PRESS RELEASE

$9.3million Laundering: CISLAC demands Exhaustive Investigation

Following the very recent scandalous development involving $9.3million found in South Africa in a private jet belonging to the President of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Pastor Ayodele Oritsejafor, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) observed that:

1. On 5th September 2014, a jet owned by Pastor Oritsejafor was caught in South Africa stashed with $9.3 million undeclared cash allegedly meant for the purchase of arms through black market.
2. After the development, contrary to the rule of the House that stipulates that when a matter has been moved by way of a motion, the presiding officer shall allow time for those who want to speak for and against, a session of House of Representatives recently turned rowdy when the Deputy Speaker Emeka Ihedioha refused to entertain debate on a motion seeking the probe of the sum laundered.
3. Instead of brainstorming exhaustively on strategic manner to address emergence issue in heart of the nation’s peace and security, some members of House of Representatives have shifted focus from political ideology to partisanship by discouraging constructive debate into an important issue.
4. Though the Nigerian government presented documents to show that the deal was legal, however, South African authorities dismissed the explanation, stressing that the alleged deal contravene the provision of section 30 of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act No. 38 of 2001 of South Africa which stipulates that “a person intending to convey an amount of cash in excess of prescribed sum of $10,000 to or from South Africa must report the prescribed particular concerning the conveyance to a person authorized by the minister for this purpose.”
5. Deliberate, unethical, illegitimate and questionable contravention of relevant section of South Africa’s Financial Intelligent Centre Act has further put the image of our country in jeopardy before international community to make reference to the perception that Nigeria is a corrupt nation.
6. In recent times, peace and unity of the country has been threatened by series of criminal, immoral and unethical act including massacre of innocent lives and destruction of property being white washed with religious grandstanding.
Recommendations

CISLAC recommends as follows:

1. Prompt and full-fledged investigation by National Assembly into the laundering and arms smuggling and bring the perpetrators into book.
2. Committed effort by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to investigate the source of the money, involvement of the lease agent in the laundering and arms smuggling and its real purpose.
3. Demonstration of true commitment by the federal government towards combating corruption, social injustice and lack transparency; avoid such unacceptable act that could erode public confidence.
4. While the right of every legislator to debate should be duly respected, legislature must not shy away from discussing very important issue to our national image.
5. Members of National Assembly as representatives of the people should avoid political partisanship and embrace sincere political ideology to maintain peace, stability and development in the country.
6. Patriotic efforts by all citizens to maintain a spirit of oneness, regardless of tribal, ethnic, religious, sectional and political differences.

Signed

_Auuwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)_

*Executive Director of CISLAC*