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# MUSLIM NEWS NIGERIA

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Sen. Tinubu



Dr. Hamza

Alhaja Idowu-Sanni

Bldr. Abdul-Hamid

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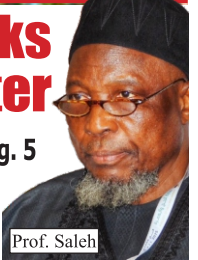
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## THE SAHABA - OUR ROLE MODEL

**T**he Companions are the best Muslims after the Prophets. The foremost among them are the Khulafāu-Rāshidūn - the rightly guided Caliphs - and the Prophet's family.

The four rightly guided leaders were Abu Bakr As-Siddiq, Umar ibn Al-Khattab, Uthman ibn Affan, and Ali ibn Abi Talib (RA).

All were related to the Prophet (SAW) through marriage. Abu Bakr's daughter Aisha and Umar's daughter Hafsa were Mothers of the Believers. Uthman married two of the Prophet's daughters, Ruqayyah and later Umm Kulthum, earning the title Dhul-Nurayn

(possessor of two lights). Ali, the Prophet's cousin, married Fatimah, his beloved daughter. Aisha (RA), in particular, was a scholar, jurist, and narrator of thousands of hadiths.

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said, he asked his father - Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) "Who is the best of this nation after the Prophet? He (Ali) said, 'AbuBakr'. He said then who? "He said, Umar". He said 'I feared he would then say 'then Uthman'. Then I said, 'then you?' He (Ali) said, 'well, I am only one of the Muslims', in humility. See Bukhari Hadith 3395.

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# THE SAHABA -OUR ROLE MODEL

By: Imam Ridwan Jamiu

## Who are the Sahaba?

The word Sahaba means the Companions of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). They are the Muslims who saw and believed in him during his lifetime. The Qur'an, the infallible revelation of Allah, best describes who the Sahaba were. Allah says "The Pioneers - the first of the migrants and the supporters, and those who followed them in righteousness - Allah is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him. He has prepared for them gardens beneath which rivers flow, where they will abide forever. That is the supreme triumph." (Surah At-Tawbah 9:100)

This verse is a divine testimonial to their greatness. Allah's word is perfect and eternal; no one speaks more truthfully than Him.

## The Muhājirūn and the Ansār

The Muhājirūn were those who left Makkah for Madinah, abandoning homes, wealth, and family for the sake of faith. The Ansār were the Muslims of Madinah who welcomed and supported the Prophet (SAW) and the emigrants. Allah praises them both: "Those who believed, emigrated, and struggled in Allah's cause, and those who gave shelter and support - these are the true believers. They will have forgiveness and a bountiful provision." (Surah Al-Anfal 8:74)

The Sahaba were promised forgiveness during their lifetimes - a blessing unmatched by any later generation. Allah further says: "Allah has redeemed the Prophet (SAW) and the emigrants and the supporters (those who followed him in the hour of difficulty) after the hearts of some almost swerved. Then He pardoned them. Indeed, He is Kind and Compassionate toward them." (Surah At-Tawbah 9:117)

The Sahaba, alongside the Prophet (SAW), were redeemed by Allah. Their loyalty ensured Islam spread after the Prophet, and we remain indebted to them.

## Transforming Arabia

Through Allah's revelation, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) transformed Arabia from a society steeped in vendetta, robbery, alcohol, oppression, and infanticide into one where peace, justice, and civilization flourished. The Sahaba's faith and sacrifices were instrumental to this change. Their righteousness and achievements reflect the Prophet's success.

## The Cream of the Sahaba

The Companions are the best Muslims after the Prophets. The foremost among them are the Khulafāu-Rāshidūn - the rightly guided Caliphs - and the Prophet's family.

The four rightly guided leaders were Abu Bakr As-Siddiq, Umar ibn Al-Khattab, Uthman ibn Affan, and Ali ibn Abi Talib (RA). All were related to the Prophet (SAW) through marriage. Abu Bakr's daughter Aisha and Umar's daughter Hafsa were Mothers of the Believers. Uthman married two of the Prophet's daughters, Ruqayyah and later Umm Kulthum, earning the title Dhul-Nurayn (possessor of two lights). Ali, the Prophet's cousin, married Fatimah, his beloved daughter.

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Imam Jamiu

would then say 'then Uthman'. Then I said, 'then you?' He (Ali) said, 'well, I am only one of the Muslims', in humility. See Bukhari Hadith 3395.

Nazzal bin Sabra said: We asked Ali about Abu Bakr and he said: That is a man Allah Himself named 'al-Siddeeq' (the truthful one) on the tongue of angel Jibril and Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He was the Prophet's representative in leading prayers. The Prophet was pleased with him in religious affairs, and we were pleased with him in worldly affairs. See Tarikh al-khulafa.

Ali cried profusely the day Abu Bakr and Umar died. The death of Uthman was a catastrophe for him. During his reign, he moved people to tears in a sermon as he extolled Abubakr, reminiscing on the glory days of Islam. [Al-Bidaya wan-Nihaayah, (3/271)]

The mutual love and care among these great Muslims is evident. Ali gave his daughter Ummul Khulthum (second daughter of Fatimah) to Umar as a wife long after the Prophet died. After Fatimah's death, Ali married other women and named some of his children Abubakr, Umar, Uthman, etc. (See Kashful-Gummah, (a Shia source), 2/166).

Ali married Fatima after being advised by Abubakr and Umar (may Allah be pleased with them). See the Shia reference - Amali Al-tusi, p.39. Ali also married Asma bint Umais, the widow of Abubakr, and adopted his son Muhammad bin Abubakr. During his caliphate, Ali appointed Muhammad bin Abubakr governor of Egypt.

## Who are the Ahlul Bayt?

Ahlul Bayt in the Qur'an (Q33:33) refers to the Prophet's family and household. Loving them is a duty. Abubakr used to say, "Show reverence to the Prophet Muhammad by honoring the members of his family." (Bukhari, on the authority of Ibn Umar; see also Riyadhi Saliheen, Hadith no. 347).

According to Zayd ibn Arqam, Ahlul Bayt includes his wives (Mothers of the Believers, Q33:6), and close relatives forbidden from charity: Abbas and his offspring, Ali and his offspring, and the offspring of Jaafar.

A Muslim's Salat is not complete until he recites Salatu Ibrahimiyah, asking Allah to bless the Prophet and his family (Ahlul Bayt) as He blessed Prophet Ibrahim and his family.

If we cannot meet these honorable people, our prayers should reach them, and we should emulate them. We can immortalize them by naming our children after the Prophet's family and the Sahaba.

## No room for hero-worship

The Qur'an forbids taking anyone as lords or gods. Even without calling them so, the way we treat people may amount to hero-worship. Shia references give their imams attributes unique to Allah. The way they treat Ahlul Bayt amounts to hero-worship, falling under Qur'an 10:28-29.

Shia do not regard the Prophet's

wives as Ahlul Bayt and often curse the companions. They worship the dead and their graves - Ali, Fatima, Hasan, Husayn, and their Imams - worse than how Christians worship Jesus, Mary, and saints. Allah says: "Whoever associates anyone with Allah in worship, Allah has forbidden him from the Paradise, and Hell is his home. No one will help [such] evildoers." Q5:72.

Their book, Biharul anwaar [10/107], claims visiting Husayn's grave in Karbala, especially on Arafat Day, equals 1000 Hajj, 1000 Umrah, and 1000 battles with the Prophet! This fabrication diverts people from pilgrimage to Makkah and divides Muslims.

Calling on the dead and worshipping at graves is shirk. The Prophet (SAW) said, "Listen [O people], [the deviants among] those before you used to take the graves of their prophets and righteous ones as places of worship. Do not do that. I strongly forbid you from that," recorded by Muslim.

Historians established that Shia sect was founded by Jews and atheists, led by Abdullah bin Saba, to divide Muslims with heresies.

One Shia scholar, Sayyid Nimatullah al-Jazairi, said (Al-Anwaar Al-Nu'maniyyah, 2/278): "We do not hold the same belief with them (Ahlul-Sunnah) about God or Prophet or Imam. They say their prophet is Muhammad and his successor Abubakr. We do not recognize that Lord or that Prophet. The Lord whose Prophet's successor is Abubakr is not our Lord, and that Prophet is not our Prophet."

## Abubakr - the Leader of the Faithful (Amirul Mu'mineen)

Abubakr was appointed leader of the Muslims after the Prophet's death, and all agreed, except some youths of Madinah who thought leadership should be theirs. But when reminded of the Prophet's instruction that leaders must come from Quraysh, they conceded to Abubakr al-Siddiq.

A year before the Prophet's farewell pilgrimage, Abubakr had been appointed to lead the Hajj. The Prophet also made him lead congregational prayers for two weeks during his final illness. These were clear signs that Abubakr should succeed him.

The Prophet (SAW) said: 'Adhere strictly to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the rightly guided caliphs after me. Stick to it, and hold on to it stubbornly. Beware however of innovated matters, for every innovation (in belief and worship) is misguidance, and every misguidance leads to the fire of Hell.'

## Our duty

In Surah Al-Hashr (Q59:8-10), Allah categorises the Prophet's followers into three groups: Muhājirūn (migrants), Ansār (supporters), and others. After mentioning the Migrants and Supporters, He instructed the third group:

And those who came after them say: "Our Lord! Forgive us and our brethren who have preceded us in faith, and put not in our hearts any hatred against those who have believed. Our Lord! You are indeed full of kindness, Most Merciful." Q59/8-10.

Whoever hates or disparages the companions is ruined. If we were not among the first (emigrants) or the second (Ansar), we should be among the third.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Do not abuse my companions for if any one of you spent gold equal to Uhud (in Allah's Cause) it would not be equal to a Mud or even a half Mud spent by one of them." Saheeh al-Bukhari: 3673

● Dr. Ridwan Jamiu is the Chief Imam, Lekki Central Mosque, Lekki, Lagos



“

*O you who have believed, fear Allah as He should be feared and do not die except as Muslims [in submission to Him]. – Surat 'Ali 'Imran [verse 102]*

*Abu Dharr reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Fear Allah wherever you are, follow a bad deed (the former), and behave with good character towards people."*

– Source: Sunan al-Tirmidhi 1987

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# Shari'ah Council faults First Lady's empowerment initiatives, alleges bias against Muslim community

- Urges Senator Remi Tinubu to embrace all Nigerians with equal warmth
- Says "Hope cannot be renewed when it appears selective, discriminating"

The Supreme Council for Shari'ah in Nigeria (SCSN) has accused Nigeria's First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, of using her office to unfairly favour the Christian community at the expense of other demographics, especially the Muslims who constitute a major bloc in the country.

In a statement titled 'The Need for Equity, Justice, and Balance in the Humanitarian Outreach of the First Lady' and signed by its Secretary-General, Nafiu Baba-Ahmed, the Supreme Council for Shari'ah in Nigeria, a prominent Islamic body comprising Muslim scholars, leaders and stakeholders in both the Southern and Northern parts of the country, urged the First Lady to immediately address the growing perception of religious favouritism in her humanitarian outreach.

Pointing to the name of her intervention, The Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI), SCSN emphasised that hope cannot be renewed when it is perceived to be selective and pandering to specific political loyalties and religious lines.

"While the office of the First Lady is not a constitutional one, it remains a highly visible moral and humanitarian platform. How it is used sends powerful signals to Nigerians across ethnic and religious lines. Unfortunately, recent actions have raised the perception that this platform is being tilted towards selective religious and political constituencies, in a manner that is neither fair nor reflective of the diverse fabric of the nation," the statement read.

SCSN said since assuming her role, the First Lady's Renewed Hope Initiative has rolled out a series of high-profile donations and empowerment programmes, adding that a disturbing trend is that many of these interventions were directed overwhelmingly towards Christian communities, often in symbolic and publicised ways.

"In September 2023, ₦500 million was given to families in Plateau State, with the beneficiaries



President Tinubu



Dr Aliyu-Umar



Senator Tinubu

drawn largely from Christian-dominated communities. In December 2024, under the guise of Christmas palliatives, ₦5 million cash and 1,200 bags of rice were distributed in each of the 19 northern states exclusively through the Northern Nigeria Christian Political Forum (CNNPF), a political and religious bloc that did not play any measurable role in the electoral success of the Tinubu/Shettima ticket," the Council stated.

"Additional targeted donations followed 1,000 bags of rice to the Christian community in Bauchi, another 1,000 bags to the CNNPF in Kogi, and further empowerment packages channelled almost entirely through Christian political and church-based structures.

highlighted and benefited Christian-majority areas. These interventions were not matched by any equivalent gesture to Muslim-majority communities suffering simultaneous or even worse tragedies."

The Council under the leadership of her President, Sheikh Dr Bashir Aliyu Umar and Vice President, Sheikh Isa Akindele said First Lady Oluremi Tinubu was not seen extending a comparable support to Muslim victims of serious calamities during the same period.

