



Legislative Digest

A PUBLICATION OF CISLAC



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VOL. 13 No. 5, MAY, 2018



From left: Barr Adeshina Oke, Member of the Board of CISLAC; Dr. Kole Shettima, African Director, MacArthur Foundation; Dr. Oby Ezekwesili, renowned human right activist and former Minister of Education; Chair of Transparency International, Ms Delia Ferreira Rubio; Mallam Y.Z Ya'u, Chairman CISLAC's Board of Trustees; Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), Executive Director of CISLAC; Ms Lilian Ekeanyanwu, TUGAR; Hajia Hadizah Kangiwa, Member of the Board of CISLAC; Samuel Kaninda, Regional Coordinator-West Africa of Transparency International; and Jaiye Gakia, Convener of Protest2Power at a high level workshop organised by CISLAC to share international anti-corruption best practices to address emerging issues in Abuja.

CORRUPTION:

Experts Demand Adequate Response To Cases

By Abubakar Jimoh

A group of national and international anti-corruption actors has called for ample and sincere policy response to reported corruption, giving zero chance to nepotism to

revert current unfavourable corruption indices and successfully combat the menace in Nigeria.

The group made this call at a One-day High Level Workshop to Share International Anti-Corruption Best Practices to Address Emerging Issues themed

“Preventing the Facilitation of Corruption in Public and Private Sector: Leveraging on International Frameworks to Promote Sustainable Development” organized by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre

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

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

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

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

As a renowned CSO in Legislative advocacy in the region, CISLAC has on several occasions shared its experience on best practises for legislative advocacy on invitation from its international partners such as the World Bank Parliamentary Forum and the United Nations Millennium Campaign in African countries such as Kenya and Zimbabwe. Similarly, Ghana, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo have also requested support from CISLAC for replication of their work in Legislative advocacy. In many West African countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon, Niger, Togo and Benin Republic, CISLAC has carried out experience sharing and advocacy exercises on the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative 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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4. Ms. Hadiza Kangiwa
5. Mr. Adagbo Onoja
6. Bukhari Bello
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8. Mr. Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)

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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.

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Still on the Recurring Threats Against Amnesty International Nigeria

We join the civil society groups working at the intersection of the protection and promotion of human rights and good governance in Nigeria to condemn in totality the recurrent breach of peace, brazen lack of patriotism, and absolute disregard for fundamental democratic values and principles of good governance by a malicious group that has persisted in threatening and issuing unjustified ultimatums to Amnesty International Nigeria to vacate the country.

We are aware that Amnesty International, as a duly registered organisation, possesses legal operational rights and mandate to protect and defend rights of the citizens irrespective of their socio-economic, ethno-religious and political backgrounds as pledged by Government of Nigeria under relevant national, regional, and global laws including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Protocols on Human Rights and Rules of Law, and particularly, Section 33 to 44 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

We in strong terms denounce the unjustifiable recurring threats against the staff and facilities of Amnesty International Nigeria, and reiterate that no responsible individual, group or government will disparage the protection of the rights of vulnerable individuals or groups.

We find it worrisome that rather than extending sincere support and solidarity to Amnesty International Nigeria in complementing the activities of credible civil society groups to enhance democratic values in the country, an unidentifiable mischievous group continues to engage in empty threats—a ridiculous attempt to frustrate efforts to protect human rights, and suppress civil society activities ostensibly to hamper the recurring demand for good governance. We are disturbed but not surprised at such clearly sponsored malicious moves by some individuals, hands gloved by an undemocratic group, to divert the attention of Amnesty International Nigeria, and other credible civil society groups from their progressive struggles to dig deep and uprooting the persistent human rights abuses and violations in the country.

Ironically, the on-going attack on Amnesty International Nigeria is a glaring endorsement of its stellar strides in the protection of human rights. A pointer that their impactful work must be supported and sustained by all well-meaning Nigerians to enhance the rule of law, social equity, and justice.

We call on the government to ensure adequate protection for the operatives and facilities of the Amnesty International Nigeria that are currently under vicious and persistent threats.



A Publication of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)

CONTACT ADDRESS:

Flat 3, No. 16 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent
Off Solomon Lar Way
Behind Chida Hotel
Near Daily Trust Newspapers Office
Utako District, Abuja - Nigeria
Tel: 234-08033844646, 07034118266

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Helmsley 10 Floor 230 Park Avenue
45 street between Lexington and
Vanderbit, New York

REGIONAL OFFICE: KANO

3rd Floor, NISTF Building
No. 1A, Social Insurance Road
Behind Trade Fair Complex
Zaria Road, Kano
P.O. Box 10210
Kano State

REGIONAL OFFICE: ADAMAWA

Government Lodge Area
Off Main Drive
Dougerei Layout
Jimeta, Yola
Adamawa State

REGIONAL OFFICE: YOBE

Suite 5, Bugon Plaza
Opposite Eco Bank
Along Maiduguri Road
Damaturu
Yobe State

Website: www.cislacnigeria.net
Email: cislac@cislacnigeria.net

EDITORIAL BOARD

Auwal Ibrahim Musa
(Rafsanjani)
Editor-in-Chief
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Corruption: Experts Demand Adequate Response To Cases

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(CISLAC) with support from MacArthur Foundation and Ford Foundation in Abuja.

Speaking at the High Level meeting, human right activist and former Minister for Education, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili urged immediate dismissal of excessive centralized power operating in opaque context, especially in the oil and gas sector to successfully wage war against corruption in the country.

She bemoaned the refusal of the President Muhammadu Buhari to appoint a Petroleum Minister to effectively coordinate activities and pilot affairs of the nation's oil and gas sector, giving chances to infiltration of politically exposed persons into oil and gas contracting.

“Where the tendency to be corrupt is high, there will be more corruption. Effort to reduce corruption must critically consider prompt reduction of power that exercise in opaque context especially in the oil and gas sector.



Dr. Ezekwesili

“*Government must embrace full accountability in the nation's extractive sector. If these are taken into account, the existing challenges of identifying beneficial owners in public contracting will be automatically addressed.*”

Government must embrace total transparency and accountability, and open-up the economy to the world.

“Government must embrace full accountability in the nation's extractive sector. If these are taken into account, the existing challenges of identifying beneficial owners in public contracting will be automatically addressed.

“While Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is an enabling law to

ensure openness and transparency of public information disclosure, the political class however, does not want the Act in practice,” Dr. Ezekwesili bemoaned.

The human right crusader encouraged anti-graft institutions to embrace high level professionalism, openness and transparency in their activities in order to earn credibility and support of the citizens, who will take ownership and de-normalise behaviour in demanding social justice and accountability in governance.

Giving his welcome remarks at the Workshop, the Executive Director of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) said despite emphasis placed by successive administration in combating corruption in the public sector which accounted for an estimated 70% of corruption cases in Nigeria, the spite of corrupt practices in the public sector remained a major impediment to service delivery and development success of the administrations.

He said: “The effects of corruption in service delivery in Nigeria are outrageous. The effects range from under development,



Rafsanjani

absence of basic infrastructure facilities such as potable water, good road networks, dilapidated health care facilities and degrading services, massive poverty, cluelessness in professionalism, deficient leadership outputs, high unemployment and youth hopelessness, falling standard of education leading to production of low-quality graduates.

“Let me also use this medium to emphasize that since the issue of corruption remains persistent in Nigeria, putting in place adequate and effective anti-corruption response mechanisms with a view towards tackling the menace remains looming.

“We must therefore share international anti-corruption best practices to address emerging issues towards building integrity and emerging best practices on curbing corruption by leveraging on international frameworks to promote sustainable development in Nigeria.”

The Executive Director continued: “In February 2018, Transparency International

released the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) and Nigeria slipped further down in the global rankings, an indication that appreciable and lasting progress has not been made in the fight against corruption.

“Nigeria ranks 148 out of 180 countries, with a 27% score out of 100%. In 2016, Nigeria ranked 136, slipping further down by 12 points. Corruption persists in the country at all levels costing taxpayers 25% of

annual GDP. Despite accelerated convictions between 2016 and 2017, none has made sufficient impact on asset recovery or positively defined public opinions.

