PRESS RELEASE

TAX JUSTICE ADVOCACY: A SUCCESS STORY

In recent times, the current taxation system in the country has been identified with series of tax gaps such as double/multiple taxes levy on formal and informal sectors. Indeed, local market women are reportedly suffered in the hand of unscrupulous characters, who harass and extort money from them in the guise of local government levies.

It was in view of the above that Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) under the aegis of Tax Justice and Governance Platform, Nigeria (TJ&GPN) collaborated with OXFAM Nigeria to avert the negative implications of tax administration on the less privilege and reinstall fairness, justice and equity in the collection and administration of taxes in the country.

In this regard, it is noteworthy that CISLAC has embarked on series of tax justice awareness campaign both within and outside the country. In Nigeria, geographical zones that have benefitted largely from this process include South-West—Lagos, Ogun, Ekiti, Ondo, Osun and Oyo; South-South—Cross River, Rivers, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Delta and Edo State and South-East—Abia, Ebonyi, Anambra, Imo, and Enugu.

The advocacies involved strategic efforts in Town Hall Meetings to educate and enlighten relevant stakeholders such as tax payers, tax collector and administrators of their constitutional responsibilities toward regime. CISLAC also took the awareness program down to the market women, commercial motorcyclists, commercial try-cyclists, commercial motor parks, across the States listed above.

Consequently, the awareness programmes have brought about a peaceful demonstration involving well-informed market women who stormed the major streets of Aba on Friday 21st March, 2014 to demand justice on heavy imposition of taxes on them by the Abia State Government and its agencies.

Although reportedly dispersed by security agencies, however, CISLAC commends human right efforts of the women, who had not only learnt from its Tax Justice Advocacy in the State, but also summoned courage as patriotic citizens by regrouping and stood ground towards achieving their tax mandates; and were subsequently addressed by appropriate authority.

CISLAC encourages tax payers in various parts of the country to duly observe their tax obligations and never relent in their quest for fairness and justice in tax system; as this will reinstall transparency and accountability in the nation’s tax regime. CISLAC urges relevant tax authorities in the country to discourage all manner of multiple and illegal tax imposition on the citizens and promote transparency in tax collection and administration.
Signed:
Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC