



From left Comrade Ayuba Wabba, President of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC); Acting Chairman Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mr. Ibrahim Magu; Co-Convenor Bring Back Our Girls, Mrs. Oby Ezekwesili; and Executive Director of CISLAC/Head of Transparency International Nigeria, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) at a meeting with the EFCC on strategy to deepen the fight against corruption in Nigeria in Abuja

Ethnocentrism: An Impediment To Peaceful Coexistence

While persuasion is better than force as a means of drawing public support or attention, yet the intuition remains that some speeches are in fact dangerous to the peaceful co-existence of the society. In this piece, SALAUDEEN HASHIM presents the impacts of ethnocentrism with resultant tendency for hate speech.

Hate speech mostly originated from ethnocentrism has hitherto been regarded as a dangerous but often neglected phenomenon that has set many countries ablaze and

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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 as 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 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 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 government accessible, responsive and accountable to citizens.

VISION

A Nigeria where legislators and policy makers are safeguarding citizens' rights and welfare while citizens effectively demand accountability.

MISSION

To engage state and non-state actors for improved policy and legislative frameworks, transparency and accountability in governance for people oriented development.

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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Still on Transparency And Accountability in Asset Recovery

The recently concluded Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR) that took place in Washington, DC, sealed the return of stolen assets worth \$321 million looted by the late former Head of State, Gen. Sani Abacha and his family.

The assets will be repatriated from the Swiss Government to Nigeria under the auspices of the World Bank. Selected Nigerian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have co-signed a memorandum of understanding, which recognizes the right and duty of CSOs to monitor the utilization of the repatriated funds.

While we commend this deal, we call on the Government for urgent expedition of asset recovery management guidelines and greater transparency in the end-use of recovered assets.

The anti-corruption summit in London in 2016 prompted the government to make two specific commitments in regards to asset recovery: i) Strengthening of the asset recovery legislation through the passing of the Proceeds of Crime Bill to provide for transparent management of returned assets and non-conviction based approach to asset recovery, ii) Developing internationally endorsed guidelines for the transparent and accountable management of returned stolen assets.

We are concerned that, despite some progress, no significant breakthrough has been achieved on the two commitments. We note that the Economic Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) disclosed, during the 7th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) held in Vienna in November 2017, that 2.9 billion USD have been recovered between May 2015 and Oct. 20, 2017. This sum represents around 12% of the entire proposed 2018 federal budget.

We observe that there is little information and absence of clear guidelines on how these recovered assets are utilized to compensate the victims of ongoing looting of public resources and for the benefit of the citizens.

Despite the undeniable progress on recovered assets domestically and internationally, the management of recovered assets still operates under fractioned legislative framework and unclear or absent policy guidelines. The mandates of a number of anti-corruption agencies in regards to the asset recovery management overlap. It remains unclear, which of the many anti-corruption institutions takes a lead in the coordination of asset recovery efforts. Crucial legislature with a potential to

establish an acceptable asset recovery management framework such as the Proceeds of Crime Bill (2014) is stalled without explanation.

The recent suspension of Nigeria from the elite EGMONT group of financial intelligence agencies is ample evidence of chaotic institutional structure in the anti-corruption domain beset by inexplicable inter-agency rivalry and lack of coordination of the anti-corruption effort.

It is worrisome that there is no independent, comprehensive review of how many assets could be repatriated from all agencies with the power to seize assets. Importantly, there has been almost no verifiable information on the end-use and the impact of reinvested assets.

We demand that clear guidelines are established on the use of recovered assets with priority given to the health and education sector. This can be done through supplementary appropriation Bill to the National Assembly.

We call for a policy framework to set up integrity trust fund to manage asset recovery proceeds with involvement of credible CSOs and honest Nigerians with the case of the recent \$321 million return as a worthy precedent.

International jurisdictions which harbour estimated \$5 billion of Nigerian stolen assets must engage the Nigerian government without delay and in a transparent manner so that proceeds of corruption can benefit, especially the 61% of Nigerian living in abject poverty. There is no excusable reason for keeping Nigerian assets abroad and in secrecy.

The breakdown of confiscated assets must be published by all mandated agencies without any delay to dispense the public suspicion of re-looting of looted assets. A comprehensive asset recovery policy must stipulate the handling of various types of assets including perishable assets.

The judiciary must put a preference to civil proceedings, especially non-conviction based confiscation in absentia of accused in the context of the inability to prosecute corrupt politically exposed persons and others in criminal court trials.

We demand setting up clear policy actions on asset recovery in the wake of the concluded GFAR by the current administration. The inclusion of CSOs in the nation-wide discussion on the management and the end-use of recovered assets is imperative.



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sent many more into cold war.

While hate speech is largely borne of deeply entrenched ethnocentric tendencies, it is undeniable that through malicious rhetoric, one time German Chancellor, Adolf Hitler stirred up murderous hatred that claimed the lives of over six million Jews.

In the bible book of Esther, Haman sort to instigate his people against the children of Israel by making them believe that the Israelites had no regard for their king. His plan almost worked, but for the intervention of Queen Esther and Mordecai, her uncle.

In the '70s Mohammed Marwa also known as Maitatsine, began spreading hate messages against the Nigerian government, calling on people to rise up against it. In the beginning, many paid no heed to his malicious proclamations, but by 80s he had won over an army of young people, unemployed migrants and many who felt that Islamic scholars were failing the people. Worse, his adherent openly confronted and attacked security forces.

His message, laden with hate, was frighten and a cause for worry, but he kept on spreading it, turning hearts and minds against the state, other Muslims and adherents of other religions. By December 1980, continued Maitatsine attacks on other religious figures and the Police forced the Nigeria army to get involved. Subsequent armed clashes led to the death of around 5,000 people including Maitatsine himself, who died shortly after sustaining injuries in one of such clashes. This same hate is currently ongoing in the manner elites share information on various social media platform around herdsmen/farmers conflict across the country.

But the seed had been sown and many held on to his evil ideology. In spite of his death, Yan Tatsine riot continued. In 1984, Musa Makaniki, who emerged as Marwa's violent successor, led the riot of Yola in

Adamawa State that year and as a result, more than 1,000 people died and over 30,000 were left homeless. The city was almost completely destroyed. Makaniki fled to his home town of Gombe where more riots followed three years later, no thanks to his rhetoric against authority, the Qur'an and Muslim clerics. More death followed and he fled to Cameroun where he remained until his arrest in 2004.

Then there was the Rwandan Genocide of 1994, the Hutus began to refer to the Tutsis as cockroaches that had to be exterminated. A musician composed a song spewing negative sentiments against the Tutsis and a radio station played it endlessly, fueling the hate the erroneous message had ignited. More than a million Tutsis lost their lives and about 70 percent of the tribe's population. Just like most media organizations have fanned the embers of hate to justify the secessionist agitation.

Also, 30 percent of the Pigmy Batwa was killed. The massacre would have continued, but for the seizing of power by Paul Kagame, who was backed by the Tutsi-led by the heavily armed Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). Anticipating

that there may be great backlash against them, more than two million Hutus fled the country and became refugees in Uganda and other neighboring countries. These examples show that hate speech never ends in peace or unity.

Someone somewhere buys the idea being sold and decides to do something with his new found perception. He puts action to what is being repeatedly sung or said. On Saturday, August 26 2017, Owerri, the capital of Imo State boiled. It was perceived that the governor of the state had mishandled the issues surrounding the demolition of the Eke Ukwu Market near Ama Hausa, where the Hausa Community in Owerri, mostly live. Tensions escalated and the traders denied the security operatives sent by the governor—to protect the workers in carrying out the demolition exercise, access to the market. The security men responded with some force and chased the traders into Ama Hausa, where houses were burnt down. What began as a normal monthly sanitation exercise ended with a 12 year old 'pure water' vendor, Somtochukwu, lying dead and eight others injured. The incident may have initially had nothing to do with



ethnicity, but it quickly degenerated to that when the traders fled into Ama Hausa and houses were burnt.

In another instance, a few months ago, a number of youth groups in Northern Nigeria under the auspices of the Arewa Youth, ordered Southern (specifically, Igbos) in the region to leave by October 1 2017. This was in retaliation to the activities and clamor of the Independent People of Biafra (IPOB) in the South Eastern states for secession.

The stage was set for an unfortunate collision, until a number of concerned people including CISLAC, well-meaning politicians and former leaders waded in to douse the rising flames. These situations were fueled by hate speech, which is many times the direct product of ethnocentrism or religious fanaticism.

The term Ethnocentrism was coined by America's first professor of sociology, William G. Sumner, after he observed how people distinguish or discriminate between their in-groups and other groups. Ethnocentrism is thus the tendency to consider one's own culture or race to be superior over all others. Though it is present in little forms in every culture, history has shown us how it can have tragic consequences if not controlled.