“There can be no gainsaying that corruption threatens virtually everything we hold dear and precious in our hard-won constitutional order. It fuels maladministration and deceitfulness, and blatantly undermines the democratic ethos, the institutions of democracy, the rule of law and the foundational values of our emerging democratic project.”

The Chair of Transparency International, Delia Matilde Ferreira Rubio added that collective and sincere effort must be invested by relevant authorities and the citizens to successfully combat corruption.

She called for strong institutions and de-normalised citizens' perception through the passage of internationally ratified conventions to change process and institutions.

According to her, without strong institution, individual re-orientation and enabling laws against corruption, Sustainable



Rubio



Mallam Ya'u

Development Goals (SDG) cannot be achieved.

“Corruption can happen in any country. It has nothing to do with race. It has to do with reaction of the government or society towards corruption cases. It is the reaction that makes the difference in each society.

“Corruption has been normalized as usual way of behavior. This is what we must fight. We must fight for education, strong institutions and full implementation of enabling laws.

“We must fight for independence agencies with adequate resources and legal authorities to deal successfully with corruption. The fight against corruption must be sustainable to combat forces that undermine anti-corruption efforts,” the Chair warned.

The Chairman of CISLAC's

Board of Trustees, Mallam Y.Z Ya'u said corruption crippled most government's initiatives in Nigeria, warning that the manners in which corruption is encouraged and celebrated, especially in the public sector reveal the extent to which systemic corruption has become the order of the day.

He said: “Whistleblowers are fast becoming victims of circumstance in any attempt to uncover corruption.

“Continuous diversion of resources reduces the level of resources and investments available for social sector.

“Corruption is Nigeria's worst problem. It is responsible for all kinds of woes, such as election rigging, failed promises, abandoned projects, poor quality of implemented projects, dilapidated infrastructure facilities, and nepotism.”

Acknowledging the ongoing efforts at arresting and prosecuting offenders in the country, the African Director of MacArthur Foundation, Dr. Kole Shettima stressed the importance of instituting appropriate preventive mechanisms and ensuring governance presence at all levels.

“There is need to ensure presence of governance in ungoverned areas in the country. More priority should be accorded basic and qualitative lives of the people. Good governance is a credible investment to combat corruption in the country.

“Effort should be made in raising the public conscious especially ordinary citizens against corruption. Those who are not corrupt should be appreciated, reinforced and celebrated,” he explained.

NASS Passes 2018 Budget With N508bn Increment

The National Assembly has passed the 2018 Appropriation Bill amounting to N9.12 trillion.

The Budget was increased by the legislature by N508 billion, from N8.61 trillion proposed by President Muhammadu Buhari in Appropriation Bill presented to the assembly in November, 2017.

The Appropriation Committees of

both chambers of the Assembly had laid their reports on the budget before their respective chambers, preparatory to its debate and passage.

Presenting the report at the senate, Chairman of the committee, Sen. Danjuma Goje, said that the budget expenditure was premised on oil price benchmark of 51 dollars per barrel as against 45 dollars proposed by the

president.

He added that it also benchmarked at crude oil production of 2.3 million barrels per day and exchange rate of N305 to one dollar.

He regretted the delay in the passage of the budget, but said that it was not entirely the fault of the National Assembly.

Sen. Lanre Tejuoso (APC-Ogun) described the bill as a budget of transformation with the introduction of one per cent Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) in the health allocation.

He explained that the implication of the one per cent was that a minimum of 3,000 Nigerians in each local government area would have their health bills paid for by government.

In his remarks, President of the Senate, Dr Bukola Saraki stressed that government spending should reduce in areas where the private sector was better placed to catalyse progress, adding that it would free up funds for education, health, water and sanitation services, among others.

Senator Saraki Tasks Kwara Chamber on Rice Production

The President of the Senate, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, has called on the Kwara Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture to take advantage of the state's competitive edge in rice production by setting up processing mills.

Saraki stated this while receiving the leadership of the KWACCIMA in Abuja, according to a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Sanni Onogu, however commended the Chamber for improving the economy of Kwara State

through their individual and collective effort. He noted that there is the need for close collaboration between the private sector and government to grow the economy by capitalizing on the policies of government aimed at diversifying the economy through agricultural production, especially rice farming and processing.

Saraki said a major focus of the 8th National Assembly has been how to reduce the bottlenecks in the economy by improving laws to bring about the ease of doing business.

South East Development Commission Bill Passes Second Reading

A bill for a law to establish South East Development Commission has passed second reading in the Senate.

The Deputy Senate President, Chief Ike Ekweremadu, who disclosed this at Onicha Uboma, Ihitte Uboma local council area of Imo State, also said that "hopefully, we are going to table it for consideration and possible third reading and passage into law, so that we can respond to the yearnings of our people."

"When this is achieved, we will be in

a position to deal with the devastation, all the issues of our losses and colossal damages suffered during the war, which have not been addressed till date," he explained.

Making particular reference to the recent purchase of aircrafts by the Federal Government without the approval of the National Assembly, Ekweremadu disclosed that the lawmakers are still looking into the matter.

South East Development Commission Bill Passes Second Reading

The President of the Senate, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, has stated that for Nigeria to provide Universal Healthcare for all its citizens, its current disjointed healthcare set-up must be urgently reviewed.

Saraki made this known in a statement by his Special Assistant on Print Media, Chuks Okocha, when Executive Director of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Dr. Faisal Shuaib, briefed the leadership of the Senate on the Community Health Influencers, Promoters and Service providers (CHIPS) – a programme of the agency.

He also challenged the Executive Director and all agencies under the Federal Ministry of Health to come up with a comprehensive programme that integrates all existing healthcare

programmes in the country under one umbrella for better coordination and funding.

"The National Assembly will ensure that the health sector gets 1% of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) for healthcare. However, right now, I am told that one of the major issues that is coming up is where exactly that money is going to be housed. There must be a clear message on how these funds will be applied.

"What should guide all our decisions and actions and programmes is that every Nigerian deserves universal and affordable healthcare particularly at the primary healthcare level. "We owe primary healthcare to all Nigerians. Citizens who cannot afford to feed themselves now also have the challenge of trying to pay for primary healthcare.

House Proposes N2m Fine, Two Years Imprisonment For Drug Abuse

The House of Representatives has proposed a N2 million fine and a two-year jail term for corporate offenders of the ban on Tramadol and Codeine in the country.

Individual offenders, according to the proposal, will be liable to N500,000 fine and two years imprisonment or both on conviction.

The Bill on it also stipulates that in the case of a corporate body, all the directors, managers, partners and trustees would be guilty of an offence and would be punished as if they had committed the offence themselves.

The Bill, sponsored by Rep. Betty Apiafi seeks to amend the Food, Drugs and Related Products (Registration) Act Cap. F33 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

The bill also seeks to review the penalties and confer jurisdiction on High Court of the State to try offences under the Act.

The bill was unanimously adopted by members when it was put to a voice vote by the Speaker, Mr Yakubu Dogara.

Ekiti Assembly Sacks Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip

The Deputy Speaker of the Ekiti State House of Assembly, Adesegun Adewumi, has been impeached.

Also, the House, at its plenary removed its Chief Whip, Akinniyi Sunday.

Meanwhile, Animasaun Adesina, representing Ekiti West Constituency II, was elected as Deputy Speaker to replace Adewumi, while Onigbi Olawale, representing Ekiti South West Constituency I, was appointed as the new Chief Whip.

Adewumi was removed as deputy speaker after a motion moved by the Leader of Business, Akinyele

Olatunji, and seconded by Olayanju Olanrewaju.

Akinyele alleged that Adewumi was indulging in activities capable of bringing the dignity and integrity of the House into disrepute.

Other allegations against the impeached deputy speaker were gross misconduct, lack of leadership qualities and acting in a way that could destabilise the state.

2019: Osun Speaker Urges Nigerians To Vote Quality Leaders

The Speaker of Osun House of Assembly, Mr Najeem Salaam has called on Nigerians to discharge their civic responsibility creditably by voting quality leaders at all levels in 2019.

Salaam made the appeal in Osogbo by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr Goke Butika.

The Speaker said that although he acknowledged June 12 as Democracy Day in Nigeria, May 29 was equally significant "as a day of crossover from a military regime to a civilian administration."

The Speaker, Kola Oluwawole, announced that 18 members of the assembly signed the notice of impeachment of the deputy speaker, in accordance with Section 92 (2c) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

In his acceptance speech, the new deputy speaker, Adesina, said he was honoured by the election and promised to perform his duties in accordance with the constitution.

According to him, the opportunity offered by Democracy Day must be seen by the people through voting wisely without inducement from politicians.

"We have reached a phase in our political life in which the people who are electing politicians to manage their affairs must show interest in the way they want to be governed and who they want to govern them.

"This is the best way to recruit political leaders, this is the way to go, not offering votes for tagged price," he said.

Edo Assembly urges INEC to review constituencies

The Edo State House of Assembly has passed a resolution calling on Independent National Electoral Commission to review the number of constituencies in the assembly from current 24.

The lawmakers also urged the commission to increase the number of polling units and wards in the state.

The resolution was sequel to a motion urging INEC to review the composition of the assembly as provided in the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and create polling units, and delineate political wards.

The motion which was moved by Nosayaba Okunbor was co-sponsored by 16 other lawmakers. It was seconded by the Majority Leader, Roland Asoro.

He said that the sections stated that subject to the provisions of the Constitution, house of assembly of a state shall consist of three or four times the number of seats the state has in the House of Representatives.

Okunbor stated that the state currently had nine seats in the House of Representatives from its three senatorial districts.

He explained that the assembly was currently composed of 24 members and that it had not met the constitutional provisions of sections 91, 112 and 114.

Children's Day: Osun Legislator Charges Parents On Child Upbringing

The lawmaker representing Obokun State Constituency in Osun State House of Assembly, Olatunbosun Oyintiloye has called on parents, guardians and care givers to exercise skills needed for proper upbringing of children.

He made the call while commemorating the annual Children's Day celebration in Osogbo, Osun state capital.

Hon. Oyintiloye who described children as glory of the land and future leaders maintained they children should be the epicenter of care in the society.

The Lawmaker called on parents to open themselves up to parenting skills and ideas that will lead to development of well-rounded children that will become value added citizens.

He stressed the need to improve policy and investment on children saying building of future leaders demand adequate investment in health, education and general well-being of children.

Oyintiloye pointed that nurturing and nourishing are two ingredients that all society must give attention to in raising responsible citizens.

He opined that there was the need for parents to renegotiate their time and re-work their extra curricula engagements and give more attention to the needs of the children.

The lawmaker noted that the many parents and care givers are guilty of sins of neglect of children which he described as responsible for exposure of children to lots of vulnerable influences.

Benue Assembly Outlaws Same Sex Marriage

The Benue State House of Assembly has passed into law, a Bill to prohibit marriage contract between persons of the same sex in the state.

Cited as Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Law, 2018, the bill was passed at plenary after a clause by

clause consideration by the Committee of the whole presided over by the Speaker, Mr Terkimbi Ikyange.

According to the bill, "a marriage contract or civil union entered into between persons of same sex shall not be solemnised in a Church,

Mosque or any other place of worship in Benue".

The bill also prohibited the registration or recognition of gay clubs, societies, and organisations, their sustenance, procession, and meeting as well as a public show of same sex amorous relationship directly or indirectly.

It stipulated that any person who entered into a same sex marriage contract or civil union commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of 14 years imprisonment.

Speaking after the third reading of the bill, the Speaker said same sex union was alien to the culture and tradition of the State and has to be prohibited.

Taraba Assembly Gets New Clerk

The Speaker, Taraba State House of Assembly, Hon. Abel Peter Diah, sworn in Mr. Mela Orngu, as the new Clerk of the House.

This was in pursuant of letter written to the House by the Chairman, Taraba State House of Assembly Service Commission, Alhaji Shehu Muhammad.

Mela served as the Deputy Clerk of the House between Nov 2000 and

Nov 2017 and was appointed Acting Clerk in December 2017, following the retirement of the then Clerk.

Speaking, Hon. Diah described Mela as "an embodiment of legislative knowledge, who has exhibited integrity and self-discipline".

Mr. Mela, 57, is an alumnus of University of Maiduguri (UNIMAID) where he studied Political Science.

Delta Assembly Confirms Chairman, Secretary of State Pensions Bureau

The Delta House of Assembly has confirmed the appointments of Anthony Obuh and Lawson Efenudu as Chairman and Secretary of the state Bureau of Pensions.

It would be recalled that Gov. Ifeanyi Okowa sent the names of the nominees to the Assembly for screening and confirmation.

The confirmation of the nominees followed a motion moved by the Majority Leader, Mr Tim Owhefere which was seconded by Mr Anthony Elekeokwuri.

The house unanimously adopted the motion when the Speaker, Sheriff Oborewvori, put it to a voice vote.

Kwara Assembly Approves Ahmed's N250m Loan Request

The Kwara House of Assembly has approved a N250 million loan request by Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed for the upgrade of infrastructure in the state.

The House approved the request after a thorough debate by members following the adoption of a report by the Committee on Land and Housing on the matter at the plenary.

Leading debate on the issue, Leader of the House, Hassan Oyeleke, who said that the money had been captured in the 2018 budget, urged the lawmakers to grant the request.

The Deputy Speaker, Chief Mathew Okedare, who presided over the plenary, directed the clerk to communicate the approval to the governor.

Delta State Audit Bill Passes Its Second Reading

A Bill seeking to enhance accountability in the Delta State's expenditure of government's funds has been passed for second reading.

According to the Majority Leader, Mr Tim Owhefere, the bill also provides penalties for offences usually committed by some auditors.

Supporting it, Mr Ruben Izeze (PDP-Ughelli South) said the bill was necessary as it would ensure smooth auditing of government businesses and blocking of loopholes in the finances of the state.

Izeze said that the bill when passed would enhance good governance, transparency and accountability and strengthen institutions to curb corruption in the system.

It subsequently referred to the House Committee on Public Account which was expected to submit its report to the house by June.

How Security Votes Fuel Corruption in Nigeria

By Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)

The growing budgetary allocation to the nation's security sector with contending political struggles for security votes has exacerbated corruption which is not far-fetched in Nigeria's security sector.

While a number of scandals have been recorded around the security votes which continue to pave way for monumental financial diversion and misappropriation by politicians who appropriate millions of dollars behind closed doors simply by evoking national security, security officials are as well known to join forces in the dubious activities rendering the nation's security sector inefficient to effectively curtail social vices and sustain victory against insurgence attacks.

As a result, funds that are meant to buy equipment and even pay salaries go missing, leaving the security forces poorly equipped, demoralized and incapacitated which erodes public

“
With the recent withdrawal of \$1 billion from the Excess Crude Account – nearly half of Nigeria's dwindling rainy day fund – for ad hoc security expenditures by the government without due process and permission from the national legislature is a clear reflection of lack of transparency and accountability around our security budget and security votes.
 ”

confidence.

With the recent withdrawal of \$1 billion from the Excess Crude Account—nearly half of Nigeria's dwindling rainy day fund—for ad hoc security expenditures by the government without due process and permission from the national legislature is a clear reflection of lack of transparency and accountability around our security budget and security votes.

This questionable decision further

raised public concerns over the dwindling capacity and credibility of the present administration to successfully curtail corruption not only in security votes but also other ramifications.

It is worrisome that the administration has continued to neglect adequate review of the previously allocated whopping sums to ascertain the extent and impacts of utilisation as a baseline for the recurring allocations. Instead, it increased the number of security votes tucked into the federal budget from \$46.2 million (N9.3 billion) to \$51 million (N18.4 billion) between 2016 and 2018.

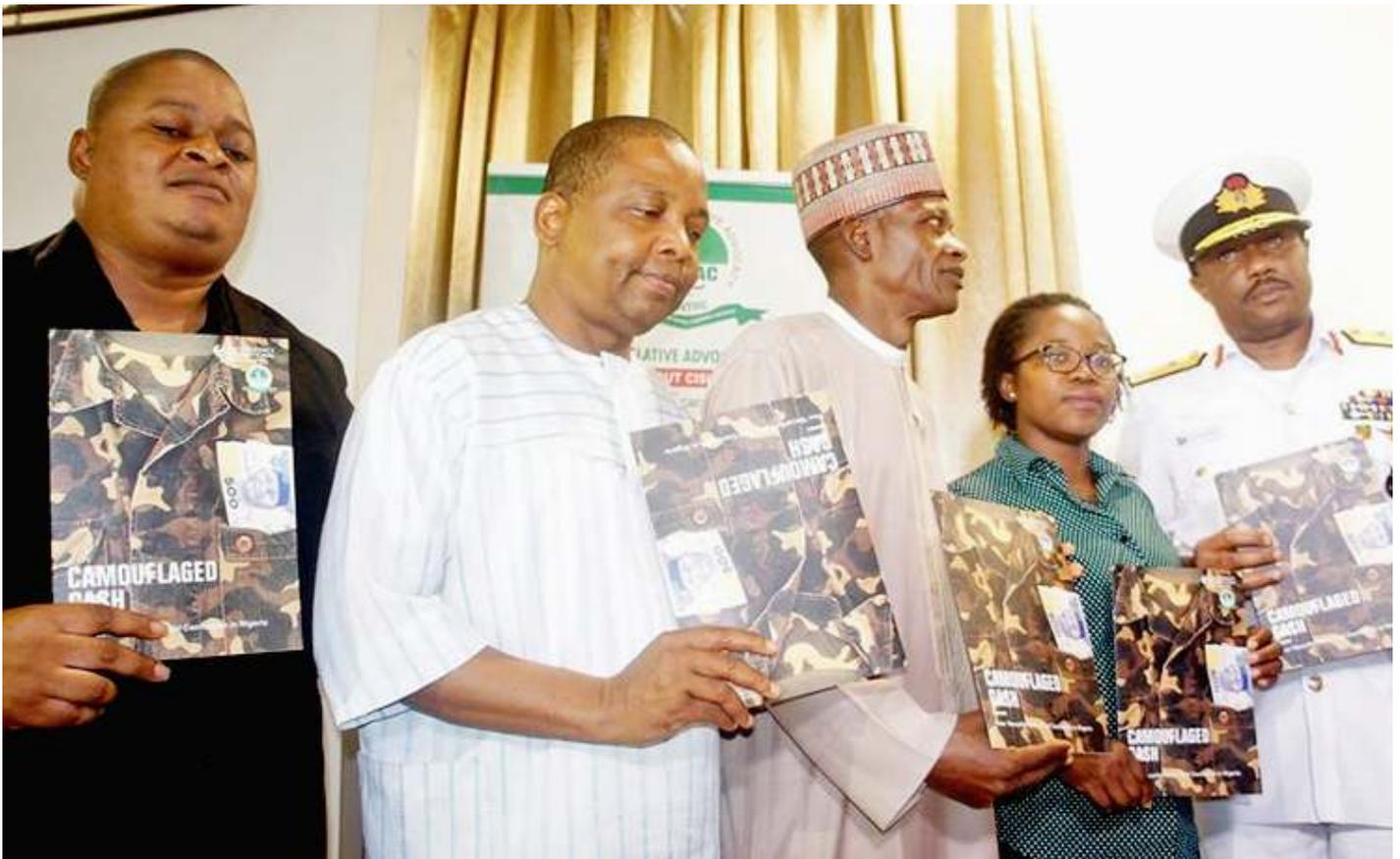
Security votes are one of the most durable forms of corruption that exists in Nigeria, and it is time for us to end this outdated relic of military rule and ensure that funds are used to protect citizens, not line the pockets of politicians.

These vast sums are spent without the basic controls you would expect in a democracy, like transparency on their use, or audits. They are hidden behind a veil of secrecy that serves to mask all sorts of sins.

While in some instances there are reasons for these expenditures, in Borno State for example, officials almost certainly have spent a significant amount of their security vote on financing a security presence as well as sponsoring the 26,000-strong militia popularly known as the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF). However, CJTF members report that they don't receive their already-



Rafsanjani



Participants unveiling the report at the launching ceremony in Abuja.

meager pay of \$100 per month, which the government promised them when they joined.

Also, in Plateau state where decades of ethnic conflict have left the city's neighborhoods segregated along religious and ethnic lines, a Nigerian Army Special Task Force—also known as 'Operation Safe Haven', receives a significant amount of state government support via the security vote. And because of the state's history of insecurity, the security vote is seen as an unquestionable expense.

It is no more new that security votes fuels varying kind of political violence that, particularly in the run-up to this next election, puts the lives of Nigerians and the stability of our country at risk. We have seen this in Anambra State, where funds have gone to vigilante groups like the Bakassi Boys. Security votes are providing officials with slush funds to build private armouries, stoke ethnic tensions and divide opponents, creating dangerous networks of power.

Security votes represent a significant waste of resources that our

legitimate military forces desperately need to tackle the range of security issues we face – piracy in the Delta, Boko Haram, and farmer-herder conflicts require a response, and in order to provide it these forces need funds. But spending on something with security in its name does not create security. Instead, security votes represent a drawing-away of money from those institutions that actually need it most – and because they are conducted with no oversight, control or transparency, they in fact feed into conflict and stoke tensions, rather than resolving them.

Ultimately, we need to have security votes brought to an end. Legislation should be introduced to this affect as soon as possible, and it should be accompanied by legislation specifying budgeting procedures and criteria for security expenditure.

But we recognise that this will take some time. And the first step is to look at the model of Lagos, where a trust fund has been set up that takes the oversight out of the hands of those receiving this money. The LSSTF is governed by a board that includes

government, civil society, and private sector representatives. It is audited independently each year, and its procurement processes are competitive and relatively free from security force interference. This has led to increased support from the private sector – 30-40% of its funds now come from companies – and provides a model that other states should look to, until a complete ban on security vote spending is enacted.

The 24-page report titled "Camouflaged Cash: How Security Votes Fuel Corruption in Nigeria" published by Transparency International Defence and Security (TI-DS) in collaboration with the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), a National Contact of Transparency International (TI), is brewed with verifiable facts and figures which are indeed undeniable and not uncommon in our existing volatile political system.

In spite non-existence of specific constitutional or statutory basis, security votes are publicly permitted, prioritised and sustained regardless

Continued on page 14



From left: Dr. Oby Ezekwesili, renowned human right activist; Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), Executive Director of CISLAC; Chair of Transparency International, Ms Delia Ferreira Rubio; Samuel Kaninda, Regional Coordinator-West Africa of Transparency International at a high level organised by CISLAC to share international anti-corruption best practices to address emerging issues in Abuja.

Participants displaying copies of a report titled "Camouflaged Cash: How Security Votes Fuel Corruption in Nigeria" published by CISLAC in collaboration with Transparency International - Defence and Security Programme (TI-DSP) during the official launching of the report in Abuja.



Participants in a group photo at Safety Focal Point training organised for TI National Chapters at the Transparency International Secretariat, Berlin, Germany with CISLAC in attendance.



From left: Barr. Adeshina Oke, Member of the Board of CISLAC; Ezenwa Nwangwu, Convener of Partners for Electoral Reforms; Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) Executive Director of CISLAC; Okeke Anya, Program Manager (Democratic Governance), CISLAC organised by civil society groups under the aegis of Say No Campaign

Participants in a group photo at a one-day workshop on Strengthening Defence Budget Monitoring, Performance and Effectiveness in Nigeria organised by CISLAC in collaboration with Transparency International-Defence and Security (TI-DSP), with support from United Kingdom CSSF of the Foreign and Commonwealth in Abuja.



Participants in a group photo at a one-day meeting of the Tobacco Taxation Working Group (TTWG) in Nigeria organised by CISLAC in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Health with support from African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) in

CISLAC Sensitises Students Against Corruption

By Bathsheba Tagwai

Effort at combating corruption among student population, especially in the tertiary institutions brought to the fore, one-day sensitization training against corrupt practices for tertiary institutions organized by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) under the aegis of Integrity, Mobilization, Participation, Accountability, Anticorruption and Transparency in Nigeria (IMPACT Nigeria) project, in Benin, the capital city of Edo state.

