



National Institute For legislative Studies

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NILS Weekly Digest



In the Chambers Last Week

Commonwealth Secretariat Supports NILS On-Line Masters

The National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) is set to collaborate with the Commonwealth Secretariat in the area of Legislative Drafting online Masters' Degree Programme.

The Legal Adviser in the Rule of Law Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Ms. Segametsi Mothibatsela who visited the Director General of the Institute, Dr Ladi Hamalai in her office in Abuja recently expressed the Commonwealth Secretariat's enthusiasm about rendering assistance to member states.

The partnership will take the form of training and mentoring for the Institute's Legislative Drafters as well as provision of software relevant to the online Postgraduate services rendered by the National Institute for Legislative Studies in affiliation with the University of Benin.

Dr Hamalai informed that the Institute has already developed the training materials for Legislative Drafting which has been approved by the National Universities Commission; however, the online adaptation of the approved software requires support of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

While in Nigeria, the visiting representative also paid a courtesy call on the Clerk to the National Assembly, the acting Chairman, Law Reform Commission and the Legislative Drafting Department of the Ministry of Justice.

NILS PARTNER WITH UNHCR AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON IDPS

The Director General of the National Institute for Legislative Studies, Dr. Ladi Hamalai (MFR), has commended the National Assembly and United Nation High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for taking responsibility and action geared towards ameliorating the plights of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPS). She said their effort and commitment will forever be treasured.

Dr. Hamalai said this in a goodwill message on Monday 23, November 2015

On Tuesday 24, November 2015 Federal lawmakers in the House of Representatives have decried violation of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act of 2010 which was enacted to ensure that all operators engaged in any project in the Oil and Gas sector give priority to Nigerian as a significant element of their overall project development and execution. Following a motion moved in this respect by Hon. Lovette Ederin Idisi during plenary, the House called for investigation of the violation of the Grant of Right of First Refusal in the award of contracts in the sector. It was on this note that the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) and Committee on Local Content were charged to investigate the matter by inviting the Nigerian Content Monitoring Board, the National Petroleum Investments Management Services, the Department of Petroleum Resources and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation to appear before the Committee to explain what is described as the perennial violations of the Local Content Law by failing to grant right of first refusal to indigenous companies qualified to take the jobs. The Senate on the same Tuesday

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passed for second reading the 2015 Supplementary Appropriation Bill entitled "A Bill for an Act to authorize the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of N465, 636, 926, 857 (Four hundred and sixty five billion, sixty hundred and thirty six million, nine hundred and twenty six thousand, eight hundred and fifty seven naira) only, of which N460, 636, 929, 857 (Four hundred and sixty billion, six hundred and thirty six million, nine hundred and twenty six thousand, eight hundred and fifty seven naira) only is for additional recurrent (Non-debt) expenditure. While the balance of N5, 000, 000, 000 (Five billion naira) only is for contribution to development fund for additional capital expenditure for the year ending on 31st December, 2015". Senate Leader, Muhammed Ali Ndume led the debate and was seconded by Sen. Adamu Aliero. Similarly, three Motions were deliberated upon and passed with various Resolutions of the Senate. The Motions include; the current fuel scarcity all around the country and the need to urgently resolve the crisis, sponsored by Sen. Barau Jibrin (Kano North). The second Motion passed was titled "The need to Publish Accident Investigation Reports", sponsored by Sen. Theodore Orji (Abia Central). Finally, the third Motion passed by the Red Chamber was captioned "Police Recruitment", sponsored by Sen. Isiaka Adeleke (Osun West). The Motion expressed worry that Nigeria is grossly under-policed, stressing that a country of 170 million people can only boast of a paltry 305, 579 policemen and women. The following day Wednesday 25th of November, 2015, The House of Representatives demonstrated its support to discourage all forms of violence against women by passing a resolution pledging its determination to continue to legislate against all sorts of violence against women. This came on the heels of a motion calling for the House to join the rest of the world in observing the day, moved by the Chairman, House Committee on Women Affairs, Hon. Stella Oduh. She sought the leave of the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara to inform the House that November 25, is the day set aside by the United Nations to celebrate elimination of violence against women. She implored her colleagues to unanimously support the prayers of her motion that called for a public complaint desk to be created in the Local Government Councils across the country, to entertain and respond to cases of violence against women in Nigeria. Another matter that was brought to the fore under matters of urgent public attention, was a motion calling for investigation of the status of personnel strength of the Nigeria Police Force. The call came at the instance of a motion that was moved by Hon. Ahmed Yerima, who exposed that about 90,000 policemen have