Ethnocentrism might seem similar to ethnic pride, which is having pride for your culture and values, but there is a very thin line between the two.

According to vocabulary.com, anyone who judges people or tradition based on his own cultural standards is guilty of ethnocentrism. It means believing that the way you do things is the only right way to do them and that people or cultures that do things differently are wrong. Ethnocentrism comes from the Greek 'ethno' or 'people and 'centric', centre'. When you consider your own people or culture to be the centre the rest of the world should revolve around, you are displaying ethnocentrism. For an anti-corruption czar bureaucrat with the

“
Ethnocentrism might seem similar to ethnic pride, which is having pride for your culture and values, but there is a very thin line between the two.
”

Ministry of Defence, Hauwa Nana Abdullahi, the rot and damage wrought by ethnocentrism has eaten deep into the nation's fabric.

“We are just using big words to define this 'thing', which manifest itself in Nigeria as tribalism. When you think your kinsmen are the best for a particular position and others are not, you are being ethnocentric. When you think only people from your area are the best for political appointment, a ministerial appointment, should head a particular task or are more cultured than others; when you think your ethnic group is superior to others and look down on people from other ethnic groups that is ethnocentrism. While this sounds as if it is strictly ethnicity-based, it can also develop from religious differences,” she said.

However, this fundamental right of freedom of speech is being used to disseminate hate speech, which goes contrary to the right itself and the spirit of the constitution that enshrines it. Nigeria is a federated state with over 250 ethnic groups and 500 languages. The survival of our 170 million people lies our ability to curtail conflicting ethnic tensions. We have, however, had instances of conflict along ethno-religious lines, most notably the civil war in the period 1967 to 1970, which saw millions of Nigeria citizens killed.

The 'us' against 'them' rhetoric that ignited bloodshed of a bestial magnitude since independence has re-surfaced again. A new breed of ethnic entrepreneurs seems hell-bent on causing anarchy for political motives. The lessons of our history

are being ignored. Strength in diversity is considered weakness. A healing of the cleavages that promote ethnic division is recommended. This also means the triumph of a national identity that transcends the opportunistic ethnocentric group identity, which has been the ban of Nigeria's nationhood.

Clearly, we cannot pretend that all is well with our country. We assert that our union can only be saved by transparency, frankness and a deliberate revision of structures and relations. Because of the lack of boldness and their inactions of the past, we have a bad deal of a leprous nation in our hands. The view of all those troubled by the growing tendency of the Nigerian youth to embrace ethnocentrism and hate speech so readily is that it must be checked immediately. How may this be done? Hauwa thinks that by this need, the National Orientation Agency (NOA) has its work cut out for it.

As part of recommendations, we need a re-evaluation of our national identity from the cradle through to the tertiary education system. According to her, “if we redefine our national values, these walls will be broken and we will begin to see us all as Nigerians first and then as people from a particular region or ethnic space.

“If we do not want it we must let it go and we must begin now, otherwise our children will be worse than we are and we will watch them destroy this nation more than we have, wishing we had done more to set things right,” she added.

Buhari And The Six New Laws

In December, 2017 President Muhammadu Buhari assented to six different bills that brought to limelight specific laws that will henceforth abolish a devastating practice in the nation's health care emergency response system, eradicate the use of torture to extract confessional statements in investigation process, ensure adequate financing for NDDC to effectively pursue its objectives, establish a coordinating national institution to through rigorous research detect and prevent cancer diseases, among others.

By Abubakar Jimoh

As Nigerians prepared for the New Year celebrations, the nation witnessed the much awaited development from the executive arm with President Muhammadu Buhari signing into law six different bills.

The new laws which include Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot Act, Anti-Torture Act, Niger Delta Development Commission (Establishment) Amendment Act, National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (Establishment) Act, Federal Capital Appropriation Act, and Federal Capital Territory Water Board (Establishment) Act, came at the moment when the nation had shifted focus and attention from the overarching political issues that dominated the 2017, primarily for the Xmas and New Year celebrations.

This piece takes a look at specific challenges or situations that triggered the promulgation of each Act giving cognisance to some explicit provisions.

Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot Act

Given the countless number of innocent victims who have lost their lives to deliberately instituted bureaucracy with resultant rejection or delayed in treatment, the Act if effectively implemented will put to rest one of the most worrisome public health issues in Nigeria. The law addresses notable inadequacies obstructing treatment of gunshot victims leading to unnecessary loss of lives.

Apparently, at legislative level, the



President Buhari

passage of the Compulsory Treatment and Care of Victims of Gunshots Bill was fast-tracked in response to the increasingly rejections and deaths of gunshot victims by Nigeria hospitals.

While as a legal framework, the Act which was sent to the Senate for concurrence by House of Representatives, sought to ensure that all victims of gunshot wounds receive necessary treatment from medical workers and assistance from security agencies.

Whatever the drive or

consideration informing the practice of rejecting patients with gunshot wounds is indeed a pathetic admission that in Nigeria, the dignity due human life is often denied.

The awful practice which demands innocent victims who have been shot by robbers or hit by stray bullets to first secure a police report before going to the hospital for treatment has led to many avertable deaths.

Commending the legislative and the executive arms on the speedy passage of the bill and the subsequent

Presidential assent, Executive Director of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) said the law was paramount to oust cold-hearted practices and in giving a legal backing to the rapid treatment of the innocent victims of gunshot by Nigeria hospitals.

“We regret that many innocent lives have been lost through the degrading practice. It would be de-service to request police report before treating an innocent victim who undergoes varied degrees of dreadful pain. We also commend the National Assembly and Presidency for bringing the Act to the limelight.”

He added: “The Act is in agreement with Section 20 of the National Health Act 2014, which forbids a health care provider, health worker or healthcare establishment from refusing a person emergency medical treatment for any reason.”

The Executive Director however, urged the legislative and the executive arms to as well take into cognisance adequate security of lives and property from the increasingly illegal arms flow into the country to mitigate persistent gunshot in complementing the exiting efforts.

Lamenting the evils perpetrated through the practice, Olu Onemola, Aide to the Senate President, Bukola Saraki said: “Having a system in place that forces both the good and the bad people who have been shot to first request police reports before going to the hospital, makes the innocent people among them victims of circumstance; victims of the hospitals, who refuse to treat gunshot victims without police reports; victims of the police, who oftentimes do not process these requests in a speedy manner; and victims of Nigeria's current laws that make police reports mandatory for both law-abiding citizens and criminals alike.”

Also, a public health physician, Dr. Ben Akharaiye said the Act was a right step in saving Nigerians from unnecessary and preventable deaths. “The idea of waiting for police reports before treatment is an obsolete idea by our past leaders. It is in itself inhuman to say the least. Imagine the lives that have been lost in this

country because of the long wait for police report, or even an outright denial by health facilities.

“What we have continued to reiterate then was that it is most like an innocent person that is shot than armed robbers, because these robbers or assassins are the ones holding the guns. Only few of these victims are armed robbers or assassins as the case may be,” he explained.

A provision of the new law mandates every person, including security agents to render required assistance to any person with gunshot wounds. This includes ensuring that the victim is taken to the nearest hospital for adequate treatment. It preserves the fundamental rights of gunshot victims by mandating that no person with a bullet wound shall be subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment and that no person with a gunshot wound shall be refused immediate and adequate treatment by any hospital in Nigeria — whether or not an initial deposit has been paid or not.

A report by Small Arms Survey revealed that as at 2007, the number of small arms and light weapons in Nigeria were estimated at between 1 and 3 million.

While the law as a curative measure remains paramount to save lives of the victims, relevant authorities must not lose sight of the preventive and stringent holistic measures to curtail illicit arms flow into the country that paves way for persistent shooting of innocent citizens.

It would be recalled that a 2015 resolution of the United Nations Security Council noted with concern that “illicit transfer, destabilising accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world continue to pose threats to international peace and security, cause significant loss of life, and contribute to instability and insecurity.”

Anti-Torture Act

Nigerian security forces have hitherto been regarded among the crudest in the world as a result of the intentional use of excessive force and

extra-judicial killing, verbal attacks and psychological intimidation reportedly mounted on a suspect to extract confessional statements and killing of robbery suspects without judicial trial.

The Act which criminalises torture and other inhuman treatments is a turning point in the effort of government and civil society groups to check impunity and high-handedness in the society.

While commenting on torture in part of Nigerian Police, Law Mefor, a Consulting Psychologist regarded police brutality as one of several forms of police misconduct, which include false arrest, intimidation, racial profiling, political repression, surveillance abuse, sexual abuse, and police corruption.

