



Legislative Digest

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From R-L: Deputy Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN, Ambassador Sunday Itebode; Dr. Afia Zakiya, CISLAC Global office Board of Trustee member; Hon. Muhammad Ali Wudil, House Committee Chair on Poverty Alleviation and member of the SDGs Committee; His Excellency Prof. Tijani Muhammed-Bande, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nation; Mr. Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), Executive Director, CISLAC; Ms. Chioma Kanu, Senior Program Officer SDGs, CISLAC; and Mr. Francis John, CISLAC Global office Board of Trustee member at the launching in New York.

CISLAC Launches SDGs Shadow Report, Global Office in New York

By Chioma Kanu and Abubakar Jimoh

Effort to complement current effort by Nigerian government in advancing the fight against corruption brought to

the fore, a 'Shadow Report' developed and launched by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) at the UN General Assembly 72 Session Side Event in New York.

Apart from the launched Report, the event also availed CISLAC the opportunity to deepen advocacy and launch her 'Global Office' in the New York.

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Nutrition Funding: Bauchi Urges Continued Partnership to Prompt Release - P. 10

Nigeria: Anti-graft War, The Role of Three Arms, The People - P. 15

CISLAC Trains CSOs on Corruption Risk Assessment, Compliance - P. 20

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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3. Oxfam GB
4. Ford Foundation
5. MacArthur Foundation
6. PACT Nigeria/USAID
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16. Voice for Change (V4C)
17. National Endowment for Democracy
18. Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP)
19. USAID/Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement (SACE)
20. International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
21. African Capacity Building Foundation
22. Australian Government
23. North East Regional Initiative (NERI)

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This is the policy-making organ of the organisation. It approves the budget of the organisation, provides contacts for operational funds and supports the operation of the secretariat.

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5. Ms. Hadiza Kangiwa
6. Mr. Adagbo Onoja

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THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is vested with the day-to-day running of the organization. It implements the decisions of the Board of Trustees. It is headed by an Executive Director who oversees the day-to-day running of the organisation while a Senior Program Officer oversees programmes implementation along with other programme staff.

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Petroleum Ministry Rift: CISLAC Urges Decisive Action

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, CISLAC urges the Federal Government to act decisively in the on-going rift between the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources and the Group Managing Director (GMD) of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

This is to restore confidence in the Government and the fight against corruption.

We note with grave concern, allegations leveled against the GMD that he circumvented the procurement process in the award of series of contracts involving a humongous sum of up to \$25 billion or N9 trillion (at prevailing exchange rate of N360 to a dollar). If proven, this will amount to a major setback in the fight against corruption and the promotion of transparency and accountability in governance which is, supposedly, the major thrust of this administration.

We find it worrisome that such abuse of due process could have gone on without restraint under an administration that promised change and a different way of conducting government business. The abuse in the award of contracts in sums exceeding the annual budget of the nation represents a scandalous all-time low in a sector that is notorious for monumental corruption.

It is embarrassing that despite documented commitments, such as is contained in the Seven (7) Big Wins, the National Oil Policy and the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan relating to open contracting, information disclosures in the extractive sector, as well as, open, competitive licensing and bidding processes in line with the Public Procurement Act, such allegations could have reared its head again.

We note that this is an indication of failure in the exercise of effective supervision and oversight by relevant agencies and institutions. The National Assembly has obviously failed in her oversight responsibility and the characteristic setting up of a committee to investigate, is reminiscent of the knee-jerk approach demonstrated by the legislature in the past that yielded no results.

We also consider the manner in which the Minister of State, as Chairman of the NNPC Board, has gone about the matter as a belated response that smacks of inefficiency and poor performance of supervisory functions by allowing the figures

to pile up so much before reacting and then resorting to whistle-blowing to the President.

CISLAC states categorically that such actions have continued because this government has failed to establish clear cut regulatory and legal frameworks that were promised while campaigning for office. Specifically, she has failed to inaugurate the National Council on Procurement and enact the Petroleum Industry Law after almost three years in office. The degeneration of the rift to seemingly personalized tones would have been avoided had the NNPC being unbundled as envisaged in the evasive legislation, rather than the superficial restructuring so far carried out in the Corporation.

We observe that the spate of inter and intra-ministerial discord that the allegation of insubordination suggests, has been rampant under this government and is an indication of the absence of a firm, decisive and resolute presidency and this has undermined governance.

We therefore call on the President, who doubles as the substantive minister for petroleum, to act decisively and resolve this rift. He should, as a matter of urgency, ensure prompt and thorough investigation into the allegations and ensure that this is conclusive and pursued to its logical conclusion with consequences, where necessary. He should also assert his authority as the head of the executive arm and enforce strict compliance with laid down procedures in all ministries, departments and agencies. He should constitute the National Council on Procurement without further delay.

CISLAC calls on the relevant Committees of the NASS to be more proactive in the exercise of her oversight responsibility over the processes and agencies in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, so as to prevent the recurrences of such abuses.

The investigative committee set up by the Senate must be prompt and thorough in her work and make her findings public devoid of the sensationalism and melodrama associated with similar previous exercises. They should expedite action in the passage of all outstanding components of the Petroleum Industry Bill into law. These are necessary to restore citizens' confidence in the government and the much touted fight against corruption.



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CISLAC Launches SDGs Shadow Report, Global Office in New York

Continued from page 1

As emphasised in the opening address of the Executive Director, CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), the shadow report focuses mainly on the anti-corruption agenda, in particular on SDG 16, which specifically addresses illicit financial and arms flows, bribery and other forms of corruption, and access to information.

He said: “We are very much aware of the harmful of effects of corruption as it relegates development efforts to the background plunging countries into underdevelopment. A society free of corruption is healthy, wealthy, well respected and well developed.

“We are well aware of the religious, socio-cultural, political and ethnic turbulence threatening to tear apart the fabrics of the society we live in. For this purpose, it has become imperative that as civil society organizations, we take up the mantle of our constitutional mandate to steer the tide of peaceful and just society.

“As civil society organizations, our key mandate to our communities is to pursue and advocate for peaceful,

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We are very much aware of the harmful of effects of corruption as it relegates development efforts to the background plunging countries into underdevelopment. A society free of corruption is healthy, wealthy, well respected and well developed.
 ”

inclusiveness and corruption free society that will in turn translate to the sustainable development that we seek.

The Executive Director stressed the need to harness local and international institutions to strengthen efforts in promoting peace and unity including traditional and religious institutions which drive the conscience of the common man.

“We need to conscientize these institutions to exude and imbue peace in their followers for the purpose of a peaceful society. The entertainment industry is not left out of this. As

much as possible, we need to utilize every media that attract the people to spread this joy of peaceful co-existence.

“We call on other civil society groups and media across Africa and beyond to lend their voices to the clarion call on peace and stability and to promote justice and fairness irrespective of class or race,” he highlighted.

On the new Global Office, CISLAC's boss explained that the launching coincided with the UN General Assembly 72 and the International Day for Peace which



Participants in a group picture at the launching in New York.

happened to be “a critical period in our national and regional lives as Nigerians and Africans”.

He added: “Today we are happy to officially announce the presence of CISLAC in the American soil. The idea of setting up an office in the US is not just for the drive for expansion but also for the need to galvanize efforts and energy to deepen the work we do on policy and legislative advocacy and to further tap into the wide range of resources that abounds internationally.

“We call on other civil society groups and media across Africa and beyond to lend their voices to the clarion call on peace and stability and to promote justice and fairness irrespective of class or race.”

In his welcome address, the Permanent Representative to Nigeria in the UN, Prof. Tijani Muhammed-Bande, commended CISLAC on her giant strides and efforts at strengthening her legislative and policy.

He said corruption was the bane of underdevelopment and social unrest in the country, making it the worst epidemic among religious, ethnic and socio-cultural factors hampering the country's development.

The Permanent Representative lamented that Nigeria has been plunged into conflict for the past three years and peace will be unattainable in presence of injustice.

“Nigeria has had a string of leaders without transparency, and that paradoxically, where there has been strong leadership, everything revolves around the leader but not around creating strong institutions.

“Yet, strong institutions should be everybody's business. I urge

“

We call on other civil society groups and media across Africa and beyond to lend their voices to the clarion call on peace and stability and to promote justice and fairness irrespective of class or race.

”

Nigerians to launder their image abroad by highlighting the great achievements made by Nigerians while not losing sight of the challenges,” Prof. Tijani Muhammed-Bande added.

