Passage of PIGB: CISLAC commends Nigerian Senate

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) commends the giant legislative stride by Upper Chamber of the National Assembly that resulted in recent passage of the long awaiting Petroleum Industry and Governance Bill (PIGB), after over two years in different legislative sessions of the Assembly.

We are not unaware that actualising PIGB formed major campaign promise of the present administration for the first one year in the office; the commitment which was reiterated in the Federal Government’s Short and Medium Term Priorities to grow Nigeria’s Oil & Gas Industry 2015–2019, fancifully labelled the “7 Big Wins” had a time lapse at the first quarter of 2017.

We also acknowledge the Senate for embarking on such citizen-minded initiative despite the failure by the Executive arm to prepare and send an executive Bill to activate legislative debate on PIGB after repeatedly promised.

While we applaud the time, efforts and resources deployed by the Nigerian Senate towards the passage of the Bill, being a major campaign promise of the present administration, we hope the Executive arm will promptly transform the Bill into legislation through a befitted presidential accent in fulfilment of its promise to provide appropriate legal and regulatory framework particularly important for optimal performance of the oil and gas sector.

We note that the passed Bill reflected many of the proposals put forward by civil society, including CISLAC and her partners during the Public Hearing session held on the Bill, especially the unbundling of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to separate her commercial role from her regulatory functions.

Recall that CISLAC and her CSO partners had reservations about the splitting of the Bill initially because of the possibility that the other components may never be attended to and remind the National Assembly that the Bill has left out fiscal issues which remain the most important aspect of the old PIB.

We call on the Nigerian Senate to intermediately commence work on the outstanding parts on which the passed Bill is silent as it had promised, as it is the only way to demonstrate trustworthiness and sustain confidence of Nigerian people.

We also call on the House of Representatives to follow suit in considering the Bill for immediate passage; as well as the civil society, citizens and the media to remain vigilant until the battle for a people-oriented and national interest serving PIGB comes to limelight.

Signed:

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsajani)
Executive Director, CISLAC