

Press Release

CSO LIAISON OFFICE

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play a vital role in any society. They are the voices of the voiceless people of a society or nation for which any society or nation without CSOs cannot successfully participate or contribute substantially to the process of true democratic governance. Engagement with democratic institutions in general and the legislature in particular remains a daunting challenge for civil society organisations.

Civil society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) therefore lauds the creation of a Civil Society Organisation Liaison Office under the office of the Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly. This surely is a laudable development after series of tireless engagements between CISLAC and other CSOs on one hand and the National Assembly on the other for the creation of this office. This will surely facilitate works of CSOs at the National Assembly in engaging lawmakers on issues of National interest. CISLAC calls for the full commitment of CSOs and the staff of the liaison office, which is manned by staff of the National Assembly, for the smooth and effective running of the office.

In order to achieve this, we do hope the bureaucracy which is usually associated with the Nigerian system is minimised to make for easy access to the liaison office by both CSOs and legislators in order to achieve the aim of the creation of the office which is to bridge the gap of civil society – legislature interface.

In addition, we call on CSOs in various states of the federation to collaborate and see how this CSO liaison office could be replicated in the various state Houses of Assembly.

In view of the above, CISLAC would be more than obliged to assist any individual or organisation that might want to access the liaison office. Also, assisting CSOs at state levels to achieve this commendable development which we perceive as a vital step to the process of true democratic governance. Again, we would want to appreciate all persons and organisations who made this development possible.

Signed

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