

## PRESS RELEASE

### **CISLAC condemns suspension of Kano Anti-corruption Chair, calls for Public Hearing**

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) received the surprise, the unlawful suspension of the Kano Anti-corruption Commission Chairman, Muhuyi Magaji Rimingado, by the State House of Assembly on a baseless cause backed by an unconstitutional process.

Giving the relevant provisions of the Law establishing Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-corruption Commission, we are seriously worried by- and question the legitimacy of the state's Law-making Body to surreptitiously hijack the functions of the Executive and impose a suspension on a Chairman of constituted Commission without an iota or respect for the rule of Law.

We are disappointed at the self-serving position of the State Assembly—which has the fundamental mandate to protect and allow citizens' interest to prevail in its legislative activities, flouting provisions of the rule of law and procedures.

This combined with other reported cases involving outright disregards for the rule of Law and procedures raises public concerns on the level of credibility, integrity and independence maintains by Kano State House of Assembly, especially giving the provisions of Sections 6 of the Kano State Public Complaints and Anti-corruption Commission (Amendment) Law 2010, which gives only Governor the power to remove the Chairman or any member of the Commission, while acting upon a resolution supported by the State Assembly on the inability to discharge effectively the functions of his office or for any other reason.

We are not unaware that suspension of Magaji has been triggered by the reported undemocratic political attempt instigated by the Governor to undermine independence and integrity of the Commission; and the his earlier rejection of an illegally-driven direct posting of staff from the Office of Kano State Accountant General; as against Section 15(1)(g-h) of the Law establishing the Commission, which enshrines such within the functions of the Commission; and the provision of Section 8, stating that “In exercising its powers under the Law, the Commission shall not be subjected to the direction and Control of any authority.”

While we have been following with keen interest the competence, commitment and progress of Magaji in the war against corruption that has continued to yield appreciable impact in the state, we observed from the politically-motivated suspension, effort to divert the Commission's attention and frighten its operatives from the progressive struggles at digging deep into- and uprooting major corruption cases in the state.

We are disturbed that despite various pledges and effort by the present administration to combat corruption at levels, anti-corruption operatives and institutions are seriously endangered and sabotaged at sub-national level with deeply-rooted political resistance and unchecked display of rascality.

We therefore, call on the Kano State House of Assembly to redeem its integrity and reconsider its decision on Magaji's suspension, as such if not retracted, would backpedal the state and grossly nation's progress in the anti-corruption fight and pave way for a bad precedent.

We demand openness and transparency in further legislative activities that may involve any resolution calling for removal of Magaji; through a well-attended Public Hearing to enable appropriate participation and accommodate positions of civil society groups.

We encourage all operatives of the Commission never to succumb to threat or intimidation by any person or group, but instead strengthen the fight against corruption through enhanced strategies as enabled within legal provisions.

We urge all well-meaning Nigerians and the media to kick against an unjustified decision or resolution at all levels to frustrate the on-going anti-corruption fight in the country.

Signed:

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