



Legislative Digest

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Jonathan Praises NASS Over Speedy Passage of 2012 Budget

By Balogun Babatunde Kehinde

President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan has thanked the leadership and members of both chambers of the National Assembly for the speedy passage of the 2012 appropriation bill, despite its tight-fist schedule.

He disclosed this during the official signing of the 2012 budget into law four weeks after the upper and the lower chambers jacked the initial N4.6trillion naira budget proposal to N4.8trillion in order to accommodate other expenses like the SURE programme of the executive and signed the appropriation bill and also passed it to the president for his assent.

In his remarks, President Goodluck Jonathan first extended his gratitude to the Distinguished and Honourable Members of the National Assembly for the cooperation that has



President Goodluck Jonathan

been put into preparing this budget which is undeniably a stepping stone in our medium-term developmental

plan as presented in the Transformation Agenda.

The President said the additional resources were used to increase the capital and to reduce the deficit to a manageable level that we can finance without excessive borrowing.

“On March 15, 2012, the National Assembly passed a budget of N4.697 trillion, based on a benchmark oil price of US\$72 per barrel. This appropriation consisted of capital expenditure of N1.34 trillion and recurrent expenditure amounting to N3.357 trillion. We have had extensive discussions with the National Assembly since then, and the result is the Budget that I now have the honour of signing into law today. It is a Budget of fiscal consolidation, inclusive economic growth and job creation”.

The Budget has an aggregate expenditure of N4.697 trillion

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Fuel Subsidy Payment: House C'ttee Exposes Theft by NNPC, Others

The report of the House of Representatives committee on the management of fuel subsidy has indicted Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation's staff members, officials of the Petroleum Product Pricing and Regulatory Agency and 69 oil firms for defective transactions in the payment of subsidy funds and charged them to refund N1.067trn to the Federal Government.

The Chairman of the committee,

Hon. Farouk Lawan made this known while presenting the report on behalf of the other members of the Ad-Hoc committee to the honourable house recently.

He said, there have been several efforts from those milking from the subsidy funds otherwise qualified as 'subsidy cabals' to frustrate the committee's efforts and deter it from making its report and recommendations public and in spite of this challenges, the House committee was

able to indict 69 oil firms, exposed the management and board members of NNPC and officials of PPPRA for defective transaction and corrupt practices in the course of subsidy payment between 2009 and 2011 and also frowned at the manner the office of the Accountant General of the federation handled the payment of subsidy funds.

According to the recommendation in the report, the NNPC will be made

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ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW:

CISLAC is a non-governmental, non-profit legislative advocacy, lobbying, information sharing and research organization. (CISLAC) works towards bridging the gap between the legislature and the electorate; by enhancing lobbying strategies; engagement of bills before their passage into law; manpower development for lawmakers, legislative aides, politicians and the civil society, as well as civic education on the tenets of democracy and human rights. It was integrated as a corporate body (CAC/IT/NO22738) with Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on 28th December 2006.

CISLAC's issues of focus include; budget monitoring, transparency, accountability, anti-corruption, human rights (gender equality, educational equity and improvement, sexuality and reproductive health, children and other vulnerable groups including beggars, pensioners, refugees, and internally displaced persons), trade policy and intervention, security/conflict management, and environment and livelihood. CISLAC's engagement with Federal Ministries, National and State Assemblies, Local Government Administrations, private sector interests, the media, non-government and civil society organisations, and communities across Nigeria has opened a window through which public and policy officials can interact and collaborate.

GOAL

"To make legislature accessible and responsive to all".

VISION

"A Nigeria in which citizens are participating in governance; the government is safeguarding the rights and welfare of the people; and non-state actors are providing space for citizens to demand accountability".

MISSION/PURPOSE

"To increase the legislature and CSOs' impact in the legislative process".

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- Federal Ministry of Finance
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- Independent National Electoral Commission
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- National Human Rights Commission
- National Planning Commission
- Nigerian Debt Management Office
- Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) Secretariat
- Nigerian Police
- Office of the Special Advisor to the President on Civil Society
- Office of the Special Advisor to the President on Millennium Development Goals
- Policy Analysis and Research Project (PARP), National Assembly
- Technical Unit on Governance & Anti-corruption Reforms (TUGAR)

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- Coalition for Accountability and Transparency in Extractive Industries, Forestry and Fisheries in Nigeria (CATEIFFN)
- Citizens' Forum for Constitutional Reform (CFCR)
- Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA)
- Electoral Reform Network (ERN)
- Freedom of Information Coalition (FOI)
- Gender and Affirmative Action
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- National Procurement Watch Platform (NPWP)

- Nigeria Action Network on Small Arms (NANSA)
- Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG)
- Nigeria Gender Budget Network (NGBN)
- Publish What You Pay (PWYP)
- Trade Network Initiative (TNI)
- Transition Monitoring Group (TMG)
- West African Civil Society Forum (WACOSOF)
- West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)
- Women In Nigeria (WIN)
- Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC)

STRUCTURE

CISLAC in its efforts to deepen its engagement on issues and impact positively by ensuring that civil society views are adequately inputted in public policies, has defined governance structure. At foundation, some key allies who are well grounded in development issues and are currently at the decision making level in their organisations were consulted and accepted to serve on both the Board and Advisory Council of the organisation.

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This is the policy-making organ of the organization. It approves the budget of the organization, provides contacts for operational funds and support the operation of the secretariat

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This provides advisory functions to the organization. It consists of people of vast and extensive legislative and political experience.

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The Secretariat is vested with the day-to-day running of the organization. It implements the decisions of the Board of Trustees. It is headed by an Executive Director who oversees the day-to-day running of the organisation while a Senior Program Officer oversees programmes implementation along with other programme staff.

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BILL PASSAGE AND THE CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION IN NIGERIA

The re-emergence of democratic practice in Nigeria in 1999 after a prostrated military intervention gave birth to federal system of government that comprises the executive, legislative and the judicial arm of the government as the organs that see to governance issues in Nigeria.

Since the inception of the uninterrupted civil rule in 1999 till date (2012), the legislative arm of the government which obligation is to make law and monitor its implementation to ensure compliance and enforcement has initiated and passed into law over 140 bills, which include well thought out bills that are masses oriented and can promote good governance and cater for the needs of the Nigerian people, but these laws have so far, had little or no impact in governance or the life of the people due to lack of political will of successive government to effect this laws.

Historically, if the yet to be enforced bills passed by the 4th and 5th National Assembly respectively are too far to make reference to, we are all living witnesses to lack of adherence to the freedom of information bill passed into law by the 6th National Assembly in most of the public offices, the non adherence to the Child Rights Act of 2006 and the administrative manipulation that surrounded the implementation of Bureau of Public Procurement Act to mention just a few.

Legally speaking, we know it is the joint responsibility of both the legislative and the Executive arms of the government to make sure laws are enforceable and implemented by every corner of our national life; while the executive council implement the laws, the lawmakers via its oversight ensure compliance, but we observed that due to lack of political will on the part of the executive council to implement this laws, their implementation have been severally marred by resistance and non adherence by government officials.

Looking at the issue from the high percentage of Nigerian kids hawking on the highways of virtually all the states of the federation; including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja due to the non adherence to the Child Right Act of 2006, the indisposition of public office holders to the Freedom of Information Act and the violation of the public procurement Act among other passed laws, begging and waiting enforcement, it becomes obvious that there is a colossal dearth in implementation of laws that seriously need to be addressed to make bill passages effective.

We employ this medium to charge and reawaken the leadership and members of the 7th National Assembly to begin its oversight in order to ensure the enforcement and implementation of these laws by the executive arm of the government for the purpose of effective legislation in Nigeria.

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Jonathan Praises NASS For Speedy Passage of 2012 Budget

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(excluding the appropriation of N180 billion for programmes and projects encapsulated under the SURE-Programme) which will quickly deliver tangible and significant added value to Nigerians. Furthermore, our approach to funding the development of critical infrastructure in Nigeria is to involve the private sector, which has the capital and implementation capacity to successfully deliver specific infrastructure projects.

According to him, one of the main goals of this administration is to complete and exit the large stock of ongoing projects and programmes. Thus, the 2012 budget is focused on completing viable ongoing projects, in accordance with the Transformation

Agenda. The 2012 Budget is geared towards supporting economic growth and employment creation.

While we acknowledged the good paper work and blueprints in the 2012 budget, Cislac employs this medium to charge the National Assembly, the Civil Society Organizations and the development partners to work tirelessly and ensure that the 2012 budget does not follow the direction of ineffectiveness and low budget implementation problems the nation had suffered in the hands of successive political leaders the nation had had.

Under the fiscal responsibility Act 2007, the budget office of the federation is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the annual federal

budget and submits quarterly reports to the National Assembly for oversight and confirmation. But our x-ray of budget implementation since the passing of this Act in 2007, shows low level of budget implementation and none adherence to the fiscal responsibility Act. Our findings also reveal that the National Assembly has also done very little in the area of budget tracking, monitoring and evaluation in Nigeria.

These in the real sense have slowed the pace of development in Nigeria, as the lack of political will of office holders to implement and monitor budget in the country has placed Nigeria at the heap of less developed nation in Africa in particular and globally by extension.

Fuel Subsidy Payment: House C'ttee Exposes Theft by NNPC, Others

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to refund to the federal purse N705 billion; PPPRA N312 billion; oil marketers N8.7 billion. Firms that refused to appear during the investigations are also to repay N41.9 billion. This brings total refunds to N1,067,040,456,171.31 trillion.

