, to the Status of a University:

Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi:

Urgent Need to Establish the Status of Undeveloped Allotted Plots in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and to take Measures Geared towards Enforcing the Terms and Conditions for such Grant and Allotment and Establish the Identity and Ownership of Properties in the Highbrow Areas of the FCT, Ahuja:

Hon. Emmanuel Ekon, Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta:

Call on the National Universities Commission (NUC) not to Restore Pass Degree to Nigerian University Grading System

Hon. Mojeed Alabi:

Call for Overhaul of the Tertiary Education Sector to Meet the Modern Needs of Nigeria:

Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum:

Non-Payment of Allowances to Nigerian Students on Scholarship Programs Abroad:

Hon. Olufunke Adedoyin:

Need to ensure that Confiscated Fake, Substandard and Contraband Goods are properly disposed of in Accordance with International Best Practices:

Hon. Awaji-Inombek Dagomie Abiante and 19 Others.

Need to investigate the level of compliance by the Central Bank (CBN) with Laws in its Various Intervention Projects

Hon. Toby Okcchukwu:



Senate New Bills & Motions

Senate New Bills

Office of the Federal and State Independent Prosecutor Bill 2015 (SB.82) -*First Reading*

Sen. Murray Bruce (*Bayelsa East*)

Nigeria Council for Food Science and Technology (Est, etc) Bill 2015(SB. 92)-*First Reading*

Sen. Ajayi R. Boroffice (*Ondo North*)

Police Development Tax Fund (Est. etc) Bill 2015 (SB.100)-*First Reading*

Sen. Buhari Abdulfatai (*Oyo North*)

Federal Capital Territory Act CAP F6LFN 2004(Amendment) Bill 2015(SB.115) -*First Reading*

Sen. David Umaru (*Niger East*)

National Sports Development Trust Fund (Est, etc) Bill 2015(SB.120)-*First Reading*

Sen. Obinna Ogba (*Ebonui Central*)

Lagos State Economic Assistance Bill 2015(SB.122)-*First Reading*

Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, OON (*Lagos Central*)

Prevention and Punishment of Torture Bill 2015(SB.47) -*First Reading*

Sen. Biodun Olujimi (*Ekiti South*)

Nigerian Biodiversity Bill 2015 (SB. 79) -*First Reading*

Sen. Theodore Orji (*Abia Central*)

Fire Arms Act CAP F28LFN 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill 2015 (SB. 85) -*First Reading*

Sen. Joshua Dariye (*Plateau Central*)

Counterfeit Goods Bill 2015 (SB.117) -*First Reading*

Sen. Isah Misau (*Bauchi Central*)

National Ecological Agency (Est. etc.) Bill 2015(SB.121) -*First Reading*

Sen. Obinna Ogba (*Ebonyi Central*)

Senate New Motions

The Apapa Port Gridlock

Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, OON (*Lagos Central*)

The Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja, Second Runway - Contract

Sen. Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*)