Speaking at the training, the Executive Director of CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) represented by Advocacy and Legal Advice Officer, Barr. Bathsheba Tagwai, said the project sought to empower and encourage youths to actively participate and commit to the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

She said: "The country can only move forward when youths shun corrupt practices in their daily activities and report same to the relevant authorities for proper sanctioning rather than doing



nothing.

"The project through the established ALAC aims at providing citizens with legal aid in receiving reports from victims and witnesses of corrupt practices. The centre provides legal advice, forwards the reports to relevant authorities and follows up to ensure that the victims receive redress.

"It raises awareness of the existing forms of corruption; informs and educate citizens on their rights;

receives and handles citizen's reports about corruption through a toll-free hotline and social media platforms; collaborates with MDAs of government as well as private organizations.

She further reiterated the need for a collective effort through appropriate education against corruption to achieve a peaceful and secured nation, calling for sincere and non-selective fight against corruption in the country.

How Security Votes Fuel Corruption in Nigeria

Continued from page 11

of transparency, accountability and impacts of utilisation at all levels of government. It is on this note that the Report provides detailed accounts, historical perspectives and implications of security votes to our nation's socio-economic and political prosperity.

While it acknowledges the existing efforts by many state governors who use a significant portion of their security votes to top-up funding to federal security agencies operating in their states, the Report with case studies from federal and states levels does not conceal the fact that widespread use of security votes by federal, state, and even local officials clearly undermines transparency and

accountability, and international practice.

Similarly, the report exposes the extent of misplaced priority in the allocation of security votes where some identified Ministries, Departments and Agencies received security votes in the proposed 2018 budget, despite having no security-related function.

In some cases, the findings of this research are almost laughable like the Federal School of Dental Technology and Therapy in Enugu received \$2,800; National Institute of Hospitality and Tourism Development Studies received N5, 668,635; and in Bayelsa State, funds went to the Special Advisor for Beautification.

This further construes security

votes as nothing but another form of institutionalised corruption.

Finally, in absence of an established budgeting process, independent audit, legislative oversight or public scrutiny, defined classification and declassification guidelines, public tenders or competitive bidding, security votes are indeed susceptible to high level corruption which should be condemned and discouraged, as the Report strongly observes and recommends.

I hope relevant stakeholders will effectively utilise holistic recommendations itemised and highlighted in the Report to interrogate transparency and accountability, uproot the precarious socio-economic implications of security votes in the country and restore sanity in our financing for the security sector.

Maternal Health:

Group Urges Community Consultation To Identify Priority

By Chioma Kanu

A group of state and non-state actors working on maternal health accountability in Katsina state have called for citizen inclusiveness in appropriation process to identify priorities in maternal health budgetary provision through rigorous community consultation to ensure effective implementation.

The group made the call in a communiqué issued at the end of Legislative and Media Dialogue on Maternal Health Accountability organized by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) with support from MacArthur Foundation in Katsina state.

The meeting which was held in the state's capital aimed at bringing Katsina state's legislature and the media under one roof to brainstorm on challenges militating against adequate maternal health budgetary allocation and effective oversight function and proffer holistic way forward ahead of the 2019 fiscal year, giving cognisance to essential roles of the media in tracking, reporting and raising policy and public consciousness.

According to the group, while maternal and child health constitutes the fundamental objectives of democratic leadership, "it as well remains a major legislative priority of the Katsina State House of Assembly".

They noted: "The State House of Assembly sustains and encourages media involvement and participation in legislative process including deliberations on issues affecting maternal and child health.

"The State House of Assembly is currently deliberating on



Cross-section of participants during the dialogue.

amendment to the College of Nursing and Midwifery and College of Health Science and Technology laws primarily to bridge human resource gaps for maternal and child health.

"Adequate budgetary allocation to the health sector in the State is hampered by the present dwindling revenue allocation from Federation Account to the states and low State Internally Generated Revenue.

"Weak social media engagement coupled with continuous shift in citizens' interest from local to international media reportage restrict outreach and dissemination of maternal and child health reportage.

"Legislature remains a key institution with significant constitutional power to address funding gaps in maternal health through appropriation process and oversight activities."

They observed the existing open-door policy operates by the State House of Assembly an enabling

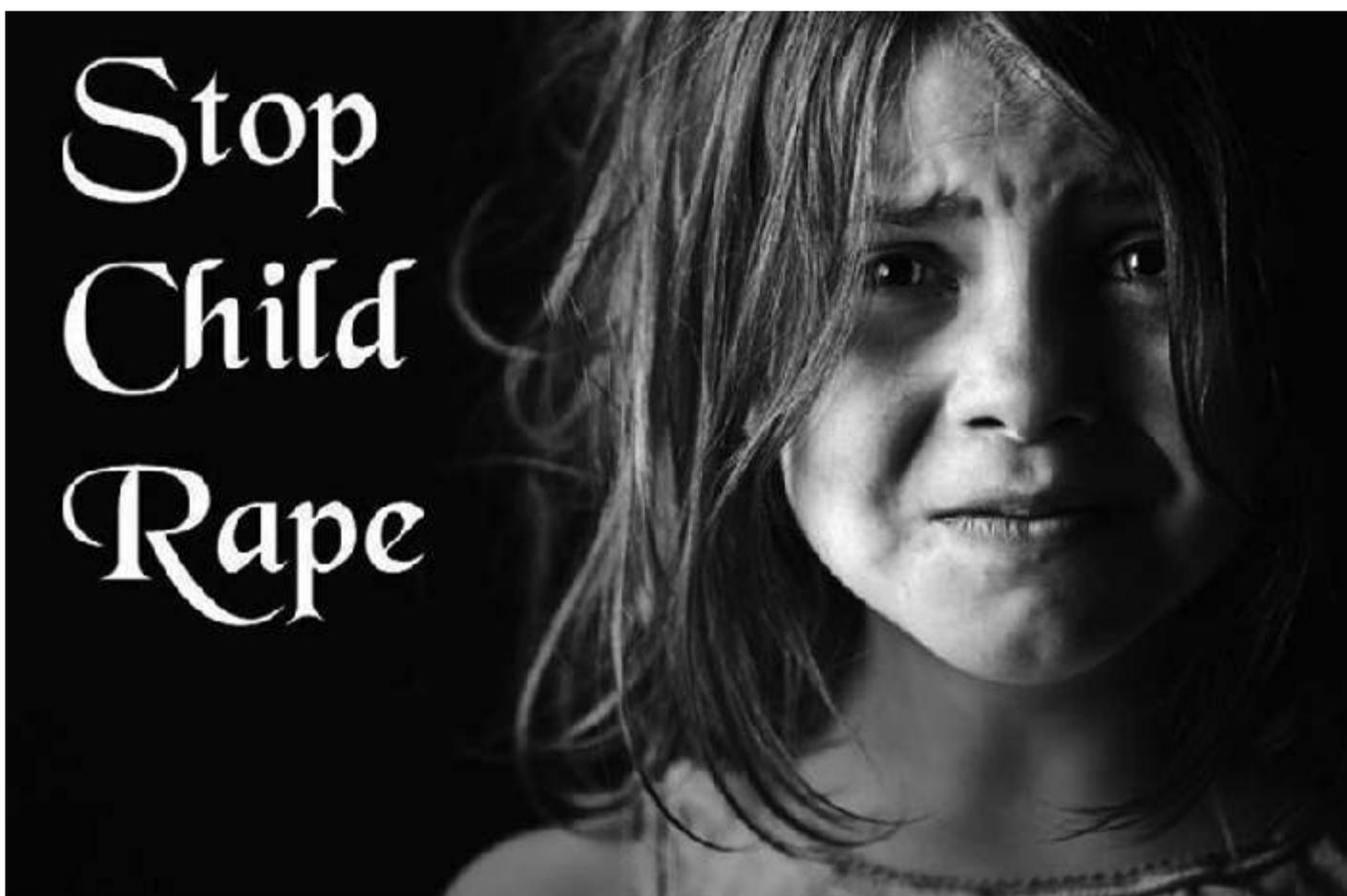
opportunity to strengthen effective legislature and media working relations, calling for efficient media coverage and reportage of maternal and child health issues to effectively raise public and policy consciousness on accountability.