The report also recommended the unbundling of the NNPC to make its operations more efficient and transparent, which it said can be achieved through the passage of a well drafted and comprehensive Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB). It directed for the auditing of the NNPC to determine solvency and it also recommended the prosecution of all the indicted public servants.

Reacting to the report during its plenary session, the Honourable Speaker, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal charged the EFCC and ICPC to investigate NNPC and PPPRA and also promise prosecution of all.

The probe was instituted by the House of Representatives following protests and industrial action by the organised labour as a result of the federal government's decision to totally remove subsidy on petroleum product in Nigeria starting from January 1, 2012, which also jack up

the pump price of petrol from N65 per litre to N145 and also affected the prices of other goods and services all over the federation.

During the committee's public hearings, there were startling revelations which point to discrepancies in the actual litres of petrol that were consumed and the amounts that were paid as subsidy on the petrol.

In the course of the hearing, the different government agencies involved in the management of the fuel subsidy regime contradicted each other on the actual monies that were spent on the exercise.

The Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance, Dr. (Mrs.) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, had claimed before the panel that the government had paid the sum of N1.4 trillion on fuel subsidy in 2011. The CBN governor, on his part, claimed that the subsidy on fuel had hit N1.7 trillion, while the committee of the House probing the subsidy regime also maintained that from documents at its disposal, the amount of money to be paid on fuel subsidy might hit N2 trillion.

Also some of the oil companies that participated and benefitted in the fuel subsidy booty informed the committee

that they neither have professional expertise nor technical capacity and know how in the petroleum business, hence their inability to deliver on the terms in their contract agreement.

The committee's report shows clearly that the massive looting of the subsidy funds and the corruption in the oil industry are sufficient grounds for an extreme reduction in the cost of petroleum products in Nigeria from its present amount of N97 per litre to an affordable price of N20 per litre.

It also calls for more drastic measures of fighting corruption in the extractive industry and public offices in the federation in order to cleanse the society and make our hard earn resources useful in the area of infrastructure and other developmental challenges confronting the nation.

We urge the leadership of the National Assembly to write their names in gold in the book of history by working towards ensuring the implementation of these recommendations and bring all the indicted persons to justice. This we believe will stand as deterrent to other corrupt minds in public offices and reduce corruption in Nigeria.

SENATOR BLAMES FG FOR DUMPING PROBE REPORTS

Concerned about the non implementation of probes report's recommendations in Nigeria since the inception of the seventh national assembly, Senator Ahmad Lawan has blamed the executive arm of government for non adherence.

The senator stated this while analyzing the efforts of the incumbent lawmakers to curb corruption and bad governance in Nigeria recently in Abuja.

According to him, "implementation of our reports is the responsibility of the executive. We risk our lives, devote our time investigating very powerful people, yet the government won't implement our recommendations."

He said the role of the National Assembly has not been clearly understood by the people adding that the lawmakers do not have executive powers.

Lawan said all ongoing investigations by the two chambers of the National Assembly are meant to expose the problems of expenditure in the public sector and to correct the anomalies.

Before now, analysts have qualified the probes carried out by National Assembly committee as mere waste of time and an attempt to further annex funds for themselves. Since the inception of the fourth National Assembly in 1999, several



Senator Ahmad Lawan

probes have been conducted in which very little or nothing concrete has been achieved in this regard; in spite of the revelations to that effect in the cause of this probes.

In line with this development and the importance of the oversight of the lawmaking body to sustenance of democracy, cleansing the nation of theft and enthroning good governance in Nigeria, we urge the National assembly to come up with legislation that will compel the executive arm of government of enforcing probes reports and recommendation. This to us will make the efforts of the National Assembly yield more fruitfully in the area of creating a corrupt free environment.

Jigawa Assembly Restates Commitment To Budget Monitoring

The Jigawa State House of Assembly has reiterated its commitment to strictly monitor the implementation of the 2012 state budget which was passed into law about three weeks ago.

The Deputy Speaker of the House, Hon. Sule Uli Ringim disclosed recently that the measure will ensure 100 per cent budget implementation.

Ringim said that the 2012 budget, if fully implemented, will improve

the living standard of the people especially those residing in the rural areas.

He maintained that the budget touches on several sectors of the state socioeconomic sphere, and that its full implementation will move the state forward in no small way.

"We will ensure strict and full implementation of the budget, as doing so would be fulfilling our oversight functions," he said.

Kaduna Assembly Set To Pass Maternal Health Bill

The Kaduna State House of Assembly on Thursday assured residents of speedy passage of the proposed Free Maternal and Child Health Care (FMCH) Bill.

Dr Shehu Danfulani, the Chairman of the House Committee on Health, gave the assurance when an NGO, the Nigerian Urban Reproductive Health Initiative (NURHI), paid an advocacy visit to the legislature.

Danfulani, who is also the Minority Leader of the House, told the NGO that the lawmakers were awaiting the presentation of the bill for action. "I assure you this House shall speedily pass the proposed Bill as soon as it is presented by the executive. "We (lawmakers) have a covenant with the electorate to enact people-oriented laws and this is one of them."

Malam Abdullahi Kabir, the State Team Leader of NURHI, had earlier appealed to the House to ensure quick passage of the bill. Kabir explained that the bill was designed to enhance health care service delivery in the state. He said the group was advocating a drastic reduction in the number of maternal and infant mortality rate in the state. While pledging NURHI's support to reposition the health sector, the Team leader emphasised that the bill would strengthen and legalise the provision of FMCH in the state. "This bill, if passed into law, will promote our health care delivery system and insulate the sector from politics."

LEGISLATURE SACROSANCT TO DEMOCRACY- Aregbesola

By Rahila Garba Lassa

The importance of the roles of the legislature in a democratic system has once again been reaffirmed by the Executive Governor of Osun State, Aregbesola Rauf.

Aregbesola made the remark on the floor of the Lagos state House of Assembly during a special session to mark the 60th birthday anniversary of the former Governor of Lagos state, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

According to him, the role of the legislature in the growth and development of the nation cannot be over emphasized. He said, the difference between the monarchy and representative governance is the legislature. As in the monarch and the executive, without any doubt, what is supposed to be monarchical from modern representative governance is the House. Most of us do not actually understand that governance itself is just an artificial creation of man to maintain order.

The role of the legislature is indispensable because it is saddled with the responsibility of deciding on national objectives, strategies, policy formulation, functions and services.

The legislature as the real representatives of the people in a democracy holds power only as a public trust and on behalf of the people and to a larger extent is responsive to the needs and yearnings of the people.

Though, the Executive and the Judiciary also partake to some extent in lawmaking, the position of the legislature is unique because it operates collectively through deliberation to make and adopt policies. It is in this case that the legislature is called the first estate of the realm.

The diversity of interests and constituencies represented in the legislature, more than any other factor, makes it an important structure in linking the people to the



Governor Aregbesola Rauf

government. It makes laws collectively that affect the entire nation and on the other hand, a legislator individually is a representative of the interest of his/her constituency.

Although, the constitution has made it clear that the power assigned to the legislature is more than which the executive has which includes the power to impeach, the reverse is always the case as the executive has taken the place of the legislature. It tends to dominate using all manners of trick and advantages on its side including the control of the budgeting system thereby displacing the legislature to the second estate of the realm.

This could be traced to the legacy of long years of military rule in the country which has eroded constitutional federalism by its centralisation of power and resources, the erosion of the culture of the rule of law and the enthronement of a culture of arbitrariness and impunity resulting in high levels of corruption. The legislature has a crucial role to play if this order must be reversed and if the government must be accountable to the people.

The constitution is also explicit

that each arm remains independent of the other with separate and distinct roles, but the complex nature of governance has made it necessary for the trio to remain intertwined and inter-cyclic thereby throwing a challenge of working harmoniously without infringing on the right of the other. This is a task that the legislature must bear in its role in appropriate checks and balance of the roles of the other arms of government, however the other arms are not only admonished against undermining one another, but to ensure that none get absolute control over the entire nation.

From the aforementioned, it is not out of place to say that the relationship between the legislature and the executive in Nigeria's current democratic experiment is a difficult one. This problem is not peculiar to the National tier of government, but could be worse at the state level and except it is reversed, democratic dividend cannot be achieved or promoted.

In handling these roles, there should be a clear cut to its approach so that one does not override the other as both are in the interest of the wellbeing of the masses. The executive both at the state and national levels should support and empower the legislature in carrying out its duties and there should also be caution in carrying out responsibilities so that none crosses its boundary.

There is need for these arms to collaborate and build synergy in order to achieve set targets and goals that are people oriented in order to foster developmental projects and policies.

The legislature is also enjoined to be accountable to the masses and make the political system more transparent and publicise the position of the ruling government on issues that have to do with the public so that they can be part of the policy making process thereby giving them some sense of belonging.

Senate Summons Minister Over Violation Of Aviation Laws

By Chukwu Emily Ijeoma

The Senate Committee on Aviation has summoned the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru, and all foreign airlines in the country to appear before it over alleged violation of aviation laws by the airlines.

The committee also summoned the Minister of Aviation, Mrs. Stella Oduah, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria and other stakeholders in the aviation industry to appear before it.

This came after the Senate mandated its committee on Aviation to investigate allegations of series of violation of our aviation laws by foreign airlines and also investigate allegations of negligence and lapses by the regulatory agencies.

