

Ilorin Sallah Stampede: CISLAC Decries Extreme Poverty, Violations Against Women

At the heel of World Poverty Eradication Day yesterday, Nigeria recorded a stampede which resulted to death of no fewer than 20 persons including three pregnant women in Ilorin, Kwara state capital, over struggle for Salah gifts at the residence of the late Dr. Olusola Saraki's Government Reservation Area (GRA) residence. Following this gruesome development, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) observed that:

1. Political leaders in Kwara State have taken advantage of the rising poverty level to manipulate the citizenry in the State for their unpatriotic political advantage.
2. Over the years, women have been marginalized in the Kwara State's developmental projects, despite their essential contributions towards electoral processes
3. The extreme poverty level in the State has deprived women their constitutional rights as regards the mode of electioneering where women are subjected to series of enticements and largess.
4. Women have been deprived of their constitution rights to quality standards of living and have become vulnerable, primarily to ensure their continuous participation and support to the male counterparts in electoral process.
5. The vulnerable groups in Kwara State have suffered from long years of successive weak governance, rising poverty, ignorance, discrimination, injustice, and insecurity contributing to key factors undermining the achievement of MDGs goals 1 and 3, on eradication of extreme poverty and gender equality respectively, in the State.
6. Rising level of corrupt practices in the State and non-consideration for rule of law have impaired the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MGDs).
7. So far successive political administrators have made little or no effort towards women empowerment or appropriate development programme in the State.
8. Hitherto, Dr. Olusola Saraki and family have enjoyed endless privilege as women manipulators for political gains.
9. Poverty would persist in the State, especially among the vulnerable groups, if immediate attention is not given to women empowerment and development.

CISLAC recommends as follows:

1. Aggressive demand for patriotic leadership by the citizens to foster good governance and enhance transparency and accountability in State.
2. The state government should immediately increase public and private investments and women empowerment projects in Kwara State.

3. Workable political intervention to establish an institutional framework to promote environment sustainability and poverty alleviation in the State.
4. Gender inclusiveness in the state political structure
5. Increase in women participations in the State's development project.
6. Increased funding, budgetary allocation and public investment for small scale agricultural development projects to promote food security in the State.
7. Prompt political intervention to combat violations and abuses against women.
8. Increased priority for human rights through training, a sanctions regime, establishment of responsible investigation units on rights abuse and capacity enhancement for the citizens.
9. Strengthened democracy and continued improvement in the State's infrastructure and service delivery.

Signed:

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director,
CISLAC