



# Legislative Digest

A PUBLICATION OF CISLAC



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*Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) (Executive Director of CISLAC) flanked to his left by Barr. Adeshina Oke (Member of the Board of CISLAC); Salaudeen Hashim, Snr. Program Officer (Peace, Security, Migration and IDPs); and Austin Erameh, Program Officer; and to his right by Lukman Adefolahan, Program Officer (Anti-Corruption, Extractive and Conservation of Nature); Okeke Anya (Program Manager, Democratic Governance); Abimbola Okoilu-Miro (Office Manager), CISLAC after the 'ICON of Community Development Award' bestowed on the Executive Director by Arewa Students Forum in Abuja.*

## Group Uncovers Deliberate Bureaucracy To Frustrate Humanitarian Reporting

By Austin Erameh

A group of civil society has described as a serious setback to media coverage and reporting on humanitarian

corruption, the persistent victimisation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by camp officers and security operatives, especially in the North Eastern part of the country.

The group led by the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
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Rafsanjani Bags '2018 ICON OF Community Development Award' - P. 9

Presidential Panel Indicted in \$44m Scandal - P. 14

Reps Laud CISLAC on Amendment to Tobacco Control Act - P. 16

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 processes through supporting the passage of extractive industry initiative laws in these countries. CISLAC has also undertaken capacity building for legislators, CSOs and Media on policy engagements in the above countries.

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

## GOAL

To make 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.

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE

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

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

### Head Office, Abuja:

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# Still on the Outstanding PIG Bills

**T**he Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) commends the House of Representatives for the recent passage of the much awaited Petroleum Industry and Governance Bill (PIGB).

While we welcome and applaud the passage, we find such development worthy of commendation as it will, to appreciable extent, promote transparency, accountability and governance, as well as curtail monumental financial losses in our nation's oil and gas sector.

We are not unaware that the passage, which aims primarily at the restructuring and reformation of the nation's oil and gas sector has set the pace for unbundling of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to establishing independence agency for effective operationalization and regulation of the sector and merger of its subsidiaries into an entity for appropriate supervision and coordination.

We recall that both the House and the Senate passed the PIGB for a second reading in June 2017 after which the leadership of the House set up the ad hoc committee headed by Chief Whip of the House, Hon. Al-hassan Ado Doguwa, to conduct Public Hearing for stakeholders' inputs to fine-tune the bill.

We are pleased that the passage is in line with

overarching recommendations made by CISLAC during an engagement with the House's Ad hoc Committee on PIGB in October 2017, with subsequent commitments by the Committee to get it passed - along with other outstanding PIG Bills, before the end of their tenure. We believe this passage comes in fulfilment of the commitments.

Considering other outstanding Bills that are paramount to the existence and composition of PIGB, such as those related to the host communities and fiscal issues in the sector that have passed through second reading in the House, we call for sustained efforts and commitments to fast track their passage.

We understand that with this development, the PIGB has approached a stage awaiting consideration for appropriate harmonisation with that of the Senate to sail the adopted version for Presidential assent.

We call on both chambers of the National Assembly to hold a joint session to accelerate the harmonisation process of the two versions passed for timely presidential assent.

We also commend the civil society groups, media and other stakeholders for their persistent engagements to ensure the passage and assent of the PIGB is brought to the limelight.



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## Group Uncovers Deliberate Bureaucracy To Frustrate Humanitarian Reporting

*Continued from page 1*

(UNHCR) made this disclosure at a recent 'North-East Media Dialogue on Internal Displacement' held in Adamawa state under the aegis of Embassy of Switzerland's supported project.

It expressed concern over deliberately established bureaucracy by security agencies to impede accessibility and effort to ascertain and report the true humanitarian situation in the Camps.

The group observed the reported increased respect for dignity and human rights of the IDPs as nothing but a mere cover-up to perpetuate corrupt practices, adding that the existing absence of a regulatory framework guiding humanitarian response with apparent ad-hoc provision of protection and assistance services has further exacerbated abuse of the system.

Earlier in his opening remarks, the Executive Director of CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) represented by Okeke Anya, Program Manager, Democratic Governance, CISLAC had called for increased accuracy and accountability in media coverage and reportage on humanitarian issues, while identifying media as a critical stakeholder at various stages of humanitarian response.

On related development, the Chairman, Adamawa State Planning Commission, Engr. Amin Luto has called for inclusion of tracking and evaluation system in the CISLAC-proposed framework for improving humanitarian response, to assess the overall impact of humanitarian response in the North East region.

The Chairman made the call while receiving a Civil Society



*Austin Erameh, Program Officer, Democratic Governance, CISLAC (left) during an advocacy visit to Hon. Sani Zorro, Chairman House Committee on IDPs and North East Initiatives at National Assembly Complex in Abuja.*

delegation led by the Program Manager, Democratic Governance, CISLAC during an advocacy visit to the Commission in Yola, Adamawa state.

“

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While acknowledging the influx of partners offering humanitarian assistance in the region, the Chairman bemoaned absence of appropriate regulatory framework like that proposed by CISLAC to address the present challenges associating with coordination, tracking and evaluation of humanitarian response.

Also, speaking during the visit, Okeke Anya requested the Commission's support in the introduction of a state based policy or legislative framework to promote effective and accountability in humanitarian response.

“This visit sets a pace for subsequent underlined engagements aimed at introducing a state based framework that will guide humanitarian interventions in the state,” he explained.

## Buhari Commends the Senate for Conceiving National Security Summit

President Muhammadu Buhari has commended the Senate for the noble idea aimed at addressing security challenges across the country.

The President asserted that in responding to the Security Challenges across the nation, the Federal Government had taken series of actions including sending the Minister of Interior and the Deputy Inspector General of Police to assess the situation and report to the President; deployment of Inspector General of Police to Benue State to personally handle the situation; a meeting of the Governors of Kaduna, Niger, Nasarawa and Benue States along with their State Commissioners of Police and other Security Agencies was convened to discuss the matter.

Meanwhile, the Senate has passed for second reading, 11 Bills. These are: A

Bill for an Act to establish the Chartered Institute of Forensic and Investigative Auditors in Nigeria to provide for the Registration, Regulation of Membership; a Bill for an Act to provide for Residency Rights for every Citizens of Federal Republic of Nigeria; a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the Federal University of Technology, Manchok, Kaduna State; a Bill for an Act to establish the Federal Polytechnic Adikpo, Benue State to provide for full-time courses in Technology, Applied Science, Management and other fields of studies and make provisions for the general administration of such Polytechnics.

Others include: a Bill for an Act to establish the Federal Polytechnic Kaltungo, Gombe State to provide for full-time courses in Technology, Applied

Science, Management and other fields of studies and to make provision for the general administration of such Polytechnics; a Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of Federal College of Education Dass, Bauchi State and for other matters connected therewith; a Bill for an Act to Amend the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) Act 2011; a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Agricultural Land Development Authority Act N4 LFN 2004; a Bill for an Act to prohibit and prevent electricity theft, vandalism of Public Power Infrastructure and protection of Power Company Personnel and for related matters; a Bill for an Act to provide for the Integrated Corporate Data Management Commission as a body responsible for comprehensive collation, harmonization of certificates issued by Corporate Statutory Bodies; a Bill for an Act to establish the Chartered Institute of Finance and Control in Nigeria and for matters connected therewith, 2018 (172).

## House Moves to Pass New Law for Alternative Vehicular Gas Transportation

The House of Representatives has resolved to provide protection against gas flaring as well as tap the economic dividends of utilizing Nigeria's gas for transportation purposes.

This laudable initiative is sequel to the passage for second reading a Bill seeking to amend the National Automotive Council Act, to allow for the introduction of new alternative vehicular transportation to make use of Nigerian gas, sponsored by Hon. Igariwe Iduma.

According to Hon. Iduma, Nigeria is one of the highest gas flaring countries in the world and is yet to explore the economic gains of being in the position. He stated with dismay that the country

loses huge revenues via gas flaring that could have been explored and properly utilized by the transportation sector to provide the much-needed infrastructure.

The lawmaker decried the extent of environmental hazards posed by gas flaring, especially when it could be converted to serve purposes that would be of economic benefit to the nation. He urged other members to support the quick passage of the proposed law so that gas flaring could become a major source of revenue to the government.

The Bill seeks to empower both heavy and light trucks via gas utilization and boost the economy as well.

## Senate Wants Police Officers Redeployed to States of Origin

The Upper Chamber has called for redeployment of policemen between the ranks of constable and inspectorate cadres to their states of origin to address rising insecurity in the country.

The resolution followed a motion by Senator Ademola Adeleke on requiring posting junior cadre of the Nigeria Police Force to their states and local government areas to enhance community policing across the country.

The Senate has called on the Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris to appear before the Committee on

Police Affairs chaired by Senator Abu Ibrahim to suggest ways to actualise the resolution.

Senator Adeleke, disconnect between the Nigerian Police and various communities with diverse cultural values and orientation created a vacuum that needed to be filled through community policing.

Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu stress the need for the country's police to be decentralized said solution to the security challenges across the country is state police.

## Dogara Urges African Legislators to Protect Democracy

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara has urged African lawmakers to protect democracy by ensuring that the will and aspirations of citizens are prioritised in discharging their legislative mandates, saying that it would be disastrous to neglect democratic values.

The speaker made this call while receiving parliamentary delegation from the National Assembly of the republic of Niger.

He said: "unfortunately, we have had military intervention in governance in both Niger and Nigeria, it was only in 1999 the democracy was restored in both countries.

"Therefore, for democracy to be sustained, it must work for the people and not for us."

Dogara advised them to imbibe the spirit of active participation to regularly checkmate governance activities and ensure government delivers on the promises of democracy.

## Senate Passes Into Law Arbitration And Conciliation Bill, Others

The Nigerian Senate has passed into law the "Arbitration and Conciliation Act CAP A18 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2018.

The Bill sponsored by Sen. David Umaru (Niger East) aims at resolving disputes amongst the citizenry without necessarily going to the Court of law. The passage of the Bill into law was sequel to its presentation before the Chamber for consideration by the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters.

The Chamber resolved into the Committee of the Whole where clauses 1 – 86, short and long titles, schedules 1,2,3,4 and memorandum of understanding of the Bill were approved as recommended or amended. Thereafter, it was read the third time

and passed.

Similarly, two other legislation were passed into law. The Bills that also sailed through third reading include: The Emergency Powers (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2018 (S.B. 182)", also sponsored by Sen. Umaru. The passage of the Bill into law was as a result of its presentation before the Chamber by the Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters Sen. Umaru for consideration. The Senate resolved into the Committee of the Whole where clauses 1 – 45, short and long titles as well as explanatory

memorandum of understanding of the legislation were approved as recommended or amended. Afterwards, the Bill was read the third time and passed.

Also passed into law were the "National Road Funds Bill, 2018", sponsored by Sen. Kabiru Gaya (Kano South). The two Bills were consolidated into one having originated from the House of Representatives and are similar. It was passed into law following of their report before the Senate by the Senate Committee on Works led by Sen. Gaya for consideration.

## Missing N2.6 million Insurance Premium: House Gives Budget Office 4-days Ultimatum

The House of Representatives Public Accounts Committee has issued the Director General of the Budget Office Ben Akabueze 4-days ultimatum to account for an insurance premium of N2.6 million.

Public Accounts Committee disclose that the amount was said to cover the insurance of six vehicles in the budget office and it was paid to an insurance firm but that there was no evidence on how the payment was made.

Acting on a query raised by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation, the panel chaired by Hon. Kingsley Chinda said several documents related to the transaction

were missing.

Chinda's report said the examination of the payment voucher revealed that the agreement entered into between the Budget Office and the company was neither attached to the payment voucher nor produced for inspection and that efforts made to obtain certain documents were not successful.

The panel therefore, resolved that Akabueze should within the next four days provide the files for the vehicles insurance; insurance cover of each vehicle: original copy of the contract agreement and premium paid in previous years.

## Senate Urges FG To Ban Adverts, Sales Of Tobacco Near Schools

The Senate has called on the Federal Government to place an embargo on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship such as cigarette advertisement within and on windows, stores and kiosks, advertisement of smokeless or flavoured tobacco and their logos or symbols on non-tobacco objects.

The Senate also charged the Ministries of Health, Education and Information at Federal and State levels to work together to ban advertisement and location of point of sales of tobacco products within 100 metres of all schools in the country.

The motion titled, "The need to immediately ban tobacco companies from targeting school children in Nigeria" sponsored by Senator Oluremi Tinubu and five others at the plenary.

The red chamber also tasked the Federal Ministry of Health and other relevant enforcement agencies to urgently ensure a framework for the monitoring of the implementation of the ban on single sticks and cigarette packs with less than 20 sticks as detailed in the National Tobacco Control Act 2018.

## Refining Crude Locally, Permanent Solution To Embarrassing Fuel Scarcity - Dogara

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon Yakubu Dogara, has described as an embarrassment, the recurring fuel scarcity in the country, advocating for local refining of crude oil to make fuel available and easily accessible to all Nigerians.

The Speaker made this known when receiving the executive members of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), in the National Assembly.

He said while consultation was ongoing on the part of leadership at different strata, the results would only achieve temporary relief until

refineries are functioning enough to refine crude locally to meet the demand of Nigerians.

Hon. Dogara further suggested for capacity building for workers to discharge the responsibility to yield optimal results.

He also assured them that the House and the Senate are jointly working on the remaining components of the Petroleum Industry Bill to ensure that their passage are expedited. He also advised them to take the opportunity of the joint public hearing of both petroleum committees of the National Assembly to make their input to the Bill.

# Delta Assembly Passes State Statistics Bill

By Iteveh Ekpokpobe

Delta State House of Assembly at a recent plenary passed the bill for a law to establish the state statistical system and the State Bureau of Statistics for the collection, compilation, analysis, storage and dissemination of the statistical data, information and for other matters incidental thereto otherwise called the Delta State Statistics Bill, 2017.

The bill was passed, following a motion to that effect by the Majority of the House, Hon. Tim Owhefere, seconded by Rt. Hon. Peter Onwusanya, Oshimili South Constituency and was unanimously adopted.

The House at plenary took the third reading on the Delta State Statistics Bill after clause by clause, session by session, page by page scrutiny of the report on the bill by its committee on Establishment, Ethnicity, Privileges and House Services.

The 30 sections bill was painstakingly scrutinized at the Committee of Whole chaired by the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori, who commended members for their commitment at ensuring the making of quality laws for good governance of the state.

Also commending the contributions of the members on the bill, Rt. Hon. Oborevwori said that very important amendments were made during the committee of Whole.

The bill as passed seeks to raise public awareness about the importance and role of statistical information to society. It also seeks to collect, process, analyze and disseminate quality statistical data and information in a coordinated and timely manner.

Among other objectives and function of this bill include; promoting the use of best practices and international standards in statistical production, management and dissemination. To promote the use of statistical data and information at individual, local government area, state, institutional, national and international level, especially for evidence based policy design and decision making.

It also seeks to build sustainable capacity for the production and use of statistical data and information in the state.

The bills as passed will establish the state Bureau of Statistics which shall be an autonomous public authority which shall be responsible to the state

Governor. The bureau shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

In order to protect and enhance the integrity of official statistics, the Bureau shall exercise professional independence in so far as it may agree with the national dissemination statistical information.

The bureau shall be the authoritative source and custodian of official statistics and shall be saddled with the responsibility of developing and maintaining a comprehensive socio-economic statistical system.

## The Board of Directors

The bill provides that the board of directors consisting of 11 members appointed by the State Governor shall be responsible for ensuring that the bureau fulfills its mission and that the profile of the bureau is commensurate with its role in the state development.

The board shall advise the governor on the state statistics policy, procedures, methods and regulations relating to the development of statistics, formulate and monitor the implementation of policies for more effective co-ordination of the state Statistical System.

It shall also provide the governor with a quarterly progress report on the activities of the bureau and the entire state statistical system, review the structure of the bureau as necessary and approve the corporate plans, work plans and budget of the bureau.

## Information, Confidentiality and Disclosed Offences and Penalties

The bill which basically deals with the statistics and data management states that in order to establish public confidence in all official statistics and analysis, the state Statistician General shall issue a Code of Practice that shall set out professional standards to be followed by agencies producing official statistics.

It also provides that Private Nigerian and foreign institutions wishing to conduct statistical surveys on a state wide scale going beyond their market studies shall obtain the approval of the bureau on the appropriateness of conducting such surveys and the methodology to be used.

The bill states that data collected for statistical purpose shall be treated as confidential data; confidentiality means that the dissemination of these data

shall not permit the identification directly or indirectly of the departments concerned and that a prohibition is imposed on the data producers against disclosing information of an individual nature obtained in the course of their work.

It stipulates that a person required under the provision of this part of the law to furnish any information, estimate, return or particular shall not be obliged to disclose or produced under the provisions of any law for the time being in force.

It states that any person who is in possession of any information which to his knowledge has been disclosed in contravention of this law who publishes or communicates to any other person that information shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or/ and imprisonment for a term specified by the regulations made under accompanying this law.

While any person who fails to furnish any information, estimate, return or particular which he/ she is required to furnish under this law shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine or/ and imprisonment for a term specified by the regulations made under this law

## Statistical subjects

The subjects of statistics as provided by the law include; Birth and deaths, internal trade, primary and secondary production, agriculture, livestock, horticulture and allied industries, forestry, fisheries, factories, mines and productive industries generally, employment and unemployment, salaries wages, bonuses, fees, allowances, and any other payment and honoraria for services provided amongst others.