The Foreign Affairs ministry was included because there were allegations that some airlines and foreign countries were not complying with the provision of the Bilateral Air Services Agreement that Nigeria had with them. The intention of the probe is not to join issues with any country but to deal with all issues of violation in the aviation industry.

British Deputy High Commissioner, Giles Lever had said that Nigeria had no legal rights to ban foreign airlines operating in the country, insisting that fares charged by the two British carriers were in tandem with the Bilateral Air Services Agreement, BASA, between Nigeria and Britain.

Meanwhile, former Aviation Minister, Prof. Babalola Borishade, has charged the National Assembly to be on top of its game as it probes of foreign airlines should be on fare

disparity due to the fact that the issue is a technical one which requires the input of professionals in the aviation sector.

Before this probe, Nigerians have been indiscriminately cheated in a number of other things by foreign airlines and embassies in Nigeria. The amount you pay for visa in this country is high compared to other countries like Ghana. So, there are a lot of other places we have to look at critically. In Europe, nobody knows what first class is, you are either in a business class or others, because they know that we like conspicuous consumption and most of us are not using our money, they charge first class. Nigerians have been taken for a ride for too long by foreign airlines. There is a regulatory body that is supposed to act in cases of exceptional hike in fares for the Nigerian passengers.

The investigating committee must get to the very root of this fraud and insult on Nigeria and Nigerians. The committee must find out how these airlines were able to perfect this Passenger Fuel

Surcharge in such a manner that the government and people of Nigeria have continued to lose huge revenue in the billions to this exploiting act. It must also find out how long this fraud has been on, and who connived or assisted in perfecting it. Beyond that, the committee must also determine the exact amount so far lost by the Federal Government through this fraud and determine how the money can be recovered. Also, the committee should come up with watertight recommendations on how to ensure that this type of fraud is stopped. The reversal of the discriminatory airfares appears simple. However, the Senate Committee should adopt a more holistic approach to the issue as the Senate did during its resolution. In this respect, the committee should also find out how the airlines found the audacity to even foist such discriminatory fares with such impudence. A number of former Aviation Ministers are standing trial for corruption allegations, these speaks volumes on how the Ministry was run in time past. It has also been found out that each time the Aviation Minister is changed, new Aviation chiefs are appointed and the bankers handling the accounts of the agencies within the sector change too. This shouldn't be if we really want growth in the aviation sector there should be continuity, this exploitation must not be allowed to continue, more importantly as Nigeria is one of the most lucrative routes in the world with minimum daily passengers of 1,000. The exploit on Nigerians is uncalled for and unreasonable, our regulatory agencies should act to checkmate the excesses of the foreign airlines in our country.



Stella Oduah, Aviation Minister

Senate Frowns at the Slow Pace of NBC, NCC Merger

By Sauda Dalhatu

The attempt by the Federal Government of Nigeria in January 2012 to remove subsidy on petroleum products, which the government claimed is precipitated by the huge amount it is using to subsidize fuel threw stones on the roof of the fabric of the Nation.

This development gave birth to the demand from Civil Society and the Nigerian people for the Government to reduce cost of governance rather than try to harden to the already harsh economy and poor living standard of the citizens.

In responding to this demand, the Senate has set up several committees to look into modes of cutting down cost of governance in Nigeria, which also included committee working on the merger of NBC and the NCC. The committee is set up to fast track the proposed merger of the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

But the Chairman of Senate committee on information, media and public affairs, Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe recently raised concern over the snail working approach of the executive in the merger plans of the NBC and NCC in order to reduce the cost of governance.

The cost of maintaining government in Nigeria is high even by standards of a Federal system of Government. For any society to make progress there must be a Government to run its affairs. However, citizens will perceive government as a burden when its recurrent expenditure is repeatedly higher than its capital expenditure, which should impact positively on the economy; especially in the areas of employment generation, investment and other activities that induce growth. This is the challenge that stares Nigeria in the face. It is now inconvertible that the cost of



Eugene Juwah, NCC Boss

running a democratic government in this country is high. The fact is more amplified in the 2012 budget where N2.472 trillion representing 72% of the budget is earmarked for re-current expenditure and N1.32trillion representing 28% to capital expenditure. This shows the effect the size of governance has on the economy.

A lot of arguments have been tabled on how best to cut this size of governance. Some have advocated that we go back to the Westminster style where the executive comes from the legislative arm, opponents of this argument are of the view that scrapping the duplication on ministries and parastatals will be the key to the reduction in the size of government. Proponents of this argument believe that merging duplicating ministries and parastatals into a single unit will reduce the cost of governance as that will increase the volt of the capital expenditure consequently triggering economic growth.

Recently, the Senate Committee on Information and Media expressed concern over the non-conclusive discussions on the proposed merger of National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) and the Nigerian Communication



Yomi Bolarinwa, NBC Boss

Commission (NCC). This is a step in the right direction as it is expected that other duplication in government will follow suit. Though the function of NBC and that of the NCC are not completely identical, their merger into a single entity will reduce cost of administrative overhead. Areas where they don't share key competence should be a department under the proposed merged commission.

It must be said that the journey to reducing this gigantic size will start with all key stakeholders keying into the project. A successful enterprise is judged by comparing the cost incurred and the returns accrued. From the president to Local Government Chairmen, all hands must be on deck to deliver the country from this menace. The increasing rate at which the capital expenditure of the country increases year in year out is of major concern and something must be done about it.

Finally, as Nigeria quantum leaps into the league of economic prosperity, the people still hope that trusted vehicles be used, I.E cost reduction. In simple economic theory, the surest way to increase profit is to reduce cost.

Senate:

FOI Act crucial to MPs oversight Functions

By Abdulkareem Tijani

The senate has called on all government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to comply with Freedom of Information Act by making available all necessary information regarding procurements and government transactions on request to media, CSOs and the National Assembly to entrench transparency and good governance in Nigeria.

Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba disclosed this during a media engagement on the importance of the oversight functions of the legislature to the enthronement of good governance in Nigeria recently in Abuja.

In his words, “our activities as a legislature representing the people remain and must remain open at all times to public scrutiny. Otherwise, we lose our moral authority in exercising our constitutional responsibility of over-sighting the

executive; he noted that the functions and powers of the National Assembly would be compromised if the support of the ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) to be over-sighted are sought.

This explains the essence and relevance of the FOI Act as a basis for accountable and transparent oversight of government activities. Since its enactment in May 2011, government ministries and agencies have willingly ignored it in their operations. Some said they have not seen the FOI Act and were not familiar with its contents and are yet to publish a list of all documents in their possession as required by the law. They have not also designated specific officers to whom requests for information under the FOI law should be channelled to as provided in the act.

FOI is a citizen's law aimed at promoting democracy through transparency, accountability and

good governance which gives Nigerians the right to walk up to any office and demand access to documents and records that would normally have been viewed as classified or confidential. It empowers the citizens to access public information including records kept by the government, public institutions or private bodies carrying out public functions for Nigerians and non-Nigerians in whatever form an applicant wants it, but public officers have undeniably refused to oblige to this law.

However, Nigerians have been unable to gain access to government information; in spite of the passage of FOI's passage into law, due to several challenges undermining the Act's implementation. For a law to be meaningful it must be tested, the act might not be the solution to the problem of transparency and good governance but is rather one of the

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Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba



Labaran Maku, Minister of Information

CISLAC Cautions Against the Scrapping of EFCC and ICPC

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, CISLAC, like many other Nigerians is apprehensive of the recommendation of Stephen Oronsaye-led Presidential Commission on the Rationalization and Restructuring of Federal Government Agencies be reduced from the present figure of 216 to 114 to reduce the exorbitant cost of governance. While we see some sense in cutting down unnecessary expenditure, we find the listing of the two anti-corruption agencies, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC), among the agencies recommended for rationalizations rather unsettling.

CISLAC views this recommendation to scrap the anti-graft agencies as a wrong step in the wrong direction and one that will greatly destabilize the fight against corruption in Nigeria. It is unthinkable to think of a Nigeria as we know it today, without specialized agencies to lead the fight against corruption. This would translate into letting loose our pathologically corrupt public servants over unguarded public coffers. Every now and then, Nigerians are treated to odious stories of how evil-minded politicians and heartless civil servants connive to dip their corrupt hands deep into the public pool to enrich themselves to the detriment of millions of hungry Nigerians. This ugly practice has become alarmingly recurrent in spite of these Agencies that one wonders what happens if they were to be scrapped.

CISLAC notes the reason of the Oronsaye's committee that the two are performing the traditional functions of the police. The chairman however also admitted that the two commissions were established separately to address corruption, which the Police appeared to have failed to do. CISLAC and all Nigerians know as a matter of fact that the police did not just appear to have failed to address corruption but actually had failed to do so. This reason is therefore not tenable. The question to be asked is if the police with its antecedents and all its present challenges is different from what we had then when the establishment of the EFCC and the ICPC became a fait accompli?

CISLAC reminds Nigerians that the fight against corruption and peacekeeping are two different things requiring specialized skills which the Police as presently constitutes as before lacks. To justify the scraping of the two agencies on the basis of members of the Nigerian police having won laurels in international peace keeping is like asking the DSS to be scrapped because the police had succeeded in successfully investigating one case of high profile murder. As we speak the DSS is achieving



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

more results in the fight against terrorism than the police. It is common knowledge that over the years, the police have failed to rise even to their rudimentary duty of effective law enforcement in the country.