The Chair, House Committee on Poverty Alleviation and member of the SDGs Committee, Hon. Muhammed Ali Wudil commended CISLAC's effort in setting up a global office, stating that any form of government without a legislature is not a government.

He gave a highlight of the government's pro-poor program on social investment and urged CISLAC as a foremost civil society group working on legislative advocacy to support the program and further lend its voice to the Poverty Alleviation Bill at the National Assembly.

The Africa and Middle East Coordinator of the UN SDGs, Mr. Hilary Ogbonna expressed satisfaction on Nigeria's strongly interest in engaging with the SDGs.

He identified SDG 16 as a development enabler that will propel Nigeria, if effectively implemented, to become the leader in Africa and not just a middle income country.

The Coordinator feared that the

achievement may be eroded since implementing SDGs is costly. He observed the need for Nigeria to attract technical expertise and reiterated the pivotal role of the civil society in bridging the gap between the executives and the legislature.

Presenting the impacts of CISLAC in Nigeria's policy and legislative realms, Member of CISLAC Global Trustee, Dr. Afia Zakiya noted that CISLAC has spearheaded advocacy for the passage of laws such as Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007, Public Procurement Act 2007, Freedom of Information Act 2012.

“CISLAC advocates for compliance with international agreements in sectoral allocations, e.g. 10% of budget to Agriculture (Maputo Declaration) and 15% for health (Abuja Declaration); produces guides to the budget process; contributes expertise and independent analysis of the budget; engages open budget survey.

“Its programmes and activities at promoting peace and security in the country has resulted in the establishment of National Peace and Security Forum.

“Meetings and advocacy sessions by CISLAC with the House Committee on Public Accounts and Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation resulted in the adoption and utilization of the CSOs-developed budget reporting template,” she narrated.

Explaining the rationale for the establishment of the global office, Dr. Zakiya said the creation was justified

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CISLAC advocates for compliance with international agreements in sectoral allocations

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by the need to: consolidate on CISLAC's huge experience and expertise in implementing regional and global outreach programmes and partnerships; strengthen global networking as Africa faces governance challenges that need to be tackled internationally (e.g. illicit financial flows, asset recovery).

She added: "CISLAC needs to increase its advocacy and partnerships with UN Missions/Institutions, Development Partners, Diplomatic Community and Relevant Committees in the US Congress.

"It recognizes its competence to mobilize the African diaspora and other entities and individuals to leverage their expertise and spheres of influence to the benefit of the African continent.

"CISLAC seeks to position itself as a global stakeholder in parliamentary advocacy, capacity building and partnerships building on its experiences working with parliament at parliamentary bodies working at national, regional and global levels."

Dr. Zakiya said the new office would in functions, serve as a focal point on African Civil Society affairs to the United Nations and other international institutions working on UN affairs; promote partnership between Permanent Missions of African countries to UN and Civil Society that will encourage public participation in foreign relations especially in UN affairs; provide technical and liaison services to African CSOs and development

CISLAC seeks to position itself as a global stakeholder in parliamentary advocacy, capacity building and partnerships building on its experiences working with parliament at parliamentary bodies working at national, regional and global levels.

partners with interest in engaging with UN Institutions; mainstreaming African civil society perspectives on issues of international affairs for effective participation and inclusiveness; mobilize African and African diaspora resources and technical expertise to promote socio-economic development in the continent.

Also, Member of CISLAC Global Trustee, Mr. John Francis in a paper presented on the role of the legislators in revitalizing SDG 16 gave rationale for parliamentary engagements which included their legal mandate as representatives of the electorate and voice of the citizens, their leadership roles in policy formulation, fiduciary powers in appropriation and the legitimacy of the legislative oversight role for the purpose of transparency and accountability and strengthening institutions for good governance at all levels. He further stressed the need for a holistic approach to the

SDGs which will enable effective and efficient implementation and sustained development.

Presenting the Shadow Report, Program Manager (SDGs), CISLAC, Chioma Kanu lamented that cost of corruption amounts to 1000 USD per capital in 2014 and "will go up to nearly 2000 USD per capita in 2030".

According to her, while in 2015, 78% of Nigerians claimed that the government was doing "badly in fighting corruption", in 2016, Nigeria had 23 billionaires with collective wealth reaching almost 78 billion USD when 39% of Nigerians live below poverty line.

She said as part of the effort to combat corruption in the country, CISLAC had complemented effort of the government with specific focus on SDGs 16, aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

"The SDGs 16 'Shadow' report offers an independent review of the government-led 'National Voluntary Review' (NVR) of the SDGs process in Nigeria.

"The SDG 16 'Shadow' report focuses mainly on the anti-corruption agenda. More specifically, targets 16.4 (illicit financial and arms flows), 16.5 (reduce bribery and other forms of corruption) and 16.10 (access to information) are analysed," she added.

Giving assessment of the

The SDGs 16 'Shadow' report offers an independent review of the government-led 'National Voluntary Review' (NVR) of the SDGs process in Nigeria.

Nigeria's government SDG's progress, the Program Manager credited that the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President (OSSAP) on the SDGs for a compelling NVR, stating that high political will and ownership to the SDG agenda in Nigeria were demonstrated.

She noted: "OSSAP has established formalized structures such as the inter-ministerial team, CSO advisory group and SDG desk offices in 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory."

Kanu observed the need to: develop a costed Implementation Action Plan for all SDGs at the national and subnational levels; strengthen existing National Information Management System for data collection in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics and state SDG counterparts; and develop strategy to harmonize the SDGs with the national and State Development Plans.

Recounting the challenges encountered in the assessment process for development of the Shadow Report, she reported that sheer number of policy areas covered (e.g. beneficial ownership which is different from illicit financial flows) obstructs efforts at delving deeper into each focal area.

"Competition among CSOs working on SDGs (OSSAP-SDG established CSOs working group on SDGs which removes the CSO independence in the entire process).

"No specific commitment on the advocacy front for the shadow report - this activity has been a stand-alone

The Agenda was premised on transparency, openness and participation of all stakeholders having the opportunity to participate and provide inputs into implementation and monitoring.

project and not tied to a broader advocacy engagement, which made it impossible to delve deeper on some advocacy focal areas to be able to identify advocacy policy areas Zero budgeting," she reported.

In a paper titled "Parliamentary Engagement in SDG Implementation", the Coordinator, Gambia National Think Tank, Sering Falu Njie, said parliamentary engagement remained paramount as parliamentarians were legitimate representatives of their electorate and therefore represent the will and voice of citizens; played leadership roles in policy formulation, the development of legislation and most importantly its implementation at national level.

"They have fiduciary powers; they have the power to define the fiscal and budgetary policies needed to allocate national resources for financing development;

"Parliamentarians have the legitimacy, authority and means to ensure oversight; accountability, transparency and the strengthening of the institutions of good governance

at country level.

"The Agenda was premised on transparency, openness and participation of all stakeholders having the opportunity to participate and provide inputs into implementation and monitoring," the Coordinator noted.

On the role of parliamentarians in effective implementation of the SDGs, Njie explained that parliamentarians have the responsibilities to: raise awareness of the goals among citizens; promote ownership of the agenda amongst all stakeholders; galvanise action in parliament to build capacity and create awareness and ownership of the SDGs within parliament; formulate credible laws and establish relevant institutions; build partnerships with multiple stakeholders; engage and support parliaments at sub-national; foster collaborative work with other parliaments across countries, regionally and globally; regularly engage with the executive for consistent review of implementation; and promote citizens' feedback on implementation.

The event had in attendance other eminent personalities like the Deputy Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN, HE Mr. Sunday Itebode; representative of the United Nations Environment Programme, New York, Ms. Hauwa Umar as well as other development partners, civil society organizations and media within and outside the United States.

...parliamentarians have the responsibilities to: raise awareness of the goals among citizens; promote ownership of the agenda amongst all stakeholders...

Police Development Fund Bill Passes Second Reading

A Bill seeking the establishment of the Nigeria Police Development Fund (NPDF) has passed the second reading in the Senate.

The bill titled: "A bill for an Act to establish the Nigeria Police Development Fund and for related matters" proposes N540 billion annually to fund the Nigeria Police Force for enhanced provision of security.

According to the sponsor of the bill, Senator Abu Ibrahim, the proposed bill seeks to provide legal framework for the management and control of the special intervention fund to be known as Police Development Fund.