"When passenger boats capsized in Niger and Kwara States, claiming scores of Muslim lives, there was no high-profile visit, no substantial relief intervention. The persistent killings in Zamfara and Katsina, targeting Muslim villages and markets, have not attracted her

silence in these moments is both painful and telling," according to the statement.

The Islamic group recalled the political journey that led to the election of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, noting his Muslim-Muslim ticket came under intense attacks, and it was the Muslim Ummah in the North and in the South-West that stood firmly in defence of the ticket. "We mobilised. We voted in overwhelming numbers. We protected the legitimacy of the ticket from hostile narratives. That political solidarity was not a small matter; it was the bedrock of the President's victory.

"On the other hand, many Christian constituencies, including Her Excellency's own denomination, the Redeemed Christian Church of

days and weeks following the victory, prominent Christian groups did not acknowledge, let alone celebrate, the outcome of the election. This history should not be ignored when considering the balance and fairness of the First Lady's outreach."

SCSN, meanwhile, acknowledged the recent donation made to the victims of the Mokwa flood disaster in Niger State by the First Lady.

"We welcome the fact that Her Excellency deemed it necessary to visit and offer some measure of relief to our people in their time of need. We recognise that any act of kindness to fellow citizens in distress is a noble gesture worthy of appreciation. However, the magnitude of the disaster, the scale of displacement, and the economic devastation caused by the floods make it clear that the relief came rather too late," it added.

SCSN warned that the current trajectory of Senator Oluremi Tinubu has been witnessed during the administration of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan. "History teaches that selective humanitarianism from the nation's First Lady can become a political liability," it added.

"During the administration of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, the then First Lady, Dame Patience Jonathan, became publicly associated with a perceived sectional bias in her engagements. That perception became part of the narrative that alienated large parts of the country from the presidency.

"Her Excellency, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, stands today at a similar crossroads. The choice before her is simple: to use her platform to unite Nigerians through fair, balanced, and inclusive humanitarian outreach, or to deepen the dangerous perception that the Office of the First Lady is an exclusive channel for favoured religious and political groups."

SCSN urged Senator Tinubu to take deliberate steps to address the imbalance, emphasising that the Muslim Ummah is not asking for special privilege but justice, fairness, and recognition of its equal place in the Nigerian federation.

"When our communities suffer, when our people are displaced, when tragedy strikes in our towns and villages, we expect the same empathy, the same visibility, and the same material relief that is extended elsewhere," the group stressed.

**When passenger boats capsized in Niger and Kwara States, claiming scores of Muslim lives, there was no high-profile visit, no substantial relief intervention. The persistent killings in Zamfara and Katsina, targeting Muslim villages and markets, have not attracted her public condolence or material support.**

"In July 2025, ₦1 billion and truckloads of relief materials were donated to communities in Plateau State and Yelwata in Benue, both events framed in ways that

public condolence or material support. The recent killing of Muslim travellers in Jos passed without any statement from her office. For many in the Ummah, the

God (RCCG), not only withheld their support but in many cases actively opposed the ticket. In several Christian majority states, the vote for APC was negligible. In the



Sultan

The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, on Wednesday, August 13, called on the President Bola Tinubu-led federal government, all the 36 State governors, and other political leaders in the country to listen to the cries of Nigerians.

Sultan specifically said instead of beating Nigerians with "koboko" when they air their views

or cry about the situation in the country, they should be looked at with empathy and reassured that things would be fine.

Alhaji Saad Abubakar III, who spoke on Friday, August 16, in Abuja, during NASFAT History Book Launching to mark 30th anniversary of the organisation, also called on the leaders to make justice a priority rather than entrenching injustice.

Sultan's remark came on the heels of growing standard of living in the country, with many Nigerians decrying current inflation of basic needs occasioned by subsidy removal, floating of Naira, among other policies.

Speaking at the event, the prominent religious leader bemoaned lack of quality education among youths in the country, while calling on Nigerians to always pray

for their leaders instead of cursing them.

"I call on our leaders to look at all of us with that sympathy of father and child. Whatever problems you are having, whatever cries you are hearing, don't carry koboko and wipe people. Carry some soft hands and touch somebody and say look, things will be okay," he said.

He also stressed that Nigeria cannot endure injustice if it is to survive, and that leaders at all levels must prioritise justice and fairness in all their dealings, while urging Nigerians to turn to God.

Sultan added, "Justice is the foundation of any society. As Sheikh Abdulrauf said, a nation can endure with unbelief, but it cannot endure with injustice. So let's face justice in whatever we do.

"Our leaders, our followers, all need to be just in

whatever we do. And I believe, conscience is an open wound, only truth can heal it. Conscience is an open wound, only truth can heal it.

"Let's tell ourselves the whole truth in whatever we do, how we do things. And let's believe in almighty Allah as the owner of heaven and earth, as owner of everything and all of us, who brought us into this world to worship him.

"So, keep on doing the good work, and leave the rest to almighty Allah to bless all of us, as Muslims, as non-Muslims in this great country. Let's pray for our leaders every time.

"From Mr. President, to all the governors, to all the local men chairman, to all our leaders at all levels. We need to pray for our leaders to do right, to do just. If you pray for your leader, he does good things, you enjoy.

"If you are lying to his whims and caprices, he does bad things, you will suffer. So let's all just pray for our leaders. I want to say this, every time I have an opportunity like this, I want to say please pray for our leaders, for good health, for direction, and for that steadfastness of knowing that you as a leader, you will account for whatever you have done on earth to the almighty Allah.

"People say yes, times are tough, yes. But when times are tough, tough people overcome such tough times. Let's believe whatever almighty Allah bless on us is his own will, his own wish, and we will overcome this.

"And I believe 100% almighty Allah will bring ease to all of us in this great country and beyond. Let's go back to him and him alone. Only him can give. Only him takes." Source: Daily Trust

## Sultan to Tinubu, governors: Listen to people's plight amid rising hardship

- Advises Nigerians to support leaders with prayers



# Condemnations over massacre of 50 Muslims in Katsina Mosque attacks

- We'll hunt down perpetrators, bring them to justice – FG
- UAE, Al Azhar, Speaker Abbas, Ex-Minister, others mourn



Abass



Ribadu



Gov. Radda



Prof. Pantami



Dr. Al-Tayeb

BY ABDULLAH ABDULGANIY

**W**ide condemnations have continued to trail the deadly terrorist attack on a mosque in Gidan Mantau community in Malumfashi Local Government Area of Katsina State, where 50 innocent Muslim worshippers were massacred.

Muslim News gathered that the incident occurred during the early morning (Fajr) prayers on Tuesday, August 19 when dare-devil gunmen/bandits stormed the mosque and opened fire on worshippers.

Survivors of the deadly attack narrated their ordeal to Daily Trust, saying after recovering over 50 bodies, they are still searching for more people in the bushes.

They, therefore, called on both the federal and Katsina State government to intervene to save them from further assaults.

According to residents, in one house, an entire family of 15 was wiped out. "The entire family here, numbering about 15, was locked up and burnt alive. I am speechless. I don't know where to start. I've been left alone. For years, we have been rendered poor by banditry. They attack us every year," he said.

A woman who lost her family in the attack, said, "My husband and children have been killed. I am alone and confused. The trauma is unbearable. What have we done to deserve this? Please help us in the spirit of humanity. Tell the government we are dying; we are being killed for an offence we know nothing about."

## Gov sends delegation

The State Governor Dikko Radda – who is currently on medical leave, consulted with the Acting Governor, Faruk Jobe, sent a high-powered delegation led by the Secretary to the Government of the State, Abdullahi Garba Faskari, to condole with the families of the deceased persons on Wednesday, August 20.

The team lead, Faskari, described the attack as a "deeply painful and heartbreaking tragedy." He assured the community that the government would not relent in its efforts to strengthen security and restore lasting peace.

"Our hearts are with the families who lost their loved ones in this senseless attack. This administration remains committed to working with all security agencies to ensure justice is served and to prevent

such tragedies in the future," he said.

## Assault, a reprisal attack: Commissioner

Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Dr. Nasir Mu'azu, in a statement, described the assault as "a reprisal attack carried out by criminal elements" after residents had earlier confronted the bandits.

"Two days ago, the people of Unguwan Mantau laid an ambush against the bandits, killed many of them, rescued abducted victims from Ruwan Sanyai village, and recovered three motorcycles and two AK-47 rifles," he explained.

## Mu'azu said security forces had been deployed immediately to the area.

"The Nigerian Army's Forward Operating Base and the Nigerian Police have moved in to track down the perpetrators. During the rainy season, these bandits often hide under crops to launch attacks, but we are determined to bring them to justice," he stated.

While commending the courage of the community, the commissioner assured residents of the government's full support.

## We'll hunt down perpetrators, bring them to justice – FG

**Security agencies may wish to use geospatial analysis using location data from phones, which could help track the phones in the environment at the time the crime was committed. This can be done using cell tower data and GPS data, as I have been recommending for 6 years, privately and otherwise.**

The Federal Government on Friday, August 22, pledged to bring to justice those responsible for the deadly mosque attack.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris, in a statement, condemned the attack, describing it as "callous and barbaric."

"Security forces are already on the trail of the criminals, and no stone will be left unturned until they are apprehended and held accountable for their actions," he said.

"The Government assures Nigerians that justice will be swift and

decisive, and that such acts of terror will never be allowed to take root in the country," the statement read.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to combating terrorism across the country, adding that the attack was not only a crime against the people of Malumfashi but also "an assault on our shared humanity and values as a nation."

The minister also extended President Bola Tinubu's condolences to the families of the victims, the community of Malumfashi, and the Katsina State Government.

## Attack on Mosque, not only unfortunate, daring: Speaker Tajudeen

Earlier on Thursday, August 21, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Abbas Tajudeen, also decried the killing of worshippers in Katsina State by bandits, describing the attack as barbaric and gruesome.

The Speaker said the attack on the Katsina mosque was not only unfortunate but also daring, especially since it was on worshippers who were out to pray at a holy place meant to be safe and secure. He added that it is painful to have lost scores of people to the dastardly act.

The Speaker said the attack

Former Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isa Ali Pantami, described killers of innocent worshippers as heartless, malevolent, and worse than animals.

Pantami, who is also the Majidaddin Daular Usmaniyya, called on security agencies to ensure the arrest of the criminals and bring an end to inhumanity.

In a post published on his verified social media handles on Wednesday, August 20, the former Minister said killers of the innocent worshippers deserve no mercy, adding that those who kill innocent people, irrespective of their religion or tribe, betray the essence of humanity.

Former Minister Pantami extended heartfelt condolences to the immediate families of the victims and the entire community of Unguwan Mantau in Malumfashi Local Government Area of Katsina State.

"These people were killed while praying the most difficult congregation prayer to the hypocrites," he said.

He quoted Prophet Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as saying: No prayer is heavier upon the hypocrites than the Fajr (morning) and the 'Isha (late evening) prayer and if they knew

phones in the environment at the time the crime was committed.

"This can be done using cell tower data and GPS data, as I have been recommending for 6 years, privately and otherwise," he noted.

Pantami prayed Allah to accept the departed souls as martyrs, give their families and relatives the fortitude to bear the loss, humiliate the criminals, and establish absolute peace in Nigeria.

## MURIC slams US, western countries over silence

A faith-based organisation, Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) lamented the high death toll and wondered why the West, particularly the United States, is silent now that the victims are Muslims.

In a statement issued on Saturday, August 23, the Founder and Executive Director of the group, Professor Ishaq Akintola reminded the global community that Muslim lives also matter.

It reads: "We condemn these attacks in the strongest terms. They were gruesome, ferocious, inhuman and barbaric."

"MURIC calls on the security agencies, particularly the Nigerian Army to up their game in the northern region where insecurity is most visible. Momentary attacks on innocent civilians can be explained away but not attacks that last the whole night."

"What happened to army outposts? How effective is intelligence gathering among the civilians in those villages? Are we saying there have been no contacts between the security agencies and the villagers before the attacks? If the attacks were 'reprisals' as reported, why was there no forward-looking defence strategy?"

"We frown at Western countries, particularly the United States, who feverishly ululate at the killing of any single Nigerian Christian but who conveniently go into dozing sessions when the victims are large number of innocent Muslim civilians. This selective activism only amplifies our belief in the absence of justice, equity and fair play in the global ecosystem."

## Al-Azhar, UAE condole Nigeria after mosque attack

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt's leading Islamic authority, Al-Azhar have also extended condolences to Nigeria

on the Katsina mosque was not only unfortunate but also daring, especially since it was on worshippers who were out to pray at a holy place meant to be safe and secure. He added that it is painful to have lost scores of people to the dastardly act.

While calling for the arrest and prosecution of the attackers by security forces, Speaker Tajudeen said the killers must be made to face the wrath of the law.

## Killers of innocent Nigerians deserve no mercy, says Ex-Minister Pantami

what is in them in reward, they would have attended them, even if (it was) crawling... (Bukhari reported it, hadith number 657).

"The reason why Fajr (morning) prayer is mentioned here is because of the hardship that it entails, and performing it on time and congregation is a sign of a man's sincerity and faith," Pantami added.

