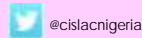




# Legislative Digest

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*Executive Director of CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), speaking at experience sharing meeting among Civil Society, World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington DC*

## Corruption As An Impediment To Effective Service Delivery

By Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)

**I**t is no more news that corruption has permeated Nigerian socio-economic and political atmospheres with the alarming dreadful consequences backpedalling growth and

development, while at the same calling for global concerns.

It would not be a surprise when in 2014 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index ranked Nigeria 136 least corrupt nation out of 176 countries in the world and the 3rd most corrupt

country in West Africa after Guinea and Guinea Bissau. Also, Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance alluded to this fact when it rated Nigeria one of the worst governed countries in Africa.

Corruption hits hardest at the

*Cont. on page 4*

Boko Haram Feed Off Corruption in Nigeria - P. 11

'There Should be Zero Tolerance For Maternal Death' - Perm Sec, KSMoH - P. 16

Constitutional Amendmnts and Matters Arising (1) - P. 18

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is a non-governmental, non-profit, advocacy, information sharing, research, and capacity building organisation. Its mission is to strengthen the link between civil society and the legislature through advocacy and capacity building for civil society groups and policy makers on legislative processes and governance issues.

CISLAC was integrated as a corporate body (CAC/IT/NO22738) with the Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on the 28th December 2006. Prior to this incorporation, however, CISLAC had actively been engaged in legislative advocacy work since 2005. The organisation is also compliant with the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2007. The Organisation reports to SCUML, any transaction that is above One thousand dollars, detailing the payee, purpose and the other KYC (Know Your Customer) requirements. This is done on a weekly or monthly basis depending on the volume of transactions and to ensure appropriate compliance with anti-money laundering laws. Also, CISLAC is registered organisation under the National Planning Commission.

As indicated above, the organisation emerged from the need to address the gaps in legislative advocacy work of civil society and government access to civil society groups. CISLAC's engagement with Federal Ministries, National and State Assemblies, Local Government Administrations, private sector interests, and non-government organisations, has opened a window through which the public and policy officials can interact and collaborate.

CISLAC through its engagement of the governance processes in Nigeria has facilitated the enactment of several primary legislations such as the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Public Procurement Act, and Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Act which promotes transparency and accountability in governance as well as the domestication of international conventions at the Federal and state levels in Nigeria. CISLAC also supported the passage of the Freedom of Information Act. Other pieces of legislations such the National Tobacco Control Bill, National Health Bill, Disability Bill, Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill, Violence and Persons Prohibition Bill, Whistleblower Protection Bill, Prison Reform Bill, etc. are also supported by CISLAC.

As a renowned CSO in Legislative advocacy in the region, CISLAC has on several occasions shared its experience on best practises for legislative advocacy on invitation from its international partners such as the World Bank Parliamentary Forum and the United Nations Millennium Campaign in African countries such as Kenya and Zimbabwe. Similarly, Ghana, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo have also requested support from CISLAC for replication of their work in Legislative advocacy. In many West African countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon, Niger, Togo and Benin Republic, CISLAC has carried out experience sharing and advocacy exercises on the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative processes through supporting the passage of extractive industry initiative laws in these countries. CISLAC has also undertaken capacity building for legislators, CSOs and Media on policy engagements in the above countries.

CISLAC's sub-granting experience includes grants to national organisations. With skilled, committed, experienced and proactive leadership and employees, particularly in the areas of coalition building, tenacious advocacy, community mobilization and the clout needed to engage lawmakers at all levels, the organization proven capacity to attract international solidarity, engage policy makers and mobilize local civil society groups and communities into action.

## GOAL

"To make legislature accessible and responsive to all".

## VISION

"A Nigeria in which citizens are participating in governance; the government is safeguarding the rights and welfare of the people; and non-state actors are providing space for citizens to demand accountability".

## MISSION

"To increase the legislature and CSOs' impact in the legislative process".

## ADVOCACY VISITS

CISLAC has successfully engaged key members of the National Assembly in order to wield their influence in ensuring that civil society positions are accommodated. In 2006, for instance, CISLAC targeted key players and created public awareness on draft legislation and questionable provisions incorporated by the National Assembly. Such efforts improved the levels of discipline, transparency, and accountability in the management and openness of fiscal responsibility, public procurement, and the nation's extractive Industry sector in Nigeria.

Through such efforts, CISLAC has empowered communities mostly affected by the extractive industry sector, improved the levels of information dissemination, and ensure due process and transparency in the payments made by extractive industry companies to the Federal Government and its agencies. It has also educated State and Federal legislators, their advisory staff, CSOs, the media, and key stakeholders on their oversight roles in legislation and has reviewed their commitment in implementation.

## PUBLICATION OF MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

CISLAC has strengthened civil society intervention by the publication of a monthly newsletter Legislative Digest and Tobacco Control Update which have been in circulation for both public and legislative consumption since October 2006 and June 2013 respectively. It has been a central medium of accountability, as it monitors the performance of Legislators, and a channel for advocacy on critical issues that need legislation. Also, CISLAC has a wide range of publications such as Textbooks and Policy Briefs.

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# Nigerian Activists and President Buhari's Health

**W**e join reputable Nigerian activists to urge President Muhammadu Buhari to embrace the advice of his personal physician and take some time to attend to his health.

While President Muhammadu Buhari was recently in the United Kingdom on a medical vacation, which lasted 49 days, many public officers said that he was 'hale and hearty.' But upon his return to the country, President Buhari disclosed that he had never been that sick in his entire life.

Even though the president did not disclose the nature of his ailment, he revealed that he went through blood transfusion. While thanking the Nigerian people for their prayers, the president announced that he might soon travel back for further medical treatment.

It would be recalled that few weeks ago, the Governor of Kaduna state, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai urged Nigerians to give President Buhari time to recover from his sickness. The plea was made after the governor had visited and presumably assessed the state of the president at the presidential villa in Abuja.

However, due to the apparent deterioration in

the president's health condition, he has neither been seen in public in the last one week nor attended the last two meetings of the federal executive council. His absence at the last Jumat service in the villa has fuelled further speculations and rumours on President Buhari's medical condition.

Instead of embarking on regular briefing on the actual state of the health of President Buhari, officials of the federal government have continued to assure the Nigerian people.

In defending the absence of the president at the last Federal Executive Council meeting and other state functions, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr Garba Shehu stated that the President's doctors have advised on his taking things slowly, as he fully recovers from the long period of treatment in the United Kingdom some weeks ago.

As we join the Nigerian people of goodwill to pray for a speedy recovery of President Buhari, we are as well compelled to advise him to heed the advice of his personal physicians by taking a rest to attend to his health without any further delay.

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## Corruption and Effective Service Delivery in Nigeria

The effects of corruption in service delivery in Nigeria are outrageous. The effects range from under development, absence of basic infrastructure facilities such as potable water, good road networks, dilapidated health care facilities and degrading services, massive poverty, cluelessness in professionalism, deficient leadership outputs, high unemployment and youth hopelessness, falling standard of education leading to production of low-quality graduates.

Corruption denies access to basic education and health services, fuels political violence, generates popular anger that threatens to further destabilize societies, and exacerbates violent conflict.

## Corruption And Public Health Care Service Delivery

Without doubt, all wealthy nations dedicate most of their energies to have a functional health system.

Continuous diversion of resources reduces the level of resources and investments available for the public health system. Resources are reportedly drained from health budget through embezzlement, fraud and corruption reduce the funding available for salaries, health services and maintenance, contributing to lower staff motivation, quality of care and declining service availability and use.

While over 75% of the Millennium Development Goals are health related, the Nigerian Primary Health Care system is in a state of total collapse with dilapidated structures decorated with expired drugs and cob webs and have become in many places inhabitants for domestic animals.

