COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF ONE DAY CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC HEARING IN THE KANO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ORGANIZED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM MAC ARTHUR FOUNDATION HELD AT NASARAWA GUEST HOUSE, KANO STATE ON 6TH MAY, 2015.

PREAMBLE:

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organized One Day Civil Society Capacity Building Workshop on Public Hearing in the Kano State House of Assembly. The meeting aimed at enhancing the capacity of Civil Society groups in Kano State with required practical skills and experience to independently engage policy and legislative process, especially on issues relating to Public Hearing in the State House of Assembly. The meeting drew about 20 participants from various Civil Society Organisations. The meeting featured Mallam Nura Maaji, Mallam Rabiu Shamma and Chioma Blessing Kanu as the lead presenters and other discussants. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

OBSERVATIONS:

1. In Kano State, civil society organisations have constantly been engaged by the State House of Assembly for independent inputs into key legislation at Public Hearing.
2. Public Hearing is organised to generate expert opinions on a legislation, ministerial questioning, and investigate a suspicious offensive actions or behaviour by an authority.
4. Conflict of interest, especially among executive and legislative arms remains an impending challenge to effective legislation.
5. Inadequate in-depth research into an issue seeking legislation to generate well-informed position to constructively engage legislative process.
6. Inadequate knowledge and skill of memorandum development among civil society groups to effectively engage Public Hearing process.
7. Poor knowledge by some civil society groups about technical procedures for participation and presentation of memorandum at Public Hearing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants recommended the following:

1. Exploring new strategies to effective engage and advocate to the incoming State House Assembly on prompt passage of some pending legislation.
2. Effective participation and involvement in the legislative processes through persistent monitoring and tracking as well as constructive technical support to the Legislative Committees.
3. Prompt review of existing legislation by civil society to ascertain necessary areas demanding amendment.
4. Building well-informed citizens through education and massive public enlightenment to ensure full integration and participation of individuals in legislative and policy decision making processes.
5. Persistent advocacy by civil society to effectively communicate with the state legislature and other relevant stakeholders to create enabling environment for public hearing.
6. Evidence-based advocacy through research, data collection and regular meetings among civil society groups to harmonise positions for constructive input into legislative process.
7. Building sponsorship to galvanise required resources and technical expertise for Public Hearing; and liaising with relevant authority in the legislature to register memorandum for presentation.
8. Building synergy among civil society groups and relevant stakeholders to harmonise efforts for formidable advocacy on legislative process.

CONCLUSION

The participants expressed appreciations to CISLAC for embarking on the training and Mac Arthur Foundation for providing the support to the all-important training organized to enhancing the capacity of Civil Society groups in Kano State with required practical skills and experience to independently engage policy and legislative process. Participants further expressed gratitude to the organizers, noting that the engagement was revealing and indeed an opportunity to begin to properly engage legislative process and advocate for effective legislation in the State.

Signed

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

2. **Peter Hassan Tijani**
   Network for Empowerment and Development Initiative

3. **Mustapha Idris**
   Human Rights and Community Development Initiative

4. **Farouk Umar Garba**
   Community Health and Research Initiative (CHR)