The fund is to be created for the training and retraining of personnel of the Nigeria Police Force, provision of equipment, offices and barracks accommodation and related facilities to enhance the security service delivery of

the police.

Leading debate on the bill, Senator Ibrahim said he is convinced that the enactment of the bill into law will encourage the police to put in their best and serve the country better.

Part of the financial implication of

the bill includes an amount consisting 0.5 per cent of the total revenue accruing to the Federation Account; 5 per cent of the net profit of companies operating businesses in Nigeria; and 30 per cent of monies from cyber security fund.

Senate Approves Death Sentence For Kidnappers

The Nigerian Senate has passed a bill which outlaws abduction, wrongful restraint or confinement for ransom.

The Senate also approved death sentence for whoever engages in the act and a 30 years jail term for anybody that colludes with an abductor.

The bill sponsored by Sen. Isa Misau was passed into law after a consideration of the report by Senate committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters.

Presenting the report, Chukwuka Utazi said the bill sought to combat and prevent any form of kidnapping in

Nigeria by giving wider powers to the Inspector-General of Police to ensure adequate policing of the crime.

The bill in Clause 1 (3) stated: "Whoever is guilty of the offence and then results in the death of the victim shall be liable on conviction to be sentenced to death."

The bill provides a 30- year jail term to anyone who colludes with abductor to receive any ransom for the release of any person who has been wrongfully confined.

The report was unanimously accepted by the lawmakers after a voice vote.

Reps Reject Free Periodic Medical Test Bill

The House of Representatives has rejected a Bill for an Act to make periodic medical tests free and compulsory for all persons living in Nigeria.

The Bill, which was sponsored by Rep. Dickson Tarkihir, also canvasses national effort toward early detection of diseases.

Rep. Okon Archibong? said the bill was not friendly to the nation's economic and human rights and urged members to step down the bill. ?

According to him, the nation has not been able to provide appropriate facilities and adequate budgetary allocation to the health sector.

Contributing, Rep. Abubakar Garba said compulsory testing was an intrusion of human rights and personal privacy.

He said that if the bill was allowed to pass, it would be infringing on signed International treaties.

Garba, however, said the objectives of the bill could be achieved through other means, adding that it must not necessarily be by a law.

After much argument for and against the bill, the house unanimously voted against and rejected it after the Speaker of House, Mr Yakubu Dogara put the bill to a voice vote.

Senate Moves to Hasten the Passage of Gender Bill

The Senate President, Abubakar Bukola Saraki has assured that the Senate would hasten the passage of the gender bill presently before the National Assembly.

He gave this assurance while receiving the new Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to Nigeria, Samuel Bawlya.

Saraki who noted that much work

has been done on the gender bill, said, "The Gender Bill as you mentioned is before the National Assembly and we have made much progress on it. We should be able to come up with something tangible on it very soon.

"As I said, I think the support that can be given at this point should be in terms of advocacy on the objective of the Bill so that it would make it more acceptable."

Bill to Criminalise Sales of Substandard Seeds to Farmers Passes Second Reading

An amended Bill for an Act to enable the National Agriculture Seed Council (NASC) sanction seed fraudsters and erring seed companies in Nigeria has scaled through the second reading at the Lower Chamber of the National Assembly.

The Bill is expected to criminalise sales or production of substandard seeds to farmers and end the practice where seed companies packaged junks and distribute as seeds to local farmers.

The Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture, Hon. Mohammed Monguno who disclosed this at national seed fair organised by the NASC in partnership

with the Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nigeria (SEEDAN) and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in Abuja, said the National Assembly was commitment to making legislations that will grow the sector and develop the seed sub sector.

"Considering the importance of seed bean, once you are able to solve the problem of seed bean, you have solved 50 per cent of the problems in agriculture. It is also with a view to stamped quackery in the industry and encourage genuine entrepreneurs, there is need to pass the bill into law," he said.

House of Assembly Speakers Move Against Agitators

The Speakers of the 36 state Houses of Assembly have passed a motion calling on President Muhammadu Buhari, to use security agencies to checkmate activities of agitators.

The motion presented by the Majority leader, Imo State House of Assembly, Mr. Lugard Osuji and sponsored by all the 36 Speakers of the State Houses of Assembly was passed during a special session that took place at the State House of Assembly.

However, the Ondo State Speaker,

Mr Bamidele Oleyelogun, requested that the reasons for the various agitations should be looked into, especially as discussions emerge on power devolution.

The resolution as presented by Osuji noted, "The President is urged to direct all security agencies to monitor the activities of the groups and ensure that perpetrators of violence and breach of peace are promptly and decisively dealt with in accordance with the law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"The violent approach adopted by the

members of the various ethnic, political and religious groups whose actions are threatening the unity and territorial integrity of Nigeria is hereby condemned.

"Any ethnic group or persons that have complaints or grievances should channel such complaints or grievances through their elected representatives at the Federal or state levels. All ethnic, political and religious groups, herdsmen, farmers, aggrieved ethnic groups and agitators are urged to stop all hostilities and any act that is capable of triggering crisis."

Oyo Assembly Declares Support for LG Autonomy

The Oyo House of Assembly has declared support for local government autonomy.

Speaker of the Assembly, Honourable Michael Adeyemo who made the disclosure while addressing members of the state chapter of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) at the State Assembly's complex, said autonomy

would improve government at the grassroots and translate into development of the masses.

Adeyemo assured of transparency in the amendment process through public hearings, adding that state houses of Assembly had set up a technical committee to examine different aspects of the amendment.

Lagos Assembly Proposes a Bill to Strengthen Yoruba Language

Lagos State House of Assembly has proposed a new Bill to strengthen the use of Yoruba language in all primary and secondary schools in the state.

The entitled, "A Bill for a Law To Provide for the Preservation and Promotion of the Use of Yoruba Language and for Connected Purposes" if passed into law, will make Yoruba language compulsory for all primary and secondary schools in the state to include teaching of Yoruba as a core subject at all levels.

The bill also provides that all the laws in the state would be translated into Yoruba language. Also, all state-owned tertiary institutions are to incorporate the use of Yoruba Language in the General Studies (GNS) courses.

According to the bill, "The use of Yoruba language shall be an acceptable means of communication between individuals, establishment, corporate entities and government in the state if so desired by the concerned. It shall not be an offence for a person to speak Yoruba

language by the state government."

As contains in the bill, "any school that fails to comply with the provisions of Section 2 of the law commits an offence and is liable on first violation to issuance of warning and on subsequent violation be closed down and also pay a fine of N500,000".

Speaking on the development, the Chairman of the House Committee on Education, Hon. Olanrewaju Ogunyemi told journalists that the committee might change a provision in the bill that it would take effect after two years of its passage as most of the members wanted it to start immediately after it is signed into law by the Governor. According to him, "the National Policy on Education provides that the language of an environment should be spoken in schools, which is why Yoruba language is being adopted in Lagos schools.

"After the passage of the bill into law, it would become compelling for schools to speak Yoruba language. We want to preserve the language for generations yet unborn."

Adamawa Assembly Reconstitutes House Committees

The Adamawa House of Assembly has announced the dissolution of its House Standing Committees.

Speaker of the House, Kabiru Mijinyawa made this known during a plenary, where he also announced a new sitting arrangement for members based on the emergence of new principal officers.

Addressing journalists on the development, the new Majority Leader of the house, Hassan Barguma, said the change was effected to make the House more vibrant and responsive to the discharge of its responsibilities, including oversight functions.

He expressed belief that the change would also ensure better working relationship between the lawmakers and the executives in the state.

"We noticed that the house was drifting and after investigation, we found out that with the exception of the Speaker, most principal officers were culpable and we decided to remove them.

"We spared the speaker because he is a gentleman and has listening ears but was misled by bad advisers (principal officers) who we insisted should go," the Majority Leader added.

NUTRITION FUNDING:

Bauchi Urges Continued Partnership To Prompt Release



Permanent Secretary, Bauchi State Ministry of Budget and Planning, Mallam Yahuza Adamu (3rd from left) flanked by staff of the Ministry and CISLAC's advocacy team during the visit in Bauchi state.

By Chioma B. Kanu

The Permanent Secretary, Bauchi State Ministry of Budget and Planning, Mallam Yahuza Adamu has said the discontinued Project Implementation Agreement (PIA) between the Ministry and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) hampered effort at tracking and ensuring timely release of the state's nutrition counterpart funding.

He made this disclosure during an advocacy visit to the Ministry's by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in Bauchi.

