PRESS RELEASE

CISLAC URGES JUDICIOUS UTILIZATION OF LEGISLATIVE TIME UPON RESUMPTION

Preamble:

As years pass by, it becomes very obvious that National Assembly struggles with limited time to achieve gargantuan workload before them. They are obviously distracted by many unnecessary engagements that consume precious limited time. As members of the National Assembly resume legislative activities on Tuesday 13th January, 2015, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) therefore urges the National Assembly to:

1. Never relent in their effort towards carrying out their mandates towards effective oversight, lawmaking, promotion of good governance and adequate representation of the interest of Nigerians, despite the executive’s interference;
2. Effectively fulfill their electoral mandates, considering the upcoming general elections and seriously pay attention to address some critical pending issues affecting the citizens and nation at large;
3. Consider the passage of the 2015 appropriation bill which was presented to National Assembly as at December 2014, by the Minister of Finance
4. Consider the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) which has been lying at the National Assembly for the past 12 years even though it portends significant growth and progress for the nation’s oil and gas sector;
5. Propose the passage of many other important bills including the Comprehensive National Tobacco Control Bill, the Violence Against Persons Prohibition bill, the Whistleblower Protection bill, the Gender and Equal Opportunity bill, the Disability bill, the Access to Justice bill, the FIU amendment bill and many more that are still lying fallow at the national assembly; and
6. Consider the passage of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) amendment bill, which remains dormant at National Assembly, despite the upcoming elections in a few weeks.

Recommendations:

In view of all these, CISLAC therefore calls on National Assembly to:

1. Judiciously utilize the legislative time with maximum level of objectivity and efficiency to ensure that legislative work does not suffer;
2. Timely scrutinize and deliberate on the 2015 Appropriation bill to cater for the nation’s financial needs for effective growth and development; and ensure the bill reflects Nigeria’s commitment to international agreement to key sectors such as 25% education, 15% health, and 10% Agriculture;
3. Promptly pass the long awaiting Petroleum Industrial Bill, to curb endless corrupt practices, promote transparency and accountability and enhance growth and progress in the nation’s oil and gas sector;
4. Adopt and uphold proper codes of conduct for patriotic legislature though democratic process that allows for public participation and meaningful democracy;
5. Carry out an effective oversight on the used $1billion loan for weapons to fight insurgency and terrorism;
6. Carry out inquest on the used budgetary allocation for displacement of persons in Nigeria;
7. Demand immediate action to bring back the Chibok girls that have been held captive for far too long;
8. Demand appropriate sanction on those who looted public pensions fund and arms deals;
9. Demand for action against those behind immigration job scam;
10. Demand for action to end doctor’s strike; and
11. Demand prosecution of all perpetrators mentioned in subsidy scam including non-remittance of $20billion by the NNPC.

Signed:

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