



CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC)

Motto: Strengthening the work of CSO at parliament

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PRESS RELEASE

CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEES

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) views with concern the slow pace with which the selection committees of both chambers of the National Assembly are moving in the constitution of their standing committees.

Chapter Thirteen of the Senate Standing Orders and Order Seventeen of the House of Representatives Standing Orders have expressly stated the guidelines for the constitution of the Standing Committees of both Houses.

CISLAC appreciates the fact that both the Senate and House of Representatives are not legally bound by time limits in the constitution of Standing Committees. We also understand that as politicians, the Selection Committee members may want to carefully cater for various interests. The basis of our concern however, arises from the fact that the delay in constituting Standing Committees for both Chambers of the National Assembly has created a vacuum in the area of oversight. We wish to remind the leadership of the National Assembly that even in the absence of Ministers, all Ministries and Agencies of government are still functional. The plan of the Senate and the House of Representatives to embark on a prolonged recess increases our concern, considering the huge legislative business ahead of them and indeed, the numerous socio- economic and political expectations of Nigerians. It is our believe that the planned recess by the Senate and House of Representatives does not capture the mood of the nation.

In view of our earlier call on the leadership of both Chambers of the National Assembly to adopt merit and intellectual discipline in appointing the leadership of Standing Committees, we further urge them to do so with a sense of urgency since the Standing Committees are the engine rooms of the National Assembly.

Signed:

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