"This arrangement is no longer in place which make it impossible for the Ministry to track and push for the release of the state counterpart funding.

"Despite this challenge, the state committed to release N27million, out of which N10million was released. The balance which is presently undergoing process will be release to UNICEF for the purchase of Ready to

Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF).

"As the state is doing all it could to address malnutrition problem, it was the first to allocate over 15% to health sector in the country. The state allocated 16.7% of the state budget for health in 2017. The Ministry has given utmost priority to nutrition component for it timely released," the Permanent Secretary said.

“

As the state is doing all it could to address malnutrition problem, it was the first to allocate over 15% to health sector in the country.

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Adamu further lamented down-sliding engagement between the Ministry and UNICEF in the last few months, urging consistency in the duo's working relations to ensure appropriate tracking and implementation of administration's commitments towards adequate financing for nutrition, especially as the state seeks critical inputs into the 2018 Appropriation Bill to inform appropriate policy decision and direction.

Also, speaking during the visit, the Project Coordinator, Chioma Kanu represented by Asst. Program Officer, CISLAC, Murtala Muhammad presented to the Ministry from evident perspectives, the needs for the state to prioritize adequate financing for nutrition as may be proposed by the line ministries in 2018 Appropriation Bill.

He advised the state on timely release of the outstanding counterpart funding for the procurement of RUTF for the OTP sites in the state.

Malnutrition: Jigawa Vows to Establish More CMAM Activities

By Murtala Mohammed

There are indications that apart from working to ensure timely release of N150million (out of N300million budgeted) being nutrition counterpart balance to UNICEF for the procurement of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), Jigawa State Government has been working to cascade CMAM program across the local governments yet to be covered in the state.

The State's Commissioner for Health, Dr. Abba Z. Umar made this known during an advocacy visit to the Ministry by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in Jigawa state.

He urged UNICEF to fast-track the procurement and delivery of RUTF to relevant facilities as 150million had hitherto been released by the State Government.

"The counterpart balance of N150million for the procurement of RUTF is being processed as we speak; and will be release once the approval is secured to that effect.

"We are committed to eradicate malnutrition in the state. The state is more willing to scale up the CMAM to cover the remaining local government in the state," the Commissioner promised.

Speaking during the visit, the Project Coordinator, Chioma Kanu represented by Asst. Program Officer, CISLAC, Murtala Muhammad explained that while Nigeria currently records 2.1 million malnourished children with nearly 1000 Nigerian children dying from malnutrition-related causes every day, Jigawa state currently records over 67,716 malnourished children.

He revealed that UNICEF has



Jigawa State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Abba Z. Umar (middle) flanked to his right by staff of the Ministry and to his left by CISLAC's advocacy team.

set aside \$2,915,718 for the treatment of severely malnourished children in Jigawa state while the state government is expected to contribute \$567,317 under the existing counterpart agreement.

“

We are committed to eradicate malnutrition in the state. The state is more willing to scale up the CMAM to cover the remaining local government in the state.

”

Muhammad said: "Immediate release of Funds by the Government for nutrition is required to save lives. The CMAM programme still needs to be scaled up. With more resources, government can save more lives, and UNICEF will also contribute more.

"Government needs to also create and dedicate budget line for nutrition as the 2018 budget process kick starts.

"The state needs to also adopt multi-sectoral costed nutrition strategic plan to address the long term nutrition problem in the state. Government needs to ensure nutrition is fully integrated into the Primary Health Care per ward initiative.

"We urge sustained effort to promote Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and Exclusive Breastfeeding practices in the state. We request that you influence increase funding for nutrition in the state."



Participants in a group display of Country Report on “An Assessment of Nigeria's Beneficial Ownership Transparency Legal Framework” published by CISLAC, at the launching of the report in Abuja.

Participants in a group photo at 'One-Day Capacity Building Workshop on Anti-Corruption Programming' organised by CISLAC in Abuja



Participants in a group photo at a “Policy Dialogue on Right to Food in Nigeria” organised by CISLAC in Jos, Plateau state.

DECLARATION OF ACTION AFTER A ONE-DAY TRAINING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ON BUDGET TRACKING ORGANISED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM MAC ARTHUR FOUNDATION HELD AT CHIMCHERY HOTEL, KADUNA STATE ON 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) with support from MacArthur Foundation organized One-day Training for Civil Society on Budget Tracking. The Training aimed at enhancing the capacity of Kaduna state's civil society groups with holistic knowledge and skills to effectively monitor and report maternal health budget in the state. The meeting drew about 20 participants from various civil society organisations in the state. After exhaustive deliberation on various thematic issues, we the participants:

Recognised that maternal and child health remains paramount to the well-being and progress of any society, and several policies, frameworks and guidelines have hitherto been initiated to improve maternal and child health in Nigeria

Also, recognised that appropriate budget tracking improves service delivery, exposes corruption and mismanagement, empowers civil society to demand accountability, and builds constructive Executive-Legislative-CSOs working relationship on maternal health service delivery

Further recognised that budget tracking involves critical comparative and contrastive analysis of budget actual and performance during the fiscal period; budget monitoring encompasses step-by-step follow-up of every action taken on a particular budget line item; budget reporting provides constant feedback on adherence and compliance to budgetary provisions, enhances accountability and maximises effective use of resources, promotes participation, provides good guidelines for future planning, and enhances development at all levels

Expressed concern over lack of appropriate consultation prior to policy pronouncement, leading to policy mismatched, misconception and wrong projection on maternal and child health budget in Kaduna state

Also, expressed concern over the readiness by relevant institutions to make budgetary processes fully opened and transparent; and the capacity and credibility of some civil society to passionately and effectively track and report maternal health budget

Further expressed concern over weakness in budget tracking by civil society on maternal, immunisation, infant and under-5 health; though Family Planning is presently receiving attention

Noted that holistic approach to budget tracking process involves identification of key maternal health issue and relevant stakeholders; critical observation of current legislation and policies; personal capacity building for appropriate data collection and utilisation; proactive data gathering, analysis and utilisation to inform policy decision

Also noted that while our primary focus and concern in maternal health budget tracking and reporting are resource utilisation, program or project execution, value for money, and benefit delivery impact, we understood that effective tracking and reporting takes cognizance of fundamental information such as

budget statistics, human resource for health, numeric projections, discrepancies, existing population, available facilities, relevant health care institutions, demand and supply for health services

Further noted that effective tracking and monitoring of budget by civil society involves measurable objectives, monitoring indicators, data capture strategy and analysis, and feedback mechanism to relevant stakeholders

Understood that potential challenges in budget tracking process such as information accessibility, language technicality, poor response, bribery and follow-up can be mitigated through persistent advocacy, constructive working relationship with relevant stakeholders, networking, courtesy and diplomacy, and personal understanding and use of relevant documents

Committed to engage required tools like revenue report by government, project documents, budget, government audited accounts, reports of governments monitoring committees, and due process in public procurement, in effective monitoring, tracking and reporting of budget

Also committed to adopt and utilise relevant tracking methods such as advocacy to government authorities, adhoc project monitoring, tracking via reporting, third party tracking in holistic reporting of maternal health budget's performance

Will effectively engage available and credible platforms like relevant institutions, media, programmes, conferences, communities in reporting maternal health budget's performance for an improved maternal and child health in the state.

Signed:

- **Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)**
Executive Director, CISLAC
- **Abdulsalam Suleiman**
Health Support Initiative
- **Isreal Bulus**
Invicta FM
- **Isah Suleiman**
Kind Heart Initiative
- **Yusuf B. Mohammed**
TSI
- **Ashafa Abdulkadir**
I Care Women and Youth Initiative
- **Amina J. Abdulhameed**
Women Voice for the Vulnerable
- **Hauwa Hassan**
KHI
- **Aremu Victoria**
Hope for Community and Children Initiative
- **Irole Charles**
ACCIF
- **Khadijat M. Hamza**
Blue Cousins
- **Paschal Anyanwu**
Coalition of CBOs
- **Hauwa Salihu**
Women In Need
- **Aremu Babangida**
GIWAC
- **Stephen Odawn**
NassCom Health Initiative

Who is Afraid of Civil Society?

By Abubakar Jimoh

In recent weeks, Nigerians have witnessed a potential setback to our nation's democracy through the on-going unguarded activities by some members of the House of Representatives who dedicate precious legislative time and resources in pushing for passage, a Sierra Leone-originated, but widely condemned and rejected legislative framework popularly known as a "Bill to regulate NGOs, CSOs".