## Public Services



Corruption impedes both national and donors' efforts at providing appropriate and timely vaccination of new-borns; discourages the use of public health clinics; reduces satisfaction of households with public health services and increases waiting times at health clinics. Several studies on Nigeria health sector reveal a different perspective as regards health care service delivery.

Corruption in the public health care service delivery symbolizes: unethical attitudes of the health workers towards helpless patients, discouraging attendance at public health care facilities; scarcity of drugs even when they are provided by governments but patients are directed to private hospital or stores to purchase such at expensive sums; poor access to health care facilities, intensifying the already increasing maternal and child mortality rate, especially in the grassroots; poor



monitoring and evaluation of the health facilities by relevant authorities, giving chances to degrading treatments and unethical attitudes by some health workers; delayed release of health budget as appropriated, backpedalling timely interventions and provision of adequate, accessible and affordable health care services; poor implementation of health budget even when released.

The impact of corruption in the health sector in general is relatively well documented. There is a growing body of evidence that demonstrates that corruption undermines the cost, volume and quality of public service delivery, impeding access and quality of patient care with the federal government seeking the support of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in curbing corruption in Nigeria's health sector following several indictments by foreign donors of diversion of funds particularly in the Federal Ministry of Health.

The intensity of corruption in the health sector led to the plan by the Federal Government to establish Efficiency Management Unit (EMU) to oversee the proper utilization of funds in the sector.

It is no more news that in recent times, the health ministry and some of its agencies and departments have been fingered by the Global Fund to have been involved in alleged diversion of funds meant for the fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria. The magnitude of the alleged corruption and the threat by the Global Fund to withdraw its funding and support to Nigeria compelled President Muhammadu Buhari to order the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to probe the alleged stealing of Global Fund grants which Nigeria received between 2010 and 2014.

## Corruption And Service Delivery In The Education Sector

Nigeria's education sector has hitherto continued to suffer from continuous scourge of severe corruption and incompetence. Corruption in the public education system symbolizes: unchecked mismanagement of funds meant for educational projects, resulting in ill-equipped laboratory, library, and classrooms; politicization of the education system by corrupt politicians who are elected on university boards, making learning environment unproductive, unproductive; the embezzlement of education budgets allocated for the purchase of teaching materials, resulting in declining performance of students; institutionalized and systematic bribery, abuse of office, sexual misconducts fuelling examination malpractices, unmerited advantages, and poor performance; high level ghost teachers phenomenon with teachers on the payroll but do not teach, giving chance to difficulties in the coverage of work content and ineffective lessons delivery by unqualified personnel who maybe standing in for the absentees; fast declining personal effort with little or no regard for merit as success comes through manipulation, favouritism and bribery, thereby shaking the foundations of society; and serious preference for financial rewards in admission process into education institutions, where the best but poor students are denied ones.

Giving the insight into the nature of corruption in the Nigeria's education sector, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) revealed that corruption has weakened the sector, leading to low efficiency, wastage and misappropriation of resources, low



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quality service delivery. The Commission classified the ills into different levels of occurrence such as policy level, Ministry/state and local government level, schools and administrative levels.

Corruption in the education sector was a major challenge to achieving the Goal 2 of Millennium Development Goals of comprehensive primary school education for all the world children by 2015.

Corrupt practices in the education sector are extensively endangering the country's social, economic and political future. It threatens equal access, quantity

and quality of education with very harsh consequences for the poor who, without access to education or with no alternative but low-quality education have limited or no hope of escaping life of poverty, especially in a certificate crazy society like Nigeria.

The mismanagement of the education funds in Nigerian educational institutions which have critical roles to play in renewing and reengineering the nation has resulted in poor students and academic staff welfarism.

## Corruption and Efficient Security Services

While the level of corruption in Nigeria's security sector cannot be quantified, undeniable fact is the unforgivable damage it has done to the socio-economic development and well-being of the citizens.

Corruption is not far-fetched in Nigeria's security sector. In 2014, Transparency International Defence Anti-Corruption Index, a global study of corruption risk levels in national defence establishments, detailed the many areas where corruption risks are high in Nigeria and analysed the consequences. The research showed that lethally



Pic: ©World Bank Blogs

armed criminal networks, operating with the tacit support of local and foreign business mafias, and chaperoned by powerful military “Godfathers,” illegally siphon off about US\$1 billion each year in petroleum.

Similarly, a number of scandals have been recorded around the so-called ‘security votes’, which allow politicians to appropriate millions of dollars behind closed doors simply by evoking ‘national security’. As a result, funds that are meant to buy equipment and even pay salaries go missing, leaving the military badly equipped and demoralised.

Corruption in security sector symbolizes: institutionalised human rights abuses and systemic bribery, which gives chance to hopelessness, insecurity and degrading treatments of the less privileged; extortion of the already impoverished citizens at check points is business of the day; denial of bails at the instance of no monetary return despite legal provisions against such; sexual assault and shooting of citizens for refusing to bribe; high-level embezzlement and diversion of security personnel entitlements into private pockets, limiting resources, efforts and motivation to effectively secure lives and property of the

“  
... a number of scandals have been recorded around the so-called ‘security votes’, which allow politicians to appropriate millions of dollars behind closed doors simply by evoking ‘national security’. As a result, funds that are meant to buy equipment and even pay salaries go missing, leaving the military badly equipped and demoralised.  
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citizens; only wealthy ones can afford to pay for private police or security squads; extortion-related confrontations between the security agencies and motorists, escalating into more serious abuses; porous nation's borders, which paves ways for influx illegal immigrants, illegal importation of weapons of various kinds that further endanger lives of the citizens.

Amidst claims by Nigerian security agencies that they are being underfunded, it has revealed that a total N4.62trillion was allocated to the federal security sector from 2010 to 2015. How this huge sum was spent however remains unclear as there are no reliable performance reports by the security agencies. The Ministry of Defence's refusal to make its spending public has further made

difficult to track the nation's investment on the military and allied agencies.

The security agencies – the military, police, secret police – to containing violence and insurgencies has been attributed to incapacity and deep corruption prevents the military from.

Also, conflicts between pastoralists and resident local communities are not new in Nigeria. The degree of violent attacks by among herdsmen and farmers across the north—Plateau, Benue, Nasarawa, Kaduna, Niger, Taraba, Katsina and Zamfara states has again exposed the inability of the security services to tackle communal aggression.

In 2010, the government awarded a \$470m (£274m) contract for security across the capital. However, few of the hundreds of cameras installed function, yet the work was paid for and signed off. Since this increased security effort, there have been series of bombings in Abuja, and yet despite the investment, the security agencies cannot track from where the bombs originate.

#### Judicial Corruption And Service Delivery

An effective judiciary guarantees fairness in legal processes. It's a powerful weapon against corruption. But people's experiences in court are often far



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from fair. In some countries, most people in contact with the courts face demands for bribes. Their payments total staggering amounts. A backlog of cases creates opportunities for demanding bribes to fast-track a case. Court personnel can be paid to slow down or speed up a trial, or dismiss a complaint.

The extent of judges frustrating justice for compensations or enticement of various kinds has been reported. Endemic corruption in judicial system has resulted in loss of public confidence and hopelessness in the system.

The judiciary has a great role to play in the efforts to save the nation from imminent collapse under the weight of unbridled corruption. Without doubt, judges symbolize the judicial powers of the state; they stand out as the central figures in the judicial system and the administration of justice.

Judicial corruption in Nigeria symbolizes: situations where judges are bribed or give bribe, or succumb to pressure from above; politicians abusing offices and distorting judicial processes; some registrars of lower courts building houses for judges in the Supreme Court, as gratification; where women are mostly employed in the magistrate courts primarily to give chances to some unscrupulous judges forcibly have affairs with them, harass them, including married women; Nigerian politicians who put judges on pay roll, even when such is against judicial code of ethics; high-ranking



judicial officers acting as couriers of bribe; some legal practitioners in addition to their legitimate fees demand other fees from their clients purportedly to influence the judge or judges handling their cases; judicial officers perverting the course of justice, showing partiality, and accepting bribe and subverting the course of righteousness.