While calling on security agencies to go after the killers, the Co-Chairman of the African Union's 4th Industrial Revolution Policy Council (ASRIC) suggested that they could adopt geospatial analysis using location data from phones to track the



BY NURA AHMAD DAKATA

The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), Professor Abdullahi Saleh Usman, has marked his first anniversary in office, following what stakeholders described as one of the most successful Hajj operations in recent history.

Appointed in August 2024 and confirmed by the Senate in October of the same year, Professor Usman took over the leadership of NAHCON at a time when the Commission was grappling with operational challenges, economic pressures, and growing expectations from Nigerian pilgrims.

One year later, he has won the confidence of pilgrims, state boards, tour operators, and international partners through reforms that have restored efficiency, transparency, and credibility in the management of Hajj.

The 2025 Hajj operations, under his leadership, were distinguished by exceptional organization. For the first time, every Nigerian pilgrim received visas promptly, removing previous anxiety around last-minute processing.

The airlift of over 52,000 pilgrims was completed smoothly and ahead of schedule, while the return flights concluded days earlier than planned, a feat that demonstrated both efficiency and foresight.

## Prof Saleh Usman marks one year at NAHCON after Successful 2025 Hajj



Prof. Saleh

The Commission under Prof Saleh paid closer attention to the welfare and comfort of Nigerian pilgrims. Accommodation close to the Haram in Madinah was secured, with hygienic breakfast and dinner served daily.

A reliable transportation system was also provided, ensuring the smooth movement of pilgrims from Jeddah to Madinah and later from Madinah to Makkah, in comfort and safety with Tent A Plus facilities provided for VIP pilgrims near the Jamarat area.

In addition, stakeholders,

media members, and ulama who participated in the Hajj operations were accommodated in five-star Hotel where they enjoyed breakfast and dinner as well as luxury vehicles that conveyed them to the Haram for acts of worship.

Also Mina and Arfat Nigerian Pilgrims benefitted with the improved tents, food and healthcare services. This development enhanced both comfort and accessibility for the faithful during the peak days of Hajj.

One of the historic milestones recorded during Prof

Saleh's tenure was the inauguration of the first Hajj flight from the South East. A total of 315 pilgrims from Abia, Bayelsa, and Imo states departed from Owerri International Airport, a development celebrated as a bold statement of inclusivity and a landmark achievement in the Commission's history.

In addition, the Commission embraced innovation and proactive planning. Even before the 2025 Hajj concluded, Prof Saleh had inaugurated key committees on aviation, accommodation, and medical services to set the stage for early preparations for subsequent pilgrimages.

Prof Saleh also embarked on extensive stakeholder engagements across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, meeting governors, traditional leaders, and Islamic scholars. These consultations not only strengthened state federal cooperation but also reassured pilgrims of the government's commitment to their welfare.

Beyond operational reforms, the NAHCON Chairman demonstrated a vision for interfaith harmony. During his one year in office, he hosted the Chairman of the Nigerian Christian Pilgrims

Commission (NCPC), Bishop Stephen Adegbite, at the Hajj House in Abuja. Both leaders pledged to deepen collaboration between the two pilgrimage bodies, projecting a message of unity, tolerance, and nation-building.

Prof Saleh has assured Nigerians that the Commission is determined to consolidate on the gains of the past year. He pledged a revolutionized experience for pilgrims in 2026, with a focus on better accommodation, nutritious meals, strengthened medical services, and improved logistics.

He has also emphasized the need for accurate information flow, warning against the dangers of misinformation that could undermine the confidence of intending pilgrims.

As NAHCON Chairman marks one year in office, observers agree that Prof. Saleh has repositioned the Commission for greater service delivery. His achievements in just twelve months, ranging from the successful 2025 Hajj operations to reforms in transparency, inclusiveness, and welfare of Pilgrims, have set a new benchmark for pilgrimage management in Nigeria.

Stakeholders say the future of Hajj operations under his leadership looks promising, with high expectations for more innovative reforms that will further enhance the Nigerian pilgrims' spiritual journey in the years to come.

## NAHCON warns as Saudi Arabia sets deadlines for 2026 Hajj

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) said that the Saudi Authorities have set deadlines for the 2026 Hajj operations, saying the deadlines remain sacrosanct to ensure a smooth, well-coordinated, and successful exercise.

NAHCON said in a statement issued by its Information Officer, Malam Abdulbasit Abba, after the virtual meeting with the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to discuss critical timelines and preparations for the 2026 hajj exercise.

The meeting, held on Monday, August 25, was chaired by Ustaz Abdullah Ash Shihry, Acting Director-General and Special Adviser to the Deputy Minister in the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah.

Muslim News gathered that in the course of the meeting, the Saudi authorities reiterated the important deadlines that remain sacrosanct, including the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November (2025).

"Jan. 4, 2026, is the last day to finalise camp booking payments and confirmation of service contract packages.

"Feb. 1, 2026, has been set as the deadline for uploading of transport and accommodation contracts on Nusuk Masar Portal, while the first of Shawwal remains strictly the deadline for visa issuance. Representatives of the Ministry stressed that these deadlines will not shift.

According to the information officer, the Saudi authorities have also appealed to NAHCON to remind Nigerian



L-R: Prof. Yagawal, Prince Elegushi, Prof. Saleh, Prince AbdulRazaq... during one of their meetings.

intending pilgrims of the consequences of visa violation.

"The ministry declared that anyone caught performing hajj without a hajj visa will face a penalty of 20,000 Saudi Riyals (N8.158 million) and imprisonment.

"In addition, it emphasised that all Hadaya (sacrificial rites) payments and accommodation bookings must be carried out exclusively through the Nusuk Masar platform," he said.

Officials from the Saudi Ministry also expressed concern over recurring delays on the part of some hajj administrators, warning that late preparations could negatively impact pilgrims' welfare and overall hajj experience.

### No extension of Saudi deadlines, NAHCON warns stakeholders

Recall that Prof Saleh has urged all stakeholders to comply with the timelines set by the Saudi Arabian authorities, warning that there would be no deadline extensions for visa processing, payments, or contractual

agreements.

Speaking at a post-2025 Hajj stakeholders' meeting with licensed tour operators at the Hajj House headquarters in Abuja on Thursday, August 21, he reaffirmed commitment to working closely with Saudi authorities and all relevant stakeholders to ensure smooth operations.

In a statement by Shafi'i Sani Mohammed of the commission's Information and Publications Division, Prof Saleh expressed deep appreciation to the State Pilgrims' Welfare Boards, private tour operators, and service providers for their immense contributions to the success of the 2025 hajj operations.

He also acknowledged the support of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration, which enabled Nigerian pilgrims to perform hajj with dignity, comfort, and peace of mind.

"The Commission is committed to collaboration, fairness, and transparency," Professor Usman said. "At the same time, we expect

total compliance from all stakeholders as we work together to improve service delivery and meet global best practices."

Speaking on the operational guidelines for the 2026 hajj, Commissioner of Operations, Prince Anofiu Elegushi, issued a strong caution to stakeholders to strictly follow the official Saudi hajj calendar and make early preparations.

Addressing the financial aspect of preparations, NAHCON Commissioner of Policy, Personnel, Management and Finance (PPMF), Prince Aliu AbdulRazaq, briefed participants on refunds, pending complaints, and payment processes.

He urged licensed tour operators to make early and timely payments for all hajj-related obligations, noting that Saudi authorities will not grant extensions for contractual agreements or visa processing in 2026.

Similarly, Commissioner Planning, Research, Statistics, Information and Library Services (PRSILS), Professor Abubakar

Yagawal also commended tour operators on their 2025 hajj successful outing and conduct.

He also called on all for continued cooperation with the Commission and ensure early payment and preparations for an improved 2026 hajj experience for Nigerian pilgrims.

## NAHCON sets N8.5m for Hajj 2026, retains 95,000 slots

In another development, the Commission has tentatively fixed a deposit of N8.5 million as the provisional fare for the 2026 Hajj.

In a statement by NAHCON spokesperson, Fatima Usara, the Commission noted that the fare is pending the conclusion of negotiations with service providers.

Speaking on Thursday, August 7, during a post-Hajj strategic review meeting with chairmen and secretaries of state pilgrims' welfare boards at the Hajj House in Abuja, NAHCON chairman further said that Nigeria has retained its 95,000-slot allocation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In his opening remarks, Prof Saleh expressed appreciation to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his steadfast support to Nigerian pilgrims and the Commission.

He highlighted the Federal Government's intervention that enabled Hajj carriers to accept payments in Naira, shielding pilgrims from foreign exchange shocks.



The Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) has elected a new National Amirah, Dr. Sumaye Fadimatu Hamza (IFPF, FCILE, FCANEP), a Ford Foundation Program Fellow and retired Permanent Secretary with the Plateau State Government.

The election was conducted at its 40th anniversary and National Convention in Kaduna on Saturday, after a four-day gathering of members from within and outside the country.

Dr. Hamza – also a fellow of the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace and a member of the African Network for Peace, succeeds Alhaja Rafiah Idowu-Sanni from Oyo State, who is the 10th National Amirah and championed the cause of the organisation for four meritorious years.

The 11th National Amirah pledged to work with other executives and members across Nigeria towards making the organisation touch more lives locally and internationally.

Dr. Hamza – a PhD holder in Education Policy Analysis from the University of London, will be assisted by Na'ibatul Amirah (Vice President), Hajia Zeenat Ismikhai from Edo, in her two years tenure,

# Dr Hamza elected as FOMWAN National President, vows to focus on core priorities

before the 2027 election for possible re-election of the duo.

"We are honoured to lead this great organisation at this critical juncture", she said, adding, "We pledge to build on the foundations laid by our predecessors and work towards achieving FOMWAN's vision of leadership of Muslim women and promoting their welfare."

Speaking with *Muslim News* on Sunday, August 24, the newly elected Amirah of FOMWAN, the umbrella body for Muslim Women Associations in Nigeria described leadership position as a huge responsibility that comes with amanah – trust – saying, "I am optimistic that Allah will guide me and my executive members, biquidratilLah."

The new leadership is expected to drive FOMWAN's mission of promoting the education, health, economic empowerment, and social welfare of Muslim women and youth.

With Hamza's leadership, FOMWAN is poised to expand its



Dr. Hamza

reach and impact, both nationally and internationally.

The elected State Amirahs (State Presidents) are members of the National Executive Council in addition to the elected National Amirah (National President), Naibatul Amirah (Vice President), Secretary-General, Financial Secretary, Da'wah/Welfare Officer,

Legal Adviser, and a Public Relations Officer.

Dr Hamzat joined FOMWAN in 1985 while she was a teacher in a secondary school in Plateau state. She told *Muslim News* that she joined the Association through Allah's guidance and the mentorship of Alhaja Musliamat Kamaldeen, who is now a member of the BOT.

According to her, "After joining under the platform of the Muslim Women Association, I was inspired by our late Aisha Lemu whom I met personally in Minna, Niger state during a curriculum review using an Islamic perspective. Also, our BOT Chairperson Alaja Latefah Okunnu is another mentor I admire so much."

As a social justice advocate, she has extensive experience in the social protection sector and has actively participated in developmental activities domestically and internationally.

Additionally, her expertise

in capacity building, mentoring youth, strategic and operational planning, social mobilization, humanitarian service, research and documentation equips her for diverse professional endeavors.

Dr Hamzat who received training in conflict sensitivity, gender equality, and social inclusion both within and outside Nigeria, was the Plateau state FOMWAN Amirah from 1999-2003. She was the National PRO before attaining the post of National Naibatul Amirah and now by Allah's will, the National Amirah.

FOMWAN is a faith-based, non-profit, and non-governmental organisation founded in October 1985 by a group of educated Muslim women.

FOMWAN's main focus is the dissemination of Islamic beliefs and the education and empowerment of Muslim women; it is the civil society umbrella body for Muslim women in Nigeria. - *With additional information from NAN*

## Alhaja Rafiah Idowu-Sanni highlights FOMWAN's 40-year achievements as tenure winds down

### • Advocates climate change, women empowerment at Kaduna 2025 Conference

Members of the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations of Nigeria (FOMWAN) from within and outside the country gathered in Kaduna State to mark the 40th anniversary of the organisation.

The milestone event also features an international conference tagged Kaduna 2025 with the theme 'Empowering Muslim Women in the Face of Climate Change: Building Resilience, Sustainability and Community Development While Showcasing FOMWAN's Achievements'.

*Muslim News* learnt that during the twin events – held between Tuesday, August 19 and Sunday, August 24, 2025, the Muslim women will elect national executives that will run the affairs of the organisation for the next four administrative years.

Speaking at the formal opening ceremony attended by

policymakers, religious leaders, and development stakeholders including representatives of the wives of the President and Vice President, Kaduna State Governor, among others, Alhaja Idowu Sanni, a niqobi, paraded the achievements of the organisation in the past four decades.

The Amirah said FOMWAN, which was established in 1985, has in the last forty years worked tirelessly to implement activities and programmes that have created transformative changes throughout Nigeria.