## The Sponsor Speaks

In a chat with newsmen, the lead sponsor of the bill, member representing Oshimili North Constituency and Chief Whip of the House, Hon. Barr. Pat Ajudua, said the bill signals a quantum leap for Delta State in the area of statistics and data management.

Ajudua said the bill when given assent to by the state governor Senator Ifeanyi Okowa, would bring sanity and efficiency to the business of statistics and data management in the state.

She commended the leadership and members of the house for their resilience and commitment to the judicious consideration and eventual passage of the bill Leap.

## Delta Speaker Says Delta 2018 Budget Very Inclusive

By Iteveh Ekpokpobe

What is the essence of a budget if it cannot reflect the yearnings of a people? - A critical question of all times. It shows the import of appropriation in any clime. And of course, defines the role of governance – good governance one should say.

The imperative of budget to the development of any people, poses a true test and need for caution in its preparation. This caution forms the hallmark and essence of budgeting process, execution and budget monitoring.

In lieu of this, the Speaker, Delta State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori has said the state's

budget for 2018 was a reflection of the true yearnings of Deltans.

According to him, the appropriation law is a summation of inputs from various committees and MDAs, and thus, reflects projects, that are key, to the development and comfort of Deltans adding that the Delta State Legislature was committed to excellence hence they were the second state assembly to pass its 2018 budget.

Oborevwori who was flanked by some of his colleagues including, Hons. Johnson Erijo, Eric Oharisi, Evance Ivwurie amongst others, when he hosted a delegation of the Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group (NDEBUMOG), Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), and OXFAM, said synergy

between the state executive and legislature was a major contributor to the state assembly's achievements.

On oversight function, he said the house had become an ardent watchdog and was on top in terms of oversight, budgeting and lawmaking.

The Speaker commended the organization for their visit and concern adding that the house would not renege in partnering with requisite organizations to better drive its legislations.

Earlier, leader of the delegation, Prince Kingsley Amadi, said the group, a nongovernmental organization, has its focus on the need for maximal and transparent utilization of public funds.

Amadi said the legislature is an important partner in the campaign towards fiscal prudence and management at the grassroots adding that the visit was hinged on securing a lasting partnership with the Delta State legislature.

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) represented by Chinedu Bassey stated that the effectiveness of budgets starts from the legislature even as he advocated the need for renewed partnership between the state legislature and requisite CSOs to better achieve the aim.

"In the bid see to it that the budget reflects exactly what the people need not what they assume the people need, Participatory budget at this time has become necessary; a fine tool for effective representation. Another is how do we ensure that the voices of women are heard in budget preparation?" he added.

A representative of OXFAM, Henry Ekpe Ushie who was part of the delegation said that the OXFAM an organization with the duty of financing civil society organizations is ready to partner with the state government and would be better poised to do when things are done the proper way.

He said, "As members of the house, your constitutional oversight function is very key having to ensure that the requisite actions are taken in budgeting processes particularly in Delta State. In Enugu for example, they send out members of their teams to go round communities to making inquiry on their needs in the bid to ensure that they are duly represented."

Ushie also advocated the need for the government to cut the excesses of arbitrary or indiscriminate tax collection if the drive for effective revenue must be achieved.

## Lagos Assembly Passes N1.046trn Budget Into Law

The Lagos State House of Assembly has passed its 2018 Appropriation Bill of N1.046 trillion into law.

This happened after the adoption of the report and recommendations of the House Ad hoc Committee on Budget and Economic Planning headed by Hon. Gbolahan Yishawu.

The house approved the sum of N347,038,938,872 billion as total Recurrent Expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and N699,082,242,808 billion as the total Capital Expenditure from the Development Revenue Fund for the year ending Dec 31 2018.

Hon. Yishawu while presenting the Committee Report, said that effort should be made to reduce total Overhead cost of the state.

He and other members of the Committee were commended by the Speaker of the house, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa for its thorough scrutiny of the budget within a short period of time.

On related development, the State House of Assembly has passed into law

two bills covering land use charge and embedded power supply during its plenary on the 29th of January 2018.

The Land Use Charge bill titled "A bill for a law to provide for the Consolidation of property and Land based charges and make provisions for the levying and collection of Land use charge in Lagos State and for Connected purposes" provide that each local Government area in the state shall be the collecting Authority and will be the only body empowered to levy and collect tenement rates for its area of jurisdiction.

On Electricity, the bill which is titled "A law to improve Electricity Supply, Power generation, distribution and evacuation through an embedded Power Scheme in Lagos State and the enforcement of Consumer Rights and Obligation and for connected purposes would lead to construct Power Supply.

The Bill which has been directed by the house to the State Governor for his assent will ensure that there's a cost effective Power Supply.

## Cross River Assembly Passes 51 Bills, Initiates 31 Motions

The Cross River House of Assembly said it has passed 51 bills and initiated over 31 motions since its inauguration in 2015.

The Speaker of the House, Mr. John Gaul-Lebo, made this disclosure in an interview with journalists in Calabar. He said that 35 out of the 86 proposed were at various stages on the floor of the House while 51 have been passed into law.

He added that most of the bills were people-oriented meant to provide safe social services for the Citizenry.

The Speaker attributed the success recorded by the Assembly to the sustained cordial working relationship between the Legislature and the Executive, adding that no meaningful achievement could have been recorded in a raucous atmosphere.



# Rafsanjani Bags '2018 ICON of Community Development Award'

By Abubakar Jimoh

The Arewa Student Forum (ASF) has bestowed on the Executive Director of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) "2018 ICON of Community Development Award".

Presenting the Award to the Executive Director on behalf of the Forum, a delegation led by Comrade Abdullahi Muhammad Saleh, Treasurer, ASF, said the award was in recognition of his "immense contribution towards societal development, human upliftment, youth development and service to the nation".

According to the Comrade Saleh, the recipient was nominated after a thorough deliberation and scrutiny at a recent meeting held by the Forum in Jigawa state where his outstanding leadership qualities in the service to humanity was highly acknowledged and commended, stating that the Forum had no hesitation to bestow on him, 2018 ICON of Community Development Award.

He said: "We acknowledge your

...the recipient was nominated after a thorough deliberation and scrutiny at a recent meeting held by the Forum in Jigawa state where his outstanding leadership qualities in the service to humanity was highly acknowledged and commended...

principle, infallible moral background and community driven development.

"We are not unaware that your strategic goals and ideas have helped in providing holistic recommendations in addressing challenges in both public and private sectors."

In his acceptance remarks, the Executive Director commended the Forum on its continued efforts in advancing courses towards the development of the country, especially in the areas of education, child rights and community development, adding that the award was a collective effort of the Board, Advisory Council, Management and Staff of CISLAC.

He charged the Forum to discourage dreadful activities like

cultism, child abuse, examination malpractices and ethno-religious dominance as divisive manipulating tools leveraged by unscrupulous elements in perpetrating crimes with resultant social vices and political instability.

In a vote of confidence over the prerequisite that led to the selection of the Executive Director for the award, Barr. Adesina Oke, Member of the Board of CISLAC, added that the award was indeed well-deserved as the recipient's contribution towards nation's development is evident across social sector.

He further advised the Forum on sustained spirit of patriotism and sincerity in advancing pro-poor courses for the nation's socio-economic and political prosperity.



Rafsanjani (3rd from left, front row) with CISLAC team and representatives of Arewa Student Forum after the Award.

## Government Attitude To NEITI Reports Encourage Corruption In Oil Sector – Rafsanjani



*Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) is the Executive Director of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Head, Transparency International (Nigeria) and Chairman Board of Amnesty International (Nigeria), in this interview with e360 he speaks on governments seemingly disinterest towards NEITI audit findings. He also talks about the benefits of the recently passed PIGB. Excerpts:*

*Are you concerned that the recently released NEITI audit report on the oil sector for 2015 again revealed issues of under-payments, under-remittance and process abuse in the industry just like others before?*

One of the major problem we have is that the last and present administrations don't seem to appreciate the importance of an agency like the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) in terms of helping the nation curb corruption in the oil and gas sector. Second the last administration of President Jonathan and the current administration of President Buhari, does not also appreciate the fact that if you want to have more transparency in the oil and gas sector, you need to encourage the NEITI process. With the regular audit reports the citizens would know the state of the oil and gas sector in terms of the revenue, in terms of the

losses and in terms of those sabotaging the sector. That relevance and importance did not register in the mind of the last administration and also the current one. Particularly, when you look at the National Assembly, it has only once tabled and discussed the NEITI audit report. In the history of NEITI audit reports, only once has the National Assembly debated it can you imagine that? And by the law establishing NEITI, the parliament must receive and discuss the issues of the report. Unfortunately, the legislators don't seem to be interested in that and if they are not able to discuss and come up with the remediation measures, then definitely what we are seeing will continue to happen. So the lack of attention by the legislators to the NEITI audit report account for the continuous occurrence of the problems we are facing in the sector. The reports brings attention to lots of issues around underpayment, sabotage in the sector, refusal to

pay appropriate tax among others, but proper attention is not given the reports. This is sad despite the fact that we rely largely on the sector for the country's revenue. Now if you want to fight corruption, NEITI audit reports and NEITI process generally will help to minimize corruption in the oil and gas sector by making the process to be transparent, prudent and the resources better managed. But because the Nigerian political class are not interested in dealing with these issues, they abandon the NEITI reports, so it is business as usual despite the mobilization and advocacy by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). So I think Nigeria will be better if we begin to pay more attention to the NEITI process because it deals with the processes that will help improve the sector. The second concern I have is that because the government – both the executive and legislature – does not take the report seriously, sometimes there's no money for timely audits, leading to backlogs. How can government not provide resources for the audit of a sector that is the cash cow of the country? We have intelligent people in NEITI who are ready to do the work but funding is a major issue.

