

## **CISLAC calls on Nigerian Military to Improve Transparency**

Following the recent demand for increased Army budget by Chief of Army staff, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai, the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), the National Contact for Transparency International (TI) in Nigeria, demands improved transparency and accountability in Nigerian Defence spending.

While we are unaware that military operations across the globe are at high risks of corrupt practices, it is therefore expedient that the Nigerian military demonstrate full transparency and accountability over defence spending as contains in its commitments under Open Government Partnership to justify the need for budgetary allocation for enhanced military operations.

This is also important as billions of Naira have been diverted from defence spending in the North East under previous administrations.

CISLAC notes that the Nigerian Army has not yet met its Open Government Partnership commitments to improve fiscal transparency, integrity, transparency and accountability. Therefore, any increase in military funds can only be justified to the public with greater accountability for the spending of both previous and future defence spending.

As Nigeria has been wracked for decades by corruption in the defence sector, CISLAC proposes that there should be clear mechanisms for accountability to convince the public that any new spending will be used in the appropriate manner, rather than lining the pockets of corrupt officials.

CISLAC suggests that the Nigerian Army demonstrate its seriousness in fighting corruption in its defence spending by finally meeting its own commitments from the Open Government Partnership to ensure that all avenues of corruption is checked.

We also call on the National Assembly to carry out its oversight role by asking the necessary questions on behalf of the citizens they represent

Signed:

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