As part of recommendations, the group suggested independent media reportage, agenda setting and investigative journalism to raise public and policy consciousness on maternal health accountability.

They recommended persistent review of budgetary performance by legislature to drive appropriate improvement in maternal health budgetary provision in the state; translation of existing health care policies into legislation to promote accountability and sustainability in the healthcare service provision and delivery; and integrated maternal and child health issues into submissions by various legislative Committees during the Appropriation process.

Rape, A Fight For All

Globally, sexual assault is a severely traumatic experience that disproportionately affects women and girls.



Uploaded on DesiComments.com

By Salmat Abdulwaheed

While there are reported cases of schoolchildren being raped by their teachers or supervisors, Nigerian schools and other educational centres seem to have become a fertile ground for child sexual abuse and a breeding ground for paedophiles. These alarming cases

continue to raise concerns among the parents.

As the plague of child sexual abuse erodes the moral and social fabrics of schoolchildren, schools and parents appear helpless and clueless on what to do. Often, if a case of sexual abuse gets reported at a police station, the matter is 'settled' covertly as the abuse itself.

In a socially conservative country like Nigeria, rape has become a

growing pervasive problem with statistics showing that nearly every woman can recall one or more instances in which she was sexually assaulted, harassed, threatened, or inappropriately touched.

Now, the problem lies very much in the aftermath of rape and the stigmatization the victims experience afterwards. Just as in the case of the woman who blamed her daughter's rape on her skimpy

dresses and her weak faith, such is the case with several other rape victims who are continually bullied (often times into silence) and blamed for their plight, leading to under-reported cases of rape in Nigeria while constituting a major reproductive health challenges.

More importantly, the existing lack of a database for sex offenders in Nigeria provides an enabling opportunity for a paedophile if dismissed from a school, to be employed by another.

The facts and figures of sexual molestations of schoolchildren in Nigeria are grim. In 2015, a report by United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) reveals that six out of 10 children in Nigeria experience sexual abuse before the age of 18.

Prior reports have shown that 4–6% of all adolescent girls in South-western Nigeria experience rape. The strict code of silence among victims implies the potential for under-reporting, especially when blaming is the norm.

Less than one in five (18.1%) of 10,000 respondents who have been raped in Nigeria reported the case to the police. There are many reasons for this. Rape results in stigmatization of the victim, resulting in rejection by families and communities, and with police sometimes unwilling to make

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To end the ugly trend, we must understand and detect signs that an individual could be a rapist, special attention should be given to the children and teenagers. There should be a national strategy to promote respect for human rights with empowered and strengthened law enforcement agencies to effectively handle rape cases.
 ”

official reports.

Due to this stigma, women and adolescents may be unwilling or unable to obtain a medical examination to substantiate their report of rape. High rates of rape and low reporting underscore the need for specific actions to address sexual violence and to stem the tide on potential risks of HIV transmission. A report by Sinclair et al. shows that building self-defence skills of girls in Kenya significantly reduced incidence of rape over a 10-month period.

However, prior to planning and implementing a similar program in Nigeria, it is important that leadership recognizes there is a rape epidemic. HIV infection is just one of the multiple challenges faced by rape victims, but a strong reason for stakeholders engaged with HIV prevention programmes to incorporate rape prevention in

current and proposed HIV prevention programmes for adolescents.

The existing law does not acknowledge male rape victims nor does it recognize anal sex as part of rape. Second, a victim of rape needs to establish that penetration occurred, corroboration (or validation) of the crime needs to be established, and proof must be provided that consent was not given. The limitations with establishing consent make proving many of the few valid rape cases difficult. Overall, the low prospect of receiving legal judgment for rape stifles enthusiasm in seeking legal recourse.

To end the ugly trend, we must understand and detect signs that an individual could be a rapist, special attention should be given to the children and teenagers. There should be a national strategy to promote respect for human rights with empowered and strengthened law enforcement agencies to effectively handle rape cases.

Civil society groups and the media should enhance synergy towards public enlightenment in the fight against rape and sexual violence in the country.

More importantly, making rape a capital offence with protracted prison terms is paramount to de-normalise the menace and discourage potential offered.

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Prior reports have shown that 4–6% of all adolescent girls in South-western Nigeria experience rape. The strict code of silence among victims implies the potential for under-reporting, especially when blaming is the norm.
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COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF ONE-DAY HIGH LEVEL WORKSHOP TO SHARE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BEST PRACTICES TO ADDRESS EMERGING ISSUES ORGANIZED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM MACARTHUR FOUNDATION AND FORD FOUNDATION IN ABUJA ON 22ND MAY, 2018 AT TRANSCORP HILTON, ABUJA.

Preamble

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organised a One-day High Level Workshop to Share International Anti-Corruption Best Practices to Address Emerging Issues themed “Preventing the Facilitation of Corruption in Public and Private Sector: Leveraging on International Frameworks to Promote Sustainable Development” in Abuja. The Workshop aimed at sharing international anti-corruption best practices to address emerging issues towards building integrity and emerging best practices on curbing corruption by leveraging on international frameworks to promote sustainable development in Nigeria.

The meeting was graced by the Chair of Transparency International, Ms. Delia Matilde Ferreira Rubio, renowned human rights activist and former Minister of Education, Dr. (Mrs) Oby Ezekwesilli, Regional Coordinator-West Africa of Transparency International, Samuel Kaninda, Members of the Board members of CISLAC, representatives of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Umar Suleiman and Aliyu Yusuf; Federal Ministry of Justice, Odesanya Kolawole; Bureau of Public Procurement, Adesina Mokolu, Nigeria Police Force - DIG H.M. Dagala; Technical Unit on Governance and Anticorruption Reforms, Lilian A.K Anyawu; Code of Conduct Bureau, Okota Richard; Federal Inland Revenue Services, Dir. Legal Ike Odume, Presidential Committee on Anticorruption, Adesanya Olusegun; Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, Dr. Dauda Garuba; Corporate Affairs Commission, Rasheed Raheem; Special Control Unit against Money Laundering (SCUMUL), civil society organisations and the Media. After exhaustive deliberations and panel discussions on various thematic issues like Beneficial ownership and open contracting, implications of ease of doing business in Nigeria: prospects and challenges in the fight against corruption, deepening the understanding of open

contracting in Nigeria and it's implication on national development, recovery of proceeds of crimes/opportunities and challenges in the utilization of the anticorruption legal framework, international asset recovery and management of recovered assets in Nigeria, and implications on corruption in the achievement of SDGs in Nigeria, the following observations and recommendations were made:

Observations:

1. Globally, no fewer than 2 billion people live under severely corrupt governments, a clear indication that citizens are predominant victims of corruption with precarious impacts on human rights and social accountability.
2. While the impact of corruption manifests as less education, health, development and less opportunity for citizens, corrupt practices have been normalized as usual or acceptable way of doing business in many countries.
3. In Nigeria, corruption threatens socio-economic development, fuels maladministration and deceitfulness, and blatantly undermines the democratic ethos, the institutions of democracy, the rule of law and the foundational values of our emerging democratic project
4. In spite emphasis placed by successive administration in combating corruption in the public sector which accounted for an estimated 70% of corruption cases in Nigeria, the spite of corrupt practices in the public sector remained a major impediment to service delivery and development success of the administrations.
5. While monumental corruption is directly or indirectly predominant in the Nigeria's extractive sector, the existing excessive centralized power operating in opaque context, especially in the oil and gas sector remains a major challenge confronting transparency and

accountability in beneficial ownership, hence impeding effort at addressing corruption inflicted processes in public contracting.

6. Despite accelerated convictions of culprits and repatriations of loots between 2016 and 2017, none has made sufficient impact on asset recovery or positively defined public opinions.
7. Non-existence of enabling institutionalised mechanism to adequately verify the credibility of beneficial owners' information from public institutions creates tendency for politically exposed activities in public contracting.
8. Delayed inauguration of National Procurement Council in line with Public Procurement Act paves ways for persistent involvement, interference and non-compliance by the Federal Executive Council in public contracting with resultant invasion of politically exposed activities.
9. As language barrier and jurisdictional differences hampers recovery efforts of looted assets, existing rigorous conditions by the assets-deposited countries discourage assets repatriation and recovery process and utilisation in accordance with the Nigerian government agenda.