*Given the picture you just painted, is NEITI losing relevance? Do you see Nigeria going the way of countries that recently exited the EITI?*

Nigeria cannot pull out of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) process, and even if some people want to do politics to pull Nigeria out of the EITI process, the law establishing NEITI in Nigeria is not a pronouncement of anybody, it is a law of parliament. We foresaw such a likely development, which is why the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and other CSOs advocated for the enactment of a law for the protection of the EITI process in Nigeria. So it is not at the mercy or instance of any leader, and no one can abrogate a law just like that. The crux of the matter is that without functioning EITI process, we will continue to swallow in corruption in the oil and gas sector, we will continue to swallow in poverty and conflicts because we have discovered that resources like oil and gas have become the cause of violent conflicts not only in Nigeria but in other extractive rich countries. Therefore, if you want to have a stable, prosperous country with developmental agenda, you cannot run away from the EITI process. Because the process gives you a roadmap which you can utilize and harness your natural resources for the betterment of the country and for eradicating poverty. Unless you are anti-development, anti-transparency and pro-poverty then you can exit Nigeria from EITI. But as long as CSOs and the media who have seen the benefit of the EITI process in managing our oil and gas sector are concerned, we will not allow any mischievous politician to undermine the process, we will continue to mobilize and sensitize Nigerians on the importance of the NEITI process.

*What does the recently passed PIGB mean for the oil industry?*

It is a welcome development because we have said several times that we need to unbundle the sector, we can no longer allow government to be operator, regulator, operationalizing agency and contracting agency. You cannot have efficiency and effectiveness if you allow this to continue. That is why for years it have been a battle of survival, those who do not wish for us to have a functional oil and gas sector in Nigeria have held the passage of the PIB because it is like an ATM for them to steal, siphon, divert and misappropriate resources. Therefore, for me it is absolutely important that we pass the PIB. The PIGB that has been passed is good, but we need the other components to be able to have a holistic reform approach in the oil and gas sector. So I call on the National Assembly not to waste further time, in view of all the challenges going on. The continues fuel scarcity scandal and corrupt award of oil wells in the country to mention a few are issues that must be checked, and the PIB is the tool to help us checkmate them. So we will continue to advocate for the passage of the entire component of the PIB.

*Describe how the PIB passage will impact directly on Nigerians?*

If properly implemented it has the potential to impact positively on the lives of Nigerians because there will be more transparency and accountability in the sector. As it is now the oil and gas sector is a cartel, shrouded in secrecy and people are resisting the passage of PIB because they don't want transparency in the sector. In other places, people know who contractors in the sector are, who manages the process and exactly what quantity of oil is being produced and what it is sold for. But in Nigeria of today we are still not in the position to say this is the metering process we have adopted and be able to measure how much oil is being taken. So the passage and the implementation of it would definitely help to bring development, eliminate corruption, vices, and violence. With this law in place all the criminalities in terms of hijacking or vandalizing of oil facilities will come to an end and impunity will cease. It will impact on the wellbeing of Nigerians because there will be increase in resources for development, resources to carry out environmental protection and cleanliness, resources to revitalize our health sector and our collapsed educational sector. We will equally put in place needed infrastructure that every Nigerian would benefit from.

*Source: Extractive 360*



*Participants in a group photo at stakeholders' validation draft project site dashboard for project monitoring and strengthening procurement processes organised in Abuja by CISLAC with support from TI-Secretariat in Berlin and Global Affairs Canada.*

*Executive Director, CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) (left) presenting CISLAC's publications to the Acting Chairman, ICPC, Hon. Alhaji Abdullahi Bako during an advocacy visit to the Commission.*



*CISLAC team in a group photo with Acting Chairman, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Hon. Alhaji Abdullahi Bako (7th from left); and other staff of the Commission during the visit to the Commission on 'Strengthening Criminal Investigation and Criminal Justice Cooperation' in Abuja.*

*Participants in a group picture at a stakeholders' sensitisation meeting on the implementation of the National Tobacco Control Act, organised by CISLAC in Calabar, Cross River state.*



*1. Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture and Production, Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno (3rd from left) flanked by CISLAC team during advocacy visit to the Committee on amendment to National Tobacco Control Act, 2015 in Abuja.*



*Participants in a group photo at 'CSO Policy Dialogue towards Strengthening Access to Defence Information in Nigeria' organised by CISLAC in collaboration with Transparency International Defence and Security Programme (TI-DSP).*

# Presidential Panel Indicted in \$44m Scandal

The immediate past Acting Director General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Ambassador Mohammed Dauda has raised a public outcry over the repeated efforts Presidential Review Panel (PRP) to siphon the controversial \$44 million Intervention Fund belonging to the Agency.

By Abubakar Jimoh

The immediate past Acting Director General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Ambassador Mohammed Dauda has raised a public outcry over the repeated efforts Presidential Review Panel (PRP) to siphon the controversial \$44 million Intervention Fund belonging to the Agency.

He made this disclosure while narrating his ordeals in the hand of the Amb. Babagana Kingibe-led Panel to the House of Representative Committee on House of Representatives Committee on Public Safety and National Intelligence mandated to investigate the t, saying that his refusal to grant the Panel's request for bribes had apparently metamorphosed in his removal from office as Ag. Director General of the Agency.

"It was after I refused to budge consistently, that one day Amb. Kingibe and A.R. Abubakar the current DG called me to the Hilltop, where they were seating and told me in camera, that I was refusing Presidential Orders, to bar the General from our sacred premises and that there might be consequences for my intransigence, and refusal to take

orders from above," Amb. Dauda explained.

He recalled the unscrupulous attempts by the Panel to recommend to the President Muhammadu Buhari, immediate removal of Brig. General Mohammed Ja'afaru, the Ag. Director of Finance and Accounts from the Agency, as he constituted a stumbling block hampering its progress at siphoning the Fund.

The former Ag. Director General continued: "I recalled that at one of their sittings, this same issue was raised, but one of them Chief Albert Horsfall, ask me to ignore any suggestion that will bring me into collision course with the NSA, and advised his colleagues to put it as part of their recommendations, to the President since they have his mandate so that he can order NSA to remove the General from NIA.

"The panel Chairman called me after the inaugural address and advised me in my own interest to cooperate with them fully, and avoid any close contact or taking any further order from the NSA, at least up to the end of the duration of their assignment as according to him, they have presidential powers to veto and over-rule any previous directive or instruction that emanates from the

NSA.

"The 'riots act' also warned me, to keep all their activities and actions as highly confidential, especially to the office of the National Security Adviser. I was instructed to channel all our activities, contacts and concerns and complaints through the office of the Chief of Staff only.

"I was not too comfortable with these new sets of rules and regulations that apparently contradicts all the provisions of our instruments, but did not want to start my job with confrontation and bad blood, with anyone, so I kept away from the NSA to be on the safe side.

"Everything went on fine from there, until some of the members started putting a lot of pressure on me, with constant demand for money ceaselessly, day and night, these two members are Amb. Babagana Kingibe and the current DG, A.R. Abubakar. I went through psychological and mental torture for a while.

"When I tried to explain to them that our current US Dollars account was low, because of the problems we were experiencing in sourcing foreign exchange from CBN due to 'Ikoyi Gate' crisis, they insisted that the \$44m under the custody of the General is also ours and that he had no power to stop me from spending that money, since everything has normalized now, I should go ahead and ask the General to go back to his job, where he rightly belonged, that I should either ask him verbally to leave, write a letter to the National Security Adviser (NSA) to withdraw him or ultimately instruct my security department to stop him from entering the premises."

According to him, while there were persistent harassments and threats from the duo to get rid of Brig. General

“...the unscrupulous attempts by the Panel to recommend to the President Muhammadu Buhari, immediate removal of Brig. General Mohammed Ja'afaru, the Ag. Director of Finance and Accounts from the Agency, as he constituted a stumbling block hampering its progress at siphoning the Fund.”

Ja'afaru, he had refused to succumb to pressures.

"They kept on harassing and threatening me, if I don't get rid of the General, but I stood my ground and refused to do anything about the General, since he never stopped me from doing my work in any way, since I resumed as the Head there, all my approvals and instructions were honored by him, without any delay, he is a very amiable cool headed and polite individual, that I really enjoyed working with," he explained.

