2014: CISLAC Sets Agenda for the NASS

As members of the National Assembly resume for the year 2014 legislative activities, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) observed that:

1. The year 2013 marked another era of socio-political unrests in Nigeria.
2. The socio-political unrests were greeted by series of economic dilapidations attributed to poorly performed budget and high cost of cost of governance.
3. The perpetrators of the political and socio-economic unrests associated with the 2013 are yet to be held accountable.
4. Both Upper and Lower Chambers of the National Assembly witnessed among other things, corrupt allegations linked to some members of the Chambers.
5. Inadequate commitment to policy and legislative mandates and activities by the legislatures in the country.
6. High cost of full-legislature operating in the country remained unresolved by the National Assembly.

As parts of the New Year Agenda, CISLAC urges the NASS to:

1. Remained objective and avoid unwarranted debates that can jeopardize the spirited efforts of our founding fathers to achieve meaningful socio-economic and political development in the country.
2. Ensure drastic efforts are made to minimize the present high cost of governance in the country through total reduction in wastages in the 2014 appropriation.
3. Carry out constructive review of legislative agenda.
4. Fast-track the passage of people oriented Petroleum Industrial Bill (PIB) as against the invested interest of industries; comprehensive National Tobacco Control Bill (NTCB) in accordance with Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC); and other pending Bills before the National Assembly.
5. Ensure 2014 Appropriation Bill reflects Nigeria commitment to international agreement to key sectors such as education and agriculture.
6. Adopt and emulate proper codes of conduct of patriotic parliamentarians through democratic process that allows for public participation.
7. Never relent in their spirited efforts to achieve meaningful democracy in the country.