



Capturing and Publishing Parliamentary Records: *Timeliness, Accuracy and Preservation*

**Felicia Uchola,
Director, ICT
National Assembly of Nigeria**

Outline

- Capturing Parliamentary Records
- Publishing
- Timeliness
- Accuracy

National Assembly of Nigeria

- A few words



Senate



House of Representatives

- Nigeria runs a Presidential System of Government
- Bicameral legislature made of:
 - 109 Senators & • 360 Members of House of Reps
- Parliament is relatively young (15 years of parliamentary democracy since return to civil rule in 1999)
- Parliamentary Administration headed by the Coordinating Clerk and the Clerks Senate and House oversee activities in respective Chambers.
- The Official Report Department is responsible for the production of Parliamentary Records. ICT Department provides infrastructure and needed services

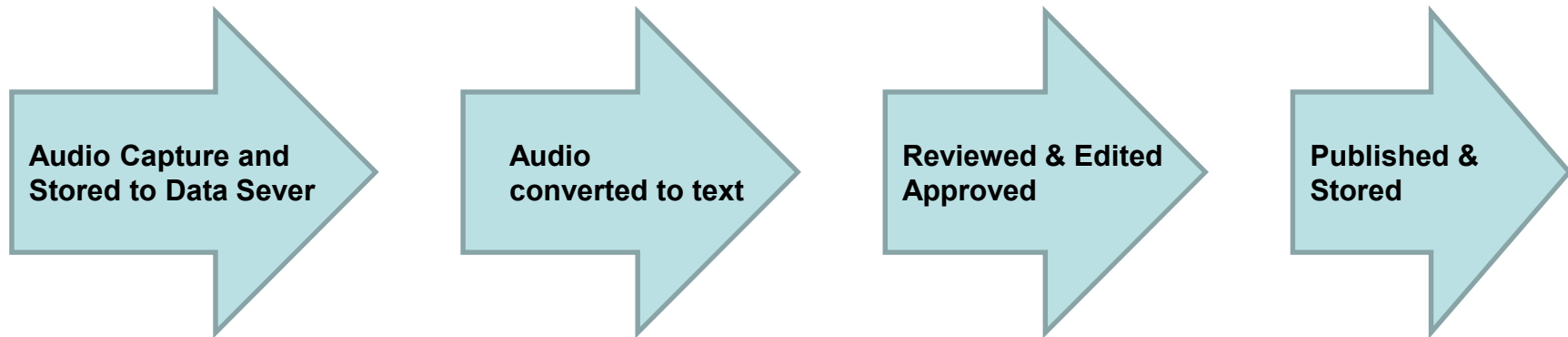
Parliamentary Records

- Hansards
- Votes and Proceedings/ Summary
- Bills
- Order Papers/ Agenda
- Notice Paper
- Motions
- Resolutions
- Petitions
- Etc.

NASS Records

- Hansards (verbatim reports) and Votes & Proceedings (summary reports) of plenary sessions are the fundamental records of the National Assembly.
- Committees produce summary reports of their activities:
 - Annual Report
 - Sessional Report
 - Oversight Report
 - Public Hearing Report
 - Adhoc Committee Report
 - Referrals
- Reports produced by Management include Finance, Procurement, Maintenance and Human Resource reports
- The official record of proceedings of the National Assembly is the text record
- However, audio and video records are also captured

NASS Capturing and Publishing Parliamentary Records Workflow Process



Capturing of NASS Proceedings – the Evolution



PHASE I
1999

- Analogue
- Stenographic machine
- Cassette Tapes

PHASE II
2006

- Video records
- Webcast

PHASE III
2012 to present date

- Automated VRS & Express Scribe

Evolution Continues

- The NASS IT infrastructure development project was initiated in 2006 with the following visions and components:
 - Implementation of a Legislative Management System as means of automating the legislative process such as e-voting, verbatim reporting (hansards), minutes management, activity planning, bill drafting and tracking, tracking of legislator's contribution to debates
- Deployment of a web-cast and video-conferencing system to enable video capture of proceedings (production of video hansards) , video streaming and web-casting

- Installation of e-Document Management System
- Networking of NASS Campus
- Acquisition of high performance web, mail, database and storage servers to drive intranet services
- Acquisition of presentation systems for NASS Committee rooms

Accuracy

- In the past the accuracy of records in terms of content, transcription, storage, and retrieval was highly deficient.
- The current chain structure in place for management of text records from the point of transcription of captured audio records to the endpoint of publication of the text records serves to reduce the errors

Timeliness

- With the LAN in place, a reasonable period of time is saved in the production of Hansards.
- The turn-around time for production of Hansards is 8 hours.
- At the end of closure of debates at 3.30pm, Hansard is estimated to be ready by 11am
 - **VRS System reduced publication time.**
 - **Introduced online workflow**

Publishing

- Pigeon Hole - Dominant
- Website - Dominant
- Webcast - Dormant
- Intranet & Internet System –
Work in Progress/
to make it dominant

Preservation

- **Online archive system**
- **Document Management System**
- **Use of external backup storage**
- **Production of bound volumes of reports**



Conclusion

Risks and Challenges

- Poor ICT Network Infrastructure
- Limited Workflow Processes
- Partial deployment of Data Storage
- Limited Publication
- Preservation
- Poor Management of Information

Solutions

- Upgraded to Enterprise Network Infrastructure utilizing VLAN technology
- Introduce online workflow process using Microsoft SharePoint
- NASS working toward full utilization of Data Storage (SAN)
- NASS Website, NAS Intranet-Internet, NASS Webcasting and Photocopying.
- Online Archiving System
- Document Management System

A Case for Legislative Management System

- A principal area of concern for NASS legislative application is the provision of computer and intranet/internet –based support to legislation.
- The current practice of drafting of legislations and amendments in NASS relies solely on the use of standalone word processing applications like MS word and word perfect.

Cont'd

- Collaboration between UNDESA and NASS on parliamentary ICT issues, legislation and documentations.
- UNDESA has developed an Integrated Software Suite Bungeni and XML standard (Akoma Ntoso) for use by African Parliaments
- A 6-month deployment timeline is needed for customization, deployment, testing and commissioning of the software suite

Parliamentary Website: <http://www.nass.gov.ng>

THANK YOU