Amb. Dauda added: "I must emphasize that the demand for money from me, was getting too much for various reasons, either they want the money for medical treatment or holidays abroad for their families and girlfriends.

"On Wednesday 10th of December 2017, Amb. Kingibe asked A.R Abubakar to tell me to meet them at home at 59 Nelson Mandela street, in Asokoro, and that I should go there alone, which I did as instructed, where they told me that since I assumed the leadership of the Agency, I have refused to cooperate with them, and they wanted to warn me that the General (Ag. DFA) is conspiring with some people to steal that money, and that I will be held responsible, if I don't do something before their plan materialize.

"They told me further, that it is now my turn to do something for them. They told me that as most senior serving Director on ground at the NIA, their recommendations favour me, as the person that will most likely get the nod of the President as the substantive DG NIA, but on the condition that I will also take their interest into consideration. They then said that they needed Two million Dollars (\$2m) as a hand shake from the DG, as some of them have political ambitions.

"But I told them that it was not going to be possible, as we were low on foreign exchange, and the only money available to me, beside the critical operation reserve of forex is the 444m and I don't know how to approach the Ag. DFA with this request. This explanation made them very upset with me.

“  
*They also told me at that meeting that, if I can't sack the Ag. DFA, they will send someone to do it very soon, so let me go and think about it and call them back, and that was my last communication with them, until I heard of my removal from office on Wednesday 11th January 2018 on channels TV around 8pm.*  
 ”

"They also told me at that meeting that, if I can't sack the Ag. DFA, they will send someone to do it very soon, so let me go and think about it and call them back, and that was my last communication with them, until I heard of my removal from office on Wednesday 11th January 2018 On channels TV around 8pm.

"Then on Thursday 11th January 2018, I advised the NSA to look at the possibility of evacuating the money from the NIA, seeing the kind of attention on it, and also taking into consideration the sudden change of leadership at the Agency. I took this decision because I was worried about the fate of the money when I leave office. I feared a situation where the money would be stolen or tampered with in my absence, and they turn around to blame me at the time I won't be there to defend myself.

"Fortunately, after due consultations, the NSA agreed with me, and sent the Ag. DFA to arrange for evacuation, while I gave instructions for the money to be moved to ONSA in our bullion van under the watch of our finance officers and escort, a decision that could as well be my best in my entire working life.

"Everything went fine with the transfer, on Friday 12th in the morning around 9am, when the money was off-loaded at ONSA, and proper inventory taken, before my staff returned to the office."

"I therefore urge you to use your good office not to allow them subvert the rule of law and proper procedure, to bully me into compromising my anti-corruption stand, by exposing

them," he urged.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives Committee on Public Safety and National Intelligence has summoned the former Secretary to Government of the Federation (SGF), and chairman of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Presidential Review Panel, Amb. Babagana Kingibe to appear before the Committee

The former SGF' summons was contained in a letter addressed to the SGF, Engr. Boss Mustapha and signed by the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Safety and National Intelligence, Hon. Jaji. In the letter with reference number: NASS/HR/8/CT.80/IV/326, dated January 30, 2018, the Committee frowned at the non-appearance of Amb. Kingibe despite invitations to that effect.

The letter read: "The Committee frown at the non-appearance of the Chairman and members of the Presidential Review Panel headed by Amb. Babagana Kingibe. "The committee therefore resolved that the chairman and members of the panel are to appear before the committee on Tuesday, 13th February, 2018 by 2:00pm at suite 4.88, Fourth Floor, House of Representatives, New Building, National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

"Please, you are equally requested to come along with all relevant information and documents that would assist the committee at the briefing on the said matter", the letter stated.

# CISLAC Trains Women Groups, Unveils Platform To Monitor Public Projects' Implementation

By Bathsheba Tagwai

“Corruption poses a serious development challenge as it undermines democracy, rule of law and good governance by subverting formal processes”, Jimoh Oladapo Sulahiman, a Certified Corruption Risk Assessor at Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has said.

He made this know while speaking on the 'Roles of ICPC and the Citizens in the Fight against Corruption' at 'sensitization workshop to educate citizens and women groups' on their rights, organised by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) under the aegis of Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC)'s support project in Asaba, Delta state.

“Corruption in elections and in legislative bodies reduces accountability and fair representation. In the judiciary, corruption undermines and suspends the rule of law.

“In governance, corruption results in the unequal provision of services.

“Generally, corruption erodes the institutional capacity of government, as it undermines the legitimacy of government.

“Corruption has always been a part of humanity, manifesting in various ways and at various levels of social interactions,” Sulahiman lamented.

He listed the practical manifestations of corruption to include inflation of contracts, kick-backs, undervaluation of goods and services, forgery, fraud, falsification of accounts and official documents, bribery, gratification, extortion, perversion of justice, tax evasion, over-invoicing of goods, influence peddling or 'string pulling', nepotism,



*Participants in a group photo at sensitisation workshop for communities organised by CISLAC under the aegis of ALAC project in Lagos.*

favouritism, and diversion of communal assets.

According to the Risk Assessor, corruption emanates from failure of governance, lack of ethical and moral values, erosion of accountability procedures, and prevalence of bad leadership.

Also, speaking on the 'Rights and Responsibilities of Nigerians' towards good governance, David Manyo Dogo, Director at National Orientation Agency (NOA), Abuja said democracy involved participation, good governance and development.

He said: “Although not all citizens are directly involved in governance, there are however, provisions that enable citizens participate in the governance process.

“The participation of citizens in a democracy is expressed in terms of exercising their fundamental RIGHTS and carrying out their responsibilities.”

He encouraged participants to observe respect for the rights and dignity of fellow citizens in their daily activities.

“Make positive and useful contribution to the advancement,

progress and well-being of the community where you reside.

“Render assistance to appropriate and lawful agencies in the maintenance of law and order; and declare your income honestly to appropriate and lawful agencies and pay his tax.”

He further advised the participants to leverage existing instruments and processes like Whistle Blower Policy, Freedom of Information Act, Recall Process, Public Hearings, Permanent Voters Card (PVC), National Identity Card, and Petitions in their demands for accountability.

On a related development, CISLAC under the auspices of Transparency International and Global Affairs Canada has developed a dashboard for monitoring and strengthening public procurement processes at all levels.

The dashboard was developed in a bid to demand accountability from government, enable citizens to participate in public finance and budget monitoring which enhance integrity in public policy and project implementation.



# CISLAC: The Trail Blazer In Legislative And Policy Advocacy

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), Executive Director, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), in this interview speaks about his passion for the protection of human rights of common man, fight for transparency and accountability, while advocating a violence-free society. Excerpts:

Could you tell us about CISLAC?

**C**ivil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is non-governmental, non-profit legislative advocacy, information sharing and research organization, arising from the felt need to address defects in the legislative advocacy work of civil society and open the window through which legislators can also access civil society groups. It aims to strengthen the work of Civil Society on Legislative Advocacy and bridge the gap between legislators and the Civil Society.

The formation of CISLAC arose from the context of the fact that the return to civilian rule in Nigeria was achieved largely by the struggles of the organizations of Civil Society especially the Human Rights and pro-democracy groups. Many activists lost their lives in the demonstrations, and sometimes, violent eruptions which characterized agitation for democracy and the opening of the democratic space in the context of authoritarian military rule and dictatorship.

CISLAC is currently one of the major civil society organizations in Nigeria with a primary focus on legislation and legislative processes. CISLAC is also engaged in policy/legislative advocacy, civil society capacity building and media engagement. CISLAC works to train and enlighten civil society on policymaking, the responsibilities of the legislature, and the existing policies and legislations affecting Nigerian citizens. It also aims to ensure that the legislature at local, state and federal levels are aware of their relationships with other government bodies and have a responsibility of acting as a voice for the people.

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.

CISLAC is also registered organisation under the National Planning Commission. In recognition of its broad perspective, CISLAC was granted an ECOSOC status by the United Nations in 2011 giving it the mandate and the instrumentality of the United Nations. CISLAC is duly registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 5(1) (a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC). It is the national contact of Transparency International (TI).

What inspired you to establish CISLAC?

During my days at Bayero University Kano, I was a student leader both at university and also at national

level. I served as Executive Members in Bayero University Student Union before I was elected as Assistant Secretary General of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) in 1991-1992. As a student activist, I was involved with pro-democracy and human rights movements like the Campaign for Democracy (CD), Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR), Women in Nigeria (WIN) and other democratic student organisations.

After my graduation, I was offered to work with Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP) as Program Officer dealing with issues affecting human rights and democratic governance. Again, I was invited to join Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), an international organisation with West Africa perspective focusing on issues around democracy and development where I worked on projects with diverse areas including legislative advocacy, local democracy, good governance, as well as constitutionalism and development.