Mefor wrote: “Police brutality is closely related to torture. Torture could actually be an extreme form of police brutality. Technically, the term ‘police brutality’ is now generically used to cover all government security agencies – police, prisons, military, name it. One aspect of torture that must engage our attention here is psychological torture, which is less well known than physical torture and tends to be subtle and much easier to conceal.

“In Nigeria, these forms of torture are everywhere you have government security agencies operating, especially the police and the prison. The police cells and prisons are punitively run in Nigeria to inflict maximum psychological damage. If it is not intended, then, it has become a huge achievement by default.”

Similarly, in August 15, 2013, a report published by the Vanguard Newspapers accused the deployed Joint Task Force—both military and police in the Northeast of widespread atrocities ranging from summary executions, arbitrary arrests and torture.

In another 2014 report titled Welcome to Hell Fire – Torture and Other Ill-treatment in Nigeria published by Amnesty International revealed that countless people have suffered, and continued to suffer torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (hereinafter ill-treatment) in the hands of the

Nigerian security forces, including the police and military.

The report observed torture and other ill-treatments as routine practices in criminal investigations in Nigeria, adding that suspects in police and military custody across the country are subjected to torture as punishment or to extract confessions as a shortcut to 'solve' cases – particularly armed robbery and murder.

According to the report, many police sections in various states, including the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) and Criminal Investigation Division (CID), have “torture chambers”: special rooms where suspects are tortured, such chamber are sometimes under the charge of an officer known informally as “O/C Torture” (Officer in Charge of Torture).

Also, in a report titled Nigeria: Navigating Secrecy in the Vetting and Selection of Peacekeepers published by CISLAC, it was revealed that sexual exploitation and abuse and human rights violations by members of the Nigeria Armed Forces have been rampant with no proactive responses by the concerned institutions to deal with the situation in a systematic manner that would win the confidence of the public.

The report notes inadequacies in the training for peacekeepers particularly the police curriculum which it regards as “severely undeveloped” with critical gaps in areas that are vital to effective policy, such as forensics and crime management, special victims, human rights and information technology.

In addition, incidents of torture are not uncommon at home, workplace

and public places. Many lives are lost to extra-judicially killings from torture with the culprits go scot-free without facing justice.

Against this background, the Anti-torture Act penalises every act of high-handedness by individuals towards their subordinates, servants, or people in custody in the case of criminal suspects under investigation.

The law protects the rights of the potential victims of such ill-treatment and would enable the punishment of the responsible individual(s), thus, ensuring there will be no impunity.

It stresses that freedom from torture is a non-derogatory right with no exceptional circumstances, whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war; internal political instability, or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for torture.

The law criminalises torture as an act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him/her or a third person information or a confession; punish a person for an act he/she or a third person has committed or is suspected to have committed.

More importantly, various provisions of the Act make it a state policy to ensure that the rights of all persons, including suspects, detainees and prisoners are respected at all times; and that no person placed under investigation or held in custody of any person in authority shall be subjected to physical harm, force, violence, threat, intimidation or any act that impairs his will.

The law listed as part of the actions

that constitute torture to include systematic beatings, head-banging, punching, kicking, striking with rifle butts, pumping on the stomach, food deprivation or forceful feeding with spoiled food, electric shock, cigarette burning, burning by electrically heated rod, hot oil, acid, forced to assume to fixed and stressful bodily position, sexual abuse and any other acts.

Niger Delta Development Commission (Establishment) Amendment Act

The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) as “an interventionist Commission” was established to address socio-economic, environmental and political problems that have engulfed the Niger Delta region.

Funding gaps are major setbacks hampering the Commission's activities. This triggered a resolution by Advisory of the Commission in September, 2014, calling for the need to urgently address the funding challenges facing the Commission so as to reposition it for better service delivery to the people of the region.

Amendment to the Act strengthens weak provisions in the Principal Act and removes obvious impediments, particularly in the area of funding and reposition the Commission to carry out its mandate effectively.

It clarifies certain provisions in the Principal Act and provides for prompt remittance of funds due to the Niger Delta Development Commission, as well as penalties for delay or default.

With provision of new subsections to ensure prompt remittances to the Commission, the Commission's financial burden will be reduced.

National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (Establishment) Act

The rising deaths from cancer related diseases in Nigeria has gained a widespread attention of the governments, individuals and stakeholders with recent available data showing accelerating rate of

More importantly, various provisions of the Act make it a state policy to ensure that the rights of all persons, including suspects, detainees and prisoners are respected at all times; and that no person placed under investigation or held in custody of any person in authority shall be subjected to physical harm, force, violence, threat, intimidation or any act that impairs his will.

cancer diseases in the last five decades.

A report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) discloses no fewer than 10,000 related deaths while about 250,000 new cases are recorded from cancer annually.

Consequently, the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (Establishment) Act was introduced to give dedicated attention to the dreadful disease through an established institution that will provide national leadership in cancer research, control and treatment; guide scientific improvements to cancer prevention, treatment and care; coordinate and liaise with the wide range of groups and healthcare providers with interest in cancer as well as make recommendations to the government about cancer policy and priorities.

The Act provides for the establishment of the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment Board with the power to erect, provide, equip and maintain research centre, training schools with state of the art facilities as are necessarily suitable for or required for any of the objects of the Institute; encourage and provide for research at the Institute; accept gifts, legacies and donations which are consistent with the objects of the Institute; enter into contract as well as acquire and hold movable and immovable property.

It also empowers the Board to create a central online database for statistical analysis to create access by both public and private individuals with a view to attracting donor agencies; establish a department of telemedicine for collaboration with peers both within and outside Nigeria.

Federal Capital Territory Water Board (Establishment) Act

Over the years, accessibility to adequate, accessible and affordable water supply remains a major challenge in some parts of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) with persistent outcries by the residents that people living in the satellite towns of Abuja lack access to potable water.

The FCT has a huge number of

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people suffering from inaccessibility to safe drinking water. With over 3.5 million population as at 2016, according to City Population, some FCT residents have reportedly resulted in buying a 20-litre-jerrycan of water from water vendors in their neighbourhoods, while others experience long queues before fetching water from nearby boreholes.

The Federal Capital Territory Water Board is the sole agency charged with the responsibility of producing and supplying potable water in the FCT. The board is faced with the challenge of making potable water accessible to the teeming residents of the city centre, satellite towns and over 800 communities.

The new law charged the FCT Water Board Establishment with the responsibility for providing safe, adequate and affordable water supply services to the residents of the FCT, Abuja.

It is also to collaborate with the other authorities responsible for water resources management to secure efficient use of water resources for the conservation and protection of the water resources of the Territory and the nation.

Apart from providing safe, adequate and affordable water supply service to the residents of FCT, based on the new law, the Board shall collaborate with the others authorities responsible for water resources management to secure efficient use of water resources for the conservation and protection of the water resources of the Territory and the nation.

Other mandates of the Board include to ensure the supply of adequate and potable water throughout the Territory at reasonable charges; management and

maintain all capital works, water services facilities and new water service assets in the Territory; identify and implement project for delivery of water supply service which may be undertaken with private sector participation; manage and maintain existing waterworks within the Territory particularly to the various Area Councils and maintaining limited supervising capacity and intervention over these Area Councils operations.

Federal Capital Appropriation Act

This Act provides for the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory the sum of N64,276,476,002 out of which N12,799,413,161 is allotted to Personnel costs and N7,599,158,687 for Overhead Costs, while the balance of N43,877,904,154 is allocated to Capital Expenditure.

Under provisions of the Act, the Director of Treasury of the Federal Capital Territory Administration may, when authorized to do so by Warrants signed by the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, pay out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the FCT during the financial year ending 31st December, 2007 the sum specified by the warrants not exceeding the aggregate of N64,276,476,002.

The Act requires amounts appropriated to be made from the Consolidated Revenue Fund only for the purposes specified in the Act with all revenue accruing to the Territory other than the Statutory revenue distribution shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory.

2018: Ekweremadu Assures On Constitution Amendment

The Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu has assured Nigerians of early conclusion of the on-going Constitution Amendment exercise to enhance better governance in the country.

He made this known in his New Year message to Nigerians, noting that the Constitution Alteration Bills currently before the State Houses of Assembly were very critical to the nation's development and therefore urged the State legislators to uphold national interest and follow their conscience by accelerating all actions on the bills.

In a statement signed by his Special Adviser on Media, Uche Anichukwu,

among the bills before the state Assemblies are bills capable of instituting saving culture by the government for the rainy day as the bills would ensure compulsory saving of 10% of revenues in the account for at least a five year period without any withdrawal from it.

