CISLAC cautions Houses of Assembly against Unjustified Impeachment Process

Following the ongoing politically inflicted impeachment actions permeating the nation’s political atmosphere that subsequently unseated a state governor, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) observed that:

1. As the nation moves towards 2015 general elections, there emerges undemocratic attempt by some unpatriotic politicians to accomplish their electoral ambitions.
2. Impeachment process predominantly targeted at members of opposition party may pose a threat to the nation’s democracy and sow seeds of crisis in an already violence-charged Nigerian polity as recently experienced in Nassarawa state.
3. The ongoing attempts by the federal government to hijack State Houses of Assembly, primarily to fortify its political ambition lack the requirements of the minimum standard of civilization, ideals and expectations of an open quality democracy.
4. As some State Houses of Assembly neglect the spirit of independence and succumb to all manner of external interference into their activities clearly positioned them as use any means and break any rules in the quest for power and wealth.
5. The State legislators have neglected their primary duties—representation, law making and oversight, and are preoccupied with externally motivated plan to unseat their executives.

Therefore, CISLAC:

1. Appreciates State Houses of Assembly surveillance to sanitise the nation democracy and maintain effective oversight against excess of the executives.
2. Advises the State Assemblies to be wary of external interference that could hijack its primary constitutional responsibilities and sabotage their recorded achievements.
3. Urges the State Houses of Assembly to without fear or bias, remain consistent and committed to their constitutional responsibilities.
4. Calls on the State Houses of Assembly to avoid all manners of undemocratic power game that could overshadow their constitutional mandates.
5. Demands exhaustive and thorough scrutiny on allegations or charges against the executives prior to impeachment—should situation justifies.

Signed

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