The bill which within few months of its initiation in the House passed for second reading in theory, aims at setting up a commission to regulate their activities and provide a platform for robust relationships between them and the government for the interest of Nigerians.

It expropriates the powers of the corporate affairs commission (CAC), which will no longer be able to issue certificates to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Certificate Issuance will be handled by a 17 man committee selected by the president subject to approval by the Senate president.

Under the proposed provisions of the bill, NGOs will have to re-register after 24 months, they will pay re-registration fees and the committee handpicked by the president and decide whether to re-approve or deny the certificate.

It is worrisome that the clueless imported bill from Sierra Leone shamelessly found its way to our highly respected Lower Legislative Chamber without appropriate scrutiny and in-depth socio-political analysis if Nigeria as a democratic nation needs such totally authoritarian and despotic legislation at this point when the citizens should begin to feel the impact of legislative representation, especially at national level, but are insensitively deprived appropriate representation by the trust ones who endlessly backstab them.

Not only are citizens deprived appropriate representation, taxes derived from their hard-earned incomes translated into legislative time and resources are injudiciously utilised in pursuing personal agenda in guise of a baseless legislation.

More unfortunately, the Bill has since arrival to the House been receiving needless legislative attention, time and resources.

A development of this nature puts to question whether our legislative activities are guided by selfish personal agenda or constituents' needs and priorities.

With the volume of well-informed civil society, media and citizens in the country, the on-going effort by the legislators to frustrate accountability mechanism would without doubt result in more aggressive demand for accountability and interpretation of quality of representation and performance by civil society groups that may henceforth trigger citizens' perception and understanding of who deserves their votes.

The cabal pushing for passage of the mischievous bill must be made to realise that true democracy which was drastically pursued by the civil society groups has come to stay and the groups will never relent in their efforts in demanding accountability under the same democracy.

It is no more news that Nigerians have suffered from various anti-citizens bills sponsored by undemocratic cabal in the legislature primarily to sabotage accountability mechanism and continuously ensure citizens are dispossessed their constitutional rights to enjoy democratic dividend.

Such ill-fated bills include the 'Social Media Bill' that was subsequently dropped for its irrelevant to the nation's progress and citizens' development.

Even when other pro-poor and important legislative pieces like Petroleum Industry and Governance Bill (PIGB), Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill are less prioritised or unattended to. To mention little from several pro-poor bills lying dormant for years in the Assembly.

In recent statement, the sponsor, Deputy Majority Leader of the House, Hon. Buba Jibril was quoted and attributed to Kim Jong-un-like dictatorial statement saying: "Not even United Nations can stop the bill from passage". Such condemnably hilarious attitude giving no regard to global authority is a true reflection of undemocratic attitude and disrespect

for democratic core values hence, undiplomatically misplaced priority in the discharge of legislative mandate.

Not conscious of the fact that the bill constitutes a deliberate violation of the guarantees of freedom of thought, opinion and expression, and freedom of association, as contain in 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) and various international conventions to which Nigeria is a signatory, Jubril made a public threat to infringe on citizens' rights.

The argument that some NGOs used their funds to fund terrorism is merely nothing but an illusion; as if confirmed to be true, what then is the work of Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU)?

If no personal motive attached to the bill, the House should have summoned courage to publish the names of culprits and discharge the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to do its work.

Meanwhile, as citizens suffer from years of socio-economic upheavals and continuous neglect despite huge constituency allowance allocated to each legislator to complement the work of the executives in addressing such, civil society groups, media and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are famous in alleviating citizens' suffering and giving voice to the voiceless in the country.

More importantly, the rigorous processes Nigeria's Civil Society Organisations are subjected during registration and filling of returns is evident and well documented with various authorities like Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) National Planning Commission, Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

Finally, while the legislators have the mandate towards citizens' representation, civil society groups have the responsibility not only to foster legislative-constituent relations but also to ensure connectivity between legislative activities and constituents' representation. Civil society role should rather be respected and appreciated for democratic values to thrive.

Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War



Preamble

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Acknowledging that all members of the human family enjoy human dignity and equal and inalienable rights, and that these rights represent a necessary tenet of the preservation of freedom, justice and peace throughout the world,

Aiming to maintain international peace and security and determined to pass on to successive generations and invaluable inheritance of a world free of wars,

Ensuring the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force should not be used, save in accordance with the limitations prescribed by international law,

Reaffirming faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of the men and women, the promotion of social progress and better standards of life for people and future generations and the need to facilitate peaceful coexistence among the world's religions, belief, and ethnicities;

Recognizing that the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples constitutes a significant contribution to contemporary international law, and that its effective application is of paramount importance,

Bearing in mind the universal commitment of the world's religions to the promotion of peaceful coexistence, tolerance and mutual respect, and the common spirit that permeates all religious scriptures and holy texts,

Bearing in mind the sovereign equality of states, and

Convinced that judicial and other dispute resolution measures can replace the rule of war with the rule of law

Call upon states

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from international law can be maintained and

in accordance with the common spirit that permeates all religious scriptures, and the rules of international law including fundamental rights guaranteed, to undertake to prosecute and sanction gross and systematic acts of violence undertaken in the name of religion

to bring about gradual disarmament of weapons of mass destruction and weapons capable of causing widespread and unnecessary suffering and weapons incompatible with international humanitarian law.

The signatories to the present Declaration do hereby urge that all efforts be made so that his Declaration is adopted and respected by all states.

Article 1 – Prohibition of the Threat or Use of Force

1. States should solemnly reaffirm that they refrain from the use of force in all circumstances, save where permitted by international law, and should condemn aggression as constituting an international crime.
2. States should refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of military force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations Charter or international law in general.
3. States should prohibit any act or threat of violence, whatever its motives or purposes, that occurs for the advancement of an individual or collective criminal agenda.
4. States should abstain from interference in the internal conflicts of other States.

Article 2 – War Potential

1. States should co-operate with a view to the gradual reduction of armament production.
2. States should not produce, assist in, encourage, or induce; the production of weapons of mass destruction, inter alia, chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, or weapons capable of causing indiscriminate or widespread and unnecessary suffering, or weapons incompatible with international humanitarian law.
3. States should take measures to ensure that existing weapons of mass destruction, weapons capable of causing widespread and unnecessary suffering and weapons incompatible with international humanitarian law are gradually dismantled or destroyed. States should cooperate in disarmament and the reduction of arms stockpiles, ideally under international supervision. Decommissioned weapons manufacturing facilities should be repurposed, so that they may serve purposes that are beneficial to humanity in general.
4. States should strive to reduce excessive standing armies and military bases.
5. States should cooperate to gradually diminish trade in

weapons and attempt to reduce the flow of small arms to non-state actors.

Article 3 – Friendly Relations and the Prohibition of Acts of Aggression

1. In accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV), States should develop friendly relations based upon respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and should take appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.
2. States have the duty to refrain from any forcible action that deprives peoples of their rights to self-determination.
3. States should condemn the illegal cooperation of territory resulting from the threat or use of force in a manner contrary to international law.
4. States should promote accountability, including by investigating alleged violations of international law, in particular, grave violation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and should take measures to ensure that states, citizens and corporations do not contribute to the commission of violations of international law.
5. States should condemn, and should criminalize in their domestic law, the planning, preparation, initiation or execution, by a person in a position effectively to exercise control over, or to direct, the political or military action of a State, of an act of aggression which, by its character, gravity and scale, constitutes a manifest violation of international law, thus amounting to a crime of aggression.
6. States should refrain from allowing their territories to be placed at the disposal of other actors, whether States or otherwise, to engage in armed force against a third State.
7. States should bear in mind the principle of sovereign equality of states, and should seek to consult all other states, on the basis of reciprocal respect, on issues that may relate to them, in order to resolve and pre-empt disputes which may arise. This provision should apply without prejudice to human rights law and human dignity.

Article 4 – State Boundaries

1. In accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2625 (XXV), every State has the duty to refrain in its international relations from military, political, economic, or any other form of coercion aimed against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. This is without prejudice to instances when such forms of coercion may be lawfully applied, inter alia, to induce

states to cease internationally wrongful acts, or when sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council.

2. Every State has the duty to refrain from the threat or use of force to violate the existing international recognized boundaries of another State, or as a means of resolving international disputes, including territorial and frontier disputes, in a manner inconsistent with international law.
3. Every State has the duty to refrain from any act of incitement, planning, preparation, initiation or commission of an act of aggression by a state, a group of states, an organization of states or an armed group or by any foreign or external entity, against the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of any State.