We are aware that the nation and development partners have invested enormously into the EFCC and ICPC in the areas of developing institutional and technical capacity with many more in the pipeline and to scrap them now will amount to the truncation of a process with potential future benefit for the nation. To imagine that such support will be channeled into support for the police will be mere wishful thinking. We are also concerned about the fate of many high profile cases being prosecuted and or investigated by these agencies in the event they are scrapped.

CISLAC expresses doubts that the wisdom of the Oronsaye Panel can surpass that of the international community demonstrated through such international treaties like the United Nations Convention against Corruption who resolved that the fight against corruption requires the establishment of specialized anti-corruption bodies other than the police force and wonders why such a recommendation which clearly contradicts international trends in the fight against

corruption should come at this time from a nation which is almost permanently rooted at the bottom of the corruption perception index.

We are strongly opposed to the recommendation by the Oronsaye committee. Rather we call on the Federal Government to demonstrate a stronger commitment to the fight against corruption. As opposed to the proposed scrap of the anti-graft agencies, we advocate that steps be taken to strengthen them in accordance with international standards and best practices. This is by granting them independence and immunity from every form of political influence, funding them adequately to facilitate access to resources for training and specialization so they can undertake the broader anti corruption functions of Policy development, research, monitoring and co-ordination, prevention of corruption, education and awareness raising, investigation and prosecution and probably the establishment of special courts to try cases of corruption. Of these functions only the latter falls within the work of the police.

CISLAC believes that this will reposition them for proactive engagement and prevention of corruption which is the future of the fight against corruption being embraced by civilized societies. While we agree that the EFCC and ICPC have their own flaws and are not a silver bullet to the problem of corruption in our nation, we are convinced that, if strengthened, they have major roles to play in curbing the scourge that cannot be achieved if they are scrapped. The procedure for appointing an inspector-general of police and the security of his tenure is antithetical to all known models for fighting corruption. Hence, the scrapping of these

Agencies will be the death blow to the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

CISLAC cautions that our commitment to the fight against corruption as a country, already brought to question by such instances as our attitude to such incidence as the Halliburton case, our handling of several high profile corruption cases and some judicial pronouncements we have had in recent past, will be further dented by the scrapping of the two Agencies at this time of our national life and portray us as unserious within the comity of nations. We must therefore not sacrifice the sanity of our nation at the altar of saving cost as corruption has done more to make us underdeveloped as a nation than whatever resources we are expending sustaining these two Agencies.

We therefore call on the federal government not to allow its insatiable quest for additional funding which led it to impose hardship on Nigerian Citizens through the withdrawal of fuel subsidies to also blind it into scrapping these Agencies which are perceived to proffer some measure of deterrence to corruption. We recollect that Nigeria's best showing on the anti corruption index was achieved at the time the EFCC was most vibrant.

We call on all well meaning Nigerians, including the National Assembly which passed into law the Act by which these two Agencies exist to prevail on the Presidency not to implement this aspect of the Committee recommendations and take Nigeria 10 years backward.

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC

FOI Act crucial to MPs oversight Functions

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tools that can be used to effectively provide good governance.

Some of the Problems identified as hindrance to effective implementation of the Act is the absence of public records archives for centralised keeping, retrieval and access of information. If you go to most MDAs you will be amazed to notice an inaccurate conflicting, and poor recording system which makes it impossible for them to provide you with sincere information.

There is the need to reorientate public officers to appreciate the new reality that information is a

development tool that should be taken seriously and freely as available and also to facilitate the administrative machinery to bridge the gulf between policy formulation and implementation, much will depend on the vigilance of the legislature, media and civil society groups.

The legislature must demand that the attorney general be on the alert and responsive to the provision of the law. The media must play up to its educational role of explaining the provision of the law to galvanize citizen's action and the coalitions of interest groups should understand that the FOI Act is a

child of sustained agitation that advanced good governance teaching the public how best to utilise the law is essential for public oversight.

Considering the frustrating and time consuming bureaucracy in public services as well as wide spread corruption and the high level of ignorance among the work force in the public sector, the civil society and legislatures need to strengthen their approach to ensure compliance and effective implementation of the FOI and placing the nation on the part to sustainable growth and development.



CISLAC's team on an Advocacy Visit to the Senate Committee on Agriculture



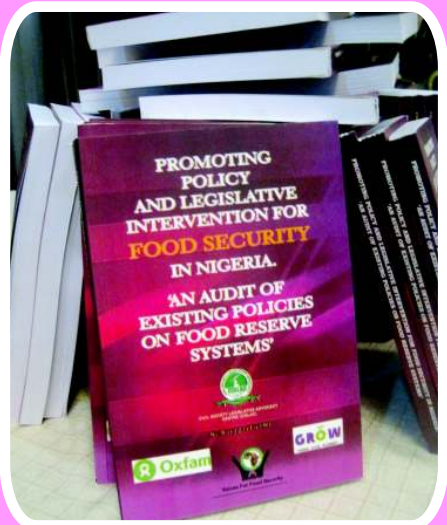
Prof. Ayoola G.B. reviewing the publication



Prof. Daisy Erubetine, the author, presenting the summary of the publication.



Tunde Ojei of Oxfam GB unveiling the new Food Security publication.



Newly launched Food Security Book



Prof. Ayoola G.B. reviewing the publication

Increasing Terrorists Insurgence In Nigeria And The Amnesty Program

By Victor Okanime Elope

The effort to proffer solution to the security challenge posed by an Islamic sect called Boko Haram is being given serious attention by Nigerians who see the incessant bloodletting of innocent citizens as alarming and unbearable.

The Chairman of the Senate committee on Rules and Business, Senator Ita Solomon Enang has lamented on the trends of bombings and attacks by this group of militants and called on the Federal Government to extend amnesty program to the Boko Haram.

The recent bomb blast on Easter day in Kaduna that claimed over 50 lives and injured many people left Nigerians with no option than to find ways to curb the mayhem caused by this acclaimed Islamic sect. The Boko Haram activities have left tears and sorrows on the faces of many families in this country particularly in the Northern states.

The terrorist activities of Boko Haram are believed to be reaction against western education in Nigeria the high level of corruption in governance that has impoverished high percentage of the people. They have successfully destabilized the peace and security in the North and stamped the authority in Borno, Bauchi, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Niger, Gombe, Yobe and even Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory.

The bombing of mammy markets, Army barracks, the Force Headquarters and the United Nation's building in Abuja shows that the security system provided by the Nigeria Police is a shadow of reality. The sect launched attacks on the Police Headquarters in Kano, the Christmas day bombing of Saint Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla, prison attack in Bauchi state where 100 Boko Haram members were freed, attack on Police stations across the Northern states and host of others without solution from our law enforcement agencies. To address this situation, the government set-up Joint Task Force that parades the street of cities of their operation, yet the activities of Boko Haram is on the increase.

Senator Enang's position that Federal Government extends amnesty to the Boko Haram sect through the National Security Adviser [NSA] and Ministry of Defense for arms-buy-back so that the sect can surrender their weapons and stop the mass killings of innocent Nigerians. This reminds one of the late president Umaru Musa Yar-Adua's led government and the Niger-Delta amnesty program that arrested the militant groups in the Niger

Delta region, with heinous acts that reduced the image of Nigeria at the international scene and affected negatively our relationship with other Nations. To arrest the ugly situation of the restiveness of the youths in the oil-rich region, the Federal Government struck amnesty deal with the Niger—Delta militants to surrender their arms in exchange for money.

The amnesty program offered to militants in the Niger Delta region appears to have collapsed as militants who cut the amnesty deal are angry that government is yet to fulfill its promise of a post-disarmament programme. This was to include a rehabilitation program as a prelude to capacity building, training and skills acquisition aimed at changing the lives of militants.

The amnesty programme offered by the Federal Government of Nigeria to the Niger Delta militants and the ongoing effort to co-opt the Boko Haram sect into amnesty deal to lay down arms appears to be more or less window dressing and lip-service approach to problems that have defiled solution. Can the Nigerian government offer amnesty deal with a deceptive picture so that these groups of militants lay down their arms? Has the Federal Government identified the demands of Boko Harams which will go in exchange for arms like the Niger Delta militants who up till date are

waiting for the Federal Government of Nigeria to commence rehabilitation in human capacity building, training and skill acquisition for the youths that gave up their arms.

Instead of Government amnesty deal with Boko Haram to lay down arms, the government should give priority to dialogue with the youths/youth leaders in the affected states.

The government should employ more effort to strengthen internal security institutions and agencies, empower the Police, Civil Defense, Joint Task Force [JTF], State Security Services [SSS], make use of CID of the Police Unit to detect criminal minded persons, and plan 24 hours operation for this group of security institutions and agencies in Boko Haram operating states. Also, the security on our boarders should be strengthened and reprogrammed.

The Federal Government has to urgently create employment and employment opportunity to the toiling unemployed youths, as a matter of importance, work on the infrastructural challenges the citizens are faced with and be accountable to the people. This we proffer as solution to the Boko Haram menace rather than trying to extend amnesty without addressing the real issues.



Terrorists during operation in nigeria

Challenges of legal implementation of AU protocols/conventions in Nigeria

By Stefan Neumann and Okeke Anya,

Many decisions made by the AU have not been implemented by the Member States to a wide range with particular reference to Nigeria. Thus, those important compromises approved at the continental level risk the danger of not being nationally implemented. The ones to suffer are the poorest of the poor and many other Nigerians awaiting a policy change towards reaching the MDGs and taking steps in the direction of good governance, environmental sustainability and human rights. If the African Union and the state governments continue to follow this path, it will challenge the political and social credibility of the AU.