### Corruption And Public Procurement Process

Public procurement is one of the government activities most vulnerable to corruption. In addition to the volume of transactions and the financial interests at stake, corruption risks are exacerbated by the complexity of the process, the close interaction between public officials and businesses, and the multitude of stakeholders. Identified types of corruption in the procurement

process include embezzlement, undue influence in the needs assessment, bribery of public officials involved in the award process, or fraud in bid evaluations, invoices or contract obligations.

It has been revealed that more than half of foreign bribery cases occurred to obtain a public procurement contract with almost two-thirds of foreign bribery cases occurring in sectors closely associated with contracts or licencing through public procurement.

The direct costs of corruption include loss of public funds through misallocations or higher expenses and lower quality of goods, services and works. Those paying the bribes seek to recover their money by inflating prices, billing for work not performed, failing to meet contract standards, reducing quality of work or using inferior materials, in case of public procurement of works. This results in exaggerated costs and a decrease in quality.

### Recommendations

Publishing governments need to publish detailed health budgets and financial information that's easy to understand to allow tracking of funds and prevent them from being stolen. Creating data-crunching

*Judicial corruption in Nigeria symbolizes: situations where judges are bribed or give bribe, or succumb to pressure from above; politicians abusing offices and distorting judicial processes...*

technologies and online social networks in combating corruption in the health facilities – the same way user-generated communities are personalising platforms for disease management and surveillance – by offering real-time user-generated feedback.

Well remunerated health workers to make them less susceptible to bribes or likely to demand ones. Well paid and appropriately compensated civil servants to incidence of corruption in the public service with serious consideration to reducing endemic bureaucracy in the sector.

Appropriate supervision, tracking and monitoring of health facilities to ensure effective delivery of health care services has become imperative. Continuous auditing of the salaries and wages of government departments by Efficiency Unit of the Federal and State Ministries of Finance to stem ghost workers phenomenon in the public sector.

Bridging capacity gaps in public through capacity building for civil servants on institutional reform; and embrace systematic overhauling of the education sector by strengthening regulatory systems and management in the sector to curb corruption in the academia.

Re-introduction of civic education from primary to the general studies in the tertiary institution to incorporate integration of values curriculum

*Appointing an individual or person who is not in the system, such as a retired Chief Justice of Nigeria, a retired President of the Court of Appeal or a respectable and experienced legal practitioner as Chairman of the National Judicial Council.*

developed by CPC and NERDC in 2003 with introduction of Role Modeling, Improved funding and incentives for the education sector and adequate provision of basic infrastructure. Adequate financing and improved incentives for Nigerian security personnel as well as appropriate training and orientation for the personnel.

Prompt implementation of sanctions against corrupt officials through investigative capacity and prosecution powers to uncover corruption with appropriate enforcement of anti-money laundering regulations. Reducing corruption in defence and security forces to strengthen the forces to protect citizens.

Basically, the judicial arm of government should begin to act constitutionally and avoid all forms of prejudicial activities in the interest of the rule of law. Re-examining the controversial quota system as related to its application to the judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court and to a lesser extent the Court of Appeal.

Defining a prescribed tenure of not more than five years for the Chief Judges of both the State and Federal High Courts, during which they are considered for appointment to the Court of Appeal or proceed on voluntary retirement.

Appointing an individual or person who is not in the system, such as a retired Chief Justice of Nigeria, a retired President of the Court of Appeal or a respectable and experienced legal practitioner as Chairman of the National Judicial Council.

Upholding high level integrity in the procurement process through transparency, stakeholder participation, accessibility, e-procurement system and appropriate oversight and control with full implementation of the National Procurement Act to ensure fairness, non-discrimination and compliance in the public procurement process.

Ethics or integrity training for public officials, and procurement officials in particular, to raise awareness, develop knowledge and commitment, and foster a culture of integrity in public organisations.

*Adapted from a paper presented by the Executive Director of CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) at the 1st National Policy Dialogue on Strategies for Improving Service Delivery in Government Parastatals, Agencies and Commissions organised by Office of the Secretary General for the Federation on 27th march 2017*

*Well remunerated health workers to make them less susceptible to bribes or likely to demand ones. Well paid and appropriately compensated civil servants to incidence of corruption in the public service with serious consideration to reducing endemic bureaucracy in the sector.*

# Boko Haram Feeds Off Corruption in Nigeria



*Some of the 21 Chibok schoolgirls released by Boko Haram pose with President Muhammadu Buhari and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo in Abuja, Nigeria, October 2016. Photo: Afolabi Sotunde/Reuters.*

By Salaudeen Hashim  
and James Ancell

There is a stereotype of bustling internet cafes in Lagos full of opportunist young men earnestly trying to dupe recipients of their messages into supplying their credit card details. Three thousand miles away, a very different breed of Nigerian scammer can be found in the cafes of Knightsbridge, central London, funded by the very tax dollars that are so badly needed to develop their homeland.

Between the two cafes is a web of corruption, in the middle of which are the Chibok schoolgirls, now entering their fourth year of captivity. Dismantling the web will be slow and there is more to be done, not only in Nigeria but also here in the UK, to make that happen.

Three years after the world

reeled in shock as 276 female school pupils were kidnapped from their classroom, the media attention may have gone away, the celebrity outrage faded, but the vast majority of those girls still remain in the hands of Boko Haram. Fuelling the original attention was one fundamental question: how on earth can a militant extremist group kidnap hundreds of schoolgirls, and get away with it - for three years and counting?

Nigeria's battles with the scourge of corruption are no secret and its link to insecurity, and in particular the rise in extremism, is increasingly being understood. This is especially true of the defence sector. Defence corruption is more than just a waste of public money - it can actively enable the insurgent.

War on corruption

In Nigeria, corruption fuels Boko Haram's narrative that the state is corrupt, and that only with Islamic law can Nigeria provide a fair and just society. The conclusion is shaky, but the premise that state corruption in Nigeria is a problem isn't; more than \$15bn of Nigerian procurement funds are missing at the hands of military officers. This is money that was needed to address Boko Haram 10 years ago, and that is still needed now to contain them. Training, intelligence, administration and communications have all been hindered, and in return Boko Haram has killed thousands of Nigerians and captured many more.

President Muhammadu Buhari was elected in 2015 on an anti-corruption platform, but his results have been mixed. His "war on corruption" borrowed its nomenclature from Bush's "war on terror" and Nixon's "war on drugs",

and like its predecessors, results have reflected neither the vociferousness of its proponents nor the industriousness of its foot soldiers. Criticisms of his efforts have ranged from politically motivated prosecutions to ineffective reforms.

The scale and depth of the problem makes setting priorities for reform difficult - last year, we published our recommendations for how to tackle the problem. And some positive change has happened, including the amendment of the Public Procurement Act so that defence is included alongside other sectors, instead of being treated as a secretive exception.

At the 2016 Anti-Corruption summit in London, David Cameron whispered of Nigeria's status as a "fantastically corrupt" country. Buhari's response to the gaffe was accurate, if deflective: "I am not going to demand an apology," he said, "I am demanding a return of assets." He had a point.

Corrupt officials cannot steal public money without a place to hide it. According to Transparency International research, at least £4.2bn of property in London is owned by individuals who are a high corruption risk, of which at least £77.5m comes from Nigerians.

General Sani Abacha reportedly moved millions through British bank accounts controlled by him and

*If Buhari remains healthy, there will be a champion of this crusade inside Nigeria, but global financial centres need to also ensure they are not acting as safety deposit boxes for those stealing from the Nigerian public purse.*

his family. The former national Security Adviser Sambo Dasuki has been accused of stealing millions with the intention of buying military equipment to fight Boko Haram; he allegedly spent it on properties in Dubai and London. More worryingly, James Ibori, a former Nigerian governor who is one of the only overseas officials to be found guilty in UK courts of money laundering, has now been released and is aggressively pursuing an appeal against his charges, employing top lawyers with the same money that it is claimed he stole.

