

CONTRIBUTION  
TOWARDS  
RESOLVING THE  
CURRENT CRISIS  
FOLLOWING THE  
#ENDSARS  
PROTESTS

Lagos Civil Society  
Participation for  
Development (LACSOP)

OCTOBER 2020



Submission from LACSOP - Oct 2020



## WHO WE ARE

- The **Lagos Civil Society Participation for Development (LACSOP)** formerly known as the Lagos State Civil Society Partnership, is a forum of the major civil society networks and coalitions, non-governmental organisations and volunteers working for the advancement of the people of Lagos State, Nigeria. A lot of our work rests on building alliances that foster citizens' voices and demand accountability from duty bearers throughout the State.
- With over **400 civil society members**, LACSOP strengthens democracy and good governance in the state through advocacy and coordination of civil society engagement in order to foster increased voice and accountability.
- ***We host citizens networks comprising of*** artisan groups with over a combined **10,000 membership base** to meet the drive for transparency, accountability and more meaningful citizens' participation in governance.
- *Our definition of civil society is broad. It includes non-government organisations, associational groups, trade unions, voluntary bodies, faith-based organisations, community based organisations, student groups, charities, coalitions and networks, protest and social movements.*



- LACSOP operates as issue-led partnership
- Improved voice and accountability in governance
- Improved government response to citizens demand
- Inclusive & participatory planning in governance
- Support better service delivery at the different government levels in the State level
- Support to participatory legislative process in Lagos State
- Support NGO strengthening to position them for government engagement



# HOW WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED CHANGE IN LAGOS

## 01

### *EVIDENCE TO POLICY:*

GENERATE DATA AS EVIDENCE OF THE IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE THROUGH IN THIS REGARD RESEARCH , ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS WITH MDAS WITH A VIEW TO NEGOTIATING BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY. WE ARE WELL KNOWN IN CORE PRO-POOR SECTORS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT.



## 02

### *AMPLIFYING VOICES:*

A CONSCIOUSNESS AND INPUT OF CITIZENS NEEDS INTO LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE LAGOS STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. IN THIS REGARD, WE ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH MAJOR COMMITTEES IN THE LEGISLATURE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNITY NEEDS, BUDGET ANALYSIS AND ELECTIONS