lost their lives since the inception of insurgency in Nigeria. He appealed that given the shortfall in the personnel size of the Nigeria Police, there is need to increase the number of the projected 10,000 men, which was recently approved by President Muhammed Buhari to be recruited into the Force. The House also has urged the Federal Government to invest more in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) so as to improve efficiency of the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS). The resolution also urged the Comptroller-General of Customs to deploy more personnel to the borders in order to curtail activities of smugglers; adding that the Customs Service should shun the practice of mounting road blocks in search of goods that already made their way into the country. The Senate on Wednesday November 25, 2015 debated and passed for second reading "A Bill for an Act provide for the administration and political structure of Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory and for related matters, 2015", sponsored by Sen. Philip Tanimu Aduda and seconded by Sen. Dino Melaye. Similarly, the Senate has considered and passed a Motion entitled "Recurring Collapse of Bailey Bridges Nationwide", sponsored by Sen. Gilbert Nnaji (Enugu East). Leading the debate, Sen. Nnaji averred that the Bailey bridges were developed and used during the Second World War, they were built in Nigeria during the pre-independence and post-independence era up to few years after the Nigeria's civil war to provide temporary crossing for foot and vehicle traffic. He disclosed that the recent collapse of the Bailey bridges across Ebenyi River along Ikem Neke-Ugwuogo Road at Ikem-Uno in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area of Enugu State which took place on Friday November 6, 2015 calls for action. Rounding up plenary of the week on Thursday 26th of November 2015, The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara has averred that "any economy that does not innovate, cannot produce, but will remain perpetually consumers. The banks are doing very well making excessive profits, while the real sectors of the economy are suffering. Collusive behaviours of banks have kept the interest rate artificially high. This is the motion for the moment; this is where the change

starts". This statement added more weight to the resolution of the House during plenary session deploring the high interest rates being charged on lending by commercial banks in Nigeria and mandating the Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the interest rate with a view to arriving at measures that will reduce lending interest rates to a single digit. The resolution came on the heels of a motion calling for regulation of lending interest rates charged by commercial banks, standing in the name of Hon. Bode Ayorinde. He pointed out that it is an obligation for financial institutions to play prominent role in providing financial services that consequently lubricates the economies of nations. Adding that Government alone cannot provide all the necessary financial needs of the economy. He informed the House that currently the banks pay between 2% to 3% interest on savings, whereas they charge alarmingly high interest rate of 23% and 28% on lending.

Meanwhile, the House has directed its Committee on Aviation to invite the Honorable Minister of Aviation to appear before it to explain what has been done about the discriminatory and unfair disengagement of Nigerians from the employ of Virgin Atlantic Airline. The directive came following a motion moved by the leader of the House, Hon. Femi Gbajabamila, calling the attention of the House to the matter. He insisted that urgent action needed to be taken on the issue because it borders on the test of the resolve of the House of Representatives. He said this against the backdrop that barely two weeks ago, a resolution was passed on same matter by the House. The plenary session of the Senate on Thursday November, 2015 witnessed the consideration and confirmation of Engr. Prof. Umaru Garba Danbatta for appointment as Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and also the confirmation for appointment of four Managing Directors of AMCON



NILS PARTNER on IDPs



during a sensitization workshop hosted in Abuja to discuss the role of the National Assembly in addressing the challenges of internal displacement in the country. While assuring her partners of the full support of the institute to assist in lifting the pains of IDPs, she seized the opportunity to call on relevant Committees of the National Assembly and indeed all interested organizations to take advantage of the resources at NILS in addressing the issues of internal displacement. She applauded the advocacy drives of both Chambers of the National Assembly in this regard and went on to implore the legislature to expedite action to develop a legal framework that guarantees assistance and protection for the IDPs. “We that are from the most affected States in the North, are fully aware of the dehumanizing conditions of these victims of insurgency” she added. In another development, Dr. Hamalai shared her experience with some Committee Clerks of the National Assembly at a Validation workshop

which was organized by NILS to assess the capacity needs of the National Assembly. She added her voice to espouse two separate and comprehensive presentations done by professors, Mike Obadan and Samuel Egwu. In her submission, she averred that comparatively to what is obtainable across parliaments globally, the National Assembly does not measure up, in terms of physical infrastructure, Information and Communication Technology, Research Support Services, Capacity of Legislative Aides and availability of working structures. The DG informed that things are pretty organized and predictive in the U.S Congress for example than in Nigeria. “Oversight functions are made easier because of availability of structures in place at the disposal of the legislators” she stated. She blamed the poor performance of legislative Aides on the fallen standard of education in the country and implored the lawmakers to push for reform in the education sector.



