

CISLAC Demands Independent Probe into 5M Bribery Allegation

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), the National Contact for Transparency International (TI) expresses concern over the committee set up by the Kano State House of Assembly to investigate the recent \$5million bribery allegation attributed to the State Governor, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, as displayed in a widely shared video clip.

While we commend the effort and ability of the House at setting up an ad hoc committee to investigate the purported bribery, we are perturbed that outcome of such investigation would command public trust and credibility respect if handled by independent and competent ICT professionals with track record of integrity.

We are confused that this effort will to a large extent assure Nigerians of fearless fact-findings on the true nature of the video clip in fulfilment of the administration's readiness to combat corruption within and outside the ruling party.

We must therefore, reiterate that anything short of an independent investigation would seem stage-managed before the public; just as we are not unaware of the infringement of human rights, intimidation and harassment of the whistle-blowers and citizens who stepped out to peacefully protest this unwary development in the State.

We call for the immediate step aside by the Governor to allow high level transparency, accountability and rule of law to come in place in process of the investigation and prevent possible influence of fact-findings. This will guarantee fairness and discourage undue interference in the investigation.

We find this disheartening and reiterates our persistent demand for the adoption of a Whistle-blower Protection Law.

We call on the president and the Inspector General of Police to guarantee the rights of the people for a peaceful protest and ensure lives are secured.

We also call on the National Assembly and anti-corruption agencies to live up to the expectations and trust placed in them by Nigerians in ensuring perpetrators of corrupt practice are brought to book, while guaranteeing adequate protection for whistleblowing effort through enabling policies implementation and transition into legislation.

CISLAC remains committed to monitoring the government at all levels to ensure that she fulfils her promises to the citizens of our great country.

Signed

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