#### Not A Victimless Crime

Last year the UK and Nigeria signed a memorandum of understanding on the recovery of corrupt money, but there is no public information to suggest that progress

has been made since then. However, plans to introduce a public register of the real owners of overseas companies that own property in London will bring much-needed transparency that will make it harder for corrupt foreign officials to use London property to hide their dirty cash. Likewise, new powers that Transparency International has been campaigning for, Unexplained Wealth Orders, will provide law enforcement agencies with a sharp new tool to investigate suspicious assets.

UK companies can also be complicit in Nigerian corruption. An investigation by Global Witness has recently alleged that Shell paid \$1.1bn to the former oil minister and convicted money launderer, Dan Etete, in order to gain access to one of Africa's biggest oilfields. That's more than the entire Nigerian health budget in 2016.

If Buhari remains healthy, there will be a champion of this crusade inside Nigeria, but global financial centres need to also ensure they are not acting as safety deposit boxes for those stealing from the Nigerian public purse.

Whether it's the five million Nigerians facing starvation, an elderly patient unable to gain the medical access they desperately need - or indeed a mother of a young girl who has been cruelly snatched from school by Boko Haram, corruption is not a victimless crime.

*Corrupt officials cannot steal public money without a place to hide it. According to Transparency International research, at least £4.2bn of property in London is owned by individuals who are a high corruption risk, of which at least £77.5m comes from Nigerians.*

*Executive Director of CISLAC, Mr Auwal Musa (Rafsanjani) and the Director-General of NOA, Dr Garba Abari, signing an MoU for collaboration between CISLAC and NOA*



*Participants in a group photo at a "One-day Executive and Media Roundtable on Maternal and Child Health" organised by CISLAC in Kano state*



*Participants in a group photo at a One-day CSOs Workshop on "Supporting Beneficial Ownership Transparency Champions" in Nigeria, organised by CISLAC in Abuja. Photo: Onyekachi Eke/CISLAC*

## Senator Assures Nigerians on PIB Passage

The Nigerian Senate has assured that it would soon pass the Petroleum Industry and Governance Bill (PIGB).

This was disclosed by Sen. Clifford Oda, representing Edo Central recently in an interview with journalists.

The lawmaker assured the people of the Niger Delta that the senate was working assiduously to ensure that the people of the South-South geo-political Zone heave some sigh of relief, with the passage of the bill.

"There are so many of them, but talking about the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), that would be passed very soon. That has to do with the operations of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and their subsidiaries.

## Senate Sends Bill to Amend Electoral Act to Reps

The Nigerian Senate has formally transmitted the amended Electoral Act Bill, 2017 to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

The Senate stated this in a letter addressed to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, dated April 10.

The Senate stated that the amended version of the Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was among the bills sent for concurrence.

The bill, if eventually passed into law, will give lawful recognition for electronic voting and the usage of card reader in subsequent elections in Nigeria.

The usage of card reader was heavily criticised by some members of the House of Representatives who declared it an instrument of rigging.

Speking on the development, the Minority Leader of the House, Leo Ogor, lamented that the card reader was used to disenfranchise many Nigerians in the 2015 general elections.

"Even in the 2015 general election, the card reader failed to recognise the then number one citizen and the first lady when they went to cast their vote. To me, the card reader is a clear instrument of rigging; it should be jettisoned but electronic voting is a welcome development."

"And of course, as a Senator from the Niger Delta, who believes that the bill is indeed very important to our people, for the oil industry to become very well structured, so that our people can benefit maximally, that is the very one that is so dear to my heart," he said.

Oda said that the passage of the bill

## Oil Theft: Senate Wants Stiffen Action

The Senate has urged the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to consider a total restructuring of its operations to avoid recurrence of the recent theft of 132 million litres of fuel by some officials.

The upper legislative chamber made this call while reacting to the recent sack of some officials of the oil corporation for the theft of petroleum products kept in the tank farms of two firms: MRS Oil and Capital Oil, noted that the current structure of the NNPC's operations allows its officials and other firms to appropriate national resources for personal use.

In a statement issued by its spokesman, Senator Sabi Abdullahi, the Senate recalled that the NNPC took the recent action in response to a motion moved by the Chairman of its Committee on Petroleum Downstream

is to give way for proper restructuring of the industry, adding that the people of Niger Delta would benefit maximally from it.

"The bill seeks to address all governance-related issues in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. We need an NNPC that will be smooth and commercially oriented, that can run efficiently and make money," he said.

Sector, Senator Kabiru Marafa.

"The Senate is appalled that NNPC is not contemplating on doing something about the involvement of officials of the Petroleum Products Marketing Company (PPMC) which actually played key roles in the missing products case.

"It is instructive that NNPC did not do anything on the case until the matter was raised on the floor of the Senate and the press picked the matter up from the motion. The unauthorised sale of 132 million litres of fuel kept in the storage tanks of MRS and Capital Oil designated as strategic reserves is a grave occurrence. This probably is not the first time it is happening and NNPC must review its operations. It should in fact carry out a shakeup in the PPMC," Abdullahi said.

## House Probes \$81.2bn Non-Remittance Oil Revenue

The House of Representatives has said the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation withheld the remittance of \$81.2bn crude oil proceeds to the Federation Account in four years—between 2011 and 2014.

This was revealed by its ad hoc committee investigating the alleged export of \$17bn worth of undeclared

crude oil and gas resources.

Documents from the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Central Bank of Nigeria, Department of Petroleum Resources and the NNPC were examined.

The lawmakers believe that NNPC may have colluded with some foreign oil firms to cheat the Nigerian government.

## Bill Seeking Power for NASS to Sack Governors, Deputies Failed

The House of Representatives has rejected a bill seeking to amend section 11(4) of the 1999 constitution (as amended), so as to grant the National Assembly powers to impeach governors and deputy governors.

The bill which was co-sponsored by Hon. Edward Pwajok and Hon. Ali Isa JC, if passed will empower the House and Senate to remove a State Governor and/or his Deputy.

Section 11 (4) of the 1999 constitution as amended, empowers the National Assembly to take over functions of a state's House of Assembly, in the event of a breakdown of public order or insecurity to such an extent that the House of Assembly cannot sit. The power is however restricted, as it

does not include impeachment of a governor or deputy governor in such states.

However, Pwajok argued that the clause in section 11(4) is mischievous, as he said National Assembly should reserve the absolute power to legislative for state and such legislation should include impeachment of governor or deputy governor where the action is appropriate.

"It is instructive to note that the 1979 Constitution in Section 11 is word for word similar to section 11 of the 1999 with the notable exception that the proviso to sub section 4 in the 1999 Constitution is not in the 1979 Constitution," Pwajok said.

## Rivers Signs Five Bills Into Law

The Rivers State Governor, Chief Nyesom Wike has signed five bills passed by the Rivers State House of Assembly into law.

The bills signed into law by the governor include: Rivers State Education (Return of Schools) Amendment Number 1 Law, Number 1

of 2017; Rivers State Honours Law Number 2 of 2017; Rivers State Reserve Fund (Repeal) Law Number 3 of 2017; Rivers State University Law Number 4 of 2017; and Rivers State University Teaching Hospital Law Number 5 of 2017.

Speaking after giving his assent to

the five bills, Rivers State Governor, Chief Nyesom Wike, commended the House of Assembly for its commitment to the rapid development of the state.

He said that the Return of Schools Law was vital because it permits the state government to intervene in mission schools already returned to their owners, stating that the law will help in the sustenance of the quality of education in the mission schools.