The Pan-African organization (AU) was created with the aims of strengthening economic and social integration among Member States and “being the voice of the African continent in global affairs.” The African Union (AU) has committed to a vision of Africa that is ‘integrated, prosperous and peaceful coexistence driven by its own citizens, a dynamic force in the global arena’

The State of the Union Report (SOTU) on Nigeria underlines the lack of progress towards popularization, ratification and implementation of AU protocols, policy standards and frameworks in Nigeria. One of the biggest challenges is the failure of domestication of the AU legal instruments. Section 12(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria stipulates that no treaty between the Federation and any other country shall have the force of law except to the extent to which any such treaty has been enacted into law by the National Assembly. The non ratification and domestication of these treaties have left Nigeria not playing its required and exemplary role in the comity of African nations. This policy gap can also be referred to the fact that those who negotiated the AU-protocols, conventions and decisions do not always take part in their implementation at the state-level. Although, Nigeria has signed and ratified the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa in February 2005 and also has a national gender policy, no specific national legislation to ensure the observance of the rights of women has been implemented.

Furthermore, Nigeria has signed and ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples Right; human rights abuses are still very much prevalent. Torture by law enforcement agencies especially the police is still widely reported. The prisons are in dire need of reforms as they remain unfit for human abode, the death penalty is still part of the Nigerian legal system and violence against women is rampant. The African Union Convention for the Protection and the Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa is a further legal instrument of the AU. The menace of the Boko Haram has increased the challenges of the human rights, security and internal



Jean Ping, AU Chairman

displacement situation in the country lending credence to intervention not only to the human rights but also to internal security concerns in line with the mandate of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

The Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Maputo was ratified by Nigeria on the 25th of June 2004. The country still faces serious environment and climate challenges. Oil spills in the Niger-Delta region, deforestation in the Southern Regions, erosion in the South-East of the country and desert encroachment have become concern for the entire population.

In terms of finding appropriate strategies for fighting corruption, the AU has drafted the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption that was ratified by Nigeria in 2009.

Most recently, in December 2011, the Nigerian Parliament ratified the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). Before then, Nigeria held elections in 2011, which were characterized by intimidations, snatching of ballot boxes on Election Day and high post-election violence in the northern part of Nigeria.

It would be important, therefore, that CSOs undertake the process of deepening dialogue and collaboration with Government and the AU in addressing measures towards implementation of the AU convention and treaties. “With the AU is now more open than ever to civil society, there is a huge opportunity for CSOs to add value and quality to the Union's decisions, and ensure effective implementation of its priorities” Barbara Stocking, Oxfam GB Executive Director, highlighted possible cooperation.

Prioritization Of Agriculture, Antidote To Food Security

By **Rabiatu Shettima**

As it is the case with wooly African countries, agriculture is the main-stay of the people of Nigeria before the oil boom era. It's economic status realized world recognition as a result of its huge agricultural export earning contributing 64.1% to the country's GDP in 1956.

Agriculture was the dominant sector of the economy and it provided employment for about 70% of the working population, and accounted for 90% of foreign earnings in the federal government revenue. However, the discovery of oil in commercial quantity in 1956 brought changes to the country and by 1967, the country started facing some gloomy future signals which culminated to the present situation of substitution of the nation's economic lifeline from agriculture to crude oil.

Foremost among the cause of stagnation in the Nigeria economy after the wonderful take-off was the country's over dependence on oil, which was due to the huge economic output of crude oil exports to national economy that was seen as relief from agriculture and its associated problems.

The oil boom of 1970 ushered in an almost total neglect to the agricultural sector in the midst of a fast growing population and a tilt towards the oil sector which brought cheap and easy money that was falsely accruing to an extent the oil produced 85% of Nigeria annual export income. Hence, all that was needed to benefit from the oil was to move to the city for white collar jobs.

But the recent emerging challenges of food shortage signals in Nigeria calls for reinvestment and concentration in the agricultural sector. Oil boom has made Nigeria to relinquish the name it was known for as a food supplier. Agricultural income earned among others to net importer of food contributing less than 5 percent to total foreign exchange earnings by 2000.

Soon, the growing fears of battling with food shortages became an issue of concern and additional government policies kept emerging in almost every regime.

The 1974 National Accelerated food Production Project(NAFPP) was a strategy which sought to combat agricultural problems by increasing the production of rice, maize, millet etc through supplying fertilizers and pesticides was followed suit by the African Development programme (ADP) in 1975, the Operation Feed the nation (OFN) in 1976, then the green Revolution plans in 1979.

By the 1980's policies like the structural adjustment programme were introduced as vessels of reversing the situation.

The better life for rural women plan in 1987, Directorate

for Food roads and rural infrastructure, the recent National Economic Empowerment and Development strategy were all part of efforts to curb the ever deepening food shortage situation and over dependence on import commodities.

All these polices have bright increasing foresight, but the implementation and accountability does not allow any to see the light of the day, but the political instability and regime change worsen the whole situation, barely before realizing any input from all the previously initiated plans.

It was sad to say that Nigeria today, is poorer than it was at independence and is rated among the world's 15 poorest countries.

Several factors as we earlier mentioned came to pose their problems, but prominent among them is corruption, which posed the extreme challenge in the country's development prospects emasculating government structure and further uproar of disdain and frustration experienced by the citizens of Nigeria.

It is the challenge of the present administration and with special reference to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to look inward and outwards to proffer a final and concrete solution to the ever increasing scourge of food problem in order to curb the escalation of existing problem through mass agricultural production to reduce hunger and malnutrition in an already

world of rising food prices.

It is indeed an understatement to mention that it will take more than implementation of solution to get this endemic problem on track. Hence, it is incumbent on the Ministry of Agriculture to meet the derived target to reduce poverty by removing the key constraints to agricultural commodities competition.

Government must be more proactive to work towards improving and encouraging large/small scale agriculture in its various forms through implementation of feasible and beneficial plans with proper accountability that will see to the provision of basic farming requirements like accessible roads, good transport system, provision of fertilizers and loans to farmers, availability of modern technology pesticides, among others.

There is the ever demanding need to ban importation of food. Rural electrification projects will also go a long way to improve agricultural productivity. Having mentioned all the factors that will aid production, it is imperative to say that government should adopt a means of partnering with civil society organizations to see to the monitoring and evaluation of government's programmes, contracts in the sector to ensure implementation and food security in Nigeria.



Dr. Akinwumi Adesina
Minister of Agriculture

REPORT OF CSOs ADVOCACY VISITS TO THE MDAs, MEDIA AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ON FOOD SECURITY AND THE NEED FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT ON SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURE IN NIGERIA

By Balogun Babatunde Kehinde

Introduction:

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) with support from OXFAM GB organized advocacy visits with company of 7 other civil society organizations to the National Assembly, MDAs and the Media on food security and increased investment on small scale agriculture in Nigeria campaign. The advocacy visit to the Media was paid to, Independent Television (ITV) and the Abuja office of the Guardian Newspapers. The advocacy visit to National Assembly was targeted at both the Senate and the House of Representatives Committee Chairmen on Agriculture, while the visit to the MDAs was also targeted at the Ministry of Agriculture, Strategic Grain Reserve, and National Food Reserve System.

During the visit to the above mentioned stakeholders of the Agriculture sector, Ms Chioma Kanu who led the 8 persons civil society delegation, after introduction said the visit is to partner with the media, ministry, National Assembly on how to improve the output of the sector to national development and promote investment of small scale agriculture in Nigeria.

In her speech, Chioma noted that the 2012 appropriation bill awaiting approval is aimed at promoting patronage of indigenous agricultural produce in Nigeria. She said the group will like to know how the media, ministry, lawmakers and other stakeholders in the Agricultural sector is reporting on agriculture and how effective the reports and investigations have been. She said the group will also like to know if there are

areas of opportunities to address food security in Nigeria and also if there are areas of collaboration among the CSOs, National Assembly, Ministry of Agriculture and the media in conducting investigative reporting and monitoring and performance evaluation of the ministry's activities that will enhance effective output of the sector to national development, investment on small scale agriculture and food security in Nigeria.

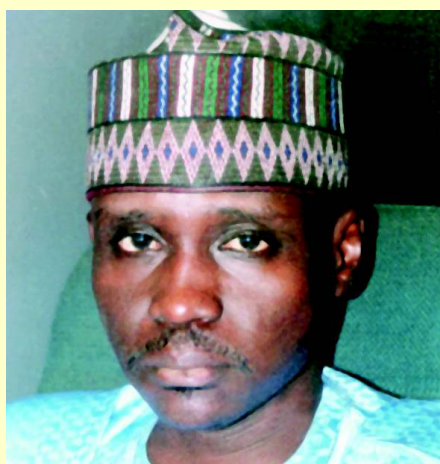
Reacting to her address, concerns and questions, the Chairman House committee on Agriculture, Hon. Barr. Mohammed Tahir Monguno, Committee Clerk Senate Committee on Agriculture, Dr.(Mrs) Fortune Ihua-Maduenyi, Deputy Director, National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), Mr. Abdul Aziz Kolo, the Director of purchase, ministry of Agriculture the Bureau Chief of the Guardian Newspapers Abuja office, Mr. Martins Oloja and Ms Amber Olague, the Assistant General Manager Programmes, Independent Television commends CISLAC and other CSOs present for embarking on what they qualified as democracy of the stomach.