Recommendations:

1. Prompt deregulation of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to decentralise existing excessive centralized power and encourage full transparency and accountability of beneficial owners' information in contracting processes of the oil and gas sector.
2. Embracing high level professionalism, openness and transparency in interrogating and investigating corruption cases by anti-graft institutions to earn credibility and support of the citizens, who will take ownership and de-normalise behaviour in demanding social justice and accountability in governance.
3. Building strong institutions and de-normalising citizens' perception through the passage and effective implementation of internationally ratified conventions to change process and institutions.

4. Ample and sincere policy response to reported corruption, giving zero chance to nepotism to revert current unfavourable indices and successfully combat the growing menace in Nigeria.
5. Institutionalising appropriate preventive mechanisms and ensuring governance presence especially in ungoverned areas with enhanced priority to accord basic and qualitative lives of the people.
6. Massive sensitisation for community involvement and participation in open contacting processes—planning, award and implementation of a contract; and mainstreamed community-based approach in raising public and policy consciousness against corruption to ensure widespread accountability, ownership, sustainability.
7. Proper review and identification of key areas for public reforms to mitigate corruption tendency and de-normalise politically exposed processes in beneficial ownership of public contracting.
8. Institutionalising a reliable mechanism to verify the credibility of beneficial owners' information from public institutions and discourage propensity for politically exposed persons in public contracting.
9. Institutionalising strong and holistic ethical standard in public sector to ensure compliance and strict adherence to code of conducts to complement effective implementation of policy and legislation on anticorruption.
10. Immediate establishment of the National Procurement Council in line with Public Procurement Act 2007 to operate independent of the Federal Executive Council to effectively coordinate approval and award processes of public contracting.
11. Enhance collaborations by the anti-graft agencies with assets-deposited countries in the signing of a mutual legal assistance MoU to ease asset repatriation of looted assets.

Signed:

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director of CISLAC

Oil and Gas: How Porous Borders Heighten Subsidy, Frustrate Local Supply

By Kate Onyeka

The unprecedented proliferation of fuel stations in communities across Nigeria's borders giving chances to continued smuggling of petroleum product to neighbouring countries remains a major threat to affordable supply and sustainable distribution matrix of the product in the country.

A recent report by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) reveals the whopping sum of N144.53 billion expended in subsidizing Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) also known as petrol in 2017, translating to an average of N366 million per day.

The report attributes high cost of subsidy to the rising consumption arising from massive smuggling activities of petroleum products to neighbouring countries. It establishes a strong correlation between the presence of the frontier stations and the activities of fuel smuggling syndicates.

Similarly, the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Dr. Maikanti Baru has attributed the activities of the smugglers as the cause of the recent observed abnormal surge in the evacuation of petrol from less than 35 million litres per day to more than 60 million litres per day, which was in sharp contrast to established national consumption

pattern.

Providing a detailed presentation of the findings, the NNPC boss noted that no fewer 16 states having a total 61 local government areas with border communities, account for 2,201 registered fuel stations. The fuel tank of the petrol stations, according to him, had a combined capacity of 144.998 million litres of petrol, about four times more than Nigeria's average fuel consumption of 35 million litres daily.

More importantly, the obvious differential in petrol price between Nigeria and other neighbouring countries has made it a lucrative business for the smugglers to use the frontier stations as a veritable conduit for the smuggling of products across the border with resultant thriving market for Nigerian petrol in all the neighbouring countries of Niger Republic, Benin Republic, Cameroun, Chad and Togo and even Ghana which has no direct borders with Nigeria.

As the country develops, there will be increased movement of goods and people via land, air and sea thereby mounting pressure on already overstretched border security. Now assuming the government is successful in tightening security along both legal and illegal crossing points, there remains one other means illicit smugglers can get their goods across the border and that is through corruption. Smugglers are

able to go past Nigeria's porous borders by simply paying the security officers. The illegal routes cost less than the legal crossing points. Some border officials collect these bribes because they are not well compensated for their hardship posting.

As a way forward, Tanwa Ashiru, founder of Bulwark Intelligence has observed that securing Nigeria's porous borders are not going to get any easier.

Meanwhile, collective effort among the security agencies in Nigeria is paramount to effectively strengthen border security especially in the areas of information gathering to make sure they share vital border information with immigration and other relevant security agencies. Surveillance technology that uses unmanned solar powered ground sensors and night vision telescopes exist and can be deployed for this purpose.

They must stay one step ahead of smugglers and traffickers who will quickly adapt and exploit security vulnerabilities. But most importantly, the corruption culture that allows illegal border crossing to thrive must be effectively dealt with. All these activities must be sustained irrespective of the time or weather.

Moreover, some border operatives are expected to share the returns with their immediate superiors back in the office. This further exacerbates the cycle of corruption. Reports have raised alarm over the deliberate removal of security cameras across some border.

There is need for a concerted approach by the Nigerian government, the communities, and the people to end the pain caused by the porous borders across as it is related to adequate supply of petroleum product.

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Civil Society Groups Honour Taju, Winnie & Momoh

By Gloria Chinyere Okwu

The Nigerian Civil Society groups have organised a public lecture in honour of the past renowned human rights activists and pan-Africanists such as late Tajuddeen Abdulraheem, Abubakar Momoh and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

In a statement released in Abuja, the groups said the late trio stood out as Activists, Pan-Africanists and Gender Advocates who lived fighting for human causes and therefore deserve periodic remembrances to inform and inspire young Africans to learn from the experiences and uncommon struggles.

“It is on this note that CSOs in Nigeria are working round the clock to commemorate Tajuddeen, Abu and Winnie during a commemorative annual lecture with a theme PAN-AFRICANISM, GENDER & AFRICAN LIBERATION: REFLECTIONS ON TAJJUDDEEN ABDULRAHEEM, ABUBAKAR MOMOH & WINNIE MANDELA,” the group noted.

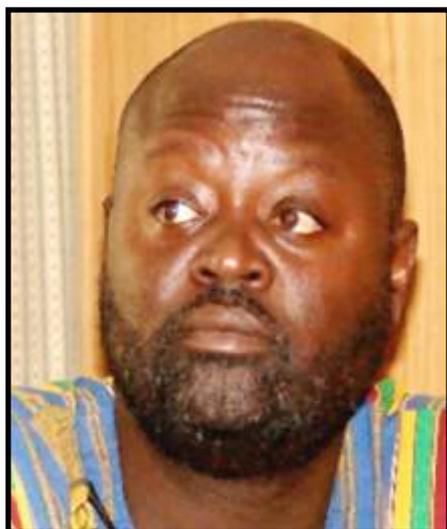
Abubakar Momoh was a prominent Nigerian civil society leader, activist, scholar and humanist.

Momoh obtained his Ph.D in Political Theory and started his Lecturing career in 1988 at the Lagos State University where he rose to become the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. He took a sabbatical from the University when he was appointed as Director General of The Electoral Institute where he served until his death on Monday 29, May 2017.

As a cerebral and distinguished scholar and academic, Momoh's research and teachings traverse many universities in Africa, Europe and North America where he taught as Fellow, Visiting Scholar and Researcher including Institute of Development Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland; Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden; Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town, among others. He served as External Examiners at various times to the University of Lagos, University of Ibadan and University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa; and also has served on various Boards and scientific committees including those of the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa

(CODESRIA) and the African Association of Political Science (AAPS). As a young academic, Momoh's irrepressible mind saw him emerge as the National Treasurer, of the respected Academic Staff Union of Universities from 1991-1995 where he participated in many actions to improve teaching conditions across Nigerian universities.