"Our Da'wah activities have not only shaped and reformed the lives of Nigerian Muslim women both at home and abroad but have also strengthened the moral foundation upon which sustainable living and environmental stewardship must rest," she said.

Alhaja Idowu Sanni said this year's conference is a tribute to decades of vision, resilience, and impact driven by Muslim women

committed to building better communities.

FOMWAN has established over 3,000 educational institutions nationwide, including daycare centres, nursery, primary, secondary, and higher institutions, Islamiyya/Qur'anic centres, and adult literacy programmes, making quality education accessible at every stage of life."

According to her, education remains a key tool for FOMWAN to empower women and young people and also to shield them against vulnerability.

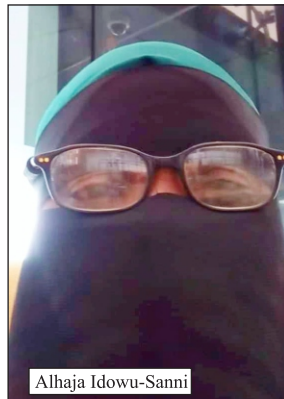
Also highlighting the interventions of FOMWAN in healthcare, the National Amirah said the organisation has established six fully functional hospitals across the country.

"These health initiatives are even more critical today as climate change accelerates the spread of vector-borne and waterborne diseases. Our malaria control initiatives, through

community mobilization, awareness campaigns, and the distribution of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), directly address climate-related health challenges that disproportionately affect women.

"Our wells and boreholes, constructed for communities, schools, and prisons, are not only about providing clean water; they are acts of sustainability. Our agricultural projects, from fish farming and cattle breeding to cassava processing and goat rearing, are not only about food and income. They represent grassroots models of sustainable livelihoods that strengthen food security and resilience.

"Through skill acquisition centres, women and youth are trained in producing household goods for empowerment. These initiatives reduce poverty, build resilience, and create a generation of women capable of sustaining



Alhaja Idowu-Sanni

themselves and their families even under environmental and economic stress."

In her address at the formal opening, Alhaja Idowu Sanni tasked members of FOMWAN to contribute and engage meaningfully at the conference.

## Amirah Al-Mu'minaat emerges new national chairperson of Builders in Public Service



Bldr. Abdul Hamid

Bldr. Abdul Hamid was announced on Thursday, August 21, after the election/sectoral meeting of the Association at Ecumenical Center, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

The event was attended by dignitaries, colleagues, members of the Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB), and stakeholders from across the country.

*Muslim News* gathered that the newly elected executive committee led by Bldr. Abdul Hamid will run the affairs of the Association for the next two administrative years.

Other members include Bldr. Zailani Yusuf (Vice Chairman), Bldr. Ugbon Ettete (Secretary), Bldr. Isah Lawan (Ass. Secretary), Bldr. Rev. Dosumu Segun Timothy (Fin. Secretary), Geoffry Joseph (Welfare Secretary), Bldr. Sir Chika Okazubie (PRO), Bldr. Ojemudia Patrick (Legal Adviser), Bldr. Ogunleye Olasoji (Ex-Officio), Bldr. Abdulrazaq Alao (Ex-officio and immediate past Chairman), while the

position of Treasurer is zoned to the Northwest.

In her inauguration speech, Bldr. Abdul Hamid began with a heartfelt expression of gratitude. According to her:

"I stand before you today with profound humility and immense gratitude as I accept the mantle of leadership as the National Chairperson of Association of Builders in Public Service.

"This moment is not mine alone - it belongs to every builder who has labored with integrity, every professional who has upheld the standards of our noble profession, and every citizen who dreams of a Nigeria built on excellence, safety, and sustainability. I am deeply honored by the trust you have placed in me. I accept this responsibility not as a title, but as a mission—to serve, to elevate, and to transform."

Reflecting on her career journey, she said:

"For over two decades, I have walked the path of public service - from the bustling corridors of Lagos State Building Control Agency to the vibrant markets of Tejuosho and Oyingbo, from district offices to national conferences. I have seen firsthand the power of builders to shape not just structures, but societies. Today, I pledge to bring that experience, that passion, and that unwavering commitment to this new role."

The new chairperson defined the mandate of builders in public service as one that goes beyond professionalism.

"As builders in public service, we are more than professionals - we are custodians of public trust. We ensure that homes are safe, schools are sound, hospitals are secure, and cities are resilient. Our work touches lives, protects futures, and anchors development. But we must do more."

She then outlined the core

responsibilities of her leadership:

"We must advocate for the rightful recognition of builders in national policy. We must educate the public on the value of certified professionals. We must innovate through technology, sustainability, and modern practices. We must collaborate across sectors to ensure that every Nigerian benefits from safe, affordable, and dignified infrastructure."

Casting her vision for the association and the profession at large, Oyinlade said:

"My vision is clear: to build a Nigeria where the builder is not just seen, but respected, empowered, and celebrated. I will work with policymakers to enshrine builders' roles in legislation. I will champion continuous professional development and mentorship. I will promote safety standards that protect both workers and communities. I will ensure that our voices are heard in every conversation about national development."





L-R: Sheikh AbdulMajeed Ayinla, Alhaji Ganiyu Balogun, Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo and Alhaji Remi Babalola during the prayer session

# Faith, Family and Fulfilment epitomised as Oladejo marks 80th birthday with prayers

● Biography launched in honour of contributions of MUSWEN President

BY RASHEED ABUBAKAR

**I**t was a moment of profound gratitude, reflection and celebration on Sunday June 22, 2025, as distinguished guests from all walks of life gathered at Nawair-Ud-Deen Mosque in the Alagbado area of Lagos State to honour a revered statesman and Islamic leader, Alhaji Rasaki Akanji Oladejo, President of the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN), who clocked a remarkable 80 years of age.

The special prayer, organised by the Nawair-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria—one of the foremost Islamic organisations in the country—brought together an impressive array of dignitaries including family members, friends, professional colleagues, top government officials, religious scholars, and community leaders.

The revered Islamic society holds special significance for the celebrator, having served as its National President and Head of Administration before his elevation to the helm of MUSWEN, the umbrella body for Muslim organisations across the South West. Alhaji Oladejo, a man of deep faith, wisdom, and service, is also currently the Deputy President (South) of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), further highlighting his towering influence within Nigeria's Islamic leadership.

Muslim News gathered that the mosque grounds radiated with joy and spirituality as prayers were offered in thanksgiving for the life and legacy of the octogenarian.

The event was further graced by the presence of his ever-supportive wife, Alhaja Muslimah Oladejo, and his children, including

the renowned stockbroker, Alhaja Adetutu Ayantayo. It was a fitting tribute to a man whose life has been marked by integrity, humility, and unwavering dedication to faith and community.

Speakers after speaker rose to eulogise Alhaji Oladejo, describing him as a trailblazer, a mentor, and a bridge-builder whose contributions to Islamic education, communal harmony, and national development remain indelible.

From his administrative acumen to his quiet but impactful leadership, the MUSWEN President was celebrated not just for attaining 80 years, but for the legacy of

at the top leadership of the Muslim community in Nigeria serving as Vice President of the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA). That's where his foresight, knowledge, and importantly good character has taken him to," the Missioner said.

Sheikh Ayinla joined family and friends to thank Almighty Allah for the fulfilling life of Alhaji Oladejo.

A former Minister of State for Finance, Alhaji Remi Babalola, who was one of the dignitaries in attendance spoke in glowing terms about the celebrant, saying that he is ever just and fair in his dealings with

Exchange from a local market to an international one.

"Two years before 1999, our total turnover was 7.1 billion annually. But after the transition, we moved to 14 billion, and from 14 billion to 28 billion, and to 56 billion. From 56 billion, we jumped to 120 billion, and from there we went to 280 billion. That's how everyone started knowing Nigerian Stock Exchange globally," he said.

He narrated how accommodative Alhaji Oladejo was during his service at the NSE, noting he was always ready to share his knowledge and experience.

The National President of

**our Director, Alhaji Oladejo led the transition that transformed the Nigerian Stock Exchange from a local market to an international one. Two years before 1999, our total turnover was 7.1 billion annually. But after the transition, we moved to 14 billion, and from 14 billion to 28 billion, and to 56 billion. From 56 billion, we jumped to 120 billion, and from there we went to 280 billion. That's how everyone started knowing Nigerian Stock Exchange globally**

excellence he continues to uphold.

A lecture was delivered by the Deputy National Missioner of the organization, Sheikh AbdulMajeed Ayinla, who described the life of Alhaji Oladejo as remarkably successful having achieved so many cherished achievements.

The respected Muslim scholar identified these prized achievements as including knowledge, good health, wealth, influence, and children.

"It is very rare to get to the peak of civil service. Alhaji Oladejo was among the privileged few that ended up as Deputy Directors in their civil service career. He is now

everybody and all parties.

The former Minister declared that Alhaji Oladejo is a leader with high professional capacity and moral rectitude – worthy of emulation, by those aspiring for resounding success in career and service to humanity.

Also speaking, Mr. Abimbola Abdulazeez, a former colleague of the octogenarian at the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) said Alhaji Oladejo was a powerhouse at the organisation, who proffered solutions to many challenges, before he retired.

"Then our Director, Alhaji Oladejo led the transition that transformed the Nigerian Stock

Nawair-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria, Alhaji Ganiyu Balogun, in his opening remarks applauded Alhaji Oladejo, describing him as an unrelenting philanthropist, a passionate helper, and a ceaseless supporter of righteous cause.

Alhaji Balogun further affirmed that his predecessor's roles in developing and expanding the organization is priceless, hence, the accolades, love, commitment coming from all members to him are well deserving. He prayed to Allah to bless him with more age, milestones and good health.

Another guest who gave a goodwill message was a classmate

of the celebrator identified as Alhaja Rahmatallah Ogunmuyiwa. She recalled the moments when they were in school some 58 years ago in 1967 at a Teachers College.

She noted that Alhaji Oladejo was younger than most of his classmates but was exceptionally brilliant and performed so well in class.

"I recall that he was our Senior Prefect then. His leadership was exemplary. I pray Almighty Allah will reward him abundantly. We are honoured for him to be marking his 80th birthday today. I just want to encourage him to continue on the good note he started with and for which we have known him for long."

A highlight of the event was the launch of a biography, titled: "Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo @ 80...inspiring strides of a stockbroking icon", authored by Gbadebo Akinyemi, which chronicled the personality of the octogenarian.

The event was graced by many prominent individuals and Muslim organisations such as the University of Lagos Muslim Alumni (UMA) represented by Alhaji Abdul Fatai Lanre Bakare; Alhaji Mikail Mumuni, a veteran journalist and the Chairman of Media and Publicity Committee of MUSWEN; NUDS members and leaders from different branches within and outside Lagos State, among many wishers, religious and community leaders, across the religious faith.

## Unveiling of Oladejo's biography

Alhaji Oladejo, FCS, was born 80 years ago in Lato yo's compound, Oritamerin in Ibadan, Oyo State, south west Nigeria. He began his primary education at Islamic Mission School, Odoye, Ibadan in 1953 and completed it in 1958.

He taught for a few years in Fazl-Omar Ahmadiyya Primary School in Lagos Island before his admission to the University of Lagos in 1971 for an undergraduate degree course in Economics, with Federal Government scholarship. Not surprising, Oladejo graduated in June 1975 with B.Sc. (Hons) Economics, Second Class, Upper Division.

His Public Service Career soared at the Federal Ministry of National Planning. He was the Head of Research Unit in the Macro - Economic Department.

Afterwards, he joined the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and rose to the rank of the Head of Research and Business Advisory Services Department.

Again, he joined the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) after leaving LCCI in August 1989. While at the NSE, he was elevated to the position of Project Director For the Automated Trading System (ATS) - a replacement for Manual Call-Over Trading System.

Alhaji Oladejo's wide academic exploits, impressive professional background and insatiable quest to work for the upliftment of Ummah projected and properly positioned him to be considered and elected as the President of MUSWEN, a position that accorded him another big cap - the Deputy President - General, (South) Nigerian Supreme Council For Islamic Affairs (NSCIA).



# 7th Anniversary: 7 key points to know about Muslim News Nigeria



Muslim News Publisher, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar (l) with Alhaji Umar Abdul Mutallab, the immediate former Chairman, Jaiz Bank during an exclusive interview on the Bank's 10th anniversary held in 2022; while Dr Abdullahi Shuaib, former CEO of Jaiz Charity Foundation looked on in admiration.



A renowned global scholar, Dr. Yasir Qadhi reflected on the Muslim News Nigeria print edition with our Publisher, Alhaji Abubakar Rasheed before his inspiring at Lekki Muslim Ummah (LEMU) Central Mosque, Lekki, Lagos, in 2024.



Former Turkish Ambassador to Nigeria, HE Hidayet Bayraktar held a farewell meeting with the Muslim News Nigeria team led by its Publisher, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, on Sunday, 16th February, at Eko Hotel & Suites, VI, Lagos.

