COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF A ONE-DAY LEGISLATIVE AND MEDIA DIALOGUE ON MATERNAL HEALTH ORGANIZED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION, HELD AT SULTANATE SUITE, KANO STATE ON 7TH JUNE, 2018.

PREAMBLE:
Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organized a One-day Legislative and Media Roundtable on Maternal Health Accountability. The meeting aimed at bringing Kano state’s legislature and the media under one roof to brainstorm on challenges militating against adequate maternal health budgetary allocation and effective oversight function and proffer holistic way forward ahead of 2019 fiscal year, giving congnisance to essential roles of the media in tracking, reporting and raising policy and public consciousness. The meeting drew participants representing the State House of Assembly and the Media. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

Observations:

1. In the last one year, the House of Assembly has passed into law, four (4) different Bills—Health Trust Bill, Private Hospital Bill, Contributory Healthcare Management Board Bill, Kano Ultramodern Hospital Bill, to promote adequate, accessible and affordable healthcare services.

2. While the State Assembly maintains open door policy and opportunity for the passage of other relevant Bill to enhance healthcare service provision and delivery, Free Maternal Health New-born and Child Health (MNCH) Bill still awaits passage in the Assembly as a result of contending priority legislation championed by the overburden State Ministry of Health.

3. Free MNCH as a policy is presented in operation across some selected facilities in the state.

4. The State has commenced the implementation of Contributory Healthcare system with exemption to some major healthcare needs.

5. The State House of Assembly had leverage related sectors to harness resources to augment financing for the state’s healthcare budget in 2018 Appropriation.

6. Inadequate compliance to the provisions of the appropriated budget and poor follow-up by the line MDAs on the existing allocation impede timely budgetary release to the health sector.

Recommendations:

1. Concerted effort by civil society groups to strengthen advocacy and bring FMNCH Bill into limelight to ensure full coverage of the maternal and child healthcare service provision and delivery in the state.
2. Proactive legislative-CSOs synergy on budget tracking to ensure timely release of appropriated provisions to the health sector.

3. Training and retraining programmes for personnel across the line Ministries, Departments and Agencies to enhance capacity on memo development to access budgetary provision.

4. Strengthened oversight by relevant committees in the State House of Assembly to ensure compliance to budgetary provisions and effective implementation by the line Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

5. Public presentation of the state’s budgetary performance to monitor progress and complement effort by the state government.

6. Constructive advocacy visit by the state’s civil society groups to relevant committees in the State Assembly to strengthen legislative effort towards the passage of MNCH Bill.

Signed:

1. **Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)**  
   Executive Director, CISLAC

2. **Nasir Magaji**  
   Kano State House of Assembly

3. **Zainab Umar Ubale**  
   Rahma Radio, Kano