## Lagos Assembly Wants Soccer View Centres Regulated

The Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, has called on the executive arm of government in the state to come up with a regulation that would forestall devastating occurrences at soccer view centres for future purposes.

Obasa made the call during a

Plenary held to commiserate with the families of the deceased including the demise of other political leaders in the country.

It would be recalled that a high-tension cable had fallen on a shop, where football fans were watching a UEFA Europa league quarter-final match

between Manchester United and Anderlecht and electrocuted them to death in Calabar, Cross River State.

Obasa noted that soccer viewing by football fans was a common practice across the globe and attracts lots of people and as such, it should be regulated.

He said: "The incident that happened in Calabar could happen even in Lagos. People go to viewing centres without regulation, it is for us to learn from it and those who are in-charge in Lagos State should do something so that we don't witness such in the state," the Speaker said.

## Edo Signs CDA Bill Into Law

The Governor of Edo State, Godwin Obaseki has signed into law a bill prohibiting forceful and illegal occupation of landed property by Community Development Associations (CDAs) in Edo.

Presenting the bill to the governor for his signature, the speaker of the Edo House of Assembly, Justin Okonoboh said the new law was not only about prohibiting CDA's activities in the state, but also about prohibiting forceful entry into people's landed property and protecting widows' rights to their husbands' property.

The governor, while he met with the Oba, said the bill was historical and would make the state more receptive to investors and set it on course for more development.

He said: "My administration believes that the way to sustainable development is to unleash and nurture our productive energy and that of investors. Investment will not thrive in a lawless environment. It is a thing of pride that we signed this bill into law.

"Our land tenure system before and during the colonial era was rated as the best, but it had been turned around by some nefarious activities of CDAs. It was therefore a thing of joy during your coronation that you undertook the task to pull down the CDA structure," he said.

He, however, urged the Chief Justice of the state and security agencies to support implementation of law in the state, adding that a task force chaired by a retired Inspector General of Police, Solomon Arase had been constituted to drive the enforcement of the law and supervise all matters related to the law.

Governor Obaseki also commended the Oba of Benin for his support in making the law a success.

It would be recalled that the Oba, in his coronation speech, had decried the land grabbing that had characterised the CDAs, which had also affected land acquisition and development by citizens and investors in the state, calling for the move to scrap out their activities in the state.

## Kaduna Assembly Passes Penal Code Bill

The Kaduna State House of Assembly has passed the Kaduna State Penal Code Bill, 2017.

The passage of the bill followed the presentation of the report by the Chairman of the House Adhoc Committee on the Bill, Mr Kantiok Ishaku.

The Majority Leader, Mohammed Inuwa, moved that the house set aside the provision of house Rule 3, Order 7, to allow for the third reading of the bill.

While reading the Bill for third time, the Speaker, Aminu Shagali said the primary purpose of the bill was to enable the citizens of the state to acquaint themselves with the security challenges in the state.

He added that the bill also sought to enable the public to know their rights that should be upheld, while carrying out their day-to-day activities.

Meanwhile, the Penal Code Law Cap 110 Law of Kaduna State, 1991 and the Kaduna State Kidnap Law No 5 of 2009 have also been repealed.

## Benue Assembly Passes Anti-Abduction Bill

The Benue State House of Assembly has passed a Bill for a Law on prohibition of abduction, hostage-taking/kidnapping, cultism and similar activities in the state.

Speaking during the consideration of the bill, which went through public hearing, the Speaker, Mr Terkimbi Ikyange said it received overwhelming acceptability by the Benue people.

Participants at the hearing agreed that the bill should spell out stiffer punishment for persons convicted of abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, cultism and similar activities, to serve as deterrent to others.

The participants also agreed that the bill should provide death penalty for persons convicted of the crime that involved the loss of life.

# 'There Should be Zero Tolerance for Maternal Death' – Perm Sec, KSMoH

By Abubakar Jimoh

“There should be zero tolerance for maternal death in presence of the on-going renewed efforts by the Kano State Government to ensure adequate, accessible and affordable health care services in the state”, the Permanent Secretary Kano State Ministry of Health, Mallam Dahiru Musa has said.

The Permanent Secretary disclosed this during an Executive and Media dialogue on Maternal Health organized by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in Kano state to bring the state's executives and media under one roof to brainstorm on necessary action for timely release and effective implementation of maternal and child health budget in the state for efficient intervention and maximum impacts on the citizens.

He said: “There should be no maternal death. The state has put in place adequate Health Management Information System, which is subjected to periodic review by the instituted Maternal Death Review Committee to ensure qualitative and accurate maternal health data collection and use in

policy decision.

“Medical students are through the state's scholarship engaged on overseas training programmes to bridge the high patients-to-doctor ratio and boost human resources for health in the state; and established Community Midwifery College in Gwarzo for training of young girls to augment existing skilled birth attendance.

“The State Government has created the State Health Contributory Scheme with an established Agency to administer the Scheme, as a palliative measure to address the emerging dwindling revenue resources from Federation Account to the health sector.”

Musa added that the sum of 50 million naira was recently provided by the State Government to United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) through co-funding arrangement for the procurement of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to mitigate child death from malnutrition.

Also speaking during the Dialogue, Mrs. Zuwaira Omar, representing CHRICED, however, debunked unfriendly attitudes of some health workers as endemic challenges impeding timely realisation of adequate attendance

for health care services at health facilities in the state.

She said migration of the state's trained skilled health workers to other states or international community at the expense of state's dire needs for adequate and accessible health care services had hampered efforts at addressing high patients-to-doctor ratio.

Presenting the issues affecting effective utilization of health budget, Muhammad Inuwa Shu'aib noted that maternal deaths account for 32 percent of all deaths among women between 15 and 49 years.

While commending the State Government's effort at increasing budgetary allocation to health sector, amounting to 12.6% in current year as against 9.7% in 2016, he revealed that the sum of 180, 000,000 naira has been dedicated for maternal and child health services.

He noted: “In the past, the release was on quarterly basis. Some efforts demonstrated to use findings from Operational Research in 2008 played a vital role to influence decision making, where release was reviewed to monthly basis.

“Although there were some factors—bureaucratic process, poor timing that caused delay in the release of fund up till 2016, delay resulted in more death of pregnant women in the State. Currently, there is consistency in the release of Maternal Health fund particularly in this quarter January-March 2017.”

Shu'aib explained that high maternal and child mortality rates reported for the state could easily be attributed to “the fact that only 13% of deliveries in Kano were attended

“  
*The State Government has created the State Health Contributory Scheme with an established Agency to administer the Scheme, as a palliative measure to address the emerging dwindling revenue resources from Federation Account to the health sector.*  
 ”



Indicators	Percentage %
Delivery in Health Facility	11%
Skilled attendants at birth	13%
ANC	50%
ITN ownership	7%
ITN utilization	3% children, 4% pregnant women
Use of FP modern method by married women 15-49	2%
Comprehensive knowledge of HIV	22% female, 58% men

*Some health status indicators for Kano State*

to by a skilled birth attendant, only 11% of deliveries in the state take place in a health care facility”.

According to him, the state's Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) data is 1,025 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Shu'aib added: “The free maternal health is provided mostly in designated secondary health facilities far away from majority of the rural settlements. It is not currently seen as a programme that can go beyond the present health facility-based implementation approach.

“The free maternal health is facing severe operational problems including: inadequate human

resource for health, inadequate funding, out of stock syndrome, inadequate infrastructure and lack of participation of the local governments authorities in the provision of free maternal health.

“There is inadequate community involvement and participation in the planning and implementation process which has resulted to a lack of community ownership of the free maternal health.”

He attributed the challenges facing maternal health in the state to inadequate analyzed data for expected target beneficiaries - pregnant women; inadequate projection of costing per head; over dependence on development/donor

partners for support on health related issues; low involvement of community existing structures Civil Society Organisations, Community Based Organisations and media in Maternal Health budget process.