Momoh's contributions to national development will not be forgotten soon having served on several government technical committees in Nigeria, including as member and coordinator of “Foreign Policy” Subcommittee of Federal Republic of Nigeria “Vision 20:20.” He served on several technical teams of the African Union Commission (AUC) and most recently was involved in designing the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and Elections Bench-marking framework for the African Union. In his pursuit of a truly democratic Africa, he participated in several election observer missions in Nigeria and several African states and in Europe on behalf of ECOWAS and the African Union. He was appointed as Director General of The Electoral Institute, an



Taju



Winnie



Momoh

independent research and knowledge development arm of Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission where he worked tirelessly to revive the vision of the body and raise the role of learning and experience in elections planning and management in Nigeria and across the continent.

Tajudeen Abdul Raheem, who died in a car crash in Nairobi, Kenya, dedicated his life to the Pan-African vision and the peaceful unification of Africa. A thinker and writer but above all a mighty speaker and orator, Taju- as he's fondly called, inspired and influenced a whole generation of Africans and Africanists through the mixture of a contagious passion and humour. It is ironic that he died on 25 May – Africa Day of Liberation.

While he used humour and charm to win over those who were usually the targets of revolutionaries, Taju reserved his rage for the Kleptocratic rulers of Africa and their corruption, greed and incompetence. As he once wrote, "this ruling class only looks at the welfare of the minority rich and powerful, at the expense of the impoverished and powerless underclass."

He was the founding chairman of the Centre for Democracy and Development and helped found "Justice Africa"- a platform for intellectual reflections and collective action for a free and prosperous Africa. Taju's position as Secretary General of the Pan-African movement gave him international status and access to African leaders, but little protection from the rulers in his own country. Back in Nigeria, Taju campaigned against despotic military generals who had seized power and ruled and robbed the country for most of his life. In 2002 he was arrested as he was trying to return to London and had his passport confiscated. But

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In a statement released in Abuja, the groups said the late trio stood out as Activists, Pan-Africanists and Gender Advocates who lived fighting for human causes and therefore deserve periodic remembrances to inform and inspire young Africans to learn from the experiences and uncommon struggles.
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the best illustration of Taju's Pan-Africa's struggle happened in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian authorities decided to relax the country's visa conditionality for Africans because Taju told the late Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, that Ethiopia could not be hosting Africa yet be barring Africans via stiff visa conditionality. In fact, Taju told Meles Zenawi to his face that Africans should be given visa at the airport in Addis Ababa, which was exactly what the Prime Minister announced and committed the country to.

Taju later took a job with the United Nations in Nairobi to promote, advocate and mobilise support for the UN's Millennium Development Goals throughout Africa. Throughout all this, he kept lecturing and writing – always signing off his emails with: "Don't agonise, Organise!"

At the time of his death, Taju was the Deputy Director, Africa Office of the UN Millennium Campaign, but as in a classic case of a jack of all trades who mastered all, he was hands on throughout the effort to build domestic support for the MDGs, speaking with governments, private sector, civil society leaders and development partners across the continent.

Armed with a First Class degree in Political Science from Bayero University, Kano which he got in the mid-80s, Taju left the shores of Nigeria in 1983 to be the First Rhodes Scholar from Northern Nigeria at the Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela (26th September 1936 – 2nd April 2018), also known as Winnie Mandela, was a South African anti-apartheid activist and politician, and was married to late Nelson Mandela. She served as a Member of African National Congress where she headed the Women's League. Popularly known as "Mother of the Nation" by her supporters, Winnie was a major force in the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa.

Born to a Mpiond family in Bizana, and a qualified social worker, she married anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg in 1958. They remained married for 38 years and had two children together. In 1963, after Mandela was imprisoned following the Rivonia Trial; she became his public face during the 27 years he spent in jail. During that period, she rose to prominence within the domestic anti-apartheid movement.

Nelson Mandela was released from prison on 11 February 1990, and the couple separated in 1992; their divorce was finalised in March 1996. Winnie visited Nelson during his final illness. As a senior ANC figure, she took part in the post-apartheid ANC government, although she was dismissed from her post amid allegations of corruption.

In 2003, she was convicted of theft and fraud which led to her temporary withdrawal from active politics before returning several years later.

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11	SB 415	A Bill for an Act to amend Section 6 of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act CAP R7 LFN 2004 and for other related matters.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Francis Alimikhena
12	SB 637	A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Planning Commission and Re-enact National Planning Commission Bill, 2018 and other matters, 2018.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Danjuma Laah
13	SB 436	A Bill for an Act to provide for the Licensing and Regulation of Private Detectives and Investigators and for other matters connected therewith.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Ike Ekwere madu
14	SB 615	A Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the Federal College of Education (Technical) Aghoro, Bayelsa State and for other matters connected therewith.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Foster Ogola
15	SB 620	A Bill for an Act for the establishment of the Federal College of Education Illo, Kebbi State and for other related matters.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Yahaya A. Abdullahi
16	SB 599	A Bill for an Act to amend the Sheriffs and Civil Process Act CAP S56 LFN 2004 and for other related matters	2018	Second Reading	Sen. David Umaru
17	HB 1345	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Allied Dental Health Professionals Council; and for Related Matters (HB 1327)	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Ajibola Israel Famurewa
18	HB 1327	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Agriculture, Dadin Kowa, Gombe State to make comprehensive provisions for its due Management and Administration; and for Related Matters.	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Abubakar A. Yunusa
19	HB 199	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Food, Drugs and Related Products (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. F33, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to increase the Fine and Confer Jurisdiction on the High Court of States to try Offences under the Act; and for Related Matters)	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Betty Apiafi
20	SB 320	A Bill for an Act to establish the Federal College of Forestry Toungo and for other related matters.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Ahmadu Abubakar
21	HB 1383	A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap, F17 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Fagge, Kano State to Provide Opportunities for Technical Education in furtherance of Government Economic Objective of Ensuring Effective, Dynamic and Self Reliant Economy and for Related Matters.	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Aminu Suleiman
22	HB 314	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Police Procurement Fund fro the Procurement of Law Enforcement Equipment and Uniforms to Assist the Nigeria Police Force in the Presentation of Lives and Property and for Related Matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi

BILLS UPDATE (MAY, 2018)**Compiled by CISLAC**

S/N	BILL NO.	BILL NAME	YEAR	STAGE	SPONSOR
1	SB 672	A Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the Federal Polytechnic, Ikom, Cross River State to provide full-time courses in technology, applied science management and other fields of studies and to make provisions for the general administration of the polytechnic and for other matters connected therewith.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. John Owan Enoh
2	SB 250	A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Explosives Act CAP E18 LFN 2004 and Re-enact Explosive Bill, 2018 to make provision to Regulate the Manufacture, Possession, Use, Sale, Transportation, Export and Import Explosives and other matters.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Danjuma Laah
3	HB 1296	A Bill for an act to Repeal the Terrorism (Prevention) Act, 2011 and Enact the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Bill to Provide Measures for the Prohibition, Prevention and Combating of Terrorist activities in Nigeria; and for related matters	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Kayode Oladele
4	SB 625	A Bill for an Act to amend the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board Act CAP J1 LFN 2004 and for other matters connected therewith.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Barau I. Jibrin
5	SB 648	A Bill to an Act to amend Federal High Court Act CAP F12 LFN 2004 and for other matters connected therewith	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Chukwuka Utazi
6	SB 230	A Bill for an Act to amend the immigration Act and for related matters.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Gbolahan Dada
7	HB 161	A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Council for Social Works to Regulate the Practice of Professional Social Work in Nigeria; and for Related Matters.	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Ossai N. Ossai
8	HB 1195	A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigeria College for Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria and Nigeria Institute of Transport Technology (NITT) Zaria and Establish the Federal University of Land and Air Transport, Zaria, to provide Training and Teaching Instruction in every aspect of Education and such other fields of Applied Learning relevant to the needs of the Development of Education in Nigeria, Matters of administration and discipline of Students and other related matters.	2018	Second Reading	Hon. Abbas Tajuddin
9	SB 624	A Bill for an Act to establish the Nigerian Council for psychologists and for other related matters	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Ben Murray Bruce
10	SB 320	A Bill for an Act to establish to amend Education (National Minimum Standards and establishment of Institutions) Act CAP E3 LFN 2004 and for other matters connected therewith.	2018	Second Reading	Sen. Barau I. Jibrin

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