"Currently before the State Assemblies are bills for compulsory saving of 10 per cent of revenues paid into the Federation Account and which must not be tampered with for at least five years in order to build a saving culture for rainy days, reduction of the period within which a President or Governor may authorise the withdrawal of monies from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in absence of an Appropriation Act or budget from six to three months, a uniform tenure of three years for local government councils, financial autonomy for State Assemblies as well as abrogation of State Joint State Local Government Account and establishment of a Consolidated State Revenue Fund from which the Assemblies and local governments would directly access their funds.

Ekweremadu also stated that the Bill for the reduction of the age qualification for the post of the

President of the federation from 40 years to 35 is also among the bills at the State Assemblies

"Others include a 30-day timeframe from the day of inauguration within which the President or Governor must submit the names of ministerial or commissioner nominees to the National Assembly or State Assemblies along with their proposed portfolios, independent candidacy, reduction of age qualification for the office of the President from 40 years to 35 years, reduction of the age qualification for the offices of House of Representatives and State Assembly from 35 to 25, and setting a timeframe for the determination of pre-election matters, among other critical electoral reforms

"We also transmitted to the State Assemblies bills for the establishment of the office of the Accountant-General of the Federal Government separate from office of the Accountant-General of the Federation as well as amendments to grant financial autonomy to the offices of the Auditor-General of the Federation and Auditor-General of the States by placing them on first-line charge of the Consolidated Revenue funds of the Federation and of the States, respectively," he said.

House Approves Stamp Duty Collection on Electronic Transfers

The House of Representatives has passed a new Stamp Duty Bill, which seeks to amend and repeal the 2004 Stamp Duty Act.

With the passage of the bill, the lawmakers have endorsed the controversial deduction of N50 from deposits into accounts with Deposit Money Banks across the country using electronic platforms.

The new bill also raised the bar for the collection of stamp duty on bank deposits from N1,000 to N3,000.

Although the 2004 Stamp Duty Act approved the fixing of N50 stamp on documents witnessing transactions worth N1,000 and above, the law became controversial when banks were directed to deduct N50 on deposits in banks of N1,000 and above.

On the strength of the 2004 Act and a circular issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria in January 2016, banks operating in the country have been deducting N50 from deposits in bank accounts across the country.

The new bill seeks not only to remove some ambiguities contained in the original Act, but also to legitimise what has been collected as stamp duty by the DMBs since January 2016.

It legitimises the recent inclusion of savings accounts as eligible for imposition of stamp duty as the CBN had in its memo on the matter excluded savings accounts for stamp duty collection.

Senate Denounces New Subsidy Regime Illegal

The Senate has described the introduction of the N26 subsidy on the pump price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) also known as petrol, as completely illegal and unwarranted.

To this extent, the senate announced its readiness to open investigation to expose the roles played by every official of government in the matter.

Speaking to journalists on the fuel crisis that has caused untold hardship on Nigerians, the Senate Committee on Petroleum (Downstream) said there was never a time that any request was brought to the National Assembly for approval in respect of the introduction of any subsidy.

It stressed that the constitution is very categorical about the fact that no money could be spent without approval by the National Assembly.

Chairman of the committee, Senator Kabiru Marafa, disclosed

that the Minister of State for Petroleum, Dr. Ibe Kachikwu, and the Group Managing Director (GMD) of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mainkanti Baru, had already been invited to answer questions on the subsidy matter.

It would be recalled Baru had earlier announced that petrol was being subsidised to the tune of N26 per litre because the landing cost is N171 per litre, saying subsidising the product is the only thing that could allow its cost to remain at its present pump price of N145 per litre.

But the Senate committee, at a press conference yesterday, said it would go to any length to stop the new subsidy, lamenting that it was sad that this administration, which came in to fight the corruption in the oil industry, has been associated with suspicious deals too.

Borno Presents N170.3Billion Budget For 2018

Governor Kashim Shettima of Borno State has presented a N170.3billion budget to the State House of Assembly, for appropriation for the 2018 fiscal year.

The Appropriation Bill, tagged: "Budget of Resettlement and Empowerment" however; dropped by 7.3 per cent or N13billion compared to last year's N183.84 billion appropriation bills.

Presenting the budget at the Assembly complex, Maiduguri, Shettima said the massive

reconstructions of institutional structures, destroyed by Boko Haram insurgency, would be accorded top most priority to enable displaced persons return to their communities.

He said that out of the total budget, recurrent expenditures stood at N61.3billion, while capital expenditures took the lion's share of N108.41billion.

On sources to fund the budget, Shettima said: "This budget is going to be financed from Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of N16.65billion, Federation Accounts Allocations (FAA)

of N115.73billion, and capital receipts of N38billion. The IGR has also been reviewed upwards to reflect the current economic situations in the state."

In the sectoral allocations of budget breakdowns, he said Education, Works and Transport sectors, took the lion shares of N26.82billion and N22.66billion respectively.

"The reconstructions and rehabilitation of these public structures and houses next year, are to create an enabling environment to return over 2.8 million displaced persons to their liberated communities on or before May 29, 2018," Shettima assured.

Constitutional Amendment:

Gombe Assembly Rejects Independent Candidacy

The Gombe State House of Assembly has rejected the amendment of the constitution that seeks to provide for independent candidates to participate in elections.

The House position followed voting on the proposals contained in the report of the House Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).

It also deferred financial autonomy for state legislatures and local government councils and three other alteration bills for public hearing.

The House however, voted in favour of the not-too-young-to-run alteration

bill along with six other alterations out of the 15 bills in the proposed amendment to the 1999 Constitution forwarded by the National Assembly.

Presenting the report on the floor of the house, the chairman of the ad hoc committee, Mr Fabulous Amos Boh, said after thorough scrutiny of the proposed amendments transmitted from the National Assembly, the committee had proposed to the house the affirmation of alteration numbers 2, 9, 15, 16, 21, 27 and 28.

He added that the House also rejected numbers 8, 14, and 24, while alteration numbers 4, 5, 6, 20 and 22 would be deferred for public hearing.

Edo Signs 2018 Budget Into Law

The Governor of Edo State, Godwin Obaseki has signed the state's 2018 appropriation bill as passed by the Edo State House of Assembly into law.

The governor signed the budget at Government House Benin City, in the presence of the Speaker of the House, Alhaji Kabiru Adjoto and other principal officers of the House.

Obaseki described the speedy passage of the Bill as remarkable, saying that it was an indication of the unity which existed between the Executive and the Legislative Arm of government since the commencement of his administration.

"We cannot express our gratitude enough as an executive arm of government for this unique and historic event of the signing of our Appropriation Bill before the end of the year. I cannot recall when this sort of thing occurred in Edo State in the last seven to eight years.

"This portends a lot of good things to come. It shows the seriousness of both arms of government and more importantly, it shows that we are working together in the interest of the people of Edo State.

"The 2018 budget which was estimated at N146 billion by the executive, was increased to N150 billion by the House of Assembly to allow for more infrastructural and agricultural projects," he said.

Obaseki said that the legislature's move to allocate N1bn to livestock production and fisheries as well as the decision to retain the about N1bn estimate for job creation in the state showed that we all appreciate the need to invest in youths and accelerate economic growth.

"I am particularly grateful that you improved our provisions for critical areas of growth, particularly agriculture," the Governor added.

RSHA Lauds Wike On Budget Implementation

The Chairman of the Rivers State House of Assembly Committee on Finance, Hon. Ehie Edison has commended the Rivers State Governor, Chief Nyesom Wike for his diligent implementation of the 2017 budget.

Edison said the successful implementation of the 2017 budget had led to massive transformation of different parts of the state.

Describing the implementation of the 2017 budget as a huge success, the Chairman said that the committee carried out its oversight functions on the budget.

Edison said: "On behalf of the 8th Rivers State House of Assembly House Committee on Finance, I thank the Rivers State Government for the successful implementation of the 2017 budget to the letter as appropriated by the Rivers State House of Assembly.

"As part of oversight, we engaged in several budgetary implementation scrutinies in all MDAs and agencies of government. We are satisfied with our findings of very detailed implementation in the release of funds and prudent management of state finances as allocated by the Rivers State House of Assembly.

"I like to take this opportunity to wish the government and people of Rivers State a Happy New Year in advance, very warm and peaceful festive celebrations," Edison added.



CISLAC and other CSOs during a rally to protest to oppose a Bill seeking the establishment of NGO Commission slated for Public Hearing on December 13th and 14th, 2017

From L-R: Kolawole Banwo, Program Manager, CISLAC; Ise Sor, Procurement Monitoring Officer, CISLAC; and Lukaman Adefolahan, Program Officer, Anti-corruption, CISLAC, during a Press Conference urging Federal Government to Step up implementation of oil and gas sector reforms in Abuja.



