

PRESS RELEASE

AMINAT MOHAMMED: CISLAC DEMANDS GENDER INCLUSIVENESS IN MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) condemns in totality the ongoing baseless petitions, gender-biased submissions and selfish positions by unpatriotic persons or groups of persons against the appointment of Mrs. Amina Mohammed as a Minister by President Muhammadu Buhari.

We have observed some disgraceful efforts by some pocket-serving sycophants against the appointment of Mrs. Mohammed, who is a well-known woman with required credibility, experience, integrity and track records suitable for the Ministerial appointment.

While we understand and appreciate the position of the 8th Assembly's Agenda to promoting equality among the citizens and safeguarding the rights of women, we call on the legislature to fulfill its promise to all Nigerians by shunning all manners of power-plays berating gender inclusiveness in the ongoing ministerial composition.

We have no hesitation to clearly state that in terms of experience, Ms. Mohammed has distinguished herself by working in the field of development for over 30 years both in the public and private sectors. Her passion and commitment towards the development including poverty eradication in all ramifications is largely recognize and commended.

Mrs. Mohammed's vast experience and credibility both at national and international community spurred her recognition and subsequent appointment as the Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning in 2012 to the renowned United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Between 2002 and 2005, she worked in the United Nations Millennium Project as a Coordinator of the Task Force on Gender and Education. In 1991, Mrs. Mohammed founded Afri-Projects Consortium, a multidisciplinary firm of Engineers and Quantity Surveyors, where she was Executive Director from 1991

to 2001. Between 1981 and 1991, she worked with Archcon Nigeria in association with Norman and Dawbarn United Kingdom.

It is worthy of note that Mrs. Mohammed has served on many international advisory boards and panels such as the Gates Foundation and the UN Secretary General's Global Sustainability Panel. In 2005 she was charged with the coordination of the debt relief funds (\$1 billion per annum) towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria.

We find it worrisome that despite the commendable contributions by women to the nation's socio-political development since democratic rule in 1999, they are under-represented in all key political decision making bodies in Nigeria including National and State Houses of Assembly. Although women constitute the greater number of registered voters in any of the elections held so far in the country, they are yet to experience average representative positions.

To promote culture of equality, which formed the priority of the 8th Assembly's Agenda, we call on the legislature to seriously consider full-fledged gender inclusiveness in the composition of the ongoing ministerial appointment.

We therefore urge the National Assembly to disregard unjustified submission berating confirmation of Mrs. Mohammed; and ensure all individuals are treated fairly and equally and no less favourably as regards their race, gender, disability, religion or belief in the ongoing confirmation.

Signed

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