Shu'aib He urged formidable effort by the media through evidence-based advocacy and investigative journalism in demanding accountability from relevant stakeholder to sustain existing achievements and enhance judicious utilization of maternal health funding in the provision of adequate, accessible and affordable health care services; and provision of appropriate monitoring system for the procurement and dissemination of commodities with timely release of appropriated fund for maternal and child health interventions.

The dialogue drew over 20 participants representing Ministries of Health, Planning and Budget, Women Affairs, Civil Society Organizations, and the Media.

*There is inadequate community involvement and participation in the planning and implementation process which has resulted to a lack of community ownership of the free maternal health.*

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A ONE-DAY EXECUTIVE AND MEDIA ROUNDTABLE ON MATERNAL HEALTH ORGANIZED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MAC ARTHUR FOUNDATION, HELD AT NASSARAWA GUEST HOUSE, KANO STATE ON 27TH APRIL, 2017.

PREAMBLE:

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organized a One-day Executive and Media Roundtable on Maternal Health. The Roundtable aimed at bringing Kano State's executives, civil society and the media under one roof to brainstorm on necessary action for timely release and effective implementation of maternal and child health budget in the state for efficient intervention and maximum impacts on the citizens. The meeting drew over 20 participants representing Ministries of Health, Planning and Budget, Women Affairs, Civil Society Organizations, and the Media. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

OBSERVATIONS:

1. The State presently records adequate Health Management Information System, which is subjected to periodic review by the instituted Maternal Death Review Committee to ensure qualitative and accurate maternal health data collection and use in policy decision.
2. In 2017 Appropriation Act, the state has allocated 12.6% (an increase from 9.7% in 2016) of its total budget to the health sector with 180, 000,000 naira dedicated for maternal and child health.
3. Medical students are through the state's scholarship engaged on overseas training programmes to bridge the high patients-to-doctor ratio and boost human resources for health in the state; and established Community Midwifery College in Gwarzo for training of young girls to augment existing skilled birth attendance.
4. The State Government has created the State Health Contributory Scheme with an established Agency to administer the Scheme, as a palliative measure to address the emerging dwindling revenue resources from Federation Account to the health sector.
5. The sum of 50 million naira has been provided by the State Government to UNICEF through co-funding arrangement for the procurement of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to mitigate child death from malnutrition.
6. Unfriendly attitudes of some health workers remain endemic challenges impeding adequate attendance for health care services at health facilities in the state.
7. Migration of the state's trained skilled health workers to other states or international community at the expense of state's dire needs for adequate and accessible health care services hampers efforts at addressing high patients-to-doctor ratio.

8. In recent times, the state has witnessed appreciable decrease in maternal death rate.
9. The State Government has provided tri-cycles; and in collaboration with National Union of Road Transport Workers is addressing referral system to create timely accessibility to health facilities across the state.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Adequate monitoring and supervision of health care workers in the state to forestall appropriate professional codes of conduct and constructive working relations between patients and health workers.
2. Embracing other means like social media, drama and film production in the advocacy and dissemination of maternal and child health information to ensure wider circulation and outreach.
3. Leveraging the State Civil Service code with specific provision for civil servant to serve anywhere in the state in the dissemination of health workers to avert persistent migration of health workers to urban areas at the expense of rural counterparts.
4. Formidable effort by the media through evidence-based advocacy and investigative journalism in demanding accountability from relevant stakeholder to sustain existing achievements and enhance judicious utilization of maternal health funding in the provision of adequate, accessible and affordable health care services.
5. Provision of appropriate monitoring system for the procurement and dissemination of commodities with timely release of appropriated fund for maternal and child health interventions.
6. Ensuring transparency in the utilization of health care funds through appropriate audit; and provision of proper monitoring mechanism to address stock out of essential maternal health commodities.

*Signed:*

1. Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)  
Executive Director of CISLAC
2. Mallam Dahiru Musa  
Permanent Secretary, Kano State Ministry of Health
3. Zuwaira Omar  
CHRICED
4. Semira W. Kuaa  
Kano State Ministry of Women Affairs

# 'Inter-Ministerial Collaboration is Key to Progress in Maternal Health' — *Experts*

By Abubakar Jimoh

The Chairman, Katsina State Coalition of Civil Society Organisations, Muhammad Bashir Usman has said inter-ministerial collaboration among the State Ministries of Health, Information, Education and Women Affairs was paramount to effective and concerted intervention on maternal and child health in the state.

The Chairman made this known during an Executive-Media dialogue organised by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) aimed at bringing the State's executives and media under one roof to brainstorm on necessary action for timely release and effective implementation of maternal and child health budget for efficient intervention and maximum impacts on the citizens.

He said: "While successive governments have made several efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality, inter-ministerial partnership and engagement among the health related Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs), especially around budget and its implementation is key to efficient healthcare delivery."

Acknowledging that North West region is faced with serious human resource gaps in the health sector, Usman said Katsina state recorded merely 507 out of 4835 midwives required to provide maternal health services across the state.

He however, commended the recent policies, frameworks and guidelines initiated by the State Government to improve the situation such as persistent recruitment of additional health care

personnel and introduction of health care education across higher institutions, as measures to mitigate high patients-to-doctor ratio in the state.

"The State in recent times has taken drastic step towards mitigating high patient-to-doctor ratio through persistent recruitment of additional health care personnel and introduction of health care education across higher institutions.

"As part of the strategy to create accessible, affordable and improved health care system, especially in the grassroots, Katsina State House of Assembly has taken a step to harmonize the State's Primary Health Care through a Bill presently receiving legislative inputs," Usman explained.

According to him, with over 6million population, the state's maternal mortality rate stands at 634 per 100,000; infant mortality, 22 per 1000; and under-5 mortality, 36 per 1000 live births.

He urged realistic health budget composition through appropriate consultation with communities and relevant stakeholders by the media and civil society groups to promote effective implementation.

Also, Mr. Ibrahim Maiwada representing the State Ministry of Health added that mainstreaming maternal and child health as multi-sectoral issues through prioritized efforts among various Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the state would help in concerted effort to address maternal and child health.

The Snr. Program Officer (Gender and Reproductive Health), CISLAC, Chioma Kanu expressed concerns over impending factors such as information accessibility, lack of

fund, capacity gaps and restrictive policies hampering investigative journalism, policy and public awareness on maternal and child health, encouraging full capacity deployment and utilization of Media and Public Relations Department of various Ministries to encourage timely and appropriate information dissemination

The State Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, represented by Mr. Muhammad Kabir Barau revealed that in 2017 Appropriation Act, the State Government has allocated 8.97% to the health sector, which is an increase from the previous years.

He observed under-performance in part of the established Budget Monitoring and Tracking Committee as an impeding challenge to budget performance monitoring and evaluation in the state.

"Katsina State has received its share of the World Bank's "Save 1 million Lives" fund and established implementation Committee with maternal and child as a key priority for intervention," Barau added.

Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON) represented by Dr. Sabiu Laidi explained that evidence-based advocacy by civil society groups in the state would assist them to understand, identify relevant facts and figures to effectively advocate and engage policy and legislative process on maternal and child health.

He further advised the media on well-packaged and persistent maternal health programmes by through persistent and innovative coverage and reportage that captivate policy, legislative and public attention towards maternal and child health.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A ONE-DAY EXECUTIVE AND MEDIA ROUNDTABLE ON MATERNAL HEALTH ORGANIZED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MAC ARTHUR FOUNDATION, HELD AT MAKERA HOTEL, KATSINA STATE ON 12TH APRIL, 2017.