Participants in a group photo at one-day sensitization to educate women groups and citizens on their rights organised by CISLAC under the aegis of Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC) project in Gombe state

CISLAC Lauds Renovation of the Dilapidated Dausara Healthcare Centre

By Chioma Kanu

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) has observed and commended the on-going effort by the Kano State Government in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at renovating the dilapidated Dausara Primary Health Care Centre, in Ungogo Local Government Area of Kano state which had suffered from long-time policy neglect, rendering the facility monumentally inefficient to discharge maternal and child healthcare services.

This commendation is contained in statement signed by the Executive Director of CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) in Abuja.

The Centre recalled that in the mid-2017, CISLAC with support from Macarthur Foundation supported journalists across Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Jigawa states on field investigation to undercover and report maternal health budget allocation, release and utilisation in the respective states.

"The rigorous investigative process by the journalists in Kano state uprooted and exposed issues with alarming reports (See: Guardian Newspapers - [https://t.guardian.ng/sunday-magazine/failing-primary-](https://t.guardian.ng/sunday-magazine/failing-primary-healthcare-in-kano/)



Dosara Primary Healthcare Centre.

healthcare-in-kano/ and Daily Trust Newspapers - <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/bats-sack-workers-patients-from-kano-health-centre.html>) pointing at the ill-equipped and pitiable condition of Dausara Primary Health Care Centre that had denied pregnant mothers accessibility and rendered them hopeless seeking for desired medical attention in the community," it explained.

The statement bemoaned that the precarious situation had resulted in the death 3 pregnant women in 2016 at the facility which hosted patients from neighbouring communities like Malamawa, Hayin Rimaye, Dan

Kunkuru, Zango, Adaraye, Inusawa, Kuriwa, Dauni, amongst others.

It continued: "We find it worrisome that ill-funded and obsolete Primary Health Care facilities across the country have not only contributed to the high rate of maternal and child deaths, but also constitute the major impediments rendering the states incapacitated to effectively domesticate and implement the Primary Health Care provisions, as enshrined in the National Health Act 2014."

While applauding the initiative to save the lives of mothers and children in Dausara community, the statement urged extension and replication of such enabling provision across Primary Healthcare facilities with devised sustainable funding mechanism for the facilities to achieve their established objectives.

It further demanded appropriate monitoring and oversight on health care workers to ensure full presence and total compliance to medical codes of conduct to restore confidence in citizens and improve attendance at health facilities in the state.

The precarious situation had resulted in the death 3 pregnant women in 2016 at the facility which hosted patients from neighbouring communities like Malamawa, Hayin Rimaye, Dan Kunkuru, Zango, Adaraye, Inusawa, Kuriwa, Dauni, amongst others.

Women Bleed to Death Over Poor Access to Healthcare

- Fatimah Isah, from Gwiwa LGA of Jigawa state bled to death following pregnancy complications.
- Fatima was unable to access quality healthcare during pregnancy and delivery.

By Chioma Umeha

As a teenager, she suffered pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, no thanks to pro-longed labour. Fatima developed the condition as a result of labour that lasted for two weeks.

She was sent to her parents' home at seven months pregnancy. Caught in the web of tradition, Fatima could not attend antenatal care in the hospital, because her parents wanted her to deliver in the house.

Fatima was faced with traditional constraint in seeking care and by the time the family consented, she had been in labour two weeks. Her husband later took her on motorcycle to a specialist hospital in the State that was two miles away. She underwent a Caesarian Section, but, despite efforts by the medical doctors at the hospital, she came down with pre-eclampsia and eclampsia. She later bled to death, but her baby survived.

Fatima's mother narrated: "Newly married women who are pregnant for the first time often stay with their mothers when they are in their seventh month. It is our tradition. This tradition is very important because the specialist hospital to this place is two miles away.

"Another thing is that there is no transport to go to the health centre or any other health facility. You hardly see any doctor to attend to you at the nearby primary healthcare centre. I tried my best with other experienced women, even traditional birth attendants, but my daughter's case was difficult. She suffered and bled to death before we could arrive at the hospital."

The case of Zanaib Usman from Tankarkar LGA of Jigawa, is not different. Zanaib also went into

labour, while at home and was rushed to the hospital for delivery. For days, Zara remained in labour.

Though Zanaib later had normal delivery, she also bled to death due to prolonged labour. Zanaib was not lucky as Fatima because her baby died.

At the end of the two weeks, Zanaib was faced with one of the established factors that contribute to high rate of maternal and infant mortality in the country, bad road. Navigating through the pot holes on a motorcycle Zanaib's bleeding got worst.

Fatima and Zanaib are among hundreds of Jigawa women who suffer and die due to pregnancy complications.

Jigawa State was among the six states in the country where the Federal Government recently deployed a task force to coordinate strategies for reducing pregnancy-related deaths among women.

Commenting, Prof Isaac Adewole, Minister of Health, said that the 36-member task force was set up to focus on six States of the country with the

highest maternal mortality cases.

He said that the States had been found to have the worst maternal health indicators, using Skilled Birth Attendance Rate (SBAs) as a proxy indicator.

They are Yobe, 10.2 per cent; Kebbi, 9.3 per cent; Katsina, 7.7 per cent; Jigawa, 7.6 per cent; Zamfara, 6.1 per cent; and Sokoto, 5.4 per cent.

The Minister at the inauguration of the task force recently, in Abuja, said the government intends to bring focus on maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in the country, with the slogan: "No Woman Should Die Giving Birth."

Mr. Adewole, a professor of gynaecology, lamenting the high prevalence of MMR in Nigeria as shown in the Skilled Birth Attendants (SBAs) proxy indicator in which Jigawa ranked fourth after Katsina in the list of six States of the country with the highest maternal mortality cases.

With less than six million populations, Jigawa records no fewer than 1100 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, in addition to non-documented maternal deaths in the State since 2007.

The health performance indicators of Jigawa state from the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey



Some health facilities in Jigawa State.

(NDHS) 2008 and 2013 as well as Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2011 confirmed the figures.

Also statistics from both NDHS 2008 and MICS 2011 listed that inadequate health care workers and their absence, even unethical attitudes in some facilities are among the endemic challenges worsening the State's maternal health indices.

According to the survey, the doctor – population and nurse/midwife – population ratios in the State were reported to be 1:32,134 and 1:8,333 respectively.

“Critical health manpower in the state including doctors, nurses, midwives are seriously lacking,” the survey stated. It added transportation as a widespread challenge that is confronting accessibility and discouraging attendance at health facilities in the State.

The health sector in the country is bloated with lower cadre non-essential staff with few specialised manpower. For instance, the WHO recommended doctor patient ratio is 1:600, in Nigeria it is 1:3,500, but in Jigawa, it is 1:32,000. Despite this, the health sector has very high wage bill of over N730 million per month.

Lamenting the situation in 2015 in a presentation tagged, 'Health Sector Plan and Strategy,' Dr. Abba Zakari Umar, Commissioner Health, said; “The health sector in the state has undergone reform over the last decade. Strategic plans developed, annual operational plan and MTSS developed and the Gunduma health system established.

“These reforms did not however translate to significant changes in state performance indicators. Child and infant mortality are still high. There is need for urgent review of the Health Sector Reform and repositioning the sector.”

Dr Umar also said, “There are over 600 public health service delivery outlets in the state but services delivered are mostly of poor quality with limited reach. Health ethics are poorly followed and facilities are poorly managed and understaffed.”

He further regretted that only 50 per cent of these people have access to health care.

“
The health sector in
the country is bloated
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manpower.
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The Commissioner therefore noted that the best way to reach the people which have 91 per cent of them living in rural areas is through robust Primary Health Care System which ensures deep penetration of rural communities.

In a related development, a study conducted by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) further highlighted the gory picture of maternal rate in the State and put the rate of eclampsia at 73, while Anemia, 38 per cent; Hemorrhage, 33 and Puerperal sepsis was 21.

The Law establishing Jigawa State Primary Health Care Development Agency was signed into law by Governor Badaru Abubakar, to pave way for the agency to access the 15 per cent provision from the one per cent Consolidate Revenue Fund for the provision and maintenance of Primary Health Care facilities, as enshrined under Section 11 (3)(c) of the National Health Act 2014.

While Jigawa State Government in 2009 created a separate budget line item for Free Maternal and Child Health services, the State's Free Maternal and Child Healthcare (FMNCH) Bill is presently awaiting passage into legislation.

However, findings by INDEPENDENT showed that the health sector has and allocation of N16,995,868,000 that is 13.1 per cent of the N129,870,000,000 of the State's 2017 Budget.

The budget for FMNCH is N15 million monthly, but it was increased to N75 million monthly and was expected to commence from October

last year, according to INDEPENDENT findings.

While MNCH2 a DFID programme is supporting 162 Facility all of which are primary health facilities.