## 1. Founding and Background

Muslim News Nigeria was launched in August 2018, founded by Rasheed Abubakar, a noted author and columnist with The Daily Independent in Lagos. It was created in response to misrepresentation of Islam and perceived under-reporting of Muslim-related stories in Nigeria and globally, such as the needless hijab discrimination, particularly involving Barrister Firdausa Amasa.

## 2. Publication Format & Reach

The platform operates both a monthly 16-page print newspaper and a daily online news outlet with [www.muslimnews.com.ng](http://www.muslimnews.com.ng) and [muslimnewsnigeria.com](http://muslimnewsnigeria.com), offering a wide range of content in a broadsheet format.

## 3. Mission & Editorial Focus

Its core mission is to offer media attention to Muslim achievements and events that are

frequently neglected by mainstream outlets. The goal is to reshape narratives around Islam and Muslims—promoting truth (siddiq and haqq), teaching (tabligh), public interest (maslahah), and moderation (wasatiyyah).

## 4. Organisational Affiliation

Muslim News Nigeria is published by Rawshield PR Media, serving as a “mouthpiece” for underrepresented Muslim voices in Nigeria and beyond, with its slogan as “Promoting Islam, Uniting Muslims.”

## 5. Coverage Areas & Content Diversity

The outlet covers a broad spectrum of topics, including: national news and local developments; Muslim events, such as community and cultural gatherings; features and in-depth analyses; opinion pieces from

Muslim thoughts leaders; international/world news, particularly concerning the Muslim world. You can explore different categories like News, Muslim Events, Features, Opinion, and World for the full breadth of their content.

## 6. Timeliness & Audience Engagement

Its digital presence is strong, with frequent updates—like stories from mid-August 2025 that include editorials on Gaza, commentary on national education and security policies, and coverage of regional events. The site emphasises a timely, day-to-day delivery of content, catering to both Muslims and non-Muslims interested in those perspectives. Its print edition is being distributed at major central mosques and Islamic centers in about 11 states of the Federation, including FCT, Abuja.

The states are Lagos, Ogun, Abuja, Oyo, Osun, Kwara, Edo, Kano, Sokoto, Imo, and Rivers.

## 7. Recognition & Influence

Beyond news, Muslim News Nigeria engages in broader efforts to promote Islamic voices and positive media representation. For instance, they organise global and Nigerian Muslim Personalities of the Year Award #MNAwards with leaders like Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan; Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Abubakar Saad III; former Minister of Communications, Professor Isa Ali Pantami, among the past winners. They recognized Mohamed Ali Harrath, founder of Islam Channel, as the Global Muslim Media Person of the Year 2020—a testament to their role in Islamic media and interfaith recognition.

By God's grace and with your unwavering support, the

management of the newspaper intends to organise her 7th Anniversary Lwcture and 2024 Global, Nigerian Muslim Personalities of the Year Award in November 2025. Details will be published on all its social media platforms. Your kind support and generosity is highly needed for the successful outing in telling our stories.

Nigerians and the world need alternative journalism that unites Muslims; promotes Islam and spreads the universality of its true message.

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# 80 Hearty Cheers to a Sterling Icon

## ALHAJI RASAKI OLADEJO (FCS)

President, Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN)  
Deputy President - General (South), Nigeria Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs (NSCIA)

The Lekki Muslim Ummah heartily rejoices with you, your family and the entire Ummah on your eightieth birthday. Indeed, you deserve every encomium and accolade that come your way as you assume the octogenarian status. For over the years, your unflinching service to Allah and humanity has been quite exemplary.

Most notable is your steadfast devotion and unwavering commitment to the upliftment of Islam and the Muslim Ummah in Nigeria. In particular, your assumption of office as the President of Muslim Ummah in South west West Nigeria has heralded the transformation of MUSWEN into a more proactive and effective body.

We pray the Almighty Allah to grant you continued wisdom, strength, guidance and good health as you strive further in His cause. Aamin.



## Signed:

Dr. AbdulGaniyu Olusola Labinjo  
President, Lekki Muslim Ummah (LEMU)



# Muslim leaders celebrate MUSWEN President at 80

**A**lhaji Rasaki Oladejo (FCS), the President of the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN), has marked his 80th birthday with gratitude to Allah, humility and reflections on a life dedicated to Islamic causes, family, and service to the Muslim community. Prominent Muslim leaders, accomplished professionals, family and friends gathered at the Radisson Hotel in Ikeja, Lagos over the weekend to celebrate the octogenarian who is widely regarded as a pillar of service to Islam and humanity. Muslim News presents the event in pictures...



Alhaji Oladejo being supported by wife and children during cutting of 80th birthday cake



Alhaji Oladejo and his wife, Alhaja Muslimat



Dr. Mumini (R), Otunba Lekan Belo (2nd right) and Alhaji Abiodun Salami (l) presenting a special gift to Alhaji Oladejo and his wife, Alhaja Muslimat



L-R: Sheikh Abdul-Fatah Abdul-Majeed, Prof Ish-aaq Oloyede and Senator Shuaib Salislin attendance



L-R: Alhaji Wale Sonaike, Dr. Mumini Alao and Barrister Kunle Adegoke, SAN



Alhaji and Alhaja Ebiti presenting a gift to Alhaji Oladejo



Barr. Muiz Banire (SAN) presenting a gift to Alhaji Oladejo and his wife



L-R: Alhaji AbdulWahid AbdulRauf, Alhaji Dikrullahi Lere Alimi and Alhaji Niyyi Yusuf



Alhaji Ebiti and members of Ansar-Ud-Deen presenting a gift to the celebrator on behalf of Summit University, Ofo



L-R: Alhaji Lere Alimi, Alhaji YKO Abdul Kareem and other guest



Alhaji Oladejo

Young Oladejo

Young Oladejo



UNILAG Muslim Alumni (UMA) group with the celebrator



Oladejo's family



Photo page sponsored by UNILAG Muslim Alumni



# MUSWEN President joins octogenarian club with humility, commitment to humanity

● Senator Salis, Oloyede, Ebiti, Yusuf Ali, Alao, celebrate Oladejo's legacy at grand finale



Alhaji Oladejo



Prof. Oloyede



Sen. Shuaib



Yusuf Ali, SAN



Dr. Alao

BY RASHEED ABUBAKAR

**P**rominent Muslim leaders, accomplished professionals and dignitaries gathered at the Radisson Hotel in Ikeja, Lagos over the weekend for the grand finale of celebrations marking the 80th birthday of Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo, President of the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN).

The event, held on Sunday, June 29, brought together the crème de la crème of Islamic and professional circles, paying glowing tributes to a man widely regarded as a pillar of service to Islam and humanity.

At the grand finale, the outpouring of accolades continued, highlighting Alhaji Oladejo's decades-long contributions to faith, leadership, and community development.

The celebration was chaired by Professor Ishaq Oloyede, Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and Secretary-General of the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA).

In his remarks, Prof. Oloyede lauded Alhaji Oladejo's enduring commitment to Islamic values and national service.

In attendance were family members, close friends, associates, and mentees of the celebrant. Among the distinguished guests were Senator Shuaib Salis (Ogun Central); renowned legal practitioner, Yusuf Oloaolu Ali, SAN; Principal partner, M.A. Banire & Associates, Dr. Muiz Banire (SAN); Deputy President I, MUSWEN, Alhaji Rafiu Ebiti; Deputy President II, MUSWEN, Alhaji Thabit Wale Sonaika.

Others who also graced the reception include the Managing Director/CEO of Qibla International Services Limited, Alhaji Abdulfattah AbdulMajeed; Aare Musulumi of Ijebuland, Barr. Musibau Oyefeso; Executive Secretary, MUSWEN, Professor Muslih Tayo Yahya; Alhaji Y.K.O. Kareem, Alhaji Juma't Ali Oluwafuyi, Alhaji Fatai Owodunni.

Leadership of notable Muslim Organisations were also represented. They were UNILAG Muslim Alumni (UMA), led her President, Dr. Mumini Alao; Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC) represented by its Executive Chairman, Alhaji Kamor Disu; The Companion Muslim Organisation and their female counterpart, The Criterion; Muslim Media Practitioners of Nigeria (MMPN), Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN), current and immediate past presidents of NASFAT, Alhaji AbdulWahid AbdulRauf and Alhaji Niyy Yusuf, among others, honoured the octogenarian Muslim leader.

**Oladejo is privileged with long life: Imam Falomo**

A lecture titled, 'The parable of privilege and responsibility', was delivered by the Chief Imam, Falomo Lagos Central Mosque, Dr Tajudeen Adebayo, who described the celebrator as

statesman, who deserves all respects."

The guest speaker who is also a Deputy Director in the Languages Department at Voice of Nigeria said Islam recognises long life as a privilege, citing the Hadith of the Prophet to assert his claim.

He used the opportunity to remind the celebrant that he is a critical stakeholder in the Muslim community, and his leadership position comes with huge responsibilities.

"Leadership is a call to service and a great burden. If only we know the enormity of leadership, we would not be seeing every dick and harry running for this running for that," he said.

Dr. Adebayo further harped on the unity of the Muslim Ummah in Nigeria, saying the leadership has the responsibility to unite Muslims with all the resources within their reach.

**Alhaji Oladejo admirably**

*Today, he has made impacts in the society, not just in the socioeconomic development of the country with his role at the Stock Exchange, he has done so in the area of mentoring younger ones, providing pathway to younger people to rise to leadership positions.*

being among the few privileged people on earth that Allah has given plenty in life.

"He is privileged because he has been given 'I' and several zeros. That I is the blessing of Islam. It is the basket which can contain all other blessings. Whoever is not given Islam, no matter how much other blessings he has, he is just gathering zeros. I wonder which bank will honor a bunch of zeros on a cheque leave. Baba, you are blessed," he said.

"One of the zeros, that adds value to your one is long life. By all standards, 80 is an age of privilege whether in mundane life or spiritual realm. In every society, 80-year-old man/woman is an elder

**combines so many attributes: Senator Salis**

Speaking with *Muslim News* on the sidelines of the event, Shuaib-Afolabi Salis representing Ogun Central in the 10th National Assembly described Alhaji Oladejo as many things rolled into one, saying he had admirably combined so many attributes.

"He is a man that is extremely humble despite his many accomplishments. He is also a man who is deeply religious, being devout in his service to his Creator, and yet being a pillar, a bridge of interfaith conversation," he said.

"Today, he has made impacts in the society, not just in the socioeconomic development of the

country with his role at the Stock Exchange, he has done so in the area of mentoring younger ones, providing pathway to younger people to rise to leadership positions."

Senator Salis, who is the Chairman, Senate Committee on ICT and Cyber Security, prayed for longer life and many happy returns for Alhaji Oladejo.

"We just started the celebration," he said. "We will come back 10 years time for midterm, and 20 years time when he is 100 to celebrate again."

He advised young people to study the biography of Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo, who started from a humble beginning in Ibadan and has been able to overcome the challenges of his upbringing, in terms of not having material resources.

**Oladejo has long history of service to Islam, humanity: Yusuf Ali, SAN**

**Alhaji Ebiti lauds Oladejo's leadership, vision for Muslim inclusiveness**

Deputy President I of the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN), Alhaji Rafiu Ebiti, has showered praises on Alhaji Oladejo, describing him as a model of integrity and transparency in Islamic leadership.

In an interview with *Muslim News*, Alhaji Ebiti, who is also the Pro-Chancellor, Summit University, Offa, Kwara State, lauded the celebrant's commitment to consultation and collaborative leadership, noting that such qualities have driven notable progress within MUSWEN.

"He's a very transparent, honest and consistent Muslim," Ebiti stated, adding, "He consults, and that is very important. I appreciate that. We consult, dialogue, and we've been able to make so many changes together."

**Oladejo is people-oriented person, exemplary leader: UMA President**

For his part, Dr. Mumini Alao, also corroborated the testimonies, saying Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo is "a very passionate person when it comes to matters of Islam."

"Not only that, he brings his professionalism and wealth of experience as somebody who got to the top as far as the Nigerian Stock Exchange is concerned," he said.

Dr. Alao, who is the current President of the UNILAG Muslim Alumni and Executive Consultant at Complete Sports, said he has known the celebrant for close to 29 years.

"That was when he was President of the University of Lagos Muslim Alumni (UMA), and I was the Public Relations Officer of the Association. I worked with him for four years. Thereafter, he handed over to other people. But he was always with us. After some time, we decided to bring him back to the system to make him the Chairman for our Board of Trustees (BoT)."

Dr. Alao described Alhaji Oladejo as a people-oriented person, an exemplary leader, and a fine professional.



# Vanguards Academy celebrates G91 set at 2025 graduation ceremony

• Produces seven hufaadh, 20 hadith memorisers



Cross-section of female graduating students

BY ABDUL-MUMIN ABD.QUADIR AND NUSAYBAHALATISHE

In a celebratory and convivial climate, families, friends and well-wishers from far and near came together over the weekend to celebrate their children and wards for completing their secondary school education at Vanguards Academy.

