CISLAC Condemns Dreadful Recruitment Process

Following the bloody stampede that claimed 18 lives and leaving several others in emotional and physical trauma at the venues of the recruitment exercise by the Nigeria Immigration Service on Saturday, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) observed that:

1. The rising unemployment level in the country has setup unjustified platforms to engage the applicants (who are mostly the youth) in heartless screening procedures.
2. In 2008, no fewer than 20 people were reportedly died in various states of the federation during a similar exercise conducted by the Ministry of Interior for Nigeria Prisons Service, Nigeria Immigration Service and Customs Service.
3. Couple with previous experiences, the Interior Ministry has failed in its duty to organize effective procedures that ensure maximum protection of applicants during the screening process.
4. Apart from the stampede, alarming unemployment rate in the country has contributed to other social vices such as the ongoing insecurity dilapidating Nigeria’s socio-economic conditions.
5. Unchecked corruption, economic mismanagement, senseless looting of the public funds by unpatriotic and pocket-serving government officials have denied the country meaningful investment opportunities that could have helped to create millions of jobs.
6. Government and relevant stakeholders have committed no sincere effort at addressing the main dilemma—unemployment facing the youth in the country.

CISLAC recommends as follows:

1. Prompt investigation by the National Assembly into the remote and immediate causes of the tragedy with befitting sanction and punishment against erring supervising officials of the Interior Ministry and Nigeria Immigration Service.
2. Rigorous scrutiny of procedure employed in the screening exercise to checkmate its conformity with international standards regulating employment process.
3. Well-formulated effort to map out strategies to prevent future re-occurrence.
4. Workable effort to tackle the increasing level of corruption to encourage meaningful development in the country.
5. Enabling environment and concerted efforts to encourage and enhance private sector investment initiative to tackle the unemployment problems facing the country.
6. Workable compensations for the family of deceases and other applicants suffering from emotional and physical trauma caused by the stampede.

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