From 20-23rd October, 2015 The DG of NILS and a team visited USA and UK Parliaments to solicit goodwill towards Nigeria particularly due to the anti-corruption stance of the present administration.

The visit was encouraged by the President of the Senate for the same objective. It was also an intendment that avenues for establishing sustainable collaboration in training, research and sourcing of resource materials for research and Library collection would be explored.

Legal framework of NEITI Act 2007 as an anti-corruption

Dr. Bethel U. Ihugba, Research Fellow

Secrecy in government – citizens' relationship is accurately adjudged as counterproductive because it creates lack of confidence in government policies. One of the areas frequently identified as needing openness is fiscal transparency and accountability. This is because Governments as trustees hold and manage national resources, for the citizens. This relationship require that citizens are given access to complete and wholesome information to enable them function properly as principals and determine whether or not their agents (government) are meeting up to expectations. This is the core objective of the Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Act 2007. To sustain this objective require that the Act both in policy and provisions is coherent and does not contradict itself



NILS 21ST WEEKLY SEMINARS

Visit to the United States Congress and the UK Parliament: Lessons learnt

Increased goodwill by the two parliaments towards Nigeria particularly due to the anti-corruption stance of the present administration

Key research and support providing agencies and organisations in the two parliaments work on a demand basis.

When compared to CRS, NILS'



work is mostly supply driven

Staff motivation high due to remuneration, job satisfaction and fulfilment in being part of important National processes

The analysis provided by the Legislative Branch Agencies in both the US and the UK authoritative, confidential, objective and nonpartisan.

The Office of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate assured the delegation of its desire to support the Institute in its bid to better collaborate with the various Legislative Agencies under it.

The various agencies agreed to develop sustainable collaborate with the National Assembly and the

Institute through exchange of experience visits, training of NILS' resource persons and internship arrangements with NASS/NILS staff.

Areas of possible collaboration include training of legal staff of the Institute.

The Library of Congress, US and Parliamentary Archives, UK promised to assist NILS in the acquisition of Library collections, artefacts for the proposed Legislative Museum.

The Office Sergeant-at-Arms of the US Congress was invited to the forthcoming Conference on Restructuring the Sergeant-at-Arms and Parliamentary Security in Africa which is planned for January, 2015.

Portfolio Equity Investment and Securities Regulation in Nigeria

Portfolio Equity Investment and Securities Regulation in Nigeria: Developments in Equity Market and Legislative Options for the National Assembly by Chukwuka Onyeaku, examined Portfolio equity investments in public equity securities market as regulated by the regulatory

authorities. Current developments in the equity investment industry has shown that private company equities have values that worth public investment and which can generate sufficient income to investors and accelerate economic growth if the public are allowed access to them by law. It is in

view of this that a policy for investment in private company's equity securities by members of the public is necessary. The paper examines the imperative of investment in private company's equity securities by members of the public through other media of exchange apart from the Nigerian Stock Exchange

Senate New Bills

North East Development Commission (Est, etc) Bill, 2015 (SB. 163) -First Reading.

Sen. Ali Ndume(Senate Leader) and others.

Frivolous Petitions (Prohibition, etc) Bill, 2015 (SB. 143) -First Reading.

Sen. Bala Ibn Na' Allah (Kebbi South)

National Youth Service Corps (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (SB. 147) -First Reading.

Sen. Stella Oduah (Anambra North)

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) (Portfolio Designation) Bill, 2015 (SB.129) - First Reading

Sen. T. A. Orji (Abia Central)

Constitution Alteration Bill, 2015 (SB.130)- First Reading

Sen. Babajide Omoworare, CON (Osun East)

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2015(SB.139)- First Reading

Sen. Nneji Athan Achonu (Imoblorth)

Confirmation of Ministerial nominees with assigned Portfolios Bill, 2015 (SB.146)- First Reading

Sen. Suleiman Nazif (Bauchi North)

Nigerian Peace Corps (Est. etc.) Bill, 2015 (SB.173)) - First Reading

Sen. Ali Ndume (Senate Leader)

Constituencies Development Catalyst Fund Bill, 2015 (SB. 103) - First Reading

Sen. Buhari Abdulfatai (Oyo North)

Renewable Energy Bill, 2015 (SB. 131) - First Reading

Sen. Stella Oduah (Anambra North)

Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2015(SB. 138) - First Reading

Sen. Nneji Athan Achonu (Into North)

Companies Income Tax Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (SB. 140) - First Reading

Sen. Emmanuel Andy Uba (Anambra South)

Communication Service Tax Bill, 2015 (SB. 164) - First Reading

Sen. Ali Ndume (Senate Leader)



Senate New Motions

The current fuel scarcity all around the country and the need to urgently resolve the crisis

Senator Barau I. Jibrin (*Kano North*)

Co-sponsors: and 21 others

The Need to Publish Accident Investigation Reports

Sen. Theodore Orji, CON (*Abia Central*)

2015 Police Recruitment

Sen. Isiaka Adeleke (*Osun West*)

Mandatory compliance with certain Sections of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) with respect to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja annual budget presentation.