Article 5 – Self-determination

1. The duty of every state to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other state includes the duty not to engage in any action that would result in the dismemberment of any state, or force the secession or annexation of any territorial unit from that state.
2. Subject to the right to self-determination of peoples, states shall not engage in any intervention that seeks to divide or separate a state in a manner that is contrary to the rules of international law.
3. Every state has the duty to refrain from prematurely recognizing an entity that has purported to secede from another state, until such a time as the latter entity has developed the necessary attributes, capacities and legitimacy to function as a state.
4. Subject to the provisions of the present article, States should encourage identifiable nation-states that have been divided by longstanding external or historical factors to engage in co-operation and dialogue. States should ensure that divided peoples are provided with their right to self-determination, including, inter alia, measures which may result in unified government.
5. Any political system in which power is exercised in perpetuity by an individual or regime amounting to a manifest denial of the right to self-determination should be condemned.

Article 6 – Dispute Settlement

1. States should recognize the obligation to settle their international disputes through peaceful means including reference to the International Court of Justice, other judicial bodies, regional judicial arrangements, or through arbitration, mediation, conciliation, or other forms of alternative dispute resolution and in such a manner that international peace and security are not endangered. States should carry out any judgment or decision reached by a

judicial body in good faith.

2. All states are encouraged to accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Court, without reservations, as a means of ensuring that disputes are settled peacefully and in accordance with international law.

Article 7 – Right to Self-defence

1. Nothing in the present Declaration should be construed so as to impair the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a State, until such time as the Security Council has taken measures to maintain international peace and security.
2. Measures taken by states in the exercise of their right to self-defence should be immediately reported to the Security Council and should not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the United Nations Charter to take, at any time, such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Article 8 – Freedom of Religion

1. States should unite to strengthen international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs.
2. States should activate and participate in systems to enforce and protect fundamental human rights, eliminating discrimination on the basis of religion or belief, and should refrain from and prohibit the usage of religion by governments, groups, or individuals in order to justify or to incite acts of violence against others. These systems should include, inter alia, judicial mechanisms.
3. States should foster religious freedom by allowing members of religious communities to practice their religion, whether publicly or in private, and by protecting places of worship and religious sites, cemeteries, and shrines.

Article 9 – Religion, Ethnic Identity and Peace

1. States should engage in multilateral consultations to deal with situations where differences attributable to religion or ethnicity pose a threat to peace so that necessary remedial action may be taken and to identify the root causes of a situation causing tension between different religious or ethnic groups, in order to adopt necessary measures to promote mutual understanding between the groups concerned.
2. States should take measures to ensure that religious belief or ethnic identity are not utilized as a pretext for gross and systematic acts of violence. In circumstances

where individuals or groups perpetrate or assist in such acts in the name of their religion, states should take adequate measures that lead to the prosecution and punishment of such activities.

3. Recognizing the threat to peaceful coexistence that violent religious extremism may cause, states should implement, in good faith, legal measures against individuals or groups attempting to perpetrate or assist in gross and systematic acts of violence in the name of religion. Such measures should, in extreme cases, include the proscription of faith groups – including sects or cults, - that perpetrate acts of violence against the territorial integrity and political independence of any state.

Article 10 – Spreading a Culture of Peace

1. States should recognize and engage with groups and organizations that seek to further the cause of peace as a global movement. States should facilitate such groups in their awareness-raising activities, including providing tuition in human rights and peace studies, as provided for, inter alia, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1999 UN Declaration on a Culture of Peace.
2. States should recognize that, in order to preserve a lasting culture of peace, public awareness of the need for, and value of, peace should be created. In this regard, states are encouraged to facilitate activities, commemorations, and initiatives that engage public consciousness with peace, including the erection of peace monuments as an alternative to war monuments.
3. Heads of States and heads of governments should acknowledge that they are uniquely well placed to encourage a culture of peace, and should act to support this declaration to bring about the cessation of war.
4. States should promote a culture of peace including ensuring conditions in which
 - (a) Citizens are able to participate in the political affairs of the state as equals regardless of religious or ethnic differences;
 - (b) A free media is maintained which allows grievances to be aired and addressed; and
 - (c) Education is imparted to promote respect and mutual understanding among different religious, belief and ethnic groups;
 - (d) The right to development of peoples, including the achievement of the UN sustainable development goals, can be realized' and
 - (e) The wellbeing of all human kind with the participation of women and men to ensure peaceful coexistence amongst nations, states, and peoples may be guaranteed.

CISLAC trains CSOs on Corruption Risk Assessment, Compliance



Participants in a group photo at the training in Port Harcourt, Rivers state.

By Bathsheba Tagwai

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), national contact for Transparency International (TI) in Nigeria, has conducted one-day training on Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) and Compliance for partner organizations.

The training which was held in Rivers state's capital, Port Harcourt aimed at equipping 20 participants from various Civil Society

Organisations (CSOs) in the capital with basic skills to identify the internal and external risks of corruption related to their organizations and develop initial response for preventing corruption from materializing.

It was organized under the aegis of Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC) through a project titled "Integrity, Mobilization, Participation, Accountability, Anti-corruption and Transparency in Nigeria" in collaboration with the

TI-International Secretariat, Berlin with support from Global Affairs Canada.

Speaking at the event, the Program Officer, CISLAC-IMPACT, Barr. Bathsheba Tagwai representing the Executive Director of CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) said Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC) worked to "provide citizens with legal aid in receiving reports from victims and witnesses of corrupt practices, providing legal advice and forwarding the reports to relevant authorities while following up to ensure that the victims receive redress".

She said: "The Center raises awareness of the existing forms of corruption; informs and educate citizens on their rights; receives and handles citizen's reports about corruption through a toll-free hotline and social media platforms;

The training...aimed at equipping 20 participants from various CSOs with basic skills to identify the internal and external risks of corruption related to their organizations and develop initial response for preventing corruption from materializing.

CISLAC Trains Staff, Csos On Anti-corruption, Governance

By Lukman Adefolahan

As part of the effort to promote participatory, transparent and accountable governance in the country, the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) has trained staff and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on anti-corruption through a 'One-Day Capacity Building Workshop on Anti-Corruption Programming' held recently in Abuja.

The workshop which was organised under the framework of a project titled "Tackling Inequalities in Nigeria through Transparent, Accountable and Participatory Governance" in collaboration with TI-S in Berlin, supported by Ford Foundation, had in attendance participants from various organisations including Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other related Offences Commission (ICPC), Ministry of Justice, Publish What You Pay, 21st Century, media outfits, among others.

Speaking at the Workshop, Member of the Board of CISLAC,

Barr. Adesina Oke representing the Executive Director, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) said corruption was a cankerworm affecting every Nigerian directly and indirectly; hence, collective effort was paramount by all stakeholders to successfully combat corruption.

Similarly, the Project Coordinator, Mr. Lukman Adefolahan while giving a brief on the training's urged strategic and dynamic activities with sincerity of purpose by stakeholders in the fight against corruption.

Presenting a paper titled "Building Integrity and Emerging Best Practices on Curbing Corruption", the workshop's facilitator, Mr. Soji Apampa stressed the importance of integrity in the fight against corruption, stating that "if individuals, agencies and entities can display utmost integrity, corruption will be brought to its barest minimum".

Making reference to the recent Corruption Perception Index by Transparency International and United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC)'s report, he lamented that Nigeria's results does not commensurate with effort, hence the need for a holistic approach in the

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Nigeria's results does not commensurate with effort, hence the need for a holistic approach in the fight against corruption.
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fight against corruption.

The facilitator reiterated the need for CSOs to imbibe the spirit of transparency and accountability through the development and implementation of a self-regulatory framework to ensure adherence to the principle of transparency and accountability in their programmes and activities before demanding for such.

He further identified incentives and sanctions, education and social tolerance as fundamental in the fight against corruption.

collaborates with MDAs of government as well as private organizations.”

The Program Officer advised that for CSOs to effectively complement the anti-corruption efforts of the government, they must be free of corruption, maintain integrity and be compliant with their internal policies and procedures, as well as, relevant external statutory and regulatory requirements otherwise they would become as guilty as government institutions and

officials that they often criticize.

She bemoaned pervasive and systemic corruption in the country, urging the CSOs to embrace extra measures to be free of and not contribute to corruption in their operation and interaction with relevant stakeholders in government, business and the donor community in their interventions.