In 2005, having studied the gap existed in the area of civil society's engagement with the legislature, I reflected on the deficit in policy and legislative engagement. I felt there was a need to focus more attention on the legislature towards strengthening the civil society intervention. I left CDD and conceptualised the formation of the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and then reached out to my senior colleagues in different civil society groups to share the new perspective.

How have you made impact?

CISLAC through its engagement of the governance processes in Nigeria has contributed towards the passage of several primary legislation such as the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Violence against Persons Prohibition Act, National Tobacco Control Act, National Health 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 through advocacies, presentation of memoranda and public enlightenment programmes and media engagement.

CISLAC along with other civil society organizations campaigned and advocated for passage of the Freedom of Information Act. CISLAC is among the movement advocating for the passage of such pieces of legislation as Disability Bill, Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill, Whistleblower Protection Bill, Prison Reform Bill, etc.

CISLAC has created civil society awareness through publication and dissemination of monthly newsletter—Legislative Digest which have been in circulation for both public and legislative consumption since October 2006. It has been a central medium of accountability, as it provides citizens a platform to

monitor the performance of their Legislators, and a channel for Civil Society Organizations advocacy on critical issues that require legislative intervention. Also, CISLAC has a wide range of publications such as Textbooks and Policy Briefs, which examines policies requiring amendment and providing recommendations.

As a renowned CSO in Legislative advocacy in the region, CISLAC has on several occasions shared its experience on best practices for legislative advocacy on invitation from its international partners such as the World Bank Parliamentary Forum and the United Nations Millennium Campaign/Sustainable Development Goals 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 its work in Legislative advocacy. In many West African countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon, Niger, Togo and Benin Republic, CISLAC has carried out experience sharing and advocacy exercises on the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative processes through supporting the passage of extractive industry initiative laws in these countries. CISLAC also undertakes 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 has proven capacity to attract international solidarity, engage policy makers and mobilize local civil society groups and communities into action.

Could you tell us about the launching of Global Office in New York?

We officially launched our global office in the United States of America, on September 22, 2017. This coincided with the UN World Peace Day and the launch of the Shadow Report on SDG 16, developed by CISLAC.

The Global Office aims at promoting democratic and accountable governance for socio-economic development of Africa, and parliamentary independence, accountability and inter-parliamentary partnership at national, regional and global levels; coordinating and strengthening civil society legislative advocacy, parliamentary outreach and through strategic engagements and capacity building in Africa; promoting parliamentary accountability through effective constituency outreach and relations; and coordinating regional and global partnerships within Africa and the African diaspora to leverage expertise, knowledge and generate African solutions to advance democratic and accountable governance in the continent.

# Reps Laud CISLAC on Amendment to Tobacco Control Act

By Austin Eramah

The Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture and Production, Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno has commended Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) on its ongoing effort in ensuring effective and comprehensive implementation of the National Tobacco Control Act 2015 through a proposed amendment Bill to specific provisions of the Act.

Hon. Monguno made this commendation while receiving a civil society delegation working on tobacco control under the aegis of African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) led by Okeke Anya, Program Manager, Democratic Governance, CISLAC, at his office in National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

He however, scheduled another meeting to ensure full participation by Members of the Committee for exhaustive deliberations on the way forward to fast-track the passage of

the amendment Bill.

"This is a very important visit that demands full participation by all Members of the Committee. We will schedule another meeting with Members to discuss the way forward on passage of the amendment Bill. CISLAC will be communicated on the chosen date," the Chairman assured.

Earlier in his remarks, Anya acknowledged the continued support by the Committee in galvanising amendment to some specific provisions that will enhance

comprehensive implementation of the Act.

He called on the Committee as a critical stakeholder to devise proactive strategy of mainstreaming Tobacco Control into the Committee's overall agenda.

"The areas of interest for the Committee's intervention include the issue bothering regulation and monitoring of activities of the tobacco industries to ensure strict compliance to the provisions of the Act," the Program Manager explained.



*The areas of interest for the Committee's intervention include the issue bothering regulation and monitoring of activities of the tobacco industries to ensure strict compliance to the provisions of the Act.*



What prompted the establishment of CISLAC Global?

The Global Office will consolidate CISLAC's huge experience, knowledge and expertise in implementing regional and global outreach programmes and partnerships, strengthen global networking among Africans in the Diaspora, provide a platform to address governance challenges internationally, and increase its regional Africa and global advocacy and partnerships with the UN missions/institutions, development partners, diplomatic community and relevant committees in the US Congress. CISLAC is blessed with pre-requisite competence to mobilise the African diaspora and other entities and individuals to leverage their expertise and spheres of influence to the benefit of the African continent. CISLAC by establishing its global office therefore seeks to position itself as a global stakeholder in parliamentary advocacy, capacity building and partnerships building on its experiences working with parliament and parliamentary bodies working at national, regional and global levels.

How does the Global Office functions?

The Global Office among other things, serves as a focal point on African Civil Society affairs to the United Nations and other international institutions working on UN affairs; promotes partnership between Permanent Missions of African countries to UN and Civil Society that will encourage public participation in foreign relations especially in UN affairs; provide technical and liaison services to African CSOs and development partners with interest in engaging with UN Institutions; mainstreams African civil society perspectives on issues of international affairs for effective participation and inclusiveness; mobilizes African and African diaspora resources and technical expertise to promote socio-economic development in the continent.

In order to achieve these functions, we have we are targeting our advocacy around Sustainable Development Goals, transparency and accountability in Asset Recovery, advocacy against Illicit Financial Flow, promotion of Human Rights, sustainable security, climate change, WASH, Health and human development, migration, gender, anti-corruption, and deepening parliamentary democracy.

# CISLAC Expresses Dissatisfaction Over The State Of The Nation

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) has expressed concerns over what it described as “disturbing trends, events and occurrences” in Nigeria's socio-economic and political spheres. These worries are contained in a comprehensive press statement signed and delivered to the media by the Executive Director of CISLAC, AUWAL IBRAHIM MUSA (RAFSANJANI) in Abuja. Excerpts:

All citizens have equal stake in the Nigerian nation and are entitled to live peacefully and benefit maximally from her government and resources. It is fatal to allow selfish individuals and groups through their actions, utterances and activities, to plunge the nation into chaos and anarchy. We must therefore rise above ethnic, religious and sectional interests and sentiments and put the interest of all Nigerians above every other.

The very reason and purpose of government is the welfare of citizens and protection of life and property. When the political leaders sacrifice these basic fundamental of its being and move over to the realm of politicking, the citizens' welfare suffer. Social and economic wellbeing of the people are jeopardised and security of life and property are put to risk.

## Increasing threats to nation's peace and security

Although conflicts between farmers and pastoralists are not new phenomena as these goes back to the earliest written records and myth symbolised in many cultures, ? in many parts of ? the world. Over the years, there has been a progressive deterioration in the symbiotic relationship between farmers and the pastoralists, and conflict have become routine events in Nigeria. However, in the last few years, the nature of the conflicts shifted from the natural resource/conflicts over access to resources to a political and religious - like, targeting at genocide.

We observe that in Nigeria, major introduced policies to solve the problems of farmers and pastoralists have hitherto failed; non- implementations of Panels and commissions of inquiries on conflicts between pastoralists and sedentary communities; responsibility of government in protecting the lives and properties of farming groups in some places and pastoral group in other places has completely been neglected; collapse of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms to challenge negative attitude and atrocities further pave a way for the duo to take law into their hands; kidnappings, cattle rusting and arm banditry has been traced to pastoralists that lost livelihood through conflicts.

We are worried over the increasingly kidnapping for ransom in the country where some victims are made to pay whopping sums to secure their releases while others are killed in the process.

We are not unaware that the continued feeling of insecure has passed a threat to both national and international investment opportunities. It is even more terrifying that the

security agencies appear helpless in addressing the situation and curbing this menace.

Revelations from Evans, the arrested kidnapper, showed that complicity and collusion by some elements within the security establishment, contribute to the seeming invincibility of the criminal groups. The security agencies must be proactive in intelligence gathering to combat kidnapping.

We are shocked at the resurgence of insurgency in the North East with deaths being recorded daily, villages raided and security formations attacked. This is in spite of repeated assurances that the war against the terrorists was over.

The word, “terrorism” or “insurgent”, never existed in Nigeria's lexicon until it came knocking at our door steps. However, the Nigerian state has made tremendous gains in taming the deadly sect in the country.

With the recent conflict outbreaks of conflict between herdsmen and farmers, Boko Haram remains the least active threat in terms of number of attacks in recent past. This is an aspect of commendation to security actors with particular reference to the Nigeria Armed Forces.

All efforts applied into achieving this must be adopted to respond to the carnage currently flagged by the herdsmen-farmers across the country.

## Recommendations:

There is the need for policy makers to shift paradigm from conflict resolution to conflict prevention strategy. Conflicts could be prevented through collective understanding and acceptance of causes of conflict with inclusion of all resource users in the process. This could follow by establishment of rules over natural resource use and enforcing them, collective acceptance of such rules and continuous negotiation on divergent demands.