Sen. George Sekibo, CON (*Rivers East*) and 31 others

Recurring collapse of Bailey Bridges Nationwide

Sen. Gilbert Nnaji (*Enugu East*)

Gas Flaring in Nigeria Particularly in the Niger-Delta Region

Sen. Ighoyota Amori (JP) (*Delta Central*)

Restoration of Peace and Order in Amagu Community in Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State And Adadama Community in Abi. Government Area .of Cross River State

Sen. Obinna Ogba (*Ebonyi Central*)

Demise of Senator (Chief) Dr. Donald Dick Etiebet, PhD, OFR

Sen. Godswill Akpabio, CON, (Senate Minority Leader)

Co-Sponsors:

Sen. Basse Albert Akpan Sen. Nelson Effiong Sen. John Enoch

Sen. Rose Oko Sen. Gershon Basse

The Urgent Need to Re-Assess Nigeria's Foreign Policy Objectives in Line with Emerging Economic Realities.

Sen. Stella Oduah (*Anambra North*)

Motion on the prevailing interest rate and economic growth

Sen. Hussain Salihu Egye (*Nasarawa South*)

Demise of Prince Abubakar Audu.

Sen. Abdulraman Abubakar (*Kogi East*)

Co-Sponsors;

Sen. M.S. Ohiare, Sen. Dino Melaye, Sen. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, Sen. Kabiru I. Gaya, Sen. George Akume

Gas Flaring in Nigeria Particularly in the Niger-Delta Region

Sen. Ighoyota Amori OP) (*Delta Central*)

Abandonment of Projects: A Menace to Development in Nigeria,

Sen. Sulaiman Nazif (*Bauchi North*)

The Urgent Need to Re-Assess Nigeria's Foreign Policy Objectives in Line with Emerging Economic Realities.

Sen. Stella Oduah (*Anambra North*)



House New Bills 1

Anti-Torture Bill, 2015 (HB. 120) (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha) - First Reading.

Senior Citizens Centre Bill, 2015 (HB. 121) (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha) - First Reading.

National Council for Widows, Dependent Children and Orphans (Establishment, Special Provisions, etc.) Bill, 2015 (HB. 124) (Hon. Ayuba Muhammed Bello) - First Reading.

Bio-Fuel Energy Policy Bill, 2015 (HB. 125) (Hon. O. K. Chinda) - First Reading.

National Welfare Trust Fund and Management Commission (NWTFCM) Bill, 2015 (HB. 126) (Hon. Rita O. Orji) - First Reading.

Independent National Electoral Institute (Establishment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 129) (Hon. Chukwuka W. Onyema) - First Reading.

Nigerian National Heroes Register Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 130) (Hon. Chukwuka W. Onyema) - First Reading.

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2015 (HB. 154) (Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok) - First Reading.

Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 155) (Hon. Beni Lar) - First Reading.

Public Officers Protection Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 157) (Hon. Istifanus Dung Gyang) - First Reading.

Kidney Transplant Bill, 2015 (HB. 153) (Hon. Chukwuka W. Onyema) - First Reading.

Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 131) (Hon. Mohammed Abdulkadir Mahmud) - First Reading.

Witness Protection Programme Bill, 2015 (HB. 132) (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha) - First Reading.

Abuja Metropolitan Management Council Bill, 2015 (HB. 133) (Hon. Shehu N. Garba) - First Reading.

Nigerian Metallurgical Industry Bill, 2015 (HB. 134) (Hon. Daniel Reyenieju) - First Reading.

Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 135) (Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok) - First Reading.

Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 136) (Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajoki) - First Reading.

Interpretation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 137) (Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok) - First Reading.

Animal Disease (Control) Bill, 2015 (HB. 140) (Hon. Abubakar Amuda-Kannike C.) - First Reading.

Medical and Dental Practitioners Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 141) (Hon. Kingsley Obinna Onwubuaririi) - First Reading.

Vocational Training (Inclusion in Secondary School Syllabus) Bill, 2015 (HB. 156) (Hon. Rita Orji) - First Reading.

Fiscal Responsibility Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 138) (Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok) - First Reading.

Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 139) (Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok) - First Reading.



House New Motions 1

The Need to Construct Mararaba-Baissa-Gembu Road in Taraba State:

Hon. D. C. Hosea:

Deplorable State of Moslem-Idiosan-Ijebu Igbo Road:

Hon, Olusunbo Olugbemi.

Urgent Need for the Rehabilitation of Beere-Olorunsogo-Akanran-Dagbolu-Ijebu Igbo Road in Oyo State:

Hon. Taiwo Michael Akintola:

Need to Award Contract for the Construction of Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba Road:

Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren:

Call for Investigation of the Violations of the Grant of Right of First Refusal in the Award of Oil and Gas Contracts:

Hon. Lovette Ederin Idisi:

Call for Investigation of the Activities of the Nigerian Oil Industry Regulatory Authorities and the Need to Complete all Ongoing and Outstanding Unitization Processes of Straddled Oil and Gas Fields:

Hon. Sergious Ose Ogun.

Call to Investigate the Implementation of the Cashless Policy to Ameliorate the Sufferings of Nigerians:

Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok:

Call for Establishment of Registry of Convicted Persons:

Hon. Philip Shaibu:

Need for the Federal Government to Curb Population Explosion in Nigeria:

Hon. Babatunde Gabriel Kolawole:

Need to Investigate the Funds that have Accrued to the National Housing Fund since Inception:

Hon. Joseph Edionwele:

Lack of Adequate Borstal Institutions for the Remand and Rehabilitation of Juvenile Offenders:

Hon. Stella Ngwu:

Call for Provision of Conveniences at Bus Stops, Parks and Other Public Places in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT):

Hon. Anayo Edwin:

Urgent Need for the Completion of Erelu Water Scheme in Oyo Town:

Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi:

Call for Rehabilitation of the Road from Yahe-Ukelle in Yala Local Government Area of Cross River State to Igede in Oju Local Government Area of Benue State:

Hon. Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe:

Call for Dualization of the 9th Mile-ObolloAfor-Makurdi Road:

Hon. Dennis Oguerinwa Amadi,

Deplorable State of the Makurdi-Gboko-Kastina Ala Road:

Hon. Dickson Tarkighir:

House New Motions 2

Call for Intervention in the Perennial and Devastating Gully Erosion in Kore/Kubdia, Yaba-Waba, Zindiwa, Gololo, Gamawa and Udobo Communities of Gamawa Local Government Area of Bauchi State:

Hon. Mohammed Garba Gololo:

Call for Investigation of the continued closure of the Nigerian Newsprint Manufacturing Company (NNMC) Seven Years after its Privatization:

Hon. Henry Okon Archibong:

Low Service Delivery and Exploitation of the Masses by Nigeria Customs Service:

Hon. Olatoye Temitope Sugar:

Imminent Threat of Loss of Six Thousand Jobs and Abandonment of Twelve Trillion Naira Projects in the Construction Industry due to Government's Indebtedness to Contractors:

Hon, Ahmed Abu:

Urgent Need for Federal Government's Intervention in the Continuous Loss of Lives and Destruction of Properties in Takum, Wukari, Ibi and Shendam Local Government Areas of Taraba and Plateau States Due to Banditry, Kidnapings and Terrorist Activities:

Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum, Hon. Danjuma Usman, Hon. Johnbull Tyemlong Shekarau

Call for Rehabilitation and Dualization of Kano-Kastina Road:

Hon. Ahmed Garba Bichi,

Call on the Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to Construct Ugbomoro Major Road, Effurun, Delta State:

Hon. Evelyn Omavowan Oboro:

Urgent Need for Rehabilitation of Irun-Ogbagi-Ikare-Uba Oka-Ishimeriu-Epinmi Federal Road:

Hon. Olemija Stephen Friday:

Call for Regulation of the Lending Interest Rate Charged by Commercial Banks:

Hon. Bode Ayorinde:

Need to Investigate the Claims by State Governments of Expenditures incurred on Rehabilitation of Federal Roads in their States:

Hon. Muhammed Kabir Ajanah:

Call for Rehabilitation of Returnees from Bakassi Peninsula:

Hon. Sunday Adepoju:

Call on Nigerian Universities to Stop the Practice of Admitting Students into Courses not Approved by the National Universities Commission (NUC):

Hon. Samuel Ifeanyi Onuigbo:

Consequences of the Neglect of Marine Transportation on Commerce, Tourism and Revenues of the Nation:

Hon. Douye Diri and 19 others.