Concerns from the media

On the agricultural policies, the media persons highlighted lack of materials and bureaucracy in government as part of the bane affecting the work of the media. They said the CSOs are not vigilant enough in monitoring governance. A media firm or a reporter needs a platform, forum or a background to discuss issues on food security. The body urges the CSOs to be more proactive in governance after elections. He said government like to speak with propaganda and it is fact



*Sen. Emmanuel Bwacha
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Agriculture*



*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno
Chairman, House Committee on
Agriculture*



*Dr. Akinwumi Adesina
Minister for Agriculture and
Natural Resources*

from the CSOs that can shed light on any propaganda or programme the government is embarking on. He advice the CSOs to GET training on media/CSO relations and also to collaborate with media organizations in addressing the issue of food security and investment in small scale farming because the people in the Agriculture sector are not serious about engaging the media on their activities and the CSO as well as are not criticizing the media on their shortcomings on objective reportage and lack of coverage areas.

Concerns from the MDAs

On it activities, the department identified funding as the bane afflicting its effectiveness. He said the department's money is budgeted and released quarterly around October/November which according to him is post harvest period and said the body needs to have a separate budget calendar to meet up with harvest period. The bodies also raised concern on the high rate of bureaucracy as part of the bane affecting its activities and proposed a bill to turn the department to an agency for it to be able to operate effectively

Reactions from NASS

Chioma who led the 12 persons delegation to the National Assembly raised all the concerns from the media, ministry of agriculture, agency and other stakeholders before the lawmakers. She pointed at the issue of bureaucracy in governance, lack of independence of strategic grains reserve department, indisposition of government officials to media personnel and the low budgetary allocation to agriculture among others and also to know if there are ways of collaboration with the lawmakers to ensure effective output of the sector to national development. The VFS group that accompanied the CISLAC delegate in the persons of Prof. Ayoola, FIF, Chris Kaka of TNI and others brought to the fore the Food Security Bill which was not given priority by the 6th Assembly and the increase in food prices with the fuel subsidy removal.

Reacting to their addresses and questions, the Chairman House Committee on Agriculture, Hon. Tahir Monguno and the Clerk of the senate committee on Agriculture, Dr. (Mrs) Fortune commended CISLAC and other CSOs present for taking this stride to see that Nigeria don't go into food scarcity and crisis and appreciate them for the selfless service to humanity. They said is only through interface with the CSOs that the government can move closer to the people and they

promised to communicate most of the issues raised to all other members of the committee. Hon Tahir said the House of Representatives is at the verge of reviewing the land use act, which according to him has passed second reading.

On bureaucracy in governance and the independence of strategic grains reserve department of ministry of agriculture, they said steps are being taken to make the reserve department be an independent body and they urge the CSOs to come up with a bill in that regard. According to them, the government is trying to cut cost of governance and that is why they are not trying to create new agency or parastatals, but based on the importance of food, they will make case for it before the National Assembly.

On low media patronage to the sector, Hon. Tahir blamed the executive arm of the government for not carrying out its statutory duties and he promised to take it up with the necessary quarters. Also on the high tariff

on the importation of rice, the lawmakers said Nigerians should sacrifice to achieve a better tomorrow within this period.

The lawmakers said Nigeria is yet to meet the Maputo declaration of at least 10 per cent budget allocation to Agriculture, which to Hon. Tahir is due to lack of priority from the government to agriculture. He said funding agriculture well, will create jobs for the unemployed and he frowned at the N1 trillion allocation to

security which he opposed vehemently during the debate.

They said the media and the CSOs used to work together before the enthronement of democracy in 1999, but now the two development partners work apart from each other due to the fact that the media are going deep into politics and governance issues, while the CSOs are moving away from governance, which according to them has affected developmental agenda in Nigeria.

Conclusion

In all, the entire process was an eye opener because it brought out salient issues and challenges afflicting agriculture sector growth that need to be addressed among the various stakeholders that were visited. It became glaring that there is a need for an interface among these stakeholders to come together and table their concerns and differences to ensure effectiveness and productive output of agricultural sector to the economy and overall development in Nigeria.

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COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF A ROUNDTABLE ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN NIGERIA TAGGED 'EVOLVING A STRATEGY FOR PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND SECURITY IN NIGERIA' HELD AT THE BOLTON WHITE HOTEL ON TUESDAY MARCH 21ST 2012 IN ABUJA FCT NIGERIA.

Preamble

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in partnership with the Africa Nations Development Programme (ANDP) organized a roundtable on the security situation in Nigeria tagged 'Evolving a Strategy for Promoting Sustainable Peace and Security in Nigeria'. The meeting was held at the Bolton White Hotel, Abuja on 20th March 2012. The meeting had in attendance a broad range of stakeholders including Civil Society, the media, the Police and security agencies Ministries, departments and Agencies of government with responsibility for conflict prevention, management and mitigation.

Three key papers were delivered that provided the platform for discussions on the 'An Assessment of Existing Frameworks for Sustainable National Security', 'Government's Response to the Present Security Challenges: An Appraisal' and 'An Evaluation of Media Coverage of Current National Security Issues'. The meeting is situated within the context of the growing insecurity and violence in the country; against the background of interrogating institutional framework and governance interventions. The role of citizens in building sustainable peace and facilitate a platform to share knowledge and broaden the alternatives for dealing with the situation in the country presently amongst and within stakeholders.

Key observations and recommendations from roundtable follow;

Observations

- The political and economic evolution of Nigeria is fundamentally flawed and provides the issues that drive agitation and subsequently violent manifestation of grievances.
- The legal framework and policies for national security existing in the country though provides a basic framework for conflict prevention and

peace building; lacks supporting institutional structures and resource for its implementation.

- Effective structure for the collation, analysis and dissemination of intelligence is lacking within Nigerian law enforcement and intelligence agencies.
- Police and other security agencies fighting this war on terror are not well equipped and lack the necessary motivation to deal with the issue of crime and criminality in a strategic manner.
- The Nigerian Government's neo-liberal and market driven approach to development through privatization, commercialization and the denationalization of key industries is engendering poverty. Daily jobs are lost on the altar of these approach adding to the hordes of unemployed Nigerians and providing a fertile ground for recruiting violent grievances against the state
- Governments lacks the political will to deal effectively with the rising tide of violence in the country and do not inspire confidence amongst the citizens, oftentimes; Government's responses are viewed in the perspective of politicking with the situation at hand.
- The media plays a key and central role as an interface between government and the people facilitate the flow of information on the dynamics of society and set the agenda for national development. How these roles are handled in the context of the situation presently in the country would have overwhelming impact on the outcome.
- Government has the ultimate responsibility to guarantee the protection of lives and property of Nigerians on one hand and citizens a duty to hold government accountable on its constitutional responsibility through constructive engagement on the other

Recommendations

- Democracy can be said to be thriving only when it guarantees the rights and meets the needs and aspirations of the people, the government have the responsibility to protect and uphold the rights of Nigerians, guarantee freedom from fear and want and create the enabling environment for pursuit of sustainable growth and development
- Nigeria as a country must put in place a process to deal with contentious issues in the constitution such as resource mobilisation and control, citizenship, religion and ethnicity. These issues as foundation blocks of our nationhood have not been discussed exhaustively and a consensus built on them. Therefore they would continue to be whipped up by politicians and disgruntled elements in causing trouble in the country
- Government must demonstrate a commitment to a holistic approach in dealing with the situation at hand especially as it relates to human security; beyond the deployment of security agencies and strategies it should put in place a robust development programme that should be seen to be addressing the development challenges of unemployment, illiteracy, corruption amongst others facing the country.
- The 2012 budget appropriates huge amount to the security sector, therefore the Nigerian Police and other security agencies must be adequately funded, provided logistics, adequately equipped with, the right skilled manpower and expertise to confront the challenge of the security situation in the country
- Government should as a matter of urgency initiate a multi-stakeholder approach to dealing with the security situation in the country. This approach should be designed to harness the knowledge, experience and capacity of stakeholders, Civil Society and integrate the concerns of Nigerians at all

levels. This should be fused with a coherent interagency cooperation.

- A whistle blowers and Witness protection policy that guarantees the safety and protection of the identity of whistle blowers should be put in place by the government to facilitate the flow of information from citizens to aid the security agencies in the fight against terror.
- The existing penal and criminal codes should be reviewed in line with existing realities with regards to crime and punishment as they extremely undermine the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes such as kidnapping, terrorism amongst others
- National Assembly should as a matter of urgency revisit the existing legal frameworks for National Security to deal with issues of structures, institutions and resources to make them functional and responsive to dynamics of contemporary security challenges
- The media has a responsibility as a watchdog of society, its approach and reportage of the ensuing crises should not celebrate the violence but objective enough to deepen national integration, engender accountability, mobilize collective solution and action in dealing with the situation at hand

Conclusion

Participants thanked CISLAC and ANDP for initiating this discourse at this point in time and called on the organizers to broaden the platform to include more stakeholders as well as the frontiers for engagement with the policy space.

Signed

Auwal Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC

Dr. Samson Omojuyigbe
Director General, ANDP

A CALL TO DISBAND SENATE AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON PENSION REFORM FOR DISREGARD FOR ETHICS, BIAS AND LACK OF INTEGRITY

With the constitution of the ad-hoc committee to investigate the rot in the management of pension scheme in the country, the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), and Zero Corruption Coalition ZCC, like other well meaning Nigerians, thought that the good work started by the Abdulrasheed Maina-led Pension Reform Task Team (PRTT), instituted by the Head of Civil Service of the Federation would be further complemented. . We viewed the decision as an attempt by the Senate to help in cleansing the Augean stable occasioned by deep seated corruption in the system.

