

PRESS STATEMENT

CISLAC COMMENDS KANO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY FOR ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE ON MDGS

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, CISLAC, commends the Kano State House of Assembly in her efforts to institute the Committee on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). CISLAC has been engaging both National and State Assembly Committees on MDGs and other relevant Committees relating to MDGs, with the aim of advocating for the attainment of the MDGs by 2015 by getting legislators to play key role on resource allocation, effective oversight for implementing MDGs in Nigeria. CISLAC also conducts retreats, provides useful information and organizes dialogue with legislators at the National and State Houses of Assembly.

In 2009 CISLAC worked with the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) and the office of Special Assistant to the President on MDGs to organize the Africa-Wide strategy meeting, which was attended by Parliamentarians from Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, etc and that led to initiating an Africa Network of Parliamentarians on MDGs. CISLAC enthusiastically took the initiative to first of all secure a buy-in from National Assembly and then establish the mechanism for the proper launching of the Network. By March 2010, Africa Network of Parliamentarians on Millennium Development Goals was launched in Nigeria. The goal of the Network is to facilitate conscious effort toward enhancing the Role of Parliaments in deepening government accountability for the accelerated achievement of Millennium Development Goals. Their interventions being to deepen in all relevant Legislative processes; oversight function; Budget Scrutiny; Representation and Leadership Roles and any other possible activities that the legislature can undertake to increase and improve engagement with the MDGs in 2010.

This milestone achievement has engendered remarkable improvement within the National and State Assemblies towards accelerating the attainment of MDGs.

CISLAC never relented in her efforts towards advocating for attainment of MDGs and has intensified this effort during her legislative engagement within the state assemblies recently. It may be recalled that in 2011 and in the month of May 2013, CISLAC in partnership with the United Nations Millennium Campaign, carried out a grand tour of the Northern State Assemblies, (Kano inclusive) proposing roadmap for legislative proactive engagement with MDGs and conducting assessment of the MDGs performances in the states. The events were attended by relevant Committees in the State Houses of Assembly on MDGs and their staff; the State Executives; the Media and Civil Society Organizations. During the events, Members agreed to do everything possible to

strengthen efforts towards attaining MDGs, fostering collaboration among the relevant Committees. The outcome of the engagement was widely publicized through the electronic/print media and social media and communiqués were issued to that effect.

CISLAC is therefore ecstatic to find that her engagement is coming to fruition with the recent action by the Kano House State of Assembly to form a Committee on Millennium Development Goals, MDGs.

To this effect, CISLAC wishes to express her gratitude to Kano State House of Assembly for not relenting in their effort to push for attainment of the MDGs given the enormous task and challenges in achieving the MDGs.

CISLAC therefore calls on other State Houses of Assembly yet to establish the Committee on MDGs to borrow a leaf from the Kano State House of Assembly in order to fast-track the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 or other developmental indices.

CISLAC pledges continuous support to the cause of attainment of MDGs and every other development efforts by both National and State Assemblies and extends her hand of support and partnership to any party in relation to strengthening attainment of MDGs in Nigeria.

Signed by

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director
CISLAC

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE CISLAC CONDEMNS RISING ANARCHIES IN NASARAWA STATE

Following the renewed skirmish communal clash between the Ombatse ethnic militia and Assakio in Eggon and Alago ethnic groups in Obi, headquarters of Obi local government of Nasarawa State leading to the death of no fewer than 30 persons and over 7,000 residents displaced, the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) observed as follows:

1. In the last decade, Nigeria has been faced with persistent inter-intra community, inter-religious clashes arising from political and ethno-religion struggles orchestrated by some selfish individuals.

2. The Nonchalant attitude of the Federal Government towards the security situation in Nasarawa State is capable of sending a wrong signal to other ethnic and terrorist militias, thereby setting a regrettable precedence.
3. The persistent clashes in the State have been ignited by previous unresolved crises.
4. The crises in the State are heightened by weak political and traditional institutions, ignorance, and intolerance among members of the communities.
5. The Violent Conflicts between the two communities have posed serious challenges to their socio-economic well-being.
6. The rising unemployment rate, illiteracy and joblessness among the youths have extensively exposed the two communities to undesirable elements that could capitalize on insecurity to attack innocent citizens.

CISLAC RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Immediate and independent investigation by the Federal Government into the cause of clashes in the State; and ensure that such killings do not occur again.
2. Government should first identify the dynamics of conflicts between the two communities; as two incidents, even if occurred in the same area, may not be viewed from same perception.
3. Effort to resolve the conflicts should give priority to the roles of traditional rulers, community/village heads, and the religious leaders who are likely to be more informed on the root causes of the clashes.
4. The traditional institutions in both communities should always imbibe positive attitudinal change to their members for proper orientation.
5. The State and Local Governments should provide the communities with skill acquisition centres and Local Technical Support to promote self-help skills as essential principles toward Peace Building and employment creation.
6. The Security Agencies should quickly interfere and restore order, without resorting to tactics capable of worsening the crisis.
7. All those who were involved in the killings of innocents people and police officers should be brought to book to serve as deterrence to others.

Signed by
Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director
CISLAC

PRESS RELEASE

CISLAC DECRIES DISMISSAL OF FIVEFEMALE MINISTERS

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), strongly condemns the recent action undertaken by President Goodluck Jonathan to sack nine (9) Ministers. CISLAC is shocked to find out that the major casualties in this maneuver are women. This appears to be hinged on the current crisis rocking the People's Democratic Party (PDP), as four of the Ministers are from the States whose governors decamped from the PDP and two of the Minister were nominees of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, who is said to be stoking the on-going brawl within the ruling party. In order words, the abysmal dismissal is highly political and women are victimized through this singular act as usual.

This act contradicts President Goodluck Jonathan's claim to 32% affirmative action for women, since about 70% of the Ministers sacked are women. It will be recalled that 2011 elections produced even less women in government than ever under democratic dispensation and to balance this, President Jonathan used appointive position to make it up to the 32% which his political allies allude to as part of his political achievement. The action did not only negate Mr. President's transformation agenda but also makes mockery of our country's effort towards women empowerment, gender equality and inclusiveness in the national political arena.

So far, women are highly marginalized as a result of the patriarchal society Nigeria finds herself in and other factors such as misuse of tradition and religion, poverty, etc. The struggle for gender equality and inclusiveness in the political arena has by this singular act of Mr. President been thwarted.

CISLAC challenges the government on such biased dismissal of these women which is obviously not on the basis of their performance; though government has made it public that their dismissal is based on contrary performance, to also publicly explain

to Nigerians in details why these Ministers were sacked in order to validate Mr. President's claim of contrary performance.

Regrettably, this development is coming at the heels of the United Nations global Consultative meeting on Post 2015 coming up soon; and at a time when the country is assessing our achievement on the MDGs following the benchmark of 2015. This current sack therefore, compromises Nigeria in the sense that we are seemingly making a caricature of our developmental trajectory in the face of developed world.

CISLAC therefore calls on the President of the Federal Republic to fast-track the next Ministerial appointment so that the offices do not suffer major delays.

CISLAC further urges President, to ensure that more women are appointed during the next Ministerial appointment to uphold the 35% affirmative action.

Signed by Auwal I. Musa (Rafsanjani)

Executive Director

CISLAC