However, 13 Secondary and 11 comprehensive health facilities that are offering FMNCH services were receiving from the 15 million monthly budgets until October this year when it was increased to N75 million.

The Free maternal and newborn child health (FMNCH) is the programme that gives free drugs and services to pregnant mothers from conception to 40 days after delivery and also to children's under five years.

INDEPENDENT further discovered that overstretched health care facilities and high patients-to-midwife ratio are contributing challenges to effective maternal and child health care service in Jigawa State.

Therefore, the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) after a meeting with members of the State Ministry of Health recently, made some key recommendations to reduce high maternal and child deaths in the State.

These include; appropriate monitoring and oversight on health care workers to ensure their full presence and total compliance to medical codes of conduct to restore confidence in women and improve attendance at health facilities in Jigawa state.

According to CISLAC, there is need for provision of adequate means of transportation to mitigate challenges confronting emergency movement and accessibility to the health facilities.

The organisation further recommended appropriate awareness and sensitisation through constructive and evidence-based advocacy by the State's civil society and media to drive required policy and legislative interventions on the citizens' maternal and child health care needs, especially in the grassroots.

Source: Independent Newspapers

Implementation of Economic Plan will Boost the Economy

– *Rafsanjani*

The Executive Director of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, Auwal Ibrahim Musa Rafsanjani spoke with select journalists, saying if the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan is religiously implemented it will resuscitate the economy. Jonathan Eze of *ThisDay* Newspapers brings the excerpts:

What is your position on the federal government's economic recovery and growth plan?

I commend the federal government for releasing the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), which should provide some degree of policy certainty to domestic and foreign stakeholders on the policy direction of the Nigerian government for our economy. I appreciate the fact that the ERGP was produced through a process that involved consultations with the private sector and hope such consultative posture would be sustained. I share in the broad principles behind the plan – tackling constraints to growth, particularly fuel, power, unfriendly regulations, and foreign currency; leveraging the power of the private sector, promoting national cohesion and social inclusion and allowing markets to work.

I also support some specific initiatives and targets stated in the document including the desire to increase oil production to 2.5million barrels per day by 2020; privatisation of specific enterprises and assets; reducing petrol importation by 60 per cent; building a globally competitive economy; and improving infrastructure and the overall business environment. I urge government to ensure a focused, concerted and effective implementation of all the actions and initiatives contained in the ERGP so that the benefits may quickly accrue to the economy, businesses and citizens, and the nation as a whole.

What are the immediate measures the government can take to instill business confidence among Nigerian manufacturers?

I think that government should address the infrastructural challenges facing the nation's manufacturing sector so that all of us can operate at the same level in this country, which will enhance investment drive. Those challenges need to be addressed squarely to move the industry forward, rather than, the diversification programme of the federal



government.

Today, we know that power supply in this country is nothing to write home about. So, there is need for government to do something in that area to ensure that there is adequate power supply in the country. We cannot move our goods from one part of the country to the others specifically, the heavy ones via road transport. We need to develop a robust rail transport network in the country. Even though, the rail networks we have in this country currently are not well-maintained as they need to be maintained properly.

A situation whereby average interest rate in this country hovers around 23 per cent is not acceptable. It does not support manufacturing or investment growth. So, we believe that there is need for government to do something in trying to bring the interest rate regime down to three or five per cent as it is obtained in other clime. Until that is done, the whole programme of diversification of the economy will not work. We think something needs to do something on the multiple taxation issue in the system too. I think government should address that area as there is need to harmonise all the taxes. This was started in 2012-2013, but the gazette is yet to come out. This administration should dust up that recommendation and do something about it.

Given the current economic conditions and the inseparable link between investment and risk, is this a good time to invest?

Absolutely. Institutions and individuals in Nigeria are going through some of the most difficult economic times on record and more than ever need to create buffers to enable them weather the storm. Some of the quick actions to take

include cutting excesses, reducing debt and saving more amongst a number of other useful measures. Spending less and saving more is a simple step towards sustainability and preparing for the unexpected such as rising prices, job losses, or having to support more family members or others in need. Also, asset prices during downturns and recessions tend to be much more compelling than during boom periods so those that have the discipline to save, end up making some of the best investments over time.

Should government completely divest from ventures and leave every economic activity to private sector operators?

That sounds good, but at our level of development and poor capital capacity per capita, there is still a role for government in mentoring economic activities and setting up cluster economic zones. India, China, Malaysia, Brazil and even United Kingdom and others continue to have some state enterprises as take-off points, examples and models to be replicated by the private sector. No doubt, government should create a fair regulatory regime, set standards, operating as an incentive to investors and operators.

Government can help with insurance schemes, crop storage facilities located strategically for preservation; develop local and international market through bilateral networks. The West African and larger African market is still not fully tapped into by Nigeria. These are the things that both local and State Governments must be challenged to come back into. They must think seriously about development. Nigerians must go back to agriculture and diversify the economy

Talking about youth migration and jobs, is this something that you feel the Nigerian Government and other world leaders have understood that by transforming these rural spaces they can create jobs?

I will say leaders of today, the Nigerian Government and other world leaders are beginning to understand it. Why are they beginning to understand it? It is because they can now see the massive impact of rural migration. And this can be generated or caused by the impact of climate change, extreme droughts that devastate their farms, their livelihoods and they have no other choice than to migrate into the urban cities.

This can be because there are political events that cause migration of the rural people. I always say that what happens in Nigeria today, when most of the talented youths travel to Europe and other parts of the world for greener pastures because of lack of jobs, reverberates in London and Paris and Washington and Berlin.

It is no longer an isolated issue because it affects the global dynamics. And we need to advise ourselves that the whole issue of youth today is all linked with the gross instability, the gross inequalities between the urban and rural space.

Do you think agriculture alone can transform the economy of this country?

Agriculture is a base. Once you start processing agric product, it is no longer agriculture, it is manufacturing, so it is a question of agriculture is one of the basic things because

you can export agric produce totally on processed ones. It is good enough, but agriculture would provide the basic for all other things to follow.

The minister of agriculture has presented the 'Green Alternative' a roadmap for the agricultural sector to the Federal Executive Council, how can the policy be realised and do you see government working the talk?

There has never been a shortage of good intentions in this country. If you know the amount of studies that are available in this country, you will be amazed, but the question is implementation. So, if the minister gives a roadmap what, are the implementation criteria, where does he involve the private sector to buy into government programmes because the government does not make money? Where the government tries to run any business, it would be a disaster because there is no profit motive, so when they have such projects in other countries in the world, they will be talking to the bodies particularly private bodies, organised private sector to work with government to see how we can help them implement it.

Tell us how global campaign on food security can be achievable in the world?

Hunger is a complex problem, exacerbated by financial pressures, volatile commodity prices, natural disasters, and civil wars. But, we could take an enormous step towards winning the global campaign against malnutrition, simply by investing in improved infrastructure and in agricultural research and development.

This is because one-quarter of all the food in the world is lost each year, owing to inefficient harvesting, inadequate storage, and wastage in the kitchen. Halve that waste, and the world could feed an extra billion people and make hunger yesterday's problem. The extent of food loss is particularly galling in view of a new global study on food security from the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation.

According to the FAO, 57 developing countries have failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of hungry people by this year. One in every nine people on the planet – 795 million in all – still goes to sleep hungry.

Of course, there has also been remarkable progress. Over the last 25 years, the world has fed an extra two billion people, and – for all the 57 failures – the developing world as a whole has almost halved its hunger rate. But, the challenge is to sustain the progress: by 2050, demand for food will have nearly doubled. One reason is that by then the world will have added another two billion mouths to feed; a second reason will be the growing appetite of a surging new middle class. At the moment, the United Nations (UN) is considering 169 new development targets to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (hunger is one target area, among many). These targets are vitally important, because they will determine how more than \$2.5 trillion in development money is spent on everything from climate change to malaria.

Source: ThisDay Newspapers

Humanitarian Crisis: CISLAC Charges the Media on Accurate Reportage



Participants in a group photo at the Dialogue

By Austin Eramah

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) has urged the media on accurate and effective public and policy sensitisation on issues bothering the passage, assent and implementation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Policy to alleviate the plights of the IDPs in the country.

Making this call at the recently concluded Media Dialogue session in Calabar, Cross Rivers state, the Executive Director of CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) represented by Program Manager, Democratic Governance, Okeke Anya, said the increasing humanitarian crisis in the South-South region with apparent capacity gaps by media practitioners to accurately cover and report on related issues had informed the need for the Dialogue.

He commended relevant authorities in the state for their continued support for affected persons in the wake of crisis including the hundreds of thousands of IDPs in the Bakassi region and the on-going influx of Refugees who flee violence and persecution in Southern Cameroun.

