



# National Institute For legislative Studies

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## NILS Weekly Digest



### In the Chambers Last Week

## Law Reform Committee Draft 122 Bills

NILS Director General Dr. Ladi Hamalai, who chaired the Committee set up to review existing laws and law reform, submitted an interim report to the Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara, on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at the National Assembly Complex in Abuja.

At the modest ceremony which had in attendance, Principal Officers of the House of Representatives and other Honourable Members as well as members of the Committee, Dr Hamalai, said that the report which is an outcome of thorough research, commitment and dedication produced an extensive and in-depth material which will go a long way in assisting the House of Representatives in achieving its Legislative Agenda.

She revealed that the committee was able to review over 200 pieces of Acts in the Laws of the Federation and produced 122 draft Bills for the consideration of the House of Representatives. While some of the legislation require repeals, some require amendments and some consolidations and reforms while a few new Bills were introduced as a result of review of existing Laws, she said.

Dr. Hamalai briefed that the committee created a narrative around issues recommended so that in future, any committee of the National Assembly using the material will see the issues recommended and why. The drafted bills and repeals are also done in tabular form for ease of work for future users. United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) provided logistical support, Dr Hamalai added.

In his response, Speaker Yakubu Dogara expressed great joy and satisfaction in the committee members' dedication and commitment. He said that the value of the intangible asset the members sacrificed to produce an unprecedented record 122 Bills can neither be quantified nor repaid but the effort has thrown a positive challenge to the 8th National Assembly.

The Speaker promised that all the Bills will be passed by the House of Representatives by the end of the first quarter of 2016. He reiterated that Democracy is all about Rule of Law and due process and any democracy can only be as buoyant as the laws in place. It may be recalled that the Speaker, Rt. Hon Yakubu Dogara commissioned the Committee on review of existing laws and law reform on July 23, 2015 and charged them with the following mandate.

The House of Representatives on Monday 9, November 2015 held a Special session to inaugurate its Standing Committees. The inaugural ceremony started with the admittance of invited guests into the chambers following a motion moved by the Whip of the House, Hon. Hassan Dokwa that the House suspend Order 19, Rule 8 for the guests to be ushered into the Green Chambers for purposes of the inauguration and was seconded by the Minority leader of the House, Hon. Leo Ogor. Thereafter the Deputy Leader was given the leave to give an opening speech. He averred that the Committees are the engine room of the House and expressed optimism that those that have been selected to Chair the Committees would do excellently well. The House of Representatives, during Plenary of Tuesday, 10th November, 2015 celebrated the U-17 Golden Eaglet team and their coaching crew for bringing honor to Nigeria by winning the just concluded 2015 FIFA U-17 Championship held in

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Chile. A motion which came under the purview of matters of public interest, moved by Hon. Henry Nwajiuba called for invitation of the team to the Green Chamber for proper recognition and felicitation. In another development, the Federal lawmakers have called for transparency and accountability in the disbursement of the Victims Intervention Fund (VIF) initiated by the Federal Government in 2014 to cater for the needs of victims of terrorism and other forms of violence across the country. The call came on the heels of a motion sponsored by Hon. Asabe Vilita Bashir, who prayed the House to urge the president of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari to direct for a reappraisal of the modalities for the disbursement of the funds. She further requested for the Victims Intervention Fund management committee headed by General T. Y. Danjuma (Rtd) to regularly publish on its website, names and pictures of beneficiaries of the fund, indicating plainly the amount of assistance rendered; adding that such records be made accessible to the public through its secretariat. Meanwhile the Senate on Tuesday November 10, 2015 considered and passed two Motions during its plenary session. The Motion passed were on the gallantry of the Golden Eaglets in winning the 2015 Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) Under 17 World Cup, held in Chile, sponsored by Senate Committee Chairman on Sports, Sen. Obinna Joseph Ogba (Imo West) and seconded by Sen. Ighoyota Amori (Delta Central). And the demise of Senate Acting Clerk, Mr. Adedotun Olushola Durojaiye on Friday at the National Hospital, Abuja, sponsored by Senate Majority Leader, Muhammed Ali Ndume (Borno South) and seconded by Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu (Enugu West). The House of Representatives on its sitting on Wednesday 11th stressed the need to renovate the police barracks across the country, on this note the a resolution was passed urging the Ministry of Police Affairs and the Inspector General of Police to design a strategy to attract reputable investors to begin the renovation, reconstruction and maintenance of barracks. The House Committee on Police Affairs has also been mandated to monitor compliance of this resolution and bring back a quarterly report on the matter. The concern to build barracks that will provide cheaper,



safer and reasonable accommodation and ensure discipline and good mental disposition for was expressed in a motion moved by Hon. Hassan Salleh. In another instance, the House has prevailed upon the telecommunications service providers to either develop or acquire software that will block or filter-out certain images or contents that violates both moral and religious values in Nigeria. Passing a resolution on a motion moved by Hon. John Bull Shekarau calling for the censoring of social media. He prayed the House to urge the telecoms service providers to initiate a takedown procedure that will enable a swift removal of any pornographic materials when notified by network users. The plenary session of the Senate on Wednesday November 11, 2015 witnessed the consideration and passage of a Motion titled "Abuse and Mismanagement of Treasury Single Account (TSA)". The Motion was sponsored by Sen. Dino Melaye and 31 others and seconded by Senate Majority Leader, Muhammed Ali Ndume. Moving the Motion for the commencement of debate, Sen. Melaye noted that the importance of introducing the Treasury Single Account was in compliance with the provision of Section 80 of the 1999 Constitution as amended. He commended President Muhammadu Buhari for the bold step taken. Sen. Melaye added that the Treasury Single Account is intended to prevent a situation whereby the revenues of the Federal Government is handled and kept by different bodies or spread in various accounts outside the Central

Bank of Nigeria (CBN). In view of this, the Federal Government on September 15, 2015 directed all its Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to close their various accounts with Commercial Banks and pay all revenues into its account with the CBN under the policy of Treasury Single Account. Accordingly, Sen. Melaye observed that in the course of TSA operation, the Federal Government on September 15, 2015 mopped up the sum of N2.5 trillion through its E-collection agent called REMITA who charges one percent of all monies passing through it, the implication of which the one percent of N2.5 trillion alone amounted to N25 billion largesse to REMITA. Nevertheless, the appointment REMITA as an agent for the operations of TSA negates and contravene Section 162 (1) of the 1999 Constitution which provides that "the Federation shall maintain a Special Account to be called 'The Federation Account' into which all revenues collected by the Government of the Federation except the proceeds from the personal income tax of the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Federation, the Nigeria Police, Ministries or Departments of Government charged with Foreign Affairs and the residents of FCT Abuja and going by this provision all revenues accruing to the Federal Government ought to be paid directly to the said Account.



The Director General NILS Dr Ladi Hamalai, welcomed the resource persons and the audience especially those who came from outside the Institute, she cited reference with Asian Tigers like South Korea whose good and purposeful leadership carried them up to the highest level. Dr. Hamalai also emphasised the essence of Public Private Partnership PPP because government alone cannot fund its various activities and projects nor satisfy all the needs of its citizen.



## Budgeting and Inclusive Growth in Nigeria

Prof Osita Ogbu gave a thought provoking lecture on how planning can be used to achieve an inclusive growth in the country. He reiterated that for an effective developmental planning framework need to be in place, He cited examples of countries like Malaysia, Japan and others who have looked inwards, built on the strength of every region to tackle their weaknesses and eventually excelled in terms of development. Professor Osita agrees the National Planning Commission should be strengthened by government by fusing the Ministry of Budget and National Planning.

## NILS Setting Agenda for Qualitative Policy Making to Push the Frontiers for Rapid Growth and Development

### Fiscal Responsibility Act (2007) and Adaptability of Zero Based Budgeting

The fiscal Responsibility and Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) can be adapted to fit into its framework. Barr. Eze Onyekpere, Executive Director, Center for Social Justice said that it is an interesting and



timely topic considering the reported determination of Federal Government to adopt ZBB for its future budgeting operation in Nigeria. ZBB is trying to bring inclusive economy that everybody will be included.

Also highlighted the advantage of MTEF as Aligns system inputs which include facilities, personnel, equipment and supply that are required for service delivery and production by service providers and the larger issue of enhanced

service delivery which reflects as system outputs and outcomes.

Strategically realigns public expenditure and management to focus on those areas that make the greatest contribution to government's strategic objectives as articulated in high level policy documents. This would essentially involve a focus on priority interventions responsive to the predominant needs of Nigerians, that is, pro-poor and developmental issues;

### Weekly DRT Seminar

Three papers were discussed during this week's Departmental Seminar. First was An analysis Report on A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (Establishment, Etc.) Act, 2002 (As Amended) and to establish the Federal Roads Authority to promote a Safe and Efficient Management of the Federal Roads Network and for Other Matters Connected Therewith;

the bill was sponsored by the Executive; and analysed by Taiwo Aderemi and Charles I. Obutte.

The second paper was presented as "An Analysis Report of Bill for an Act to Amend the Police Act, CAP. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by Transferring the Prosecutorial Right of the Police Officers to the Ministry of Justice and For Related Matters". The bill was sponsored by Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta, and

analyzed by Dr. Asimiyu Abiola and Charles I. Obutte. The objectives of the bill is; to amend the principal Act (the Police Act) by appointing Divisional Police Office for efficient criminal prosecution. And it also seeks to restrict criminal prosecution to police officers who are qualified as legal practitioners.

The last paper was an Analysis Report on A Bill for an Act to Amend the Companies and

Allied Matters Act, 2004 and Other Related Matters. Which was sponsored by Honourable Ossai Nicholas Ossai, and analysed by Taiwo Aderemi and Charles Obutte.

The Bill seeking to amend the Companies and Allied Matters Act will facilitate smooth registration of companies. This would attract foreign direct investment and promote economic growth.

# House New Bills & Motion

## House New Bills

Hire Purchase Bill, 2015 (HB. 87) (Hon. Yakubu Dogara) - First Reading.

Federal Capital Territory AIDS Control Agency Bill, 2015 (HB. 71) (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abontai) - First Reading.

Energy Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 72) (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abontai) - First Reading.

Chartered Institute of Finance and Control of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 75) (Hon. Betty Apiah and Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abontai) - First Reading.

Franchise Bill, 2015 (HB. 76) (Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga) - First Reading.

Chartered Institute of Loan and Risk Management of Nigeria Bill, 2015 (HB. 77) (Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga) - First Reading.

Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 88) (Hon. Umar Faruki) - First Reading.

Nigerian Peace Corps Bill, 2015 (HB. 89) (Hon. Umar Faruk) - First Reading.

## House New Motions

Devastating Gully Erosion in Nnewi North, Nnewi South and Ekwusigo Federal Constituency of Anambra State:

Hon. Chris Emeka Azubogu:

Devastating Gully Erosion along Onitsha-Nkpor-Enugu Expressway, Anambra State:

Hon. Eucharia Azodo Hon. Chukwuka Onyema Hon. Obinna Chidoka:

Menacing Coastal Erosion in Anyama-Ogbia Community in Ogbia Federal Constituency of Bayelsa State:

Hon. Sodaguwo Adegadiza Festus-Omoni:

Need to Complete the Construction of Dumne-Shelleng Road Across River Gongola-Bobini- Guyuk to Nasarawa Road in Gombe State:

Hon. Phillip A. Gutuwa:

Call for Investigation of the Contract for the Construction of Cham Dam in Balanga Local Government Area, Gombe State:

Hon. Ali Isa .T. C.:

Need for Transparency and Accountability in the Disbursement of the Victims Intervention Fund:

Hon. Asabe Vilita Bashir Hon. Kamale Adamu Dali Usman:

Deplorable State of Nara-Isu-Onicha-Okposi-Lgwulangwu-Ckawu-Abaol11ege (with Spur to Amasiri) Road in Enugu and Ebonyi States:

Hon. Linus Okorie:

Urgent Need to Renovate Police Barracks Across the Country:

Hon. Hassan Saleh:

Calling Attention to the Deplorable State of Murtala Mohammed International Airport Road, Lagos:

Hon. Enitan Dolapo Badru:

Call for Reconstruction of Oron Road in Oron Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

Hon. Ekpenyong Nse Bassey:

Call for Censoring of the Social Media:

Hon. Johnbull Shekarau:

# Senate New Bills & Motions

## Senate New Bills

FCT University of Science and Technology, Abaji, (Est. etc.) Bill, 2015 (SB.59) -*First Reading.*

Sen. Phillip Aduda

FCT University of Science and Technology, Abaji, (Est. etc.) Bill, 2015 (SB.59) -*First Reading.*

Sen. Phillip Aduda (FCT).

## Senate New Motions

JAMB's New Admission Policy

Sen. Joshua M. Lidani (*Gombe South*)

Illegal Mining of the Nation's Solid Minerals

Sen. Duro Faseyi, (*Ekiti North*)

Sustainable Development Goals: Take-home from the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament 2015.

Sen. Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*)

Co-Sponsor: Sen. Andy Uba

Abuse and Mismanagement of the Treasury Single Account Regime

Sen. Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*) and 30 Others

JAMB's New Admission Policy

Sen. Joshua M. Lidani (*Gombe South*)

Illegal Mining of the Nation's Solid Minerals

Sen. Duro Faseyi, (*Ekiti North*)

Sustainable Development Goals: Take-home from the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, 2015.

Sen. Dino Melaye (*Kogi West*)

Co-Sponsor: Sen. Andy Uba