We, CISLAC, CDD and ZCC were however shocked that no sooner than the committee started its work, did signs emerged that the high expectations of Nigerians about its potential to contribute to the war against corruption would not materialize. Indeed, the manner in which the Committee went about its task of investigation left much to be desired. The tendency toward leaving the issues to pursue trivialities became obvious and elements of bias began to manifest, eroding the neutrality and objectivity required for this crucial assignment and calling the integrity of the legislature to question.

CISLAC and CDD recalls that billions of naira due for pensioners who have diligently served this country, giving the better part of their lives to the service of their fatherland, have been cornered by a few personnel at the various pension offices all over the country. It is worth noting that the Pension Reform Task Team through its work has amongst other achievements saved the country the whopping N159 billion. Part of the recovered funds has already being returned to the federation account and appropriated for national development. The committee has equally discovered 71,000 ghost workers through biometric verification it initiated.

However, to our disappointment, the Senate, as represented by the committee, rather than identifying itself with patriotic Nigerians committed to eliminating corruption from our national life, has proceeded in a manner contrary to popular expectation and in disregard for the age-old principles of honour, ethics and integrity. As publicly displayed during the televised hearing, members of the committee seemed to have taken it upon themselves to serve as advocates for the government officials accused of squandering pension funds over the years. Therefore, rather than objectively and thoroughly scrutinizing every detail presented before them, members of the committee have been antagonizing members of the Task Team and providing cover for the people that were obviously found deep in the pension fund scam.

Again, in sheer disregard for transparency, the committee is currently muting the idea of a closed door session in its investigations. We see this as an attempt at cover up; to deny Nigerians the right to fully know what is happening as well as an opportunity to muscle the course of the hearing to the interest of the committee. Similarly, the Committee has continued to invite some of the accused persons to its hearing for image laundering, contrary to the dictates of the rule of law. We feel that since those persons are already being dragged before a competent court of law, the committee should let them face the charges against them and stop fraternizing with them to the detriment of the sanctity of legislative responsibility.

CISLAC, CDD and ZCC perceive strongly, the unhealthy relationship between members of the senate committee and some of the officials alleged to have fed fat on the pensioners' entitlements. We strongly suspect as alleged by some media reports that money may have changed hands or else how can the seemingly funny attitude of the committee be explained. There are also allegations that some key members of the committee were seen in a car alongside some of the accused persons.

Moreover, the co-chair of the committee, Senator Kabiru Gaya, is reported to being a cousin to one of the accused officials. This ordinarily, should automatically disqualify the person of Senator Gaya from his position on the committee as he is an interested party and with a clear conflict of interest.

While CISLAC, CDD and ZCC prefers to leave the veracity of these allegations making the rounds to relevant agencies to investigate and also respect the rights of those accused of the fraud to be presumed innocent until convicted by a court of law which process is in progress, we re-affirm our conviction that the conduct of the Senators on the Committee falls short of acceptable behaviour in a civilized society considering the sacred trust that the electorate repose in them.

In view of the foregoing, we strongly call on the Senate President David Mark to swiftly move into action to redeem the integrity of the Upper Chamber of the National Assembly which has been badly battered by the activity of the Pension Reform committee.

The Senate should as a matter of national interest, dissolve the committee and replace the members with more honourable and impartial senators. It is high time that a spade is called a spade wherever it is seen. The National Assembly should be a tool of smoking out corruption instead of covering it up.

CISLAC, CDD and ZCC wish to encourage the House of Representatives to be open and transparent in its planned investigation into this scam that has snowballed into a huge embarrassment for the nation. The House should be thorough and employ its legislative powers in getting to the root of the matter to ensure that culprits are made to face the full wrath of the law.

We call on the EFCC to ensure diligent prosecution of the cases instituted on account of the work of the Task Team. CISLAC, CDD and ZCC enjoin the judiciary to expedite action on the cases brought before it on this matter and ensure that justice is not only done but seen to have been done. This is the least we all can do to demonstrate that the betrayal of pensioners who have suffered or even died because of the atrocities committed by a few, is not the product of a national conspiracy

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Executive Director

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)

Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim,

Executive Director,

Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD)

Babatunde Oluajo

National Secretary,

Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC)

REPORT OF A ONE DAY STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY NACA ON LEARNING ABOUT LIVING HELD ON 12, April, 2012 AT ROCKVIEW HOTEL, ABUJA

The National Agency for the Control of Aids [NACA] in partnership with OneWorld UK and Butterfly Works Netherlands organised a one-day stakeholder's workshop on learning about living in Abuja. The workshop started at about 9:30 am at Rockview Hotel, Abuja.

In a welcome remark by the Director General of NACA, Professor John Idoko appreciated OneWorld UK and Butterfly Works Netherlands whose efforts have made the project Learning about Living possible in Nigeria. The DG of NACA who was represented by Dr. Alhassan Idoko said that implementation of the project of the e-learning system on HIV/AIDS Education has recorded a huge success in Nigeria. He further said that the implementation of the project has successfully enlightened Nigerians particularly teenagers on HIV/AIDS related issues.

The workshop was attended by participants from government and non-government organizations. Those in attendance were Dr. Abdu Hussein, country director ActionAids, Professor Benny, Girls Power Initiative, Emer Cronin, Director Butterfly Works, distinguished members of the press and Civil Society Organizations.

The program Director of Learning about Living in Nigeria, Uju Aderemi said that the pilot scheme of the project took place in Lagos, Cross River State and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja from 2007 to 2009. Uju in her blissful state of mind said that Learning about Living is a programme that has paved way for teenagers to ask questions on reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and sexual related issues freely without fear or intimidation via the use of ICTs for example, computers and mobile phones. She further explained that the project utilised ICT to equip Nigerian teenagers with relevant skills to enable them make decisions about their sexual health to prevent HIV/AIDS and gender based violence.



Professor John Idoko, DG, NACA

It was clearly stated that the electronic version of Learning about Living has entered into some of the school curriculum in partnership with local youth focused Civil Society Organizations. Participant who spoke on the degree of impact of the project on the lives of Nigerians, appreciated the good work of OneWorld UK, Butterfly Works Netherlands and other institutions that are part of implementation of the programme in Nigeria. This was further boosted by the testimonies of a teacher in one of the secondary schools in Bwari Local council, Abuja among many other testimonials from other part of Nigeria particularly from Lagos and Cross Rivers States.

Professor Benny of Girl Power Initiatives left no stone un-turned when she said that the project has done more than expected among young girls who cannot directly ask parents sexual related questions. This group of teenagers asked questions and communicate Learning about Living through text messages on mobile phones and web-chart on sex, HIV/AIDS related issues.

The organizers having highlighted reasons for poor implementation of the project resulting from inadequate mix of services, lack of supplies of equipment, lack of access [physical, financial, etc], poor quality of services, inadequate involvement of young people among others, Professor John Idoko, DG, National Agency for the Control of Aids made award presentation to local partners who have contributed immensely to the successful implementation of the project in the cities and interiors across the country.

The workshop came to an end with a video recorded word from Anuradha Vittachi, founder/CEO of OneWorld UK. She appreciated contributors from Nigeria and other parts of the world for their contribution and the successful implementation of Learning about living worldwide while vote of thanks was by Emer Cronin, the Director Butterfly Works.

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REPORT OF A DAY CONFERENCE ON THE ABOLITION OF DEATH PENALTY IN NIGERIA ORGANIZED BY AVOCATS SANS FROTIERES FRANCE, HELD ON THE 27TH MARCH, 2012 AT THE GOLDEN HALL, CHELSEA HOTEL, ABUJA.

By Victor Okanime Elope

The AVOCATS SANS FRONTIERES in partnership with Lawyers without Boarder organized a one day conference dwelling on the abolition of "Death Penalty" in Nigeria.

The conference started with a welcome address by Ivan Paneff, the Vice President of Avocats Sans Frontieres France. During the address, he said that death penalty as a capital punishment is a law that has been out dated, yet some countries still hold on to the practice in the world including Nigeria. He further explained that Civil Society Organizations including Avocats Sans Frontieres France have been advocating for the abolition of death penalty in countries' legal system. The representative of Lawyers Without Boarder who are partners in the advocacy spoke in favour of the abolition of death penalty as they claimed that many people are victims to the law of death penalty which is an extreme violation of right to life in Nigeria.

The conference was attended by representatives from government and non-government institutions both from Nigeria and abroad. Those in attendance are delegate of European Union represented by Mr. Alan Munday, Living Stone Sewanyana [Uganda], Minister of Justice, Mr. Mohammed Adoke, Senator Umaru Dahiru, Chairman, Senate Committee on Human Rights, NBA President, Mr. J.B. Dauda, SAN, Professor Angwe, Executive Secretary, National Human

Rights Commission, representative, Access to Justice, Mr. Joseph Otteh and the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Dahiru Musdapher who was represented by his Special Assistance, Hadiza Sontali Sa'eed. Other in attendance are Mrs Franca Offor, representative of ECOWAS Court, prof. Akinseye George, Executive Director, Center for Social Legal Studies, Mr. Arthur Angel, President and Founder, Lifebridge International, Mrs. Omotola Rotimi, Director, OPD, Lagos, Mr. Joshua Ogbale, Chairman, Human Rights Commission Benue State House of Assembly, Justice Kuduga, Kaduna State Judiciary, represented by Mr. Alabelewe, Mr. Victor Oviawe, DPP Edo State, Mrs. Safiya Umar, DPP Katsina State and Mr. Peter Nkanga, reps. West African Consultant for the Committee to protect Journalist and other distinguished members of the press and Civil Society Organizations among which is CISLAC.