Also, speaking at the Dialogue, Assistant Liaison Officer of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Samuel Agwa observed that the Dialogue was held at a very important period where the humanitarian community in the region faces a complex situation with Refugees streaming in from Cameroun.

“It is on this note that the UNHCR has been conducting majority of its activities and supporting the National Commission for Refugees (NCFR) towards successful operations in profiling Refugees and other Returnees,” he added.

The Assistant Liaison Officer acknowledged and lauded sustained collaboration between the UNHCR and CISLAC, stating that the partnership would enhance collective advocacy for introduction and effective implementation of relevant frameworks for the protection and assistance of IDPs and other Persons of Concern in the country.

Meanwhile, the participants bemoaned the accelerating rate of inaccuracies associating with media reportage in conflict and humanitarian issues across some affected

communities in the state like Ikom, Obubra, Boki, Yala and others with observed tendency to aggravating conflict.

They therefore, recommended information sharing amongst media practitioners to enable the best available channel(s) break certain sensitive/critical news; effective partnerships for promoting credibility in reportage, building a community of practice in the context of humanitarian reporting; capacity development and training workshops on conflict sensitivity reporting; adequate resources for independent/investigative reports; improved efficiency of State Emergency Agency for improved efficiency of the Agency; follow-up with coverage of the proposed humanitarian legislation in the State House of Assembly; appropriate linkage of Justice Sector with humanitarian context.

The dialogue played host to practitioners from both electronic and print media with specific focus on improving the capacity of practitioners and quality of reportage within the humanitarian context.

Group Urges FG To Step-up Implementation Of Oil And Gas Sector Reforms

By Kolawole Banwo

A group of civil society working on transparency and accountability in the extractive sector also known as Accountability in the Extractive Sector (AES) Cluster under the aegis of the Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement (SACE) project has urged the Federal Government to step up its implementation of the reforms in the oil and gas sector.

The group made this call during a press conference held recently in Abuja.

It said the Federal Government under the present administration had committed to the implementation reforms to enhance transparency, accountability and efficiency in the oil and gas sector.

"This included the Short and Medium Term Priorities to grow Nigeria's Oil & Gas Industry 2015–2019 conveniently called 7 Big Wins which was unveiled in October 2016 by the President with much fanfare and media hype.

"There were also sector specific commitments in the National Action Plan of the Open Government Partnership. This is in addition to the already established subscription to the EITI principles and standards through the NEITI since 2007.

"We note that in the 7 Big Wins, the government committed to collaborating with the National Assembly to conclude and pass the Petroleum Industry Reform Bill and Petroleum Fiscal Reform Bill by December 2016 and draft new regulations consistent with it," the group explained.

It bemoaned non-fulfilment of relevant commitments including 7 Big Wins, one year past the time line in spite the N100 Million budgeted for the purpose in 2017.

"We find it strange that despite making it a promise during the

Reiterating disappointment over the Federal Government's inaction, the group condemned wastefulness, opacity and purposeless that characterise the use of resources at sub-national levels, narrating the ill-mannered approach in which governments of oil producing states earning 13% derivation transfers from the federation account.

campaign and with repeated pronouncements by both the executive and the legislature that is dominated by the same party, the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) remains elusive with barely one year left in the life of this administration.

"We are concerned that another N120 Million is proposed in 2018 budget for the passage of the PIB, even when there is not a sign of the executive making any visible efforts toward the drafting of a Bill.

"We observe with scepticism the intent behind the proposal to expend N610 Million for the implementation of the 7 Big Wins, including the sum of N200 Million for Oil and Gas Reforms in 2018.

"While we acknowledge that petroleum and gas policies have been developed in furtherance of the 7 Big Wins, we consider this to be marginal progress, considering that more far-reaching actions such as the clean-up of Ogoniland and establishing sufficient mechanisms of public disclosure of operations and financials are only being scratched in the surface.

"We lament that we are approaching the year 2018 and with elections already set for February 2019, leaving this government with

practically six (6) months of governance, it is becoming glaring that the 7 Big Wins may end up as another reform cloud that bears no rain," the group lamented.

Reiterating disappointment over the Federal Government's inaction, the group condemned wastefulness, opacity and purposeless that characterise the use of resources at sub-national levels, narrating the ill-mannered approach in which governments of oil producing states earning 13% derivation transfers from the federation account.

It called on the Ministry of Petroleum Resources to undertake an evaluation of its performance in the implementation of the 7 Big Wins with a bid to developing a responsive and result oriented implementation plan that recognises the urgency brought about by the little time left of this administration and expedite the process of implementation.

The group also called on the executive and the legislature to close ranks and expedite the passage of the PIB in all its ramifications to provide clarity and certainty and attract the needed investment into the sector.

"We call on the Ministry of Justice to expedite progress on the needed

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CISLAC Condemns Attack on Magu's Farmhouse

By Onyekachi Eke

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) also the National Contact for Transparency International has condemned the recent attack on the Acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Ibrahim Magu, and the resultant death of a policeman, who was part of security apparatus attached to the Acting Chairman.

This denunciation is contained in a statement signed by the Executive Director, CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) in Abuja, recalling that the latest attack would mark the second dreaded attack on the EFCC's facilities following the previous one reported in Abuja on the 16th August, 2017.

It recounted: "It would be recalled that the EFCC facilities was attacked on the 16th of August 2017 by unknown armed group with death threats issued against the Commission's operatives.

"In June also, an operative in the Fraud Section was also attacked in Port Harcourt and CISLAC also issued a press statement expressing concern over the emerging trend



Magu

where officials are singled out as targets in the course of their duty and service to the nation.

"This second attack on the acting chairman's farmhouse located at Kirshi, FCT, and barely 48 hours after his declaration that the anti-corruption war will be a do-or-die affair, further proves that there are unscrupulous elements, mostly Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs), averse to the anti-corruption fight."

Expressing concern over the death of policeman and the threat to life of anti-corruption crusaders, CISLAC was confident that no amount of

undemocratic moves or pressures would suppress the ongoing anti-corruption war in the country, urging the Acting Chairman and the Commission's operatives not to succumb to threat or intimidation by any person or group.

While reiterating its commitment to the anti-corruption drive in Nigeria, CISLAC encouraged well-meaning and law-abiding citizens, civil society and the media to irrespective of their ethno-religious identity "stand their ground and support the fight against corruption".

frameworks that will ensure that the declaration of beneficial ownership becomes mandatory in line with Nigeria's OGP commitments.

"We call on the National Assembly to institutionalise the practice of debating the report of the NEITI in plenary and following through with

effective oversight to ensure that its recommendations are implemented.

We call on the governments of all oil producing state to be prudent, open, transparent in the management of the 13% derivation fund received from the federation account and devise an inclusive way of expending it for people oriented development in their respective states. The AES cluster further calls on the Federal Government to ensure that resources are made available to the NEITI to conduct the Fiscal Allocation and Statutory Disbursement Audit for citizens to see how governments in their states have been applying their commonwealth," it requested.

The group also called on the executive and the legislature to close ranks and expedite the passage of the PIB in all its ramifications to provide clarity and certainty and attract the needed investment into the sector.

Understating The Socio-Economic Impacts of Malnutrition

Childhood malnutrition remains a neglected but global scourge arising from inadequate food and poor nutrition status with resultant death of ...under-5 in Nigeria. In this piece GLORIA CHINYERE OKWU observes the socio-economic impacts of malnutrition in Nigeria, while acknowledging the recent global trend to eradicate hunger and combat malnutrition in all ramifications that brought to the limelight, Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) Goal as an opportunity revert the unfavourable indices.

Malnutrition has been described as a major contributory threat to the survival of under-5 globally with nearly half of 1 million deaths of children under-5 are attributed to malnutrition. An estimated 53% of child deaths in Nigeria has basis of malnutrition problem, and children from the poor economic quartile suffer the severe impacts of malnutrition.

It depicts absence of some important nutrients the body needs for proper functioning, and an imbalance between the body and the nutrients it gets. It includes over-nutrition and under-nutrition.

Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM) is a type of malnutrition that reflects in lack of protein and glucose, typical in most hunger striking areas

in the world and very lethal.

Another pattern of malnutrition is Micro Nutrient Deficiency, where food does not meet the body requirements for its lack of appropriate vitamins and minerals, also called Hidden Hunger.

Similarly, the World Health Organisation (WHO) discloses that deficiencies in iron, vitamin A, and zinc rank among the top 10 leading causes of death from diseases in developing countries.

A report by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reveals a growing trend of people living with hunger in the world from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016.