The 2024/2025 prize-giving and graduation ceremony was held on Saturday, August 9 2025, at the school field in Odosengolu, Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State, with a call on graduating students to resist moral decay and make success stories their driving force.

The faith-based school – one of the best in Ogun State produced 91 new graduates (G91), making the total number of its graduated students from inception in 2002 to 1,183.

Among the latest graduates, seven completed the memorisation of the Noble Qur'an and 20 memorised the Forty Hadith of An-Nawawi, a popular compilation by Imam al-Nawawi, a jurist and hadith scholar.

The Hufadh (Qur'an memorisers) are Ojole Abdullah, Olaonipekun Khalid, Jimoh Abdullah, Abdul wasii khubayb, Leshi Salman, Oduzanwo Musab and Zafaran Habeeb, one of the children of Dr. Zafaran Adeniyi, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the School.

The graduation ceremony was chaired by Prince Saheed Lasisi, FCE, one of the dedicated parents.

Our Correspondents were

reliably informed that out of 91 graduating students, 89 sat for 2025 UTME with Maryam Balogun securing the 356 mark, closely followed by Mubarak Ajibade with 353. The remaining others scored above 200.

**Draw inspiration from the achievements of your predecessors – Principal**

The principal of the School, Alhaji Nafiudeen Ajayi congratulated the graduating students and their families, urging them to make success stories, the driving force that spurs them to succeed.

He said: "Today is not just a ceremony. It's a milestone - a reflection on the path you choose, a celebration of current achievements, and anticipation of the bright future that lies ahead of you. It's a day to honour years of your academic rigour, spiritual growth, moral upbringing, and unwavering dedication."

Speaking further, Alhaji Ajayi extolled the students for their virtues and excellent performance, which positioned the faith-based school as one of the best in Ogun State.

According to him, "The set of graduating students has been very wonderful from inception. We saw great potentials. Hence, we moulded and mentored them to bloom to the fullest. We kept them on their toes, and Alhamdulillah, they didn't fall short of expectations."

"I hereby implore them to

let stories of their seniors like Zainab Ogunjimi, who emerged Best Graduating Student at College of Medicine, University of Lagos (CMUL), and Muadh Abdullateef, who made a first-class abroad, among others push them to greatness."

**Shun moral decay, be ambassadors of goodness - Dr. Adeniyi**

In his keynote address, Dr. Zafaran Adeniyi, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the School rejoiced with the graduating set while admonishing them to resist moral decay and invite people unto goodness with the light in them.

He noted that the youths of nowadays are wallowing in pools of immorality and massive time wastage, saying they cluster at swimming pools in puddles of erotic carnal scenes, they club with shisha, masturbate at will, consume drugs like food and waste away their lifetime watching movies on screens.

"They're alive but dead in the minds and souls. Do not do evil deeds or engage in the wrong lifestyle. Just keep inviting them to goodness."

He warned against the erosion of modesty, noting that "the real Hijaab/Jaibaab is fast disappearing into thin air" and that trends of show-off and immorality are celebrated on social media.

**Parents must rise to their responsibilities - Abu Umar Al-Faruq**

A guest speaker at the event,



Dr. Adeniyi

Alhaji AbdurRazaq AbdusSalam, famously known as Abu Umar Al-Faqq congratulated the graduating students, and urged their parents to live up to the responsibilities of raising them in a way they would be proud of.

The pioneer Amir of The Muslim Congress (TMC) noted that, "those committing atrocities in the society are from certain families, just as those making great impacts are also from particular families. Each family is responsible and its products are either part of the societal problems or problem solvers. Therefore, we should train and raise our children so we can be proud of them," he said.

Former Director of Public Affairs at Voice of Nigeria (VON) warned against parents who distort moral teachings, discourage righteous behaviors, or allow society to dictate their children's values.

"Today, the school has done its best by training them academically and instilling in them morality that will assist them to cope with societal challenges, especially now that they have graduated. But if graduates of Vanguards Academy are reported to have committed immoral acts or keep a bad company, it's because parents choose not to follow-up."

Abu Umar, a renowned author stressed that condoning evil only entrenches it, eventually harming everyone, even its beneficiaries.

**VAOSA rewards academic**

excellence

One of the key highlights of the graduation ceremony was presentation of cash gifts, books and plaque awards to some students for their excellent academic performances and laudable skills. It was sponsored by the school and its alumni association, Vanguards Academy Old Students Association (VAOSA).

The students are Mubarak Ajibade (Overall best student male), Maryam Balogun (Overall best student female), khadeejah Mosuro (Most improved), Firdaws Ismail (Most outstanding leadership female), Yusuf Akinremi (Most outstanding leadership male) and Ibrahim Olabamidele (Best in Math), respectively.

**Purposeful reading, a key instrument to my success: BGS Maryam Balogun**

The graduating students, dressed in their finest attire, couldn't hide their excitement of graduating from their dream school. Speaking with *Muslim News*, Maryam Balogun, the Overall Best Graduating Student, said she was still trying to process the whole feeling of graduating from Vanguards Academy.

She said: "The whole thing is very weird. I know I'm graduating from Vanguards, but I'm still trying to stomach it. It hasn't fully sunk into my mind."

**Qur'an has made me more conscious and reserved: Hafidh Habeeb Zafaran**

Relating his experience in Qur'an memorisation, Habeeb Zafaran, one of the memorisers of the Qur'an said: "I had tough times memorising the Qur'an because sometimes, it clashed with school exams, but I was determined. I had to keep setting targets every now and then. The experience has made me more conscious and reserved. I look back at the entire Vanguards Academy experience and smile. It was really interesting."

**Memorised Hadiths often put me in check- Khalid Olaonipekun**

Khalid Olaonipekun, a memoriser of 40 Hadiths also shared his bit. According to him, "Some of the Hadiths I memorised contain themes of social values. So somehow, they call me to order at times, whenever I want to deviate."

The ceremony ended with a renewed call for the graduates to uphold Islamic values, reject the moral decay of society, and lead a life of purpose and service to Allah. Parents, too, were reminded of their duty as the first and most crucial line of defense in shaping a righteous generation.

Cont'd from pg. 13

## First-ever female University ...

what we need in the females," he said.

Clarifying misconceptions, Prof. Maqari stated that the university is not restricted to Muslims. "Every religion, even atheists, is welcome once they abide by the rules and regulations," he explained. The institution's motto, "Blending Knowledge with Noble Character," reflects its commitment to academic excellence rooted in moral values.

When asked about affordability, he assured the public that tuition would be subsidised to remain within reach of the average Nigerian family, while maintaining

high academic standards.

"We are possibly going to charge because we cannot run a university without charging, but it will be affordable," he said, adding that scholarships will also be provided for competent but less privileged students.

The respected scholar said the establishment of Tazkiyah University is a rejection of the wrong notion on Islam's restriction of women's education. "This kind of institution, the first of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa, shows our commitment to empowering women with knowledge and character," he

affirmed.

Beyond education, Maqari expressed hope that Nigerians would contribute to building a better society by choosing the right path. "I hope Nigeria will become better by the commitment of its own people. I hope everyone will try to do the right thing and deviate from the established path," he urged.

Born on September 15, 1976, in Katsina State, Professor Ibrahim Ahmad Maqari has built a distinguished academic and religious career.

He studied at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, earning his degree in 1999 before returning to Nigeria for his Master's at Ahmadu Bello University in 2005 and

completing a PhD at Bayero University, Kano, in record time between 2007 and 2009.

His teaching career has spanned ABU Zaria, Jama'atu Institute for Advanced Studies, the Federal College of Education Zaria, and the Nigeria Arabic Language Village in Borno State.

A prolific scholar with over 20 journal papers and several books to his credit, he is respected globally for his insights on faith, unity, and education. Colleagues and students describe him as humble, disciplined, and passionate about supporting the less privileged.

Stakeholders see Tazkiyah University not just as another private institution, but as a groundbreaking

model of higher learning for women in Nigeria—one that could transform education and opportunity for generations to come.



Prof. Maqari



# Muslim organisations pay tribute to Buhari, urge Nigerians to emulate ex-president's values

BY AKEEM ALAO BABATUNDE

**A**s Nigeria honoured former President Muhammadu Buhari with a state burial, Muslim organisations across the country joined millions of Nigerians in paying tribute to the late leader, describing him as a symbol of integrity, discipline, and national service.

Buhari, who passed away on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at the age of 82 in a London hospital, was buried on Tuesday in the backyard of his residence in Daura, Katsina State.

The state burial ceremony included military honours and a 21-gun salute. Thousands of mourners, including President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and senior government officials, gathered to bid farewell, with chants of "Sai Baba" echoing from supporters as the casket, draped in Nigeria's green and white flag, was lowered.

In the wake of his death, leading Muslim organisations across Nigeria released statements reflecting on Buhari's legacy and calling for his values to serve as a compass for future generations.

## MUSWEN: Remembering a statesman of unity and simplicity

The Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN) urged Nigerians to reflect on the late president's values of unity, integrity, and selfless service.

In a statement signed by Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo and Professor Muslih Tayo Yahya, the organisation praised Buhari's contribution to national development, describing him as a devout Muslim who embodied humility and discipline.

"His integrity, simplicity, and steadfast leadership inspired millions and earned him respect across diverse divides," the statement read.

MUSWEN also called on President Tinubu to immortalize



Late Buhari

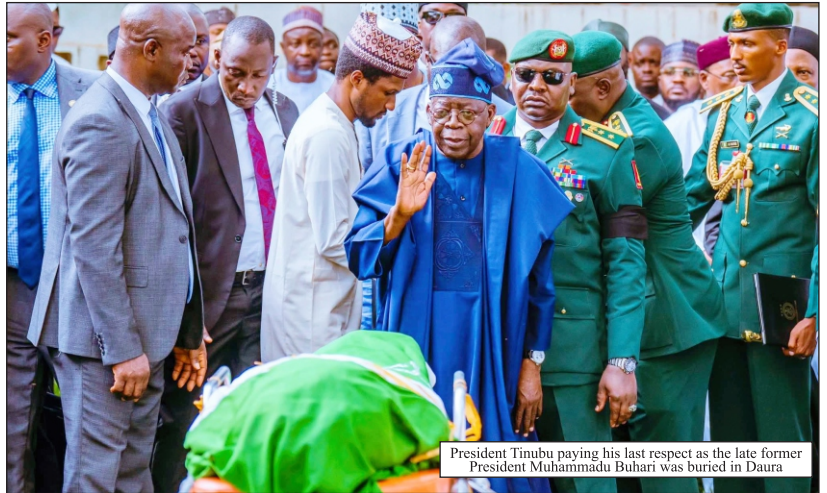
Buhari by naming national infrastructure or institutions after him, saying that such a gesture would inspire future generations to emulate his patriotism.

## The Muslim Congress (TMC): Honouring a disciplined leader

The Muslim Congress (TMC), through its Amir, Alhaji AbdulWasiu Bangbala, described Buhari as a disciplined military leader turned statesman, known for his commitment to fighting corruption and building infrastructure.

"His sincerity and commitment to a better Nigeria were never in question," Bangbala stated, while also acknowledging the debates that surrounded some of his policies.

He highlighted Buhari's social investment initiatives, focus on agriculture, and infrastructural projects as lasting contributions. "Though human and therefore imperfect, we pray Allah forgives his shortcomings and grants him a lofty station in the afterlife," he added.



President Tinubu paying his last respect as the late former President Muhammadu Buhari was buried in Daura

## MSSN Lagos: Reflect on life's impermanence

The Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN), Lagos State Area Unit, in a message signed by its Amir, Kamoldeen Abiona, expressed deep sorrow and emphasized the transitory nature of life.

"Every soul will taste death," the group quoted from the Qur'an, urging leaders and citizens alike to live with purpose and integrity.

The MSSN also called on political leaders to serve selflessly and ensure their legacies are defined by positive impacts, rather than positions held.

## MPAC: Buhari's passing a moment for national reflection

The Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC) also joined in mourning Buhari, describing his death as a moment of solemn reflection on the fleeting nature of power and leadership.

In a statement signed by its Executive Chairman, Disu Kamor, MPAC prayed for divine

forgiveness and peace for the former president and extended condolences to his family and the nation.

"His passing is a reminder that service to humanity and accountability to God are what truly endure," Kamor noted.

## MURIC: Buhari, the father of modern Nigeria

Perhaps the most profound tribute came from the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), which reiterated its long-standing description of Buhari as "the Father of Modern Nigeria."

In a detailed statement by Executive Director Professor Ishaq Akintola, MURIC highlighted Buhari's infrastructural legacy—particularly in rail transport—as a defining feature of his presidency. Citing projects such as the Lagos-Ibadan and Itakpe-Warri standard gauge rail lines, the organisation argued that Buhari re-engineered Nigeria's infrastructure and security systems despite challenges.

"Seventeen local governments were under Boko Haram control before 2015. Buhari

pushed them back and recovered Nigerian territory," the statement noted, praising his investment in advanced military hardware and refusal to divert funds meant for national development.