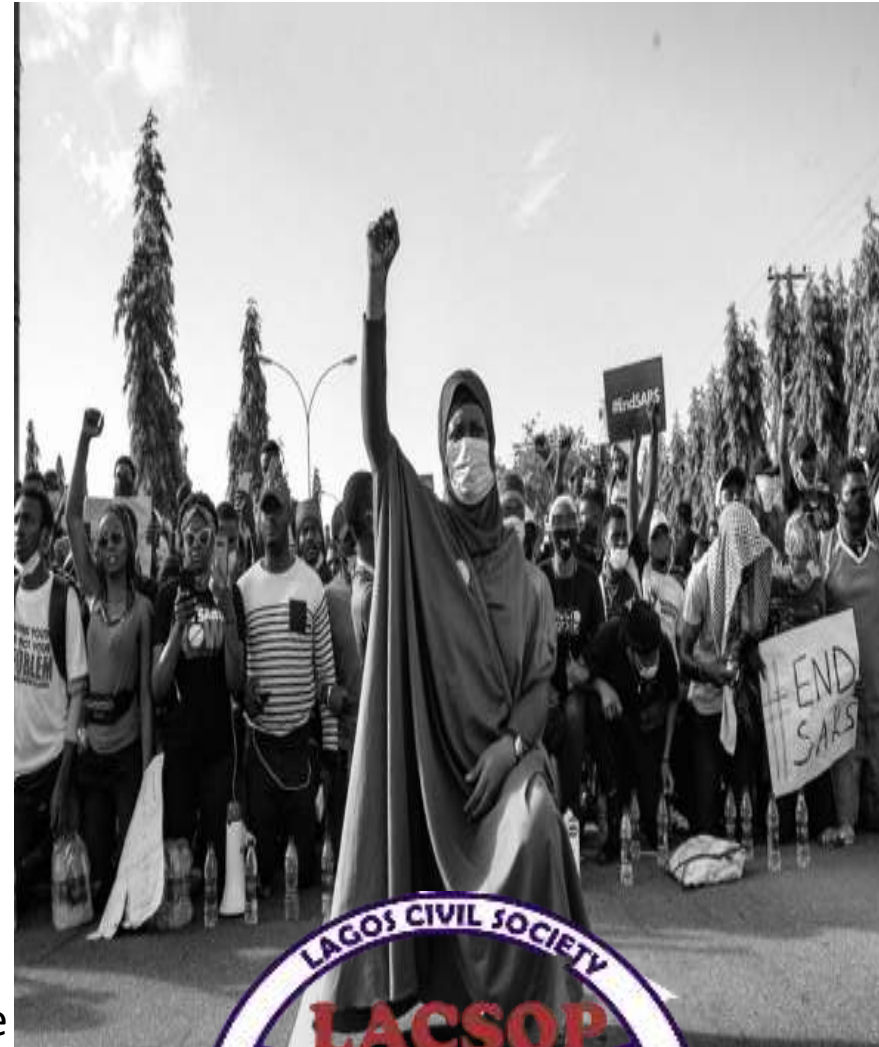
## 03

### *FISCAL TRANSPARENCY*

OUR STRATEGY, CUTTING THROUGH 2012 TO 2019, HAS PERSISTED IN SCRUTINIZING FISCAL POLICIES IN CORE DEVELOPMENT SECTORS TO MAKE VISIBLE BUDGET IMPACTS ON GOVERNMENT BODIES THEMSELVES AND TO CREATE A LINK TO APPROPRIATION OR MISAPPROPRIATION TO CITIZENS LIVES.

## WHY LACSOP IS CONCERNED

- WE ARE ALL Nigerians and have been concerned about the turn of events following the #ENDSARS Protests
- LACSOP was not one of the leaders of the #ENDSARS Protest. However, we support the spirit of the movement – that is -the end to police brutality and the move towards good governance for ALL Nigerians.
- By bringing forward this brief, we do not intend to usurp the intention of the movement founders but to support the midwifing of the expected outcomes in the aftermath of the protests.

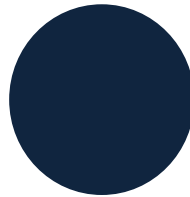


## LACSOP'S INTENTIONS

- LACSOP presents its members and through this document act as a catalyst and midwife the true intentions of the #ENDSARS movements to reality.
- We will:
  - CONTRIBUTE to dousing the tension in the aftermath of the violence
  - PROVIDE common thinking around the intentions
  - MIDWIFE a communication strategy that is devoid of mistintereptation and meets the central purpose of good governance
  - RALLY all levels of the citizens around a new vision and
  - FOSTER conversations that lead to healing,
  - MONITOR and support the dissemination of information/recommendatison that emerge from the investigative Panel
  - WORK with legislative representatives and other structures of government to produce all the outcomes mentioned above.



## Key controversies



The Federal government proscribed the SARS and reintroduced SWAT



There was no leadership to help the youth navigate an exit to the protests.



Our evidence shows that the Governor leadership efforts were applauded by the public having shown initial solidarity



At the protests, it is alleged that soldiers and police officers shot at protesters injured and possible killed. The Nigerian Army has denied any involvement with the Lekki Massacre Shooting



# WHAT WE ALL LEARN FROM #ENDSARS



Revealed the capabilities of the Nigerian youth population to energize or distablize government



Social media is a speedy measure for disemminating information. However, without the right information, law and order can quickly disintegrate in a mega city like lagos



“Massive youth mobilization demonstrated that they take exception to to police brutality and an interest in governance. Cleaning up after protests is indicates a keen interest in good governance



Youth influencers are highly effective and can be engaged in communications



Youth engaged in activities that demonstrated good governance and this is an indication of a desire to participate and inform good governance.



# #ENDSARS

## MORE LESSONS FROM #ENDSARS



#ENDSARS had no arrowhead to negotiate with as leadership in the movement was discentralised and largely random

Following this incidence, Lagos State witnessed widespread looting, fires and more killings on Lagos streets.

