COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF TOWN HALL MEETING ON STRENGTHENING EXISTING MDGs COMMITTEE IN KADUNA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ORGANIZED BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM MAC ARTHUR FOUNDATION HELD AT EPITOME HOTELS AND SUITES LIMITED, BARNAWA, KADUNA ON THE 21st MAY, 2014.

PREAMBLE:
Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organized one day Town Hall Meeting on Strengthening Existing MDGs committee in Kaduna State House of Assembly with support from MacArthur Foundation. The meeting had in attendance about 20 participants including the Kaduna State’s legislators, legislative aides, women representatives, civil society and the media. The meeting featured Mr. Abel Adejo as the lead presenter and other discussants. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

OBSERVATIONS:

1. While the future of a nation depends upon healthy living of women and mothers, effective maternal health remains a vital instrument to achieve sustainable development.
2. Globally, women are identified as the sole income-earners in one-third of households, and comprise 70% of agricultural workers across Sub-Saharan Africa.
3. 17 months to the end of the MDGs, there are indications that achieving the MDGs will be illusive without proactive efforts to mainstream development goals, especially as related to maternal and child health (MDGs 4 and 5 of the MDGs) in legislative activities.
4. Apart from the government, it is also the responsibility of citizens to work towards effective implementation and achieving MDGs at the timeline.
5. Existing insecurity in the country has threatened the implementation of MDGs projects by health personnel, especially across the grassroots.
6. Weak access to medical facilities and inadequate legal framework on health in the State has paved way for impunity amongst Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government and altered effective delivery on infrastructural facilities and maternal and child health.
7. Over the years, poor coordination of inter-ministerial activities on MDGs has resulted in the poor implementation of budgetary allocation to maternal health related infrastructure and information on maternal health in the State.
8. Unethical attitude and inadequate capacity of some health personnel and continuous migration of health workers from the State has challenged effective delivery on maternal health in the State.
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Enhanced effort to build and sustain progress in human and women development particularly by the State House of Assembly.
2. Increased oversight on budgetary allocation to social services with significant focus on maternal and child health.
3. Concerted efforts by the Executive and the State House of Assembly to develop defined indicators to measure milestones on the MDGs, and improve on the existing achievement on implementation of MDG programs in the State.
4. Effective collaboration between Government and philanthropists to promote inclusive participation and adopt a bottom-up to top-bottom system at all levels of policy making as a strategy to strengthening the implementation of MDGs in the State.
5. Proactive efforts by legislature, CSOs, media and various stakeholders to create well-informed citizens and violent-free society as a panacea for a sustainable delivery on maternal and child health.
6. Development and implementation of robust legal framework on maternal and child health by the legislature; and increased legislative oversight to stem corrupt practices.
7. Prompt efforts to boost human capital through enabling environment and enhance access to medical facilities.
8. Enhanced synergy between legislature and the executive through joint sessions to promote coordination for sustainable budgetary allocations to key development sectors.
9. Adequate incentives to medical personnel, especially at grassroot level to discourage continuous migration of health workers from rural to urban areas.

CONCLUSION:

The participants expressed their appreciation to CISLAC for embarking on the town hall meeting and to Mac Arthur Foundation for providing the support to this all important program channeled towards strengthening the capacity of MDGs committee with special focus on maternal and child health as well as increased knowledge amongst stakeholders. The State Government strongly supports the initiative of promoting MDGs. Participants expressed gratitude to the organizers noting that the engagement was revealing and indeed an opportunity to begin to create bigger conversation amongst players on MDGs in the Kaduna State.

Signed:

Mr. Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC

Mrs. Larai Diana Gwani
Secretary to the Kaduna State House of Assembly Committee on
Women Affairs and Social Development

Mr. Sunday Yakubu
Clerk to the Kaduna State House of Assembly Committee on Finance
COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF ONE-DAY TOWN HALL MEETING ON UNDERSTANDING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FUNCTION ON MATERNAL HEALTH ORGANIZED BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM MAC ARTHUR FOUNDATION HELD AT EPITOME HOTELS AND SUITES LIMITED, BARNAWA, KADUNA ON THE 22ND MAY, 2014.

PREAMBLE:

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organized one day Town Hall Meeting on understanding legislative oversight on maternal health with support from MacArthur Foundation. The meeting had in attendance about 20 participants including the Kaduna State’s legislators, legislative aides, women representatives, civil society and the media. The meeting featured Mr. Abel Adejoro as the lead presenter and other discussants. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

OBSERVATIONS:

1. Inadequate access to legislature by the electorate to demand accountability on maternal health.
2. Inadequate health facilities and lopsidedness in the distribution of existing ones across the State.
3. Poor executive-legislative oversight on existing maternal health facilities has threatened effective delivery on maternal health in the State.
4. Unwarranted bureaucracy in the civil service has altered administrative support towards institution of maternal health.
5. Inadequate budgetary allocation to health sector and poor utilization of existing one to provide for sufficient facilities and effective service delivery on maternal health, especially in the grassroots.
6. Inadequate individuals’ awareness to understand their roles and responsibility to demand accountability.
7. Weak working relationship between the State’s legislators and legislative aides.
8. Inadequate legislative-CSOs working collaboration and discouraging attitudes of the State’s legislators toward civil society.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Well-informed citizens with enhanced interest to properly understand and effectively utilize the national constitution in engaging policy makers and hold them accountable to their mandates.
2. Passage of enabling legislation by Kaduna State House of Assembly to provide for appreciative delivery on maternal health.

3. Committed efforts by communities in collaboration with legislature and other policy makers to demand accountability on the provision sustainable maternal health facilities.

4. Good governance, independent and effective judiciary, people-oriented legislature and evidence based CSOs to achieve transparency and accountability health sector.

5. Adequate remuneration and rewards for civil servants to avert unnecessary administrative delay in delivery on maternal health.

6. Prompt utilization of the existing resources to cater for viable facilities and training and retraining programmes for workable service delivery on maternal health.

7. Continuous training and retraining programmes to promote proactive legislature and enhance legislative capacity to identify developmental related issues affecting various committees.

8. Strengthening working relationship among legislators, legislative aides and civil society in compliance to international standards on legislative practice.

CONCLUSION

The participants expressed their appreciation to CISLAC for embarking on the town hall meeting and to Mac Arthur Foundation for providing the support to this all important program channeled towards promoting maternal and child health as well as increased knowledge amongst stakeholders. The State Government strongly supports the initiative of promoting maternal health. Participants expressed gratitude to the organizers noting that the engagement was revealing and indeed an opportunity to begin to create bigger conversation amongst players on maternal and child health in the Kaduna State. It was a consensus that a private bill be sponsored by civil society groups to facilitate the participation of civil society in legislative process.

Signed:

Mr. Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC

Nongo M. Tessy
Aid Foundation

Mr. Usman Abdullahi Lapai
Daily Trust Newspaper