MURIC added that Buhari's refusal to accumulate personal wealth despite his long career in public service marked him as an exceptional figure. "He died leaving behind just two houses—one in Kaduna and another in Daura—both of which he owned before becoming president."

## A legacy of contradictions and convictions

Though Buhari's presidency was marked by criticism over economic mismanagement and worsening insecurity in some regions, many Nigerians consistently emphasized his incorruptibility, personal discipline, and commitment to national development.

His 2015 election victory, the first by an opposition candidate in Nigeria's history, remains a watershed moment in the country's democratic evolution.

## Sultan, MUSWEN, other Muslim organisations pay tribute as Awujale of Ijebuland buried

### His wish for Islamic burial fulfilled despite interference from traditionalists

BY AKEEM ALAO BABATUNDE

**T**he remains of the Awujale and Paramount Ruler of Ijebuland, Oba (Dr.) Sikiru Kayode Adetona, were laid to rest on Monday, July 14, 2025, at his private residence, Ogbagba Court, Igbeba, Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, in accordance to Islamic rites, fulfilling his personal wish despite interference from traditional worshippers.

Oba Adetona who returned to Allah on Sunday, July 13 at the age of 91, was buried beside his parents in a mausoleum he had constructed during his lifetime.

Muslim News gathered that the Chief Imam of Ijebuland, Sheikh Muftaudeen Ayanbadejo led thousands of sympathisers and top dignitaries in Janazah (funeral prayer) for the late monarch, who

was the President of the Ogun State Muslim Council (OMC).

The burial, conducted around 6pm (Nigerian time), witnessed attempts by traditionalists to perform customary rites, but they were turned away by security personnel, including army officers, to allow the Muslims bury the monarch in accordance to Islamic tradition.

Oba Sikiru Adetona, widely regarded as a progressive and reform-minded traditional ruler, left behind a remarkable legacy that has significantly shaped Ijebuland, Ogun State and Nigeria in general.

He didn't only wish to be buried in accordance with Islamic tradition, he fought against mutilation of the dead monarch's body. He later pushed legislation in that regard and despite stiff



Late Awujale

resistance from the traditional worshippers, the assembly passed the Ogun State Obas and Chiefs Law of 2021 bill and was later signed by Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun.

Several high-profile dignitaries attended the funeral rites to pay their last respects. These included former Vice President Yemi Osinbajo; Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun; and billionaire industrialist Alhaji Aliko Dangote.



Former VP Osinbajo, Gov Abiodun of Ogun State, his counterpart from Lagos, Gov Sanwo-Olu; Alhaji Aliko Dangote and other prominent Nigerians at the burial of Awujale of Ijebuland.

A Federal Government delegation, led by the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, and the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Prince Gboyega Oyetola, were also in attendance.

Oba Adetona's death elicited tributes from prominent Islamic and socio-religious bodies across the country.

## Adetona, committed servant of Allah: Sultan

In a statement issued by his media team, the Sultan of Sokoto and President-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), His Eminence Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR, mni, described the late monarch as a revered traditional ruler and a committed servant of Allah.

"His leadership has been pivotal not only in his local community but also across the broader Muslim Ummah in Nigeria.



Cont'd from pg. 4

## Condemnations over massacre of 50 ...

while strongly condemning the terrorist attack targeting innocent Muslims.

In a statement released on Wednesday, August 20, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) described the incident as "heinous" and reiterated the Gulf nation's position against extremism in all forms.

"The UAE strongly condemns the terrorist attack that targeted worshippers in a mosque in northern Nigeria, resulting in the deaths of a number of innocent people," the ministry said.

It added that Abu Dhabi

"reaffirms its firm rejection of all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism aimed at undermining security and stability."

The statement also conveyed condolences to Nigeria. "The UAE expresses its sincere sympathy to the families of the victims, and to the government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria," it said.

### Targeting houses of worship is heinous crime

Also, in her press release, issued on Thursday, August 21, Al-Azhar Ash-Sharif affirmed that

targeting the houses of worship and shedding the blood of peaceful worshippers is a heinous crime that strips its perpetrators of all religious teachings and of every value of mercy and humanity.

"It is also clear evidence of the bloody nature of extremist ideology, which disregards the sanctity of both religion and human life," said the statement issued on behalf of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Mosque Ahmed el-Tayeb.

Al-Azhar reiterates its call for intensified international efforts to confront the dangers of terrorism and extremist thought, to safeguard places of worship against any attacks, and to protect societies from the evils of these deviant groups.



# Muslim groups applaud NSA, DSS over arrest of terror leaders

## • Urge federal government to equip security agencies

BY UMAR ADELEYE

**N**otable Muslim organisations have joined many Nigerians to praise men of the Department of State Services (DSS) for capturing two leaders of Al-Ansar and Mahmuda terrorist groups, which have been operating in Nigeria for some years.

Reacting to this development, the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) and The Muslim Congress (TMC) commended the National Security Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, as well as the head of the Department of State Services (DSS), Mr. Adeola Oluwatosin Ajayi, for this feat.

In a press statement issued by its Executive Director, Prof Lakin Akintola, on Monday, August 18, 2025, the Islamic human rights organization described the arrests as a "major blow to terrorism in Nigeria," adding that both suspects had been on the wanted lists of Nigeria, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the United Nations for several years.

MURIC commended the National Security Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, for replicating his record of excellence as former chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), now in his current role. The group credited Ribadu's "methodical and microscopic re-engineering" of



Prof. Akintola

Nigeria's security architecture for recent gains against terrorism, banditry, and organised crime.

The head of the DSS, Ajayi, also received accolades for what MURIC called his "silent but effective" leadership since taking office in August 2024.

Akintola paid special tribute to DSS field operatives, describing them as "the real heroes" of Nigeria's fight against terrorism.

"They are the lurking shadows at the street corners, those who sleep in vehicles for days, and those who see but must not be seen. We appreciate their sacrifices for our great country," he said.

MURIC urged the federal government to improve funding for the nation's security agencies,



Alhaji Bangbala

stressing that national security remains the bedrock of all other sectors.

"For the upteenth time, we as an Islamic human rights organization decry terrorism and all forms of violence. True to our avowed motto which is 'Dialogue, No Violence', we hold that violence is a square peg while vengeance and justice are round holes. They do not fit. We reject all groups that are promoting, rationalizing or pursuing violence. What you seek is never what you get.

"We assert clearly, unequivocally and emphatically that terrorists do not represent Muslims, rather they are a clog in the wheel of the progress of Islamdom. They smear the good

name of Islam and they deface the whole gamut of Islamic architecture."

### The killing, an affront to humanity: TMC

The national headquarters of The Muslim Congress (TMC) has expressed deep grief and outrage over the barbaric attack on Muslim worshippers.

In a statement signed by its Amir (President), Alhaji Abdulwasii Bangbala, a copy of which was made available to Muslim News on Thursday, August 21, the faith-based organisation said the heinous assault on a sacred space is both an affront to humanity and a desecration of Islamic values.

"We strongly condemn this senseless act of violence, describing it as an act of extreme cowardice and a direct violation of the sanctity of life and worship. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the bereaved families and the entire community affected by this tragedy," the statement read.

### Commends security agencies over arrest of terrorist leaders

Amid the sorrow however, Alhaji Bangbala commended the Nigerian security forces especially the National Security Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu and Department of State Services (DSS) for their recent success in apprehending key leaders of the

notorious terrorist groups believed to be behind repeated acts of terror that have devastated communities, displaced families, and shed innocent blood.

He described the achievement as a vital milestone in Nigeria's fight against terrorism and extremism, while saluting the bravery and sacrifice of security personnel who put their lives on the line to protect citizens.

"While we mourn the victims of Katsina, these arrests offer a glimmer of hope, showing a commitment to justice and deterrence against future atrocities. However, we urge the government to ensure that those responsible for this massacre are swiftly prosecuted," he said.

TMC further called for intensified and innovative security strategies, particularly for places of worship, which must never be allowed to remain "soft targets."

"We strongly advise mosque authorities, especially in high-risk areas, to engage professional security teams as an additional protective measure. Government efforts, though crucial, must be complemented by proactive steps from religious communities to prevent further tragedies.

"We stand firmly with all victims of violence and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to peace, tolerance, and understanding in Nigeria and beyond," the Islamic organisation stated.

# First-ever female University in Sub-saharan Africa takes off with 500 female students

## • As Nigerian Government approves Tazkiyah University

**T**he Federal Government has approved the establishment of Tazkiyah University, the first female-only

university in Nigeria, founded by Professor Ibrahim Ahmad Maqari, one of the Imams of the National Mosque, Abuja.

Situated in Zaria, Kaduna State, the university is designed exclusively for women and may also operate with an all-female academic

staff, making it the first of its kind in the country and the wider Sub-Saharan Africa.

Professor Maqari disclosed that all profits generated from the institution will be channelled into a special fund dedicated to supporting orphans.

Tazkiyah is one of nine newly accredited private universities licensed by the National Universities Commission (NUC), with plans to relocate its permanent campus to Kaduna city in the future.

The institution, which is expected to commence its first academic session in September with an approved intake of 500 students, will take off at its temporary site on Chikaji Road, Zaria.

According to the school's official profile, Tazkiyah University will begin with three faculties: Allied Health Sciences, Science and Computing, and Management and Social Sciences.

Programmes on offer include Nursing Science, Medical Laboratory Science, Public Health,

Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Computer Science, Cyber Security, Software Engineering, Information Technology, Petroleum Chemistry, Accounting, Economics, and Business Administration.

In an exclusive interview with Muslim News on Sunday, August 24, Professor Maqari explained the motivation behind establishing the female-only university.

He said many parents in Nigeria hesitate to send their daughters to tertiary institutions because of safety concerns and the nature of existing universities.

Tazkiyah University, he noted, is designed to provide a safe, disciplined, and value-driven environment for female students, eliminating excuses for denying girls higher education.

On staffing, he stressed that the preference will be for female lecturers. "Once we get competent female lecturers, we are not going to employ male lecturers. We will only resort to males when we can't get



... During the unveiling of Tazkiyah University

Continues on pg. 11



# New identity: Jaiz Bank unveils Ahmed Musa, Omojuwa, Alhan Islam as brand ambassadors

• Meets CBN capital requirements, targets ₦200bn by 2028

**J**aiz Bank Plc, Nigeria's pioneer non-interest financial institution, has unveiled a new corporate identity marking a bold step in its journey of growth and innovation.

At the unveiling ceremony held on Tuesday, August 12 at her corporate headquarters in Abuja, the bank also laid out an ambitious roadmap to raise its capital base to ₦200 billion by 2028, as it eyes regional expansion across Africa.

Muslim News also gathered that alongside the refreshed new look, the bank announced the appointment of three influential figures as its brand ambassadors. They are Nigerian football icon Ahmed Musa, renowned public commentator Japheth Omojuwa, and celebrated poet Alhan Islam.

The unveiling reflects Jaiz Bank's commitment to connecting with a wider audience and reinforcing its position as Nigeria's pioneer non-interest bank with values rooted in trust, transparency, and impact.

According to the management, bringing Musa, Omojuwa and Alhan Islam onboard is a strategic move to highlight the bank's renewed vision of inspiring confidence, empowering

communities, and driving financial inclusion.

This rebranding and ambassador unveiling is set to strengthen Jaiz Bank's presence in the Nigerian financial landscape, aligning with its mission to deliver ethical and sustainable banking for all.

## It's a defining milestone: MD

Haruna Musa, Managing Director and CEO, described the event as "a defining milestone" in the bank's 14-year journey that goes beyond cosmetics.

"It is about who we are, what we stand for, and the future we are building," Musa said, unveiling a revamped logo, a modernized color scheme, and a new payoff line, "With You for Life". The new brand identity swaps out the bank's traditional green and gold for a deeper blue, vibrant yellow, and balanced grey—each color chosen to symbolize key aspects of Jaiz's philosophy: trust and stability, optimism and innovation, and timeless sophistication.

Musa noted that the bank's new payoff line, "With You for Life", represents a long-term commitment to accompany customers through every stage of their financial

journey—offering products and services tailored not just to transactions, but to life goals and values.

"What is changing is our visual identity and how we present ourselves to the world. What is not changing are our core values and the Shariah-compliant principles that continue to define us," Musa said. "This transformation speaks to a deeper shift in banking—one where customers demand transparency, fairness, and social impact."

## ...meets CBN capital requirements

Jaiz Bank, which began operations in 2011 with a regional license, has evolved into a national player and now aspires to become a continental force in Islamic banking. "Our mission is beyond Nigeria," Musa said, confirming that the bank has received invitations from Ghana and Sierra Leone to expand its footprint. "We want to join the ranks of top-tier banks in Africa in the next five years."

Although the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has yet to set capitalization thresholds for international specialized banks like Jaiz, the bank has already surpassed the current minimum requirement ahead of the 2026 deadline and is



Jaiz Bank MD, Mr. Haruna Musa leading the cutting of cake ceremony to unveil refreshed brand identity

now pursuing an aggressive capital expansion plan.