There was an assumed communication gap regarding the announcement of the Lagos State curfew as announced by the Governor.

The reaction of different categories of youth in the state was determined by their level of education.

Communication between the educated and less educated youth was missing and the sophistication found in the ealier protests impacted little on the reaction of less educated youth

**#ENDSARS**

## MORE LESSONS FROM #ENDSARS



Public trust in government and law enforcement agencies is deeply eroded.





# THE WAY FORWARD FOR LAGOS STATE



Build youth leadership



Engage extensively



Build citizen trust

# WAY FORWARD

## 1. BUILD LEADERSHIP AMONG THE YOUTH AT ALL LEVELS

- In preparation for the electoral season
- Generate teams of leaders
- Develop leaders with clear and informed good governance mindsets among the youth
- Systematic identification and regular updating of the data-base of the different categories of youth each of the 57 LGAS /LCDAS for integration into the social economic and governance structures

## 2. ENGAGE EXTENSIVELY

### a. Extensive communication all citizen levels

- How to engage in a structured manner
- using administrative and statutory structures. Speak to people in smaller units

### b. Conduct a massive healing campaign

- Provide a forum to enable people speak up about their challenges
- Ensure that everyone in the level of society gets a chance to speak from children, youth to politician
- LASG make a commitment to the citizens that is public , open transparent and can be easily tracked

### Partner with businesses communities

- Collaborate with business associations and gain their buy in on restoration
- Develop massive communication mechanism to communicate with the community, youth, general citizens

## 3. BUILD TRUST

### a. Eschew victimization

- Trace victims and show support
- Have them listed as heroes
- Ensure people get the medical help they need without victimization
- Encourage collaboration with health institutions – state and private sector
- Applaud people who speak up ... reward them
- Identify and compensate SARS victims

### b. Police welfare

- Partner with government initiatives to train, engage and help the police through mental health initiatives
- Communicate the changes in police
- CSOs to track improvements or decline in police welfare



# LACSOP #ENDSARS Recovery Kick-off

## Generate evidence on location of attacks

- police stations,
  - oba palace,
  - high courts
  - covid -19 food palliative warehouse losses
  - decentralize the panel into Ibile division
- What are the root causes of the movement. Where can government intervention be most impactful? What informs spontaneous mass mobilization globally, national and at community level
  - What are the most effective ways to ensure inclusion of youth in the committee, and governing structures from LGAs to state level, that is beyond business as usual
  - How can the Lagos social protection policy and review to mainstream active involvement in the planning, implementation and tracking of SPP into law by the legislators. What are the urgent areas to tackle and the short, midterm and long-term wins.
  - What does Lagos State need to do to increase easy access and participation in governance

## DEEP and authentic CSO Engagement

- Partner with government CSO representative in the panel
- Communicate to the public about the changes and invite youth groups to lead
- Start LACSOP youth group and set them up to understand the LACSOP values
- CSO to conduct townhalls with public and document feedback from townhalls and communicate to both government and citizens
- Acknowledge and reward people who speak up.
- Build civil society structure around the CS and youth representatives to ensure accountability to CS and the public
- Encourage collaboration, volunteerism between the educated and less educated you.
- Look for margins of leadership among both groups
- LACSOP should take a stand and not a position on #ENDSARS.
- massive communication mechanism to communicate with the community, youth, general citizens
- provide evidence-based intelligence and reports develop communication strategies that foster regular feedbacks, comprehensive reports, analysis and learning loops



## Participating institutions

Lagos Civil Society Participation for Development (LACSOP)

National Youth Council (NYCN) Lagos State Chapter

Nigeria Network of NGOs

Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) of the Lagos Catholic Archdiocese

Lagos Island Community

Community Development Associations – Lagos

Ibile Foundation

InnovationMatters Foundation

Development Animation Programme

Joint National Association of Persons With Disability (JONAPWD)

Greenspring Development Initiative.

Access to Development Initiative (ADI)

Iyaniwura Children Care Foundation





Contact us

LACSOP

175A Moshood Olugbani Street, Victoria Island Lagos

+234 803 713 6211

+234 803 719 1348

[info@lacsop.org](mailto:info@lacsop.org); lacsop@gmail.com