Tambuwal: CISLAC Condemns Disregard for National Legislative Chamber

On the emerging development in the nation’s political realms involving persistent defection of politicians from one political party to another, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC):

1. Is surprised by undemocratic and unconstitutional reaction of the Presidency and Inspector General of Police, Suleiman Abba towards the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal after his defection from People Democracy Party (PDP) to All Progressive Party (APC).
2. Finds it worrisome that Office of the Inspector General of Police has become a political toy used to intimidate political oppositions; as police personnel attached to the Office of the Speaker were instantly withdrawn following the defection of the Speaker.
3. Is compelled to state that brutality, intimidation and negative reaction among political parties towards defection or opposition can backpedal to our nation’s political achievements and endanger 2015 general elections.
4. Condemns the ongoing unjustified and unequal level playing field denying political candidates from exercising their constitutional rights to contest under an accredited party of their choice.
5. Observed that persistent defections from various political parties in the country to People Democracy Party were cheerfully embraced and celebrated by the Presidency and other members of PDP.
6. Is embarrassed by the unlawful actions of the Presidency and Inspector General of Police toward the Office of the number four citizen of the country, whose security detail and apparatus attached should not base on his lineage, person or political leaning; and not until the Speaker removed, replaced or impeached can the power to strip him of security protection be derived by the IGP and others.

CISLAC therefore,

1. Calls for equal level playing field for all political candidates contesting under any accredited political party in the country;
2. Demands immediate restoration of all security forces and apparatus attached to the office and person of Speaker of the House of Representatives to ensure maximum security and uphold utmost respect for the office of Speaker;
3. Urges Nigerian Police Force to uphold with patriotism, its core values and shun participating in political partisanship that can sabotage the nation’s peace and stability and degrade the citizens’ fundamental freedoms;
4. Advises the presidency and all members of the ruling People Democracy Party to avoid unconstructive political decisions that can disrupt the nation’s peace and harmony, or disregard our legislative chambers; and respect the law;

5. Encourages all political candidates to never relent in their constitutional rights and freedom to contest under any accredited party of their choice;

6. Calls on well-meaning citizens and the media to strongly condemn all manners of impunity and violation of fundamental freedom of the citizens by any individual or institution.

Signed:

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