Collective understanding and acceptance of causes of conflict with inclusion of all resource users in the process, and collective acceptance of such rules and continuous negotiation on divergent demands remain paramount to address persistent communal conflicts.

Relevant authorities must provide legal assistance to conflicting parties and educating them on channels of challenging injustice including courts, police, army, vigilante groups, traditional leaders and even the pastoral and farmers associations.

It is important to avert widespread marginalisation of both farmers in some societies and pastoralists in other places in

policy making and implementations, giving consideration to appropriate livelihood support to conflict affected households.

Creating alternative income generating activities to pastoralists through identifying investment opportunities for pastoral group, followed by creation of access to credit, government intervention and training will enable them to pursue investment opportunities.

We demand proactive, prompt and decisive measures by the executive, led by the president in addressing conflict related issues to avoid conflict degeneration into unwarranted situation that can jeopardise our national unity, peace and security.

Government at all levels must initiate a consultative process with the state governments, to develop a long term policy that will address the concerns of all parties involved. They should be focused and not be overwhelmed by the distractions that the 2019 elections will present.

We call on leaders at all levels to act as statesmen, avoid the use of inciting language, provocative pronouncements and vindictive gestures to promote unity, healing and soothing which our nation needs desperately. As we sympathise with all who have lost loved ones and relations, pray for the repose of the souls of those killed, we call on our elected officials to provide focused, purposeful, firm and result-oriented leadership.

### Political Economy of Nigeria Security

We note with concern that some unscrupulous elements are benefitting financially from the prevailing state of insecurity, especially from the allocated resources to security sector.

The urgent need to establish a State and community policing system is triggered by some factors which include the glaring deficiency in police-civilian ratio. In Nigeria, there are 370,000 police officers and a police-to-civilian ratio of 1 to 400.

It is grossly inadequate for 370,000 police officers to police about 170million population as against the United Nations recommendations of 222 policemen per 100,000 citizens.

### Recommendations:

Because of the deficiency in police manpower, the basic essence of state and community policing is to complement the efforts of the Federal Police. The advantages of State and community policing cannot be over-emphasized. One, the community is policed by its members who are very familiar with the environment.

Second, members of the State and community police know the character of members of the community. This will go a long way and make it very easy for the identification of people with questionable character in the States/communities.

Also, prompt reform and adequate financing for Police must be prioritised. It is indeed true that out of its N31.6billion allocation in the 2017 budget, only less N10billion has so far been released to the Nigeria Police, then it can be said that the nation is not yet ready for effective policing. This is grossly affecting welfare, psyche and morale of personnel.

If Nigeria Police is to serve and protect with integrity, it must be properly and adequately funded. Police stations and barracks across the country are in need of rehabilitation, while the welfare of Nigeria Police personnel needs to be prioritized.

### Anti-corruption, transparency and accountability in asset recovery

We decry the persistently shocking levels of corruption in Nigeria. Since 1960, Nigeria lost an estimated 400 billion USD to unimaginable levels of corruption and embezzlement, mostly stemming from gas and oil revenues. The natural resource 'curse' will add to other vast leakages in public spending and revenue collection, which will cost around 37% of GDP by 2030, if rampant graft is not addressed.

Nigerians are perplexed by nearly daily occurrence of corruption scandals of seemingly detached political establishment hiding behind impunity and absurd privileges. Conservative estimates indicate that 70 % of the nation's revenue is used to maintain less than 20% of the Nigerian population that are public servants and politicians.

It is astonishing to note that Nigeria as one of the richest oil producers in the world cannot lift more than 61% of its citizens out of abject poverty. While around 116 million of Nigerians live one less than 1.25 USD a day, in 2016 Nigeria recorded 23 billionaires with collective wealth reaching almost 78billion USD and 43 000 individuals owning assets worth at least 1 million USD. Not all, but too many of these millionaires are public servants who enjoy proceeds of corruption with impunity and even perverted pride.

We are worried over the Government's failure in delivering on anti-corruption commitments made to Nigerians and the international community.

We acknowledge achieving important milestones such as the drafting of the first-ever National Anti-Corruption Strategy in 2017. However, little or nothing has been done to put the strategy in the motion. The strategy has not been disclosed to the public, no implementation plan approved and no concrete steps taken. Strategy valid only on the paper will not make any difference.

One of the rare successes has been the signing of the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Bill into Law. This legal provision has sent an important signal to the international partners and has made tangible difference in the exchange of information between Nigerian anti-corruption authorities and their international partners.

The Government of Nigeria pocketed an agreement with the Government of Switzerland in December 2017 during Washington summit on asset recovery that 321 million USD will be returned to Nigeria. However, further 5 billion USD of Nigerian assets are frozen in foreign jurisdictions. This volume of finances would be sufficient to run the projected 2018 budget for almost three months as this figure amounts to 20% of projected Nigerian governmental expenditures in 2018.

The stalemate of the Proceeds of Crime Bill, which seeks to regulate the management of recovered assets as well as the rivalry amongst the anti-corruption authorities does not convince the Nigerian public and international partners that recovered assets will not be 're-looted' yet again.

It is disappointing to witness that so many corruption cases are not prosecuted till the end and VIP convicts are rarely sentenced on anti-corruption charges. A report by the EFCC claims that in 2016/17, 286 cases were brought to conviction, which would signal a remarkable improvement to 53 convicted cases in 2012 out of 353 court proceedings.

However, this nominal improvement disguises the fact

that Politically Exposed Persons have been too often acquitted on dubious grounds. Various studies and anecdotal evidence suggest that the justice system is not impartial and not immune to corruption. Some former state governors who have cases to answer have brazenly come back to political reckoning. Judicial officers and judges are not able or willing to apply conviction- and non-conviction based forfeiture of corrupt proceeds.

We are concerned to state that while many brave individuals in the anti-corruption agencies charge the corruption empire, the empire strikes back. Anti-corruption agents and civil society activists do not enjoy necessary level of protection and unanimous political support. As a result, rhetoric, political and even physical attacks threaten the life-and-death fight against corruption in Nigeria.

#### Recommendations:

We urge the Government and security agencies to render the highest level of protection and unconditional political and state support to anti-corruption agencies and civil society activists.

Whistle-blowers need robust legal provision and assurances from the highest political level that their life is protected and their actions glorified while exposing corruption.

International commitments stipulated during the Anti-corruption summit in London in 2016 and anchored in Open Government Partnership must be fulfilled if international community is to be convinced about the seriousness of the this Government to fight corruption.

Anti-corruption legal framework must be strengthened through the adoption of the Proceeds of Crime Act and standing laws to grand corruption as well as petty bribery.

We demand adequate funding and protection to address persistent attacks on anti-corruption operatives; and prompt inauguration of National Procurement Council to curb continued systemic corruption in the nation's procurement process.

Constructive support by the National Assembly in the fight against corruption through the passage of relevant anti-corruption laws would promote non-conviction based asset recovery methods, protect whistle blowers effectively and empower and resource anti-corruption agencies adequately.

#### Rising Poverty Level, Dilapidated Healthcare Sector and Delayed Implementation of the SDGs

We are worried over the delayed implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national and sub-national levels about three years after the world convened in the United States of America to adopt the 17 Goals.

While the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs currently lacks budgetary allocation for implementation of the SDGs, we are concerned by lack of costed strategic plan of action for implementation at national and state levels.

While the development of a country is measured by its health indices, the 2017 World Health Statistics places Nigeria's Maternal Mortality Ratio at 814/100,000 LB with under-5 mortality rate, 108.8/1000LB; and neonatal mortality rate 34.3/1000LB (WHO).

We are disturbed that more than three year after the

passage of the National Health Act and the provision therewith of 1% of consolidated revenue to fund basic health care package for Nigerians, Nigeria continues to lose women and children from childbirth, malnutrition or immunization related issues.

We are not unaware of the inadequate budgetary allocation, delay in release and poor utilisation of the existing funding for the health sector, despite the 2007 Abuja Declaration requiring each member state to allocate at least 15% of her total budget to health. We are aware that most countries that were signatories to this declaration across Africa have already keyed into this provision and exceeding the 15%.

We find it worrisome that Nigeria is yet to reach as little as 7% of over 2.1million Nigerian under-5 severely acute malnourished with the immediate need for the procurement of ready-to-se-therapeutic food by the government for their survival.

#### Recommendations:

We recommend increased policy focus on the implementation of SDGs at national and state levels through the development of an all-encompassing strategic focus that will include sub-national interventions which will be harmonized and budgeted for implementation.

Holistic implementation of the SDGs will address the nation's developmental challenges such as poverty, hunger, poor healthcare system and education, inequalities, instability, injustice, weak institutions, and corruption.

We demand fulfilment of various commitments by the government including the 15% budgetary allocation to the health sector to promote adequate, accessible and affordable healthcare system; and adequate budgetary allocation for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Harnessing local potential for adequate and sustainable resource mobilisation for financing health sector to mitigate the impacts of dwindling donor resources has become imperative.