The global effort to eradicate hunger and combat malnutrition in all ramifications brought to the fore in

September 2016, the adoption and ratification of Goal 2 of the SDGs, which aimed at ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

While malnutrition may or may not lead to death, it poses a serious damage to physical, cognitive development and performance of the children. It also contributes to high rate of maternal and child mortality.

In 2014, a report by the World Bank attributes 10% loss at income level to individuals who are malnourished, in their early years with propensity to lose more in lifetime earnings; and many countries lose at least 2 - 3% of their GDP to malnutrition. It also places heavy burden of government budget for health care.

Therefore, in order to combat malnutrition, CISLAC has through various policy engagements across the country recommended optimal nutrition status to secure lives and healthy living, enhance mental and physical growth and effective performance; adequate consumption of required foods classes, appropriate and exclusive breastfeeding to avoid under-nutrition status at all levels; effective cognitive and educational development through maternal and child early nutrition intake; massive community sensitization on exclusive breastfeeding and family planning.

Others include adequate training and retraining programmes for the states' nutrition officers and adequate legislative oversight to ensure accountability and improves budgetary performance on nutrition at all levels; effective domestication and implementation of National Strategic Plan of Action Nutrition by the executive arm of government; and appropriate tracking and monitoring of budgetary allocation and utilisation on nutrition by civil society groups.



Malnourished children. Picture: ©Africa News

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11	HB 1263	Federal Polytechnic, Abiriba	2017	First Reading	Hon. Nkole U. Ndukwe
12	HB 1217	A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Polytechnic, Koko, Delta State, to Provide Full Time Courses, Teaching Instructions and Training in Technology, Applied Science, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management: and for Related Matter	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Daniel Oritsegbemi Reyenieju
13	HB 1218	A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Akwete, Abia State to provide Full Time Courses, Teaching Instructions and Training in Technology, Applied Sciences Arts, Sciences, Humanities and Management: and for Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta
14	HB 1172	A Bill for an Act to Establish Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine; and for Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. James Abiodun Faleke
15	HBs 961 and 1095	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, Cap.B3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004 to Mandate Banks and other financial Institutions in Nigeria to state in writing, all charges and fees accruing to any Transaction in the Banks; and to repeal and Re-enact the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2017; and for Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Jones Chukwudi Onyereri, Hon. Betty Apiafi
16	HBs 875 and 1047	A Bill for an Act to Amend the National ORIENTATION Agency Act,Cap.N64, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004 to Provide an Operational Framework for the global Initiative for Harmony Corps to Promote Inter-Ethnic Integration, Mediation, Peace Building, Mutual Understanding, Patriotism for Peaceful Co-existence and by including a Representative of the Traditional Institution and the Youth Council in the Membership of the Board of the Agency; and for Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Lovette Idisi Ederin and Hon. Ehiozuwa Agbonayinma
17	HB 1252	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Niger Delta Commission (Establishment, etc.)Act,2000 and for Other Related Matters Connected Therewith	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa
18	HB 1253	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,1999(Alteration)Bill	2017	First Reading	Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji
19	HB 1254	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, (Alteration) Bill	2017	First Reading	Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta
20	HB 1255	Abuja Broadcasting Corporation (Establishment,etc) Bill	2017	First Reading	Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta
21	SB 584	Chartered Institute of Forensic and Investigative Auditors in Nigeria(Est,etc) Bill	2017	First Reading	Sen. Ahmed I. Lawan
22	SB 555	FCT Property and Conveyancy Bill	2017	First Reading	Sen. Sani Mustapha
23	SB 588	Agriculture Industry and Modernisation Bill	2017	First Reading	Sen. Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi
24	SB 589	Federal Referral Hospital (Est, etc)Bill	2017	First Reading	Sen. Adamu Aliero
25	SB 590	National Health Commission (Est,etc) Bill	2017	First Reading	Sen.nOlarenwaju Tejuoso

26	SB 591	FCT College of Nursing and Midwifery Bill	2017	First Reading	Sen. Philips Aduda
27	SB 575	Export Prohibition Act CAP E22 LFN 2004 (Repeal)	2017	First Reading	Sen. Sabo Mohammed
28	SB 528	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Polytechnic Mpu, Enugu to provide full time courses in technology, applied science, management and other fields and to make Provisions for the general administrations od such polytechnic	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Ike Ekwerendu
29	SB 572	A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Centre for Disease and Prevention (NCDC)and for Matters connected Therewith	2017	Second Reading	Senate Leader
30	SB 572	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)Act CAP N123 LFN 2004 and for other connected Matters Therewith	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Ahmadu Abubakar and others
31	SB 577	National Bio Safety Management Agency Act	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Yahaya A. Abdullahi
32	SB 584	Medical and Dental Practitioners Act No23 1988	2017	First Reading	Sen. Nelson Effiong
33	SB 585	Chemical Weapon (Prohibition)	2017	First Reading	Sen. Robert Ajayi Borroffice
34	HB 364 & 656	Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (Establishment)Bill	2017	First Reading	Senate Leader
35	SB 556	National Youth Service Corps Act (Amendment) Bill	2017	First Reading	Sen. Emmanuel Bwacha
36	SB 581	Chartered Institute of Forensic Accountants of Nigeria Bill	2017	First Reading	Sen. Dino Melaye
37	SB 587	Investment Assurances Bill	2017	First Reading	Sen. Stella Oduwa
38	SB 579	Nigerian Coast Guards (Est, etc) Bill	2017	First Reading	Sen. Yele Omogunwa
39	SB 451	A Bill for an Act to Promote the Protection of Personal Information Processed by Public and Private Bodies; to Introduce Information Protection Principles as to establish Minimum Requirements for the Processing of Personal Information and other related Matters	2017	Second reading	Sen. Stella Oduah
39	SB 519	A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal College of Education (Technical) Arochukwu and for other Matters connected therewith	2017	Second Reading	Sen Mao A. Ohabunwa
40	SB 499	A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Task Force on Revenue Defaulters Piracy and National Heritage Protection and other Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Samuel N. Anyanwu
41	SB 277	A Bill for an Act to Provide free Integrated Maternal, New born and Child Health Care, Programme for Women and Children in all Government controlled medical facilities and for Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Sen. Umar I. Kurfi

BILLS UPDATE (DECEMBER, 2017)

Compiled by CISLAC

S/N	BILL NO	BILL NAME	YEAR	STAGE	SPONSOR(S)
1	HB 1021	A Bill for an Act to Establish a Regulatory Framework for Water Resources Sector in Nigeria, provide for Equitable and Sustainable Development, Management, Use and conservation of Nigeria's surface water and Ground water resources.	2017	Third	Hon. Femi Gbajabimila
2	HB 490	A Bill for an ACT to provide for the Protection of Human Rights Online, to protect Internet Users in Nigeria from Infringement of their Fundamental Human Rights and to Guarantee Application of Human Rights for Users of Digital Platforms and or Digital Media: and for Related Matters	2017	Third	Hon. Femi Gbajabimila
3	HB 1239	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Entrepreneurs to Regulate and Control the Practice of Entrepreneurship in Nigeria; and for Related Matters	2017	Second	Hon. Femi Gbajabimila
4	HB 1213	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Hydro Electric Power Production Areas Development Commission, 2010 to make Provision for Reduction on Percentage Generated by any Company or Authority from the Operations of Hydro Electric Dams; and for Related Matters.	2017	Second	Hon. Femi Gbajabimila
5	HB 1161	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University, Birnin-Kebbi, Kebbi State to ensure Equity to Tertiary Education in the Country, the University is a Conventional University with Restricted and Limited programmes and Focused Facilities; and for Related Matters	2017	Second	Hon. Abdullahi Umar Faruk
6	HB 830	A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Protection of the Identity of Officers, Agents, Sources of Information and Methods of Operation of National Security Agencies from Unlawful Disclosure; and to Protect their Establishment, Facilities and Equipment against Unauthorized Access and to Provide for the Promotion and Enhancement of National Security; and for Related Matters	2017	Third	Hon. Femi Gbajabimila
7	HB 1082	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit as the Central Body in Nigeria Responsible for Receiving, Requesting Analyzing and Disseminating Financial Intelligence Report and other Information to Law Enforcement, Security and Intelligence Agencies and Other Related Matters	2017	Third	Hon. Femi Gbajabimila
8	HB 1216	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Provisions of the Federal College of Education, Jama'Are, Bauchi State to Provide Full Time Courses, Teaching Instructions and Training in Technology, Applied Sciences, Humanities and Management: and for Related Matters	2017	Second Reading	Hon. Isah Hassan Mohammed
9	HB 1261	Physically Challenged (Empowerment) Bill	2017	First Reading	Hon. Femi Gbajabimila
10	HB 1262	Nigerian Civil Defence University, Azare (Establishment)	2017	First Reading	Hon. Ibrahim Mohammed Baba

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