"In the next one year, the plan of the bank is to ensure that we raise our capital to a minimum of ₦100 billion. In the next three years, the plan is to raise it to ₦200 billion," Musa said.

The bank's rebranding comes amid a broader push to enhance its digital and operational infrastructure.

Responding to longstanding customer complaints about card usability and app limitations, Musa announced that Jaiz will relaunch its Mastercard product for international transactions on September 1, along with plans to roll out Visa and Verve enhancements. "Our customers will soon be able to carry out seamless transactions abroad," he said.

On digital banking, Musa acknowledged shortcomings and assured that a new mobile app, complete with WhatsApp banking and enhanced self-service features such as instant statement printing, is being developed.

Responding to customer

feedback on card reliability and foreign exchange access, Musa acknowledged their frustrations and assured them, "We appreciate your patience. This is a full operational revamp, not just a new look."

In highlighting the bank's achievements, Musa noted a string of recent international recognitions, including Best Islamic Bank in West Africa (International Investor), among others.

When asked about potential acquisitions during the ongoing banking sector recapitalization, Musa left the possibility open, saying, "We still have over nine months to the deadline. By the time we get to the bridge, we will surely cross it."

The bank also reaffirmed its commitment to the MSME sector as a driver of economic growth. With over ₦500 billion in cumulative financing so far, Jaiz plans to expand its micro, small, and medium enterprise portfolio and actively support Nigeria's goal of achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2030, the MD noted. — Additional information from Business Day

**T**URKISH Ambassador to Nigeria, Memmet Poroy, has proposed a collaboration between Nigerians in diaspora and the Presidency of the Turks abroad and related diaspora communities, which is Turkey's agency for its diaspora.

He made this known at a strategic meeting with the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Abike Dabiri-Erewa, in Abuja.

The newly appointed Turkish Ambassador stated that the Turks abroad were estimated to be about 7.5 million, with 6.5 million residing in Europe and significant populations in the United States, noting the active participation of the Turkish diaspora in local politics and

## Nigeria partners with Turkiye on diaspora relations

taking up key political offices across Europe.

Poroy expressed interest in learning more about the Nigerian diaspora, as both share some similarities with unique characteristics of the Turkish diaspora, while acknowledging the challenges of obtaining exact figures.

Welcoming the ambassador, Dabiri-Erewa emphasised the similarities between the Nigerian and Turkish diaspora experiences.

She noted the importance of the new NiDCOM Diaspora Registration Portal, which aims to



Turkish Ambassador, Memmet Poroy with Mrs Abike Dabiri-Erewa during their meeting in Abuja

register Nigerians abroad, to improve communication, support, and policy planning.

She also spoke about NiDCOM's flagship programmes, including the Diaspora Investment Summit and the National Diaspora Day and Diaspora Merit Awards, which showcase success stories and encourage Nigerians abroad to contribute to national development.

Both parties expressed strong interest in deepening collaboration and learning from each other's diaspora policies, with the ambassador affirming Turkiye's readiness to welcome the Nigerian delegation for future discussions.

## Saudi Arabia conducts life-saving cardiac surgeries in Kano



Saudi medical doctors carrying out surgery for a beneficiary

**T**he King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) has completed a life-saving medical mission in Kano, Nigeria, providing open-heart surgeries and cardiac catheterisation to patients in need.

The five-day campaign, held from 18 to 22 August 2025, brought together a 25-member team of highly skilled Saudi medical volunteers, who successfully carried out dozens of complex procedures.

The team conducted several open-heart surgeries and cardiac catheterisations, all of which were completed

successfully, bringing renewed hope to patients and their families. The statement added

Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. The statement added Mohammed Alsahabi, the Saudi Press Attaché, said the project in bring hope to patients and Kano is part of KSrelief's broader global programme of voluntary Arabia's commitment to saving medical interventions that have lives and strengthening global made significant impacts in medical cooperation. many countries.

He said KSrelief specialists perform these paediatric open-heart surgeries, offering life-saving treatment to children who otherwise lacked access to advanced cardiac care.

King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) has also

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# Sheikh Ahmad leads Nigerian scholars to condemn ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza

● Seeks unified global voice to end massacre, starvation



Muslim scholars showing solidarity with the people of Palestine at the Mega Press Conference in Lagos



Sheikh Ahmad (third from left) and other prominent Nigeria Muslim scholars at the CIO Mega Press Conference on Gaza Genocide

## BY OUR REPORTERS

**P**rominent Nigerian Islamic scholars under the Ulama Wing of the Conference of Islamic Organizations (CIO) have issued a powerful call to action over the ongoing humanitarian crisis and Israeli genocidal war on Gaza.

Speaking during a mega press conference held at the TMC Da'wah Centre, Ilesha, Lagos, on Thursday, August 7 2025, Sheikh Abdurrahman Ahmad, Chairman of the Ulama Wing and National Missioner of Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria, delivered an enthusiastic statement decrying what he described as "a genocidal war" against Palestinians in Gaza.

"We, the Ulama wing, on behalf of the Conference of Islamic Organizations, stand before you today to deliver an urgent message to the world - a message born from the profound suffering of our brothers and sisters in Palestine and the collective conscience of the global Muslim community," the eloquent Muslim scholar began his

speech before thousands of audience who witnessed the briefing.

Sheikh Ahmad provided a historical overview of the crisis, linking the ongoing violence to decades of systematic oppression dating back to the Zionist movement and the 1917 Balfour Declaration.

He emphasised the significance of the Nakba in 1948, which he described as the "catastrophe" that displaced over 750,000 Palestinians and initiated a long-standing pattern of aggression and dispossession.

"The current aggression, therefore, is not an isolated act of self-defense but the latest and most devastating chapter in a long history of dispossession and a practice of genocide," Sheikh Ahmad declared.

Citing current statistics, he stated, "Over 60,000 Palestinians have been killed, with many more trapped under the rubble. An overwhelming majority - 1.9 million people - have been displaced, creating an unprecedented refugee crisis. Hospitals, schools, and

essential infrastructure have been deliberately targeted and destroyed."

He also condemned the use of starvation as a weapon of war. "Famine has been declared in parts of Gaza, and countless children are dying of malnutrition and preventable diseases. This is a deliberate and inhumane strategy to make Gaza uninhabitable," he added.

While commending international legal bodies such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for recognizing war crimes and genocide, Sheikh Ahmad criticized world powers for their continued military and financial support to Israel.

"To the Muslim world, we say: A united voice is our only strength against this injustice," he charged, urging Muslim nations, particularly those in the Arabian Gulf, to abandon political differences and severe diplomatic ties with Israel. "Your silence, or muted condemnation, is perceived as a betrayal by the Palestinian

people," he said.

He further urged global powers to impose sanctions on Israel, halt arms transfers, and suspend diplomatic and trade relations until the occupation ends. "It is time to officially declare the Israeli regime a terrorist state," he added.

**Gaza community representative commends Nigerian support, urges deeper action**

Also speaking at the press conference was Abu Ibrahim Bn Ibrahim, a representative of the Gaza community in Nigeria. Through Arabic remarks translated into Yoruba by the Grand Mufti of CIO Sheikh Dhikrullah Shafi'i, Abu Ibrahim expressed deep appreciation to the organisers and the Nigerian public - both Muslim and non-Muslim - for their unwavering solidarity.

Quoting a Hadith, he warned Muslims against inaction: "Ignoring the plight of fellow Muslims disqualifies one from true Islamic brotherhood. You cannot deceive Allah with silence or passivity."

He strongly criticized Arab governments, particularly the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the Egyptian leadership, for failing to take meaningful action. Comparing the current Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to former President Mohamed Morsi, he said Morsi had once pressured world leaders to halt Israeli aggression, while Sisi hides behind false claims of border openness.

Abu Ibrahim emphasized the power of economic boycotts, stating that some corporations are now cautious due to growing public resistance. "Those who remain inactive should reflect on the hypocrisy in their hearts," he said.

He also urged Nigeria to take a stronger stance: "The Nigerian government and people should expel any Israeli presence as a show of solidarity."

In an emotional conclusion, he recounted a recent phone call from his mother in Gaza: "She told me she hadn't eaten bread in 12 days." He urged Muslims everywhere to search their hearts and act decisively for the people of Gaza.

The press conference concluded with a heartfelt appeal to the media and global community to give adequate coverage to the ongoing genocide and to treat the Palestinian crisis as a universal struggle for justice, not a religious or political issue.

A few days later, Abu Ibrahim was reportedly arrested on Friday, August 22, at his residence in the FCT, Abuja, by operatives believed to be members of an anti-terrorism squad. His whereabouts remain unknown as at the time of filing this report on Tuesday, August 26. Follow [www.muslimnews.com.ng](http://www.muslimnews.com.ng)

## Muslim leaders protest Nigeria-Israel military ties over Gaza genocide

**M**uslim leaders in the South West on Wednesday staged a peaceful protest in Ibadan, Oyo State, rejecting any form of military cooperation between Nigeria and the State of Israel.

The protest, organised by

Aqsah Nigeria, Ibadan branch, aimed to draw attention to the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza and to demand an end to what they described as genocide against Palestinians.

Prominent Islamic leaders at the protest included renowned

scholar, Dr. Dawud Amoo-Alaga; founder of Anaajah Arabic Institute, Ibadan, Sheikh Abdulwaheed Abdul Hamid; President of the Council of Ulama, Supreme Council for Shariah in Nigeria, Sheikh Abdul Fatah Thanni; and the Grand Mufti of the Conference of Islamic

Organisations in Nigeria, Sheikh Dhikrullah Shafi'i.

Their demonstration followed recent statements from Nigeria's Ministry of Defence reaffirming plans to strengthen military cooperation with Israel.

During a courtesy visit to

the ministry by Israeli Ambassador Michael Freeman, both sides discussed joint operations, knowledge sharing, defence modernisation, and a potential bilateral defence pact.

Addressing journalists during the demonstration, the Executive Director of the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), Prof. Ishaq Akintola, condemned Israel's actions in Gaza.

He accused Israel of bombing schools, churches, mosques, media houses, and refugee camps, noting that 238 media workers and over 2,000 people had been killed while seeking food.

"As of Tuesday, 266 children had died of starvation due to the blockade. Israel has turned hospitals into death zones even while ceasefire talks were ongoing. This is a blatant violation of human rights," Akintola said.

He questioned Nigeria's decision to seek military ties with Israel, describing it as "an apartheid state guilty of crimes against humanity."

He urged the Nigerian government to immediately halt the proposed security alliance, boycott economic relations, and sever diplomatic ties with Israel.

## Nigeria's leading right groups 'concerned' about worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza

**M**uslim Awareness International (MAI) has decried the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza, where thousands face hunger, displacement, and death amid continued military assaults.

Addressing a world press conference held on Saturday, August 2, 2025 in Anthony Village, Lagos, the Director of MAI, Abdul Waheed Atoyebi, described the situation in Gaza as "a genocide and deliberate starvation" of the Palestinian people.

The briefing was also attended by the representatives of various Muslim groups and human rights organisations in Nigeria, including Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC), Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN), Al-Mu'minaat (The Believing Women)

Organisation, International Institute of Human Heritage (IIHH), Quds Foundation, Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN).

"This is never a war or a conflict. It's genocide and deliberate starvation!" he said, calling on all people of conscience, Muslims, Christians, Africans, and world leaders, to act urgently to end the suffering.

According to figures cited during the briefing, over 60,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed since October 2023, with more than 125,000 injured, and 750,000 displaced. Fuel, food, and medicine remain critically scarce, with 90 children among 159 people confirmed dead from starvation as of August 1, 2025.

Atoyebi painted a grim picture of daily life in Gaza, citing examples like Adel Madi, a 27-year-

old man whose weight dropped drastically from 50kg to just 15kg before dying of starvation.

"Lying on his deathbed with sunken stomach, protruding bones, and a pale face, Adel's frail frame testified to the hunger war consuming Palestinians in Gaza," he stated.

**US is acting unjustly and remains complicit in the ongoing killings: Quds Foundation Director**

Also speaking, the Director of Quds Foundation, Mallam Qasim Akinloye condemned the role of the United States in the crisis. Mal Akinloye accused both the Biden and Trump administrations of enabling Israel's military operations through weapons supply, diplomatic vetoes at the UN, and obstruction of ceasefires.

"The U.S.' role as an unjust

ruler is a major obstacle to peace, perpetuating a cycle of violence and deepening the humanitarian crisis," he charged.

**This is a call to humanity - Al-Mu'minaat**

The Amirah of Al-Mu'minaat in Lagos, Hajia Balgees Abdullah, urged Muslims and Christians worldwide to amplify advocacy, mobilize humanitarian aid, and pressure their governments to act. The organization stressed that the situation in Gaza transcends politics and is a moral crisis that threatens the fabric of global humanity.

"Religious leaders and faithful are called upon to raise awareness, mobilize aid, and advocate for peace rooted in justice. Inter-faith cooperation can amplify this moral imperative," Hajia Abdullah said.



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