### **PREAMBLE:**

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organized a One-day Executive and Media Roundtable on Maternal Health. The Roundtable aimed at bringing Katsina State's executives, civil society and the media under one roof to brainstorm on necessary action for timely release and effective implementation of maternal and child health budget in the state for efficient intervention and maximum impacts on the citizens. The meeting drew about 15 participants representing Ministries of Health, Budget and Economic Planning, Education and Women Affairs, Civil Society Organizations, and the Media. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

### **OBSERVATIONS:**

1. While adequate, accessible and affordable maternal and child is key to the development, survival and growth of every society, North West region is faced with serious human resource gaps in the health sector with merely 507 out of required 4835 midwives in Katsina state.
2. Inter-ministerial collaboration among the State Ministries of Health, Information, Education and Women Affairs remains paramount to effective and concerted intervention on maternal and child health in Katsina state.
3. Impending factors such as information accessibility, lack of fund, capacity gaps and restrictive policies hamper investigative journalism, policy and public awareness on maternal and child health.
4. In 2017 Appropriation Act, Katsina State Government has allocated 8.97% (out of 15% Abuja Declaration) to the health sector, which is an increase from the previous years.
5. Under-performance in part of the established Budget Monitoring and Tracking Committee in the State is an impending challenge to budget performance monitoring and evaluation.
6. Inadequate supervision of health sector, capacity gaps among health workers, lopsidedness in human resource deployment paves ways for over-concentration of health care workers in the urban areas at the expense of rural counterparts hence, impeding accessibility to maternal and child health services.
7. Katsina State has received its share of the World Bank's "Save 1 million Lives" fund and established implementation Committee with maternal and child as a key priority for intervention.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Mainstreaming maternal and child health as multi-sectoral issues through prioritized efforts among various Ministries in galvanizing advocacy for maternal and child health.
2. Proactive media with appreciable curiosity through prioritized resource utilization to engage investigative journalism, and raise policy and public awareness on maternal health budget allocation, release and implementation.
3. Capacity building for health reporters on investigative journalism on maternal and child health issues through training and retraining programmes; and leveraging International Days to amplify policy and public awareness on maternal and child health.

4. Enhanced legislative advocacy on the domestication of National Health Act 2014 and translation of existing health policies into legislation to promote sustainable intervention on maternal and child health.
5. Addressing human resource gaps through adequate funding and supervision, engagement of sufficient and qualified health workers with appropriate incentives to bridge human resource gaps, especially in the rural areas.
6. Evidence-based advocacy by civil society groups in the state to understand, identify relevant facts and figures to effectively advocate and engage policy and legislative process on maternal and child health.
7. Well-packaged and persistent maternal health programmes by the media through persistent and innovative coverage and reportage that captivate policy, legislative and public attention towards maternal and child health.
8. Full capacity deployment and utilization of Media and Public Relations Department of various Ministries to encourage timely and appropriate information dissemination.
9. Realistic health budget composition through appropriate consultation with communities and relevant stakeholders by the media and civil society groups to promote effective implementation.

### **ACTION POINTS:**

- Enlightenment advocacy to the traditional and religious leaders on maternal and child health issues by the media and civil society groups.
- Utilize Bill Board to galvanize issues on maternal and child health.
- Issue based approach to maternal and child health by the media.
- Incorporate State Ministry of Information and National Orientation Agency to catalyze public awareness on maternal health.
- Increase allocation to health sector.
- Appropriate documentation of coverage and reportage to ease data accessibility and utilization.

### **Signed:**

1. Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)  
Executive Director, CISLAC
2. Ibrahim Maiwada  
Katsina State Ministry of Health
3. Muhammad Kabir Barau  
Katsina Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
4. Hajara B. Kankara  
Katsina State Ministry of Education
5. Ibrahim Sogiyi  
State Primary Health care Development Agency
6. Abdulaziz Imam Suleiman  
Katsina State Ministry of Women Affairs
7. Dr. Sabiu Laidi  
Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON)
8. Buhari Ahmed Badi  
Katsina State Radio

# Constitutional Amendments and Matters Arising (1)

By Usman A. Aliyu

The major task of every legislative arm is to make law which includes the constitutional amendments.

Like every legislative arm, the Nigerian legislature at both federal and state levels are vested with responsibilities of law making including altering of any of the provisions of the constitution as prescribed by law where section 9 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria states: "(1) The National Assembly may, subject to the provision of this section, alter any of the provisions of this Constitution.

"(2) An Act of the National Assembly for the alteration of this Constitution, not being an Act to which section 8 of this Constitution applies, shall not be passed in either House of the National Assembly unless the proposal is supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds majority of all the members of that House and approved by resolution of the Houses of Assembly of not less than two-thirds of all the States."

The section continues: "(3) An

Act of the National Assembly for the purpose of altering the provisions of this section, section 8 or Chapter IV of this Constitution shall not be passed by either House of the National Assembly unless the proposal is approved by the votes of not less than four-fifths majority of all the members of each House, and also approved by resolution of the House of Assembly of not less than two-third of all States.

"(4) For the purposes of section 8 of this Constitution and of subsections (2) and (3) of this section, the number of members of each House of the National Assembly shall, notwithstanding any vacancy, be deemed to be the number of members specified in sections 48 and 49 of this Constitution."

From the coming back of democratic dispensation of 1999 to date, the constitution has been amended three times namely, first alteration, second alteration, and third alteration in 2011 respectively. These are the first ever constitutional amendments made by civilian government in a life history of the country. But the



Members of the Upper Chamber, during legislative session.

“  
The present eighth federal legislative session since its inception has proposed the fourth alteration of the constitution which is to be completed and passed into law by 2017.  
”

fourth alteration of 2015 has failed due to the conflicts between the executive and the legislative arm where, at the final stage, the executive through the Attorney-General of the Federation challenged at the Supreme Court. It ended up unsuccessful at the end of Goodluck Jonathan led administration. This resulted in the continual use of 1999 constitution as amended (2011).

The present eighth federal legislative session since its inception has proposed the fourth alteration of the constitution which is to be completed and passed into law by 2017. The proposed amendment consists several provisions of various issues that affect the executives, the legislative, the judiciary and electoral matters among others.

The constitutional amendments committee of the National Assembly has been set up by the Senate President in January, 2016. The committee consist of 53 members from both the Senate and House chambers to initiate the alteration of the constitution. Some of the committee's mandates were conceived from the failed fourth

alteration bill of 2015.

Issues under consideration in this present constitutional amendment include: “To provide for national savings of 50% of oil revenues above the benchmark for a particular year and 10% of non – oil revenues paid onto the federation account. Or such other percentage not less than that provided in this session as the National Assembly may determine in the appropriation act of a particular year.

“To provide that any such savings is stipulated in this section will be distributed in accordance with the provisions of prevailing distributable revenue sharing formula and in accordance with the provisions of the constitution provided that the savings shall not be distributed in any period less than the year from the date of a particular savings.

“Authorization of expenditure in default of appropriation: Sections 82 and 122 of the constitution to reduce the period within which the president or a governor of a state may authorize the withdrawal of money from the federal or state consolidated revenue fund in the absence of appropriation act from six months to three months.

“To vest the control of revenues derived from mineral oils and natural gas in used or and upon any land in the state, of the federation.”

#### Political and Electoral Matters

““

*Amendments to sections 51, 67, 93 and 315 include: Nomination of minister and commissioners.*

””

Sections 134 (4), 8 (5), 179 (4)(5) and section 225 amendments relate to political and electoral matters. Amendments to these sections include: “To extend time for conducting presidential and governorship re – run elections where no winner has emerged from seven days to twenty one days.

“To empower the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to de – register any political party for non-fulfilment of certain conditions such as breach of registration requirement and failure to secure/win either presidential, governorship, local government chairmanship or a sect into the National or State Assembly elections.

“To provide for independent candidates to contest in the elections of any political position; grant special status to certain states in Nigeria; and transfer/takeover the presidential inauguration to National Assembly.”

Section 300, 301, 302 propose to create the offices of elected mayor for the federal capital territory,

Abuja with powers to administer the FCT as if serves as a governor of a state of the federation.

#### Legislature

Amendments to sections 51, 67, 93 and 315 include: Nomination of minister and commissioners. The president and governors designate and assign portions to persons mentioned as ministers or commissioners respectively prior to confirmation by the Senate or State House of Assembly; to provide a period of 60 days within which such nomination shall be forwarded to the Senate or House of Assembly following inauguration; to provide 35% representation for women in the appointment of ministers and commissioners; to create National Assembly Service Commission and empower the National Assembly and State House of Assembly respectively to provide for the powers and structure of the commission through subsequent legislation; to make mandatory for the president to attend a joint meeting of the National Assembly once in a year to deliver a state of the nation address; to remove the law making powers of the executive arm of government under section 315; and guarantee a first line charge funding of State House of Assembly from the consolidated revenue fund.

This section gives financial autonomy to the state legislative house.

““

*Section 300, 301, 302 propose to create the offices of elected mayor for the federal capital territory, Abuja with powers to administer the FCT as if serves as a governor of a state of the federation.*

””

*Cont. from Back page*

19.	SB. 167	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Fraud Examiners and for matters connected therewith.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Foster Ogola
20.	SB. 308	A Bill for an Act to Establish a Correction, Reformation and Reintegration Centre to provide Support Services for Prisons in the area of Reformation , Reformation, Reintegration and Youth Offender Programming and for related matters.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Gershom Bassey
21.	HB. 799	A Bill for an Act to Amend the School Year (Variation) Act, Cap S2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Related Matters.	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Chukwuka W. Onyema
22.	HBs 122 and 558	A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Youth Development Commission and the National Youths Welfare Scheme Fund to Manage and Co-ordinate Youths Welfare Services to Reduce Challenges in Governance and Security in the Country and for Other Related Matters .	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Samaila Suleiman and Hon. Abbass Tajudeen.
23.	HB. 682	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Animal Diseases (Control) Act, Cap. A17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase some Penalties and for other Related Matters .	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Ahmed Babba Kaita.
24.	HB. 204	A Bill for an Act to Establish the institute of Healthcare Management Practitioners and to make Provisions, amongst Other Things, for the Membership and Control of the Profession of Healthcare Management and for Other Related Matters.	2017	Second Matters	Hon. Samuel Ikon
25.	HB. 798	A Bill for an Act to Abolish and Prohibit Dichotomy and Discrimination between First Degree and Higher National Diploma in the same Profession/Field and for Other Related Matters.	2017	Second Matters	Hon. Ali Isa J. C and Hon. Edward GyangPwajok
26.	HB. 891	A Bill for Act to Repeal the National Housing Fund Act, Cap. N45, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish the National Housing Trust Fund Act, and for Other Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Abdullahi Umar Faruk
27.	HB. 934	A Bill for an Act to Establish Development Planning and Projects Continuity and to make Development Planning Compulsory in Nigeria and in the Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory and to create Coherent and Measurable Targets in Developmental Plans and for Other Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai
28.	HB. 296	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Lagos Ports Operations (Special Provisions) Act, Cap. L3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Related Matters	2017	Second reading	Hon. Gabriel Onyenwife
29.	HB .212	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Institute of Personal Management of Nigeria Act, 115, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Lynda Ikpeazu
30.	HB. 800	A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Enhance greater Funding of Youth Activities in Political Parties and for Other Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	
31.	HB.794	A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic Nigeria, 1999 to Delete the Provision Section 11(4) of the Constitution to enable the National Assembly to Remove a Governor or Deputy Governor of a State in Appropriate Circumstances and for Other Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok
32.	HB. 79	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Capital Markets Registrars to Regulate and Control the Practice of Share Registration and for Other Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Femi Gbajabamila
33.	HB. 856	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Forensic DNA Database in Nigeria charged with Responsibility for the Collection of DNA Samples , making Forensic DNA Analysis, Using DNA profile and Information Targeted at Addressing Doubts in Criminal and DNA Related Issues and for Other Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Patrick Asadu
34.	HB. 807	A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 221 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to make the votes Scored by a Candidate Sponsored by a Political Party the votes of the Candidate and Limit the Transfer of Votes Scored by one Candidate to some Other Person and for Other Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Sunday , Steve Karmi
35.	HB. 217	A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Associated Gas Re - Injection Act, Cap. A25, Laws of the Federation and for Other Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Uzoma Nkem –Abonta
36.	HB. 947	A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establish of the Polytechnic, Dukku, Gombe State for the Purpose of Providing Qualitative Educative in Science , Arts and Others Technical Knowledge and Research and Training and for Others Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku

**BILLS UPDATE (APRIL, 2017)**

Compiled by CISLAC

SN	BILL NO	BILL NAME	YEAR	STAGE	SPONSOR
1.	SB. 365	A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Local Government Act NO. 8 of 1976 and for related matters.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Peter Nwaoboshi
2.	SB. 400	A Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the Federal University of Education, Zaria and for other matters connected therewith.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Jibrin Barau
3.	SB. 386	A Bill for an Act to establish the Nigeria Arabic Language Village, Ngala and other related matters.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Baba Kaka Bashir Garbai
4.	SB. 387	A Bill for an Act to establish the Nigerian French Language Village, Badagry and for other related matters.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Gbenga Ashafa
5.	SB. 64	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Act, CAP C4 LFN, 2007 to ensure Transparency and Accountability in the operations of the Bank and subject its intervention advances to the approval of the National Assembly ad for other related matters	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Rose Oko
6.	SB. 417	A Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of the Federal College of Education, Gumel and for other related matters connected therewith.	2017		Sen. Abdullahi A. Gumel
7.	SB. 310	A Bill for an Act to Promote the Protection of Personal Information Processed by public and Private Bodies; to Introduce Information Protection Principles so as to Establish Minimum Requirements for the Processing of Personal Information and other related matters connected thereto.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Stella Oduah
8.	SB. 396	A Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the Chartered Polymer Institute of Nigeria and for other matters connected thereto.	2017	Second Reading	Chukwuka Utazi
9.	SB. 133	A Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of Federal Entrepreneurship Centres at Local Government Areas and for other matters connected thereto.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Mao Ohuabunwa
10.	SB. 281	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Pension Reform Act CAP P4 LFN 2004 to provide for Definite Percentage a Retire can withdraw from his Retirement Savings Account and for other matters related thereto.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Aliyu M. Wamako
11.	SB. 254	A Bill for an Act to make provision for the Suppression of Piracy and provide for the punishment of for the offence of piracy and for matters connected therewith.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Nelson Effiong
12.	SB. 437	A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigeria Postal Service Act CAP No. 127 LFN 2004 , to provide for the operations and development of postal services , the establishment of the Nigerian Postal Commission and for related matters.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Gbenga Ashafa
13.	SB. 362	A Bill for an Act to amend the Arbitration and Reconciliation Act CAP A18 LFN 2004 and for other matters related thereto	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Monsurat Sunmonu
14.	SB. 427	A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Arbitration and Conciliation Act CAP A18 LFN 2004 and Re-Enact the Arbitration and Conciliation processes and recognition and enforcement of Arbitral Awards in International Commercial Arbitration and for connected purposes.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Andy Uba
15.	SB. 275	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Insurance Act 2003 to set minimum limit of compensation in the event of death, injury or loss of property of third party with respect to Insurance of Public Buildings and Buildings under Construction and for related matters	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Umaru I. Kurfi
16.	SB. 341	A Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the Armed Forces ( Restriction on the use of Arms in certain Internal Security Operations, etc) and for other matters connected therewith	2017	Second Reading	Sen. David Umaru
17.	SB. 147	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Youth Service Corps Act, CAP N84 LFN 2004 to provide for free and compulsory acquisition of vocational skills by Corps Members and for other related matters.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Stella Oduah
18.	SB. 128	A Bill for an Act to provide for the prevention, Control and Management of Sickle Cell Anaemia and for other purposes connected therewith.	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Sam Egwu

*Cont. on page 23*