The group of advocates who spoke in favour of the abolition of death penalty are European Union, Lawyers without boarder and Livingstone Sawanyana among others. The advocacy of the abolition of death penalty in Nigeria, led by Livingstone Sawanyana [Uganda] in a paper presentation, said that death penalty in some countries are the inheritance of colonialism particularly in the British colonies. He further explained that in Africa due to advocacy for the abolition of death penalty, 16 member states of Africa Union have abolished death penalty namely, Angola,

Burundi, Senegal, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo, and Mauritius. He lauded the implication of death penalty as barbaric and cruel stressing that UN Human Rights Committee found the mandatory death sentence to violate the right to life since the penalty is not individually tailored to fit the crime. He employed the efforts of the Nigeria judicial system, Civil Society Organizations and any other related institution of government to re-examine death penalty in Nigeria.

In a contrary address from the Nigeria Bar Association [NBA] and the Chief Justice of Nigeria, [CJN], who both spoke on the issue, the NBA president described as

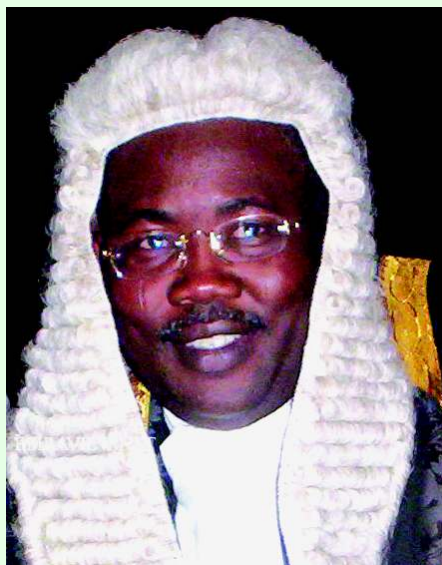
premature the call for the abolition of death penalty in Nigeria and that what is important now is how to make the law on death penalty work efficiently without victimization considering the present challenges confronting the Nigeria Government today. While the CJN is of the opinion that the judiciary has little to do on issue of death penalty as it only plays the role of interpretation of the constitution of Nigeria. The Special Assistance to the CJN, Hadiza Sa'eed, explained that in a constitutional democracy, neither the legislature nor the judiciary is supreme, but the constitution. As long as the constitution upholds the death penalty sentence, the judiciary will interpret and implement it until there is constitutional review.

Backed up by Safiya Umar representing Director Public Prosecution [DPP] Kaduna State, she

said that in the Sharia law, abolition of death penalty is ultra vires; beyond legal recognition. That according to Islamic Doctrine, death penalty to guilty suspects is an act of justice.

Mr. Joseph Otteh, Executive Director of Access to Justice argued that campaign for the abolition of death penalty is a step to the right direction. He further stated that stakeholders should be engage in other to create awareness on implication of capital punishment particularly the conviction of innocent suspects, the poor and less privileged. He said that in doing this, the Judiciary, Police, Lawyers, Civil Society Organizations, Committees of prerogative of Mercy, etc, that discretion of the Judges imposing death penalty should be tightened even if it will take other institution[s] to review the decision of death penalty on victims.

In conclusion, Ivan Paneff, Vice President of Avocats Sans Frontieres France said that the way forward to abolish death penalty in Nigeria is for all stakeholders; the Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, Civil Society Organizations, Human Rights Organizations, Lawyers Without Boarder, etc, to pull resources together in the spirit of advocacy for the abolition of death penalty in Nigeria. To crown it all, Ivan Paneff said that abolition of death penalty is a collective effort of the political will of the citizens of the society.



Minister of Justice, Mohammed Adoke

Fighting Poverty Through Women Empowerment

By Rahila Garba Lassa

Almost everywhere in the world especially in Africa, the rights of the woman is infringed and her voice made faint in almost every decision making process. Her place and voice in the home has been limited to the kitchen and general home keeping.

In Nigeria and some African countries, there have been some strong historical beliefs that women should occupy a domestic environment while the men should enjoy rights to ownership of property exclusively. These deep rooted cultural barriers to the right of the women have often moved in parallel with poverty and deprivation of the females to access funds and thereby accounting for the majority of the continent's (Africa) poor persons to be predominantly women.

Report has however shown that two third of the continent's illiterates are females, of the millions of school age children not in school are girls and today, HIV/AIDS is rapidly becoming a women's disease.

Against the belief that the man controls the property and wealth therefore he shoulders his house responsibilities, women bear almost all responsibilities to meet the basic needs of their families. This is more rooted in the rural settings.

The woman everywhere is faced with several constraints and restriction to her social and economic opportunities which consequently is a hindrance to poverty reduction and development.

Despite the limitations to economic opportunities for women especially those in the rural dwellings, the house hold still depends on the primitive form of agriculture for sustenance which is mostly done by women. That is why the current world food price is having more impact on them.

Studies show that when women are empowered and supported, all of the society benefits, their families are healthier, more children go to school, agricultural productivity improves and income increases. In short communities become resilient (CAMFED).

It was in response to this that the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against women (CEDAW) sprung up and was adopted by the UN assembly in 1979. Yet, efforts to modernise discriminatory laws are faced with frustration by the deep rooted cultural barriers.

These constraints as enshrined in our social norms

have made it pretty difficult for even the adolescent girls to realize their rights to education and decent work to guard themselves against psychological and physical harm.

Many girls do not have the opportunity of building the self confidence they need to assert themselves and become a part of the decision making processes that have to do with their future. They do not have the social support, knowledge and resources to reduce their vulnerability to early and forced marriage, early pregnancy, exploitative work and physical and sexual assault. Yet, pursuit of equal rights for the woman and girl-child through international law has been a slow process.

The number three (3) Millennium Development Goals which is to "promote gender equality and empower women" has clearly indicated the need for

women empowerment for gender equality. Women when empowered could be key change agents in fight against poverty and hunger.

FACTS AND FIGURES

In ten states in India, UNDP joined forces with the ministry for local governance and civil society organisations to support women elected to public office in more than 2,600 village councils.

In Ghana, UNDP and the Japanese government helped more than 200 rural women to set up six training centres where they learned to produce goods that are

now being exported around the world.

RECOMMENDATIONS

If the barriers to equality must be overcome, education is the ultimate and most effective means of doing so because educated girls will most likely avert the tendency of having unwanted pregnancy, will resist the pressure to marry too young, to have too many children than they can take care of, and because they have greater competence as mothers, they could be active agents of change in their communities.

When girls are educated so many things change. They will be less likely to be infected with HIV/ AIDS they will have more income thereby strengthening the economy. We can start with just one girl and she will lead the way.

CONCLUSION

Except women become self reliant through encouraging girl-child education and encouraging female enterprise the world is far from achieving the MDGs.

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Despite the limitations to economic opportunities for women especially those in the rural dwellings, the house hold still depends on the primitive form of agriculture for sustenance which is mostly done by women.
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BILLS UPDATE (APRIL, 2012)

Compiled by Our Staff Writer

S/N	BILL No	BILL NAME	YEAR	STAGE
1	HB 96	A bill for an act to provide for the enforcement of the national building code within the Federal Capital Territory, provide for punishment for non-compliance with the code and for related matters.	2012	Second reading
2	HB 196	A bill for an act to amend the pre-shipment of exports Acts, cap. P25 LFN 2004; so as to enhance the operations of the Nigerian Export supervision scheme for improved performance and overall growth of the economy; and for related matters.	2012	Second reading
3	HB 193	A bill for an act to prescribe investments in Petroleum Refining as condition for licensing and operation of oil producing companies in Nigeria; and for other matters.	2012	Second reading
4	HB 218	A bill for an Act to establish the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa and for matters connected therewith.	2012	Second reading
5	HB 130	A bill for Act to establish a national Grazing Route and Reserve Commission for managing National Grazing Route and Reserves in all parts of the nation and for incidental matters.	2012	Second reading
6	SB 107	A bill for an Act to establish the Chartered Institute for Certified Secretaries and Reporters of Nigeria.	2012	Second reading
7	SB 93	A bill for an Act to Repeal the Advisory Council on Religious Affairs Act Cap A8 Laws of the federation of Nigeria 2004 and enact the National Peace Council to promote peace and religious Harmony in the country and to provide for related purposes.	2012	Second reading
8	SB 113	A bill for an Act to Amend the Education (National minimum standards and establishment of Institutions) Act cap E3, LFN 2004 and for other Related Matters.	2012	Second reading
9	SB 65	A bill for an Act to amend the Energy Commission of Nigeria Act to Grant priority to the development and promotion of new and Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and conservation, and provide for other matters related thereto.	2012	Second reading
10	SB 97	A bill for an Act to establish the Nigerian Apparel Industry Development Commission, to Encourage and promote the Development of the Nigerian Apparel Sector of the Economy and for matters connected therewith	2012	Second reading
11	SB 71	A bill for an Act to provide for Regular and Routine Maintenance of Public Infrastructures and for Other Matters connected therewith	2012	Second reading
12	SB 101	A bill for an Act to for project continuity by the Federal Government and for other connected matters therewith	2012	Second reading