

PRESS RELEASE

NASS Resumption: CISLAC charges Legislators on Priority Issues

As the National Assembly resumes legislative activities for the New Year, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) calls on the legislators to as matters of urgency prioritise pending and important issues affecting the nation's socio-economic development such as Petroleum Industry and Governance Bill, openness and transparency in the 2017 Appropriation Bill, Constitutional and Electoral Reforms, constituency accountability, and sustainable security.

While we are not unaware of the existing efforts by the legislators towards the passage of **Petroleum Industry Governance and Institutional Framework Bill 2015**, we call on the legislators to fast-track passage of the Bill, which remains highly imperative to provide for the Governance and Institutional Framework for the Petroleum Industry to attain significant growth and progress in the nation's oil and gas sector.

As deliberations begin on the **2017 Appropriation Bill**, we observed that having an open legislature in the Appropriation process allows for constructive, encompassed, meaningful and citizens-minded inputs towards delivering the Appropriation dividend to the electorate. We encourage the legislators on prompt adoption of openness in the Appropriation process to reinstall citizens' confidence in allocations to various sectors.

While we welcome the on-going **Constitutional and Electoral Reforms** process in the Assembly, we call on the legislators to identify key laws and priority areas for reforms to empower INEC and relevant electoral bodies to deal with perpetrators of serious offences in the electoral process, and ensure a level playing ground for competitive elections and guarantees for all democratic rights and freedoms as enshrined in the Constitution. We also call on the legislators to fast-track the review process of the 1999 Constitution to address emerging issues affecting Exclusive and Concurrent Legislative Lists for timely growth and development of the country.

We charge the legislators as representatives of the people on **constituency accountability** as democracy's credibility and sustainability depend largely on the extent of citizens' participation and involvement in legislative and governance process. We call on the legislators to strengthen their working relationship with their respective constituencies for constructive information and contributions to inform qualitative and citizens-encompassed legislative process.

We also call on the legislators to intensify its oversight on **security sector** to complement and sustain the nation's recent achievements at combating insecurity and prioritise security as a crucial issue to attain desired political and socio-economic growth and development at all levels.

Signed:

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