The lingering violence against women in the country has been a major concern that brought to the limelight, much awaited implementation legislation like the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP), Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill presently awaiting passage, as well as the Child's Right Act.

Prompt implementation of the VAPP Act to mitigate persistent violence against women; immediate adoption and implantation of Child's Right Act to protect and secure lives the children.

#### State of Economy and the Lingering Fuel Scarcity Scam

We are worried by the on-going endless fuel scarcity rocking the nation and crippling economic activities triggered by lack of sufficient reserve, low clearance speed of petrol at the ports, diversion of products.

We are bothered that the reported improvement in the economy is still largely reflected in government figures and statistics. The high level of unemployment at 18.8% generally and 33.10% for youths, backlog of unpaid salaries, epileptic power supply and recently the crisis hardship created by the non-availability of petroleum products are sad reminders of a

poorly managed economy.

The poor level of budget implementation of the 2017 budget is lamentable. Apart from the delay in the passage of budget, an implementation level of less than 20% calls for serious concerns. It is bad enough that capital allocations are usually inadequate and frivolous and wasteful provisions are made poor disbursement and utilization only create economic uncertainties and negatively impacts on the welfare of citizens.

As at this day, the 2018 budget is not close to being passed with the month of April being projected for its passage. For a pre-election year, this is a recipe for economic crisis and avenue for corruption and approved spending which could be diverted for political, party or selfish uses by the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). This must be avoided. This administration promised Nigerian a zero-budget system to promote efficiency, cost-effectiveness and project delivery. This has remained a mirage.

We note that Nigeria continues to lose millions of naira due to the absence of a defined legal framework to manage our oil and gas sector. While we welcome the passage of the PIGB by both chambers of the National Assembly, we are mindful of the fact that other relevant and indeed more strategic components of the renowned PIB remain elusive, the Fiscal Framework and the Host Community components are inevitable or the necessary changes and reforms seriously needed in the sector. They must therefore, be addressed for passage while the momentum in the process to secure presidential assent to the PIGB is sustained.

#### Recommendations:

We recommend immediate and holistic action by relevant authority to address discrepancy in the issue of pricing including landing cost and cost of petroleum product; and appropriate instituted mechanism to allow participation of private sector in the importation of petroleum product.

We must overhaul our budget making process to make it more open, transparent and result-oriented. The adoption of open budget, open data and open contracting, as committed to in our Open Government Partnership Action Plan must fully take effect as a matter of urgency.

We call on the Federal Government to device constructive means and come up with policies that would turn around the economy and make it create opportunities for citizens and enhance their welfare. Recent events surrounding enslavement, dehumanising treatment and subsequent repatriation of Nigerians who sought better lives outside the shores of our land due to the failure of successive administrations should be a wake-up call for the present administration to place the interest of citizens, especially the youths, in the management of the economy.

We call of legislative arm to treat the 2018 budget with a sense of urgency. They should scrutinize it vigorously to eliminate all frivolous and wasteful allocations in it and expedite the process of passage to allow for implementation to commence as soon as possible

They should follow through with the confirmation of all outstanding executive appointments by carrying out constructive and objective scrutiny of appointees without prejudice and political sentiments or selfish interest. This is to

ensure that institutions are able to function optimally.

We call on them to work with the State Houses of Assembly to ensure a timely conclusion of the constitutional review process to guarantee good governance, local government autonomy and gender equity and social inclusion. They should ensure effective oversight of the MDAs to avoid wastages, leakages, abuse of office and misuse of public funds for any purposes other than serving the interest of Nigerians.

We further recommend appropriate action by the National Assembly to expedite the process for the passage of the Fiscal framework and Host Communities component of the PIB while sustaining the momentum to secure presidential assent to the PIGB already passed. We also call on the National Assembly to expedite the speedy passage of the Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill which has been at the Assembly for too long.

#### 2019 and the gross violation of electoral process

We are worried by the gross violation of the provisions of Electoral Act arising from improper use of the released electoral time table by politicians and political parties that engage in premature campaign activities as against provisions of Electoral Act.

We are not unaware of the persistent violation of various regulations guiding political party financing that has hitherto undermined free, fair and credibility in the electoral process.

We are concerned by the dwindling internal democracy across political parties. We not unaware that all forms of electoral malfeasance are committed including undermining selection of candidates within the political parties, vote buying; electoral violence amongst others.

While we understand that candidate selection is a vital activity to the existence of any political party, we are disturbed by the spate of party members endorsing candidates outside laid down party constitution resulting in undemocratic processes.

#### Recommendations:

We recommend imposition of appropriate sanction against perpetrators of electoral violence and electoral fraud to sustain sanity and sanctity while promoting credibility in the nation's electoral process; and appropriate sanction by INEC against erring political party or politician flouting existing legal provisions campaigning outside electoral time table.

Increased citizens' concern and awareness on the procedure on the selection of candidates by political parties, as the political party structure remains today the only means of engaging in elective position in the country.

Strict compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act as Amended in the 2017 will help in regulating financial activities of political parties.

Prompt creation of Interparty Advisory Council across all political parties to promote proper compliance to the provisions of the Electoral Act, dealing with the electoral time released by INEC.

Strengthening relevant machineries by INEC with holistic mechanisms to ensure candidates' imposition, parallel congresses, and undemocratic conduct in political parties are nipped in the bud.

# BILLS UPDATE (JANUARY, 2018)

Compiled by CISLAC

S/N	BILL NO	BILL NAME	YEAR	STAGE	SPONSORS
1	HB. 1264	A Bill for an Act to Amend the West African Examinations Council Act,Cap. W4,Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004 to Provide for Strict Penalties for Contraveners of the Act; and Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon.Aliyu Bahago Ahman-Pategi
2	HB 1266	A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Orientation Agency Act,Cap. N64, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004 to be Independent from the Ministry of Information and to Receive Funding directly from the Federal Government;and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Sergius Ogun
3	HBs 1190 and 1203	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act,Cap.F7,Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004 to give Married Women Option of Indigeneship and to Provide for the Establishment of Federal Character Tribunal for the Prosecution of Violations of the Federal Character Act;and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok and Hon. Ochiglegor Idagbo
4	HB. 1232	A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University, Abia, Abia State as a Conventional University with Restricted Programmes, Limited and Focused Facilities to ensure Equity and Access to Tertiary Education in the Country;and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Solomon Adaelu
5	HBs 414 and 977	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Cap. E12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004 to ensure that persons to be Affected by a Proposed Project are involved in the Decision Making in order to Ensure Remediation of the Environment and to make it Responsive by Ensuring that Project Developers,Approving Authorities and Persons whose Livelihood will be Affected by Proposed Projects are involved in the Decision Making to Safeguard the Environment and Ensure Adequate Remediation of the Environment among others; and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Bede Uchenna Eke and Hon. Samuel Ikon
6	HB 1271	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Research Institutes Act,Cap. N132,Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004 to include the Establishment of the Shea Butter Research Institute; and for Related Matters	2018	Second reading	Hon. Abubakar Amuda-Kannike G.
7	HB 1233	A Bill for an Act to Ammend the Police Act,Cap. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and the Police Regulations, 1968 respectively to prevent continued infraction of Section 42 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,1999(as amended) by the requirement of Female Police Officers to request prior permission of their Commissioners of Police before undertaking Marriage; and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Bassey Eko Ewa
8	HB 1273	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Children Trust Fund Act, Cap. N93, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004 to harmonize the Functions of the Nigerian Children Trust Fund; and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Francis Charles
9	HB 1294	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Act,2017 in order to extend the implementation year of the Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Act,2017 from December,2017 to 31 March,2018	2018	Second Reading	Hon.Femi Gbajabiamila
10	Hb 1269	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Communications Act,Cap. N97, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004 to provide for Remittance of all Monies Received by the Commission into the Federation Account pursuant to Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic Nigeria, 1999; and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Samuel Ikon
11	HB 1258	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Social Work Practitioners and to make Provisions, among other things, for Membership and Control of the Profession of Social Works; and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga
12	HB 1221	A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Institute for Industrial Research to Conduct Industrial Research for the Development of Micro, Small, Medium and Large Industries aimed at Rapid Industrialization and Socio-Economic Development of Nigeria; and for Related Matters.	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila
13	HB 1198	A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Imprisonment, Registration and Monitoring of Persons that have been Convicted of Sexual Offences against Children under 18 year, the Notification of Law Enforcement Agencies, Owners of Schools, Child Care Services Providers, Social Workers, Employers and the General Public as a Caution against Recurrence of Sexual Offenders and to maintain a Register of such Sexual Offenders in the Designated Registry; and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Ochiglegor Idagbo
14	HB 1227	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Pre -Shipment Inspection of Exports Act,Cap, P25, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004 to increase penalties for defaulters and amend reference in section 18(3) to paragraph(a) of subsection (1) to read "subsection(2)"; and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Johnson Egwakhide Oghuma