The training, which was facilitated by a Certified Risk Assessor, Thomas Ochepe, broadly covered issues related to stakeholder

analysis, the general concept, conduct and purpose of Corruption Risk Assessment, Assessing Corruption Risk at the Personal, Environmental and Organizational Levels and developing an integrity plan. A Practical session was as well organised with groups applying the various stages in CRA methodology to selected scenarios in the Health, Education and Power sectors.

It was the second in a series of three planned to be held in different geo-political zones.

Nigeria: Harnessing Agricultural Potential For Sustainable Development

By Gloria Chinyere Okwu

Agriculture remains the major, but less prioritised component of Nigeria's economy with the largest employer of labour, contributing about 22% to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The continued relevance of the agriculture through the stages of Nigeria's economic history—pre-oil, oil and post-oil eras, demonstrates importance of the sector to the survival of the economy. With agriculture inclusive global move—Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the recent identification of agriculture sector as capable of delivery sustainable development by the Federal Government through her promulgated policy titled “Agricultural promotion Policy (APP) 2016-2020” are indeed certifications that agriculture is paramount to the economy growth and development.

It would recalled that on 10 September 2014, the UN General Assembly resolved that the Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals would be adopted as the main basis for integrating the SDGs into the post 2015 development agenda.

The second of the seventeen proposed SDGs is Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable

agriculture” which through its targets by 2030 aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition, double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers—particularly women, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices, increase investment and enhance cooperation in agricultural research and extension services, correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in the world agricultural markets, adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets, and maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species.

Meanwhile the introduced APP 2016-2020 is hitherto be-devilled with a plethora of challenge like inadequate budgetary allocation to the agricultural sector that brings to the fore, the instrumentality of adequate financing in achieving diversification policy of the government.

A recent report by National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS) reveals that merely 1.69% of the nation's budget in 2017 was allocated to the sector, as against the Malabo/Maputo benchmark of 10%.

It is worthy of a note that only about 0.8% of Nigeria's arable land is irrigated with huge reliance on rain

fed farming. Less than half of arable lands are cultivated by 80% small scale farmers. Post-harvest loses incurred, are as high as 40% or as low as 15%, an indication that sector operates far below expected standards. This is as well far from being the pedestal on which the economy can thrive.

Way Forward:

Nigeria must move from the era of talking and rolling out laudable policies to actually understanding and managing the intricacies and challenges that may arise with an unbroken patriotic resolve.

The instrumentality of the budget must be explored to its fullest with serious consideration for the Malabo/Maputo benchmark of at least 10% of the total annual budget to agricultural sector.

Sustainable improvement in farm production can be attained through integrated soil fertility management and adequate investment in modern technologies.

Improved irrigation, creation of facilities to manage storage and post-harvest loses, robust marketing system, management and prevention of food crises, crop and animal diseases and natural disaster management especially rehabilitation of lands after flooding.

Combating and managing the incidence, aftermaths of instability and insecurity on the people and the economy will enhance sustainable development and protect farmers from the fears of unknown.

Thorough scrutiny of excess vote (60% in 2017) to the federal ministry of agriculture and rural development is imperative to ensure compliance and accountability in the utilisation of agricultural funds. Their role should be strictly supervisory while implementing agencies will take the

Continued on page 22

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BOOK REVIEW:

“An Assessment of Nigeria's Beneficial Ownership Transparency Legal framework”

By Lovelyn Agbor-Gabriel
and Abubakar Jimoh

In order to deepen awareness and understanding of state and non-state actors on outstanding shortcomings of Nigerian beneficial ownership transparency laws and practice, the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in collaboration with Transparency International has engaged a critical study into country's commitment towards beneficial ownership information and regulation.

The 51 pages published report titled “Nigeria country Report: An Assessment of Nigeria's Beneficial Ownership Transparency Legal Framework” provides a detailed account of various limitations in the definition of beneficial ownership attributed to Nigerian anti-money laundering and Company Law that respectively define beneficial ownership, but not covering control through other means in addition to legal ownership and issue affecting beneficial ownership of private companies.

In page 4, the report reveals country performance as the worst in the area of accessing beneficial ownership information. “There are no legal requirements for Nigerian companies to maintain information on beneficial ownership of their shares within Nigeria. Neither are there legal requirements for beneficial owners / shareholders to inform the company of changes in share ownership. Moreover, public companies may conduct verification of ownership information of shares, but it is not mandatory.”

Assessing the degree of linkage between Nigerian laws and 10 beneficial ownership principles, the study in page 5 scores Beneficial



ownership definition, 75%; Identifying and mitigating risk, 50%; Acquiring accurate beneficial ownership information, 13%; Access to beneficial ownership information, 29%; Beneficial ownership of trusts, 75%; Access to beneficial ownership of trusts, 50%; Duties of businesses and professions, 79%; Domestic and international cooperation, 58%; Beneficial ownership information and tax evasion, 67%; and Bearer shares and nominees, 69%.

The study discloses existing lack of central institution on Beneficial Ownership and decentralised nature of Nigeria's beneficial ownership information, which to a large extent impedes adequate accessibility to beneficial ownership information. “In

Nigeria there is no central beneficial ownership registry and companies are not required to disclose beneficial ownership to the CAC.”

It recommends establishment of a central register of beneficial ownership information to provide access to information for both public and competent authorities; amendment to legislation to explicitly provide access for all law enforcement bodies and tax agencies to beneficial ownership information within a specified timeframe.

While some existing regulations impose reporting obligations on Trust and Company Service Providers (TCSPs) as well as non-profit organizations registered as trustees, the report observes that non-

professional trustees such as family members or friends of the settlor are not covered by law. As a result, it proffers introduction of beneficial ownership transparency rules for non-professional trustees such as family members or friends of the settlor.

It observes the efforts of financial institutions which are required by Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Regulations to conduct due diligence and where appropriate, obtain information on the purpose and intended nature of the business relationship of their potential customers.

The report in page 29, acknowledges that Nigerian law does not impose any restriction on information sharing (e.g. confidential information) across in-country authorities; hence, domestic authorities can access beneficial ownership information through written requests or memoranda of understanding. It however, discerns lack of clear procedural requirements defined and published for beneficial ownership information request from foreign jurisdictions. "Foreign authorities have no access to beneficial ownership information maintained by Nigerian authorities."

In order to bridge the gaps in beneficial ownership definition, the study recommends among other things introduction of definition of

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According to the report an adequate definition of beneficial ownership in national legislation should focus on the natural (not legal) persons who actually own and take advantage of the capital or assets of the legal person, rather than just the persons who are legally (on paper) entitled to do so.
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beneficial ownership for the purposes of the CAMA, extension of the 10% substantial ownership reporting requirements to all owners and beneficial owners, and application of the same approach to the 5% ownership reporting threshold imposed by the SEC Rules applicable to public companies.

The report recommends online publication of the National Risk Assessment Report, and communication of the results of the risk assessment to financial institutions and relevant DNFBPs in "Identifying and mitigating risk" associating with Beneficial Ownership.

It recommends among other things, amendment to CAMA to require all companies to carry out further enquiries to ascertain the ultimate beneficial owners of the

shares held by the natural and legal owners of the company in order to provide adequate information on beneficial owners.

According to the report an adequate definition of beneficial ownership in national legislation should focus on the natural (not legal) persons who actually own and take advantage of the capital or assets of the legal person, rather than just the persons who are legally (on paper) entitled to do so. "It should also cover those who exercise de facto control, whether or not they occupy formal positions or are listed in the corporate register as holding controlling positions," it added.

Furthermore, page 37 to 51 of the report covers methodology and practical questions deployed in the process of fact-findings including scoring criteria.

Nigeria: Harnessing Agricultural Potential For Sustainable Development

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bulk of allocations.

Civil Society Organizations should intensify efforts in tracking, monitoring and reporting progress of implementation of the capital budgets.

Appropriate gender mainstreaming in the agricultural policy formulation and implementation as recommends by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in its Farmers' Charter of Demand will promote gender-

balanced solutions in addressing agricultural challenges, as women form about 80% of the small scale farmers in the country.

The Charter advocates at least 35% of participation of women farmers in policy and decision making in the agricultural sector. Also, employment of more female extension workers, provision of farm inputs mostly to women and protection of women farmers from herdsmen attacks will boost local food production.

Without doubt, increasing

agricultural productivity results in low cost of food thereby increasing disposable incomes; improves health and foreign exchange earnings; increases provision of raw materials for industries and employment opportunity.

Transformation in line with the vision of agricultural diversification for sustainable development therefore, can be achieved through appropriate political will for full implantation of the SDGs 2 and constructive collaboration by the both state and non-state actors.

Communiqué Issued at the launch of CISLAC Global Office in US and Launch of the SDG 16 Shadow Report at the UN General Assembly 72 Session Side Event organized by the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, on 22nd September, 2017 in Helmsley Building, New York, NY.

PREAMBLE:

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) has been registered in the US as a 501(c)3, and has officially launched its global office on the 22nd of September, 2017. This coincided with the UN World Peace Day and the launch of its Shadow Report on SDG 16. The launch was attended by His Excellency, The Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN, Prof. Tijani Muhhamed-Bande, and His Deputy, HE Mr. Sunday Itebode, House Committee Chair on Poverty Alleviation and member of the SDGs Committee, Hon. Muhammed Ali Wudil, Mr. Hilary Ogbonna the Africa and Middle East Coordinator of the UN SDGs, Ms. Hauwa Umar- United Nations Environment Programme, New York, CISLAC Global Trustee Members- Dr. Afia Zakiya and, Mr. John Francis, Mr. Seing Falu Njie- UN Coordinator National think Tank, as well as other development partners, civil society organizations and media within and outside the United States.

OBSERVATION:

- i. Absence of clear short, medium or long term national development plan that will harmonize the SDGs at national and sub-national levels;
- ii. No clear institutionalized bilateral efforts to curb illicit financial and arms flows or to recover stolen funds of Africa, specifically Nigeria, domiciled in foreign countries;
- iii. The presence of an obnoxious CSO bill sponsored by a member of the National Assembly to scuttle the voice of the people and close the space for civil society to participate in the developmental agenda;
- iv. Absence of clear data capturing scuttles monitoring and planning for the SDGs;
- v. Absence of a revolving door policy with cooling off periods for public official securing appointment in private sector.

Recommendations for the UN, Nigerian government and CSOs:

UN:

- i. Continue to open its door to mainstream Civil Society Organizations in its global development agenda
- ii. Nigerian government to borrow a leaf from the UN to create space for Civil Society to continue its engagement for sustainable development

Nigerian Government:

- i. Establish a clear plan for short, medium, and long term national development that includes harmonization with the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and other relevant African development plans;
- ii. African countries, specifically Nigeria to strengthen bilateral relationships and access to information that will ensure all stolen illicit finances in foreign countries are

repatriated for sustained development within the African region;

- iii. Expedite action on asset recovery by setting up a special integrity trust fund to be monitored by the Civil Society to ensure repatriated funds are duly channeled to sustainable development efforts;
- iv. Strengthen existing policies and laws regulating the revolving door policy to include cooling off periods for public servants' transition to private sector.

CISLAC/Civil Society:

- i. Continue to build national, regional and global presence and tap into the Nigerian and broader African Diaspora technical expertise for contributions to Nigeria's stride for governance/legislative excellence and sustainable development that ends poverty, injustice and inequality;
- ii. Discontinuation of Civil Society bill at the National Assembly that poses no good intent for the development of citizens and further robs the country of inclusivity in governance;
- iii. Ensure advocacy efforts are built on strong data integrity principles, are grounded in the voices of the poor, and clarifies linkages between local, national, regional, and global factors that shape socio-economic, political and other aspects of sustainable;
- iv. Strengthen CISLAC's institutional development through a sound strategic plan and funding that includes a strong African based philanthropic focus.

In conclusion, Participants applauded the giant strides of CISLAC and encouraged CISLAC to stand tall as a leading non-governmental organization locally and internationally, in its efforts to improve Nigeria's legislative processes and relations within the civil society space. They further encouraged CISLAC not to relent in its efforts to represent the local NGOs to mobilize local philanthropic and other appropriate international resources to deeply engage in shadow reporting that will keep citizens informed of national development and SDG progress, and engage the grassroots in wider consultations so as to project the voice of the voiceless. Adding that the Nigerian and other African Diaspora expertise will be a powerful role CISLAC can now play to advance sustainable development and resilient communities at home and abroad.

Signed:

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC

Mr. Francis John
CISLAC Global Board of Trustees

Dr. Afia Zakiya
CISLAC Global Board of Trustees

BILLS UPDATE (SEPTEMBER, 2017)**Compiled by CISLAC**

S/N	BILL NO	BILL NAME	YEAR	STAGE	SPONSORS
1	HB 1117	Nigerian Security and civil Defence Corps Act(Amendment), Bill	2017	First Reading	Hon. Danasabe Charles Hosea
2	HB 1118	Nigerian Steel Development Authority Act(Amendment),Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Ali Isa J.C.
3	HB 1119	Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry Act(Repeal) Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Victor Nwokolo
4	HB 1120	Nigerian Council for Management Development Act (Amendment), Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Michael O. Enyong
5	HB 1121	Nigerian Customs Service Board Act (amendment)Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso
6	HB 1122	Nigerian Dock Labour Act(Amendment) Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Umar M. Bago
7	HB 1123	Nigerian Educational Research and development Council Act(Amendment) Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Sadiq Ibrahim
8	HB 1124	Nigerian Export Promotion Council Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Ossy Prestige
9	HB 1125	Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Act(Amendment) Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Aminu Shagari
10	HB 1126	Nigerian Institute of Animal Science Act (Amendment),Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Sabo Garba
11	HB 1127	Nigerian Institute of International Affairs Act (Amendment) Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Kayode Oladele
12	HB 1128	Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research Act (Amendment) Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Victor Akinjo
13	HB 1129	Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology Act(Amendment), Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Obinna Chidoka
14	HB 1130	Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act(Amendment),Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Olabode Ayorinde
15	HB 1131	Nigerian Maritime Administration and safety Agency Act(Amendment),Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Adamu Kamale
16	HB 1132	Nigerian Mining Corporation Act(Amendment) Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Toby Okechukwu
17	HB 1133	Nigerian National Heroes Register Act(Amendment), Bill	2017	First Reading	Hon. Samson Okwu
18	HB 1134	Nigerian Press Council Act (Amendment) Bill	2017	First Reading	Hon. Samuel Okon Ikon
19	HB 1135	Nigerian Red Cross Society Act (Amendment) Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Evelyn O.Oboro
20	HB 1136	Nigerian Re-insurance Corporation Act(Amendment) Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Darlington Nwokocha
21	HB 1137	Nigerian Television Authority Act (Amendment), Bill	2017	First reading	Hon.Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun
22	HB 1138	Notaries Public Act (Amendment) Bill	2017	First reading	Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel
23	HB 841	A Bill for an Act to Amend then National Health Bill,2014 to include Free and Compulsory Periodic Medical Tests for Prevalent and Chronic Ailments or Conditions on all Persons living in Nigeria and for Related Matters	2017	2nd reading	Hon. Dickson Tarkighir
24	HB 73	A Bill for an Act to Provide for Parental and Child Control and for matters Connected Therewith	2017	2nd reading	Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta
25	HB 231	A Bill for an Act to Harmonize the Functions of the National Orientation Agency and National Institute for Cultural Orientation to, among other things, Empower the National Institute for Cultural Orientation to Enlighten the General Public on Federal Government Policies and Programmes and Serve as a Focus for Orientation in Cultural Matters for Nigerian Policy Makers and for Related Matters	2017	Second reading	Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai
26	HB 1077	A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Housing Fund Act,Cap.N45,laws of the federation of Nigeria,2004 and Reenact the National Housing Fund and for Related Matters	2017	Second reading	Hon.Ahmad Babba Kaita
27	HB 1040	A Bill for an Act to Enhance Transparency in the Management and Accounting of Tax Incentives by Relevant Authorities so as to check Corruption in the system and for Related Matters	2017	Second reading	Hon. Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe
28	HB 967	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Tertiary Education Trust Fund(Establishment, etc.) Act,No.16 of 2011 to provide for Additional Conditions for Accessing of Funds for Capital Projects by Beneficiary Institutions to embark on their own Capital Projects Instead of Relying Solely on the fund for Capital Development and for Related Matters	HB 967	Second reading	Hon. Abbas Tajudeen
29	HB 319	A Bill for an Act to Incorporate Annex 12 to the on the International Civil Aviation 1944 into Nigerian Law, to Establish the Nigerian Search and Rescue Service and to Provide for Matters Connected Therewith	2017	Committee	Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa