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## MUSLIM NEWS NIGERIA



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Vol. 4 | No. 2 | April, 2022 | Ramadan, 1443 AH |

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Buhari

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# On giving Zakātul-Fitr as money instead of food

**This article seeks to discuss, in moderate detail, the fiqh ruling on giving zakāt al-Fiḥ in the form of money instead of staple food item.**

In this author's opinion, although it is best to give zakāt al-fitr in staple food, there is no unequivocal evidence to suggest that giving it in the form of money makes it invalid. Therefore, taking into account the situation of most Muslim communities in the Western world, there is no problem giving zakāt al-fitr in the form of money, even though it would be meritorious to follow the letter of the law and give it in the form of staple food items if possible.

## Zakāt al-Fiḥ: The Basics

Zakāt al-fitr is one of two obligatory charities that have been obligated in the Sharīḥ (the other one being regular zakāt). The fact that it is obligatory has been unanimously agreed upon amongst the scholars. It was legislated when the fast of Ramaṣān was legislated, meaning the second year of the hijrah. Hence, zakāt al-fitr was actually legislated before regular zakāt.

It is obligatory on all Muslims who have more than the amount of food that they and their immediate families require on the day of Eid. Hence, its nisāb is considerably less than the nisāb of regular zakāt (which is 612 grams of silver or 87.48 grams of gold).

Zakāt al-fitr is paid on behalf of every single member of one's household, even if that member did not fast. Hence, it is paid on behalf of children, the sick and the elderly. If a woman is pregnant during Ramaṣān but does not deliver before Eid, it is encouraged, but not obligatory, to pay zakāt on behalf of the unborn child. If she delivers before Eid, then zakāt must be paid on behalf of the newborn.

The best time to give this zakāt is on the day of Eid, before the actual Eid prayer. However, it may be given before this as well; a day or two before according to the ṣanbalīs and Mālikīs, from the beginning of the month of Ramaṣān for the Shafiīs, and from the beginning of that year for

the ṣanafīs. Another opinion within the ṣanbalī madhhab states that it may be given after the fifteenth of the month (based upon the fact that one may leave Muzdalifah after half of the night – i.e., qiyās with another act of worship). And this last opinion seems to be a reasonable one (See al-Mardāwī's Inṣāf, v. 7 p. 116).

The recipients of zakāt al-fitr are the same as the recipients of regular zakāt. Hence, one must find a Muslim who is deserving of it. If one is paying zakāt al-fitr on behalf of more than one person, the entire amount can be given to a single person, or the zakāt for each person can be given to a different recipient. Like regular zakāt, although it is allowed to distribute it in another locality, it is strongly preferred to distribute it to the needy in one's own locality.

There are two primary wisdoms behind the zakāt al-fitr: firstly to make up for any sins and mistakes that one might have done while fasting, and secondly, to feed the poor. In a sound ṣadīth, Ibn ṣAbbās reported that the Prophet ṣalla Allahu ṣalayhi wa sallam legislated zakāt al-fitr as a means of purification from the vain talk and evil deeds committed by the one who fasted, and as a provision for the poor (Abu Dawud in his Sunan). It is narrated that Wakīṣ b. al-Jarrāṣ (d. 198 A.H.) said, "Zakāt al-fitr is to the month of Ramaṣān as the 'prostration of forgetfulness' (sajdat al-sahw) is to the prayer," meaning that it makes up for any deficiencies. In slightly weak tradition, it is added "...so that they (i.e., the poor) have no need to beg on that day." Hence, one of the goals of zakāt al-fitr is to bring joy on the auspicious day of Eid to the entire Muslim community – no one should go hungry on that day.

The Prophet ṣalla Allahu ṣalayhi wa sallam instructed that a ṣāṣ of wheat, or barley, or dates, or raisins, or curled milk be given (Narrated by al-Bukharī and others). There is a lengthy debate in the books of fiqh regarding whether other food items may take the place of these ones, however it seems very clear – and Allah knows best – that all staple food items may be given as zakāt al-fitr. The purpose of

mentioning these specific items was that these were the staple foods of the people of Madinah; hence for other communities, rice or other foods, such as macaroni, may be substituted, and this would constitute following the Sunnah. This is the opinion of Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah as well. (A ṣāṣ is equivalent to 2.75 kilograms, roughly 6 pounds).

The real issue of debate in our times is whether this zakāt may be given in currency (i.e., cash) instead of staple food. And that is the question that this article seeks to answer.

## Classical Opinions on Giving Zakāt al-Fiḥ in Currency

The scholars of the tabiṣūn differed regarding the permissibility of giving zakāt al-fitr in gold or silver coins instead of food. Al-Hasan al-Basrī, Sufyān al-Thawrī, and Abū Ishāq al-Sabīṣī allowed it, whereas Aṣāṣ disapproved. The famous Umayyad Caliph, ṣUmar b. ṣAbd al-Azīz, even issued a decree that half a silver coin should be deducted from all those who get a stipend from the government, in lieu of zakāt al-fitr. Hence, this shows that not only did he approve of giving this zakāt in cash, he actually enforced it in his caliphate. (For these reports, see the Muṣannaf of Ibn Abi Shaybah, 'The Chapter of Giving Dirhams as Zakāt al-Fiḥ' v. 2, p. 398-399.)

Amongst the four classical madhhabs, the ṣanbalīs, Shafiīs and Mālikīs prohibited giving zakāt al-fitr in cash. (As with most opinions, there are minority opinions within these madhhabs deeming it permissible; both the Mālikīs and ṣanbalīs have positions that allow it, and there is even a saying in the Shafiī madhhab as well, but the relied upon ruling in these three madhhabs is that it is not allowed – for references, see al-Mardāwī's Inṣāf v. 7, p. 130; al-Nawawī's al-Majmūṣ, v. 5, p. 428; al-Dasūqī's ṣashiyah v. 1, p. 502).

**Only the Ḥanafīs deemed it permissible (see al-Sarakhsī's al-Mabḥūḥ v. 2, p. 156).**

The primary evidence used by the majority is the famous ṣadīth of Ibn ṣUmar quoted above, in which specific food items are mentioned. These scholars

claimed, "The fact that the Prophet ṣalla Allahu ṣalayhi wa sallam specifically mentioned these food items shows that it is impermissible to substitute others for it." This is the crux of their argument.

However, in response, it can be said: The reason why the Prophet ṣalla Allahu ṣalayhi wa sallam mentioned these items is simply due to the fact that these were the staple food items of Madinah. Hence, the majority of scholars – including those who did not allow giving zakāt al-fitr in cash – allowed giving other food items instead of these ones, such as rice. There is no explicit evidence prohibiting giving this zakāt in money; the opinion rests primarily on taking the standard practice of the Prophet ṣalla Allahu ṣalayhi wa sallam as being exclusively representative of the zakāt, and ruling out all other possibilities.

**Those who allowed giving cash (i.e., the Ḥanafīs) have some evidences for their opinion.**

Firstly, they use the report of Muṣadh b. Jabal when he was the governor of Yemen. It states that Muṣadh told the people of Yemen to give him clothes and robes in lieu of grain, since giving cloth would be easier for them, and more useful for the people of Madinah, where the zakāt was heading (reported in muṣallaq form in al-Bukhārī). This is a very crucial and important piece of evidence. It shows that Muṣadh did not take their zakāt in the way it normally would have been taken (e.g., sheeps, goats, grain, silver, gold), but rather took its equivalent in another commodity. He did this for two reasons. Firstly, since cloth was more readily available in Yemen, hence easier for them to give, than gold and silver. Secondly, since Yemeni cloth was a prized commodity, especially in Madinah, and it would have been appreciated much more than, say, Yemeni dates, grain or sheep. Hence, giving zakāt in cloth proved easier for the Yemenites, and more beneficial for the recipients. And this is a fatwa from no less an authority than Muṣadh b. Jabal, whom the Prophet described as being the most knowledgeable of ṣalāl and ṣarām.

For our situation, this report can be extrapolated to claim that cash and currency is easier for us to give, and more appreciated by its recipients.

*Continue reading on pg.11*



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(Recall) when Ibrāhīm said, “My Lord, make this a city of peace and provide its people with fruits - those of them who believe in Allah and the Last Day.” Quran 2: 126

**May Allah expose the perpetrators of evils and grant us everlasting peace and happiness in Nigeria. Ameen**

”

## Editorial Policy

**About Us: Muslim News, a publication of Rawshield PR Media, is a mouthpiece for underreported Muslim achievers and events in Nigeria and across the world, which are never given prominence in the mainstream media.**

**Our Mission: To give special media attention and coverage to important people and events in the life of Muslims that do not gain mainstream media attention, and to change the media narrative of blaming Islam and Muslims for offences committed in its lofty name.**

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**Our perception about Nigeria must change for good. If as citizens, we crave for a righteous leader, we must exhibit goodness in our behaviour and conduct. If citizens are bad, more often than not, Allah gives them bad and wicked leaders. And if they are good, Allah in His infinite mercy blesses them with good leaders. Nigerians need to be more patriotic and show sincere love for their fatherland.**

– Rasheed Abubakar,  
Publisher, Muslim News Nigeria

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**Muslim News Nigeria** is a publication of Rawshield PR Company  
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By: Rasheed Abubakar

# Ramadan 2022: NSCIA, JNIDecry insecurity in Nigeria

The President-General, Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Abubakar Sa'ad III says any government that is incapable of protecting the lives of its citizens has lost the moral justification of being in government and therefore has no business occupying leadership position.

He said this in a statement signed on his behalf by Dr. Khalid Abubakar Aliyu, Secretary-General, JNID in a response to the gory incident of the train attack which occurred on Monday, March 28, 2022.

Expressing concern over the spate of killings and deteriorating state of security in the country, the NSCIA and Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI), under the leadership of its President-General said the two bodies were saddened by the unfortunate incident.

The statement read in part, "The well-orchestrated incident remains highly condemnable, reprehensible and upsetting to every rational mind. It appears that the callous acts of mayhem, killings and arson happening almost on a daily and weekly basis around us; either within communities and/or on the roads we ply, has automatically reset our human psyche that we now have accepted such dastardly acts as part of our lives, to the extent that we no longer feel it. The humanity in us is slowly being eroded thereby making us adapt to the new normal within which we, unfortunately find ourselves.

"It should be noted that in Islam and by all global standards, the essence of government or governance is solely to protect the five principal cardinal rights of the human race, the most important of which is LIFE! Any government that is incapable of protecting the lives of its citizens has lost the moral justification of being there in the first place; as enunciated in section 33 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"We have carefully studied and followed-up the unfortunate train blast, especially that another train attack was reported to have occurred on the Lagos-Kano bound train, near Jaji, Kaduna state, on Thursday, 31st March, 2022, which inevitably led to the death of the locomotive operator.

The Sultan premised his address on the fact that Nigeria is more or less heading to an unknown destination of "multiple cum well-coordinated serial chaos attributable to lack of coordination and synergy from security personnel, if the news making the rounds is to be believed.

Citing Islamic historical reference, the Sultan Abubakar recalled several astonishing and bravery arts of governance exhibited by Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and Muslim leaders. For instance, during the time of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), he battled and expelled Banu Qaynuqa from the city of Madinah, because a woman was molested in the market by one of them and the community-supported his actions.

He noted that the Prophet (SAW) did not waste time but promptly attacked Banu Qaynuqa and expelled them, the move which served as deterrence to others with evil intentions.



•Buhari



•Sultan

The Sultan held that in Nigeria of today, many wives are being raped daily in the presence of their husbands, mothers in the presence of their sons, daughters in the presence of their fathers and sisters in the presence of their brothers.

He stressed that human life is held sacrosanct in Islam, saying that is why Allah (SWT) declared in the Glorious Quran that if a single soul is killed without just cause, it is as if the entire humanity is wiped off the face of the earth.

"We claim to be people of faith and all these occurrences are allowed without any form of prompt intervention. Why? Well, it should be known that an attack on one soul; is an attack on all, and this is how the human race should be preserved and protected, but if allowed to continue we fear the consequences on the innocent souls that were killed, without any fault of theirs", he said

The President-General, NSCIA remarked that terrorists are now becoming bolder and more belligerent by the day as they operate in any area of their choice at any time they so wish; sometimes operating for up to eight hours as reported to have happened in Niger state last Monday.

He wondered why most communities are now under the bandits' absolute control with taxes being paid to bandits in some communities without any fear of being confronted or apprehended.

The Sultan tasked the military to justify the huge resources being allocated to it with relevant intelligent gathering mechanism, given the much touted modern military arsenal.

He therefore called for thorough investigation of the Kaduna-bound train with punitive measures taken against those responsible for security breach.

## 'Insecurity, a big threat'

Muslim News reports that the Sultan, alongside his Christian counterpart, the President of the

Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev. Samson Ayokunle Olasupo met in Abuja on Monday, April 11, where they jointly declared insecurity as a big threat to the 2023 general elections.

Both religious leaders spoke during the Inclusive Security Dialogue Retreat organised in collaboration with the Global Peace Foundation and Vision Africa, towards social cohesion, sustainable peace and security in Nigeria.

They were worried that the political and socio-economic destiny of Nigeria was fast nosediving, hence the need to reawaken the consciousness of Nigerians to make right electoral choice when the opportunity comes next year.

The Sultan of Sokoto, represented by the co-chairman of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace, Kunle Sanni, suggested a decisive action against the bandits.

He called for quick dispensation of justice via swift prosecution of arrested bandits and terrorists.

"How many of them have been jailed or executed? These people have killed thousands of people. Some people should pay for all these atrocities".

Kunle Sanni called for the resignation of the National Security Adviser and the Service Chiefs, saying they have failed.

Kunle Sanni, who asked President Buhari to get new people with fresh ideas to confront the situation wondered why the president knows how to recruit people to work for him, but he doesn't know how to hold them accountable.

He expressed fear that unless Nigerians speak up and tell the truth to one another, there may be no Nigeria in 2023.

The Sultan of Sokoto insisted that corruption remains the bane of Nigeria's problem, saying, anywhere people think there is money, a lot of corrupt elements move to that side.

"The issue of insecurity in

Nigeria is the new 'crude oil' because that is where the money is", he said.

## Take Battle to terrorists' enclaves

He therefore tasked the President Buhari-led administration to take the battle to the terrorists' enclaves.

He said, "It is high time the security outfits are directed to ransack the enclaves of all criminal elements and deal with them decisively. Informants should not be spared, as they are more dangerous than the killers. They should be made to face the right punishment befitting their crime. The intelligence community should beef-up their efforts in trying to dig to the root of this phenomena."

## Combating the scourge of hard drugs

The Sultan remarked that scholars of social behavior have discovered that most acts of terrorism and banditry are carried out under the influence of hard drugs. He thus urged the government to up its game in the war against drugs as a part of efforts to tackle insecurity in Nigeria.

"Drug is the elixir that spurs criminals to action. Suppliers, vendors and traffickers of hard drugs and intoxicants must be dealt with decisively. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and other security agencies should as a matter of national security note and penetrate into villages, higher institution campuses, motor parks and recreational or viewing centres, because they are now dwellings where hard drugs/substances are being peddled brazenly.

The monarch urged parents, religious and community leaders to play their roles in the fight against illicit drugs/substance pervading most households and neighbourhoods, stressing that such collaboration should be considered a fight for all and not only for the government.

He called on all those in the position of authority, irrespective of their tribe and political affiliations to

fear Allah and refrain from politicising security issues.

Alhaji Abubakar Sa'ad, however, called on Nigerians not to be deterred, but be more optimistic, as with every hardship comes a relief.

"We should continue to pray fervently for the restoration of peace, security, prosperity, and development, especially in this blessed month of Ramadan."

He prayed that Allāh guides the government and the security agencies to find an enduring end to the orgies of insecurity challenges bedeviling Nigeria.

## We're committed to securing lives and property – Presidency

The Presidency said that the Federal Government (FG) is committed to securing the lives and property of Nigerians amid the rising wave of violent attacks in the nation.

This was made known by the President's Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Garba Sheu via a statement on Wednesday.

"Nigerians are assured that the government will keep its promise to the nation and threats to security will be handled with the firmness they call for, and the government will remain firm in securing the country's unity and progress," he said as he outlined some of the actions the government has taken to address the situation.

"In response to the recent spike in terrorists' activities, particularly in the Kaduna and Niger States axis, the defence establishment, in response to presidential directives, has realigned and reorganised the ongoing operation in the areas, as well as that going on in the Niger Delta region.

"The new operations structures are being reinforced with land-based assets to increase the efficiency of the troops and intelligence is equally being reinforced. The air defence system is being reinforced with newly acquired jets and drones which assemblage and training for operators have been hastened to meet the current exigencies."

## Many Arrested

Shehu also said that Nigeria is equally getting assurances of early delivery of equipment on order from manufacturers and effort is ongoing to conclude other major procurements still in process.

He revealed that the government has approved the procurement of the 'largest ever' single procurement of military vehicles.

"At the same time, similar major operations are going in the South-East and the South-South where the economic life wire of the nation and electricity transmission lines are currently being secured from saboteurs," said the President's spokesman.

"What the sponsored saboteurs aim to show is that the government cannot provide power by sabotaging equipment at switches and other vital points. They will not succeed.

"The public knows who is who, and who has done what in our country's governance. Massive gains being made will shortly be manifesting. Large number of arrests have equally been made."



## NATIONAL HAJJ COMMISSION OF NIGERIA (NAHCON) APPLICATION FOR 2022 HAJJ LICENCE AND SLOT ALLOCATION FOR TRAVEL AGENCIES

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) hereby informs all duly registered Travel Agencies interested in 2022 Hajj Operation that arrangements for licensing and slot allocation have commenced. Interested Travel Agencies are therefore, invited to apply for the grant of 2022 Hajj license and slot allocation.

### 2. CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION:

- i) The applicant must be a Travel Agency duly Registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria (CAC) with a minimum Share Capital of N 30,000,000 (Thirty Million Naira), a standard corporate office, valid IATA agency approval and IATA accredited staff.
- ii) The applicant must have been licensed by the Commission for a period of at least three consecutive years, and must have been operating satisfactory Umrah services consecutively to date. Evidence of utilization of Umrah License must be attached.
- iii) The applicant, its directors, shareholders, representatives or proxies must have no record of criminal conviction by any court in Nigeria or Saudi Arabia nor indicted by any of the Nigerian or Saudi Arabian Hajj Agencies, Aviation Authorities or any other Government Regulatory Agency.
- iv) The applicant is expected to submit application request online via the Hajj Licensing portal: [hto.nigeriahajjcom.gov.ng](http://hto.nigeriahajjcom.gov.ng)

upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira)

- v) The online application must be accompanied with a security refundable deposit of N5,000,000 (Five Million Naira) as prescribed by Section 16 (4) of NAHCON (Establishment) Act, 2006.

### 3. SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Successful applicants would be required to, amongst others, provide:

- i) Licensing Fee of the sum of N500,000.00 for the 2022 Hajj operation,
- ii) Details of proposed Hajj Package and a reputable Guarantor (in line with the Commission's format) for each or group of pilgrims acceptable to the Commission.
- iii) Evidence of booking for the airlift of the allocated pilgrims through International scheduled Airlines or other approved carriers by the Commission,
- iv) Details of the passengers/pilgrims,
- v) Evidence of confirmed accommodation at both Makkah and Madinah in a Hotel not below the status of 3 Star. The accommodation must be registered in the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Hajj Portal. For Madinah, it must be within Markaziyyah and must not be more than 1km away from Haram in Makkah.

By: Our Reporters

# 1st Ramadan lecture series: *Muslim News* gathers Nigerian scholars, preaches 'love for one's country'

Seasoned Islamic scholar, Sheikh (Dr.) Siraajudeen Bilal Al-Asrau has charged Nigerians on the need to love and pray for their country, noting that Prophet Muhammad (SAW) loved Makkah (in present-day Saudi Arabia), his country of origin.

Sheikh Al-Asrau bemoaned the increasing trend of placing curses on the country and its leaders among some Nigerians, saying this is part of the impediments that have blocked the nation from progressing.

The scholar who obtained his bachelor, masters, and PhD degrees from the prestigious Islamic University, Madina, Saudi Arabia disclosed this while speaking at the *Muslim News* first Ramadan 1443AH lecture series.

The newly introduced *Muslim News* lecture series began on Saturday, April 9 (Ramadan day 8) with the first appearance being that of the revered Islamic scholar, live on the medium's Facebook page, addressing the theme, "The love of one's country".

According to him, "Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is a role model that laid down great examples and legacies in terms of loving one's country. Allah (SWT) honoured the Prophet (SAW) by giving his country of origin a mention in the Qur'an and swearing by it.

"The love the Prophet had for his country, Makkah was so massive that when Allah commanded him to leave it for Madinah on hijrah, he stayed back a little at the border and said, 'Oh Makkah, I love you so much. If not for fellow countrymen who had ganged up to send me away from you, I wouldn't have left you.' Allah then revealed in the Qur'an that the Prophet (SAW) was going to be returned to the city of Makkah once

again, and should keep his mind at rest.

When the Prophet got to Madinah, he was still always engrossed with Makkah until he had a dream that he would perform Umrah at Makkah. Since then, he looked forward to the day he would go for the lesser pilgrimage. Therefore, it is imperative to love one's country dearly. And this is not for Muslims alone, people of other faiths too must join hands to love their country and ensure it does not fall."

Sheikh Asrau said Muslims

of Prophet Ibrahim that has kept Makkah which he met as a deserted land firm, charging Nigerians to see praying for the country and its leaders as a duty.

"Before the Prophet was called to prophethood, he had always been part of a committee in his country, Makkah that is responsible for defending the interests of those that were treated unfairly and have been undermined. This committee ensured restitution for them. Then, he was yet to be a Prophet but loved his country dearly.

religion. In fact, if you get to a country that's not yours, it's required that you join hands with its citizens to move it forward.

Also speaking, the Chief Imam of Usman Bn Affan Jumu'at Mosque, Kano, Sheikh (Dr.) Aliyu Yunus Muhammad has said that Nigerians must do everything possible for peace to reign in the country, saying obedience and cooperation with the authorities is an evidence of patriotism.'

Sheikh Aliyu said responsible people love their country

Rather, it is a discussion revolving around one's life and growth. It's based on the depth of one's values and principles.

One of the Muslim scholars, Imam Al-Asmaii' said he heard a Bedouin Arab saying 'if you want to know whether a person is responsible or not, you should look into his affection and attachment to his country, his longing for his brothers and his weeping over the time he has spent at home'.

"In essence, what this is showing is that a responsible person is always remembering his people and nation. So, loving one's country and affiliating oneself to the nation is natural. When a person is born in a particular place and grows up in it, drinks and eats in it, and lives amongst his people, naturally he becomes connected to that place; wherever he goes, he never forgets that place.

"Allah says about the Israelites that, 'If I had said to them that they should kill themselves and go out of their nations, only a few of them would do.' It is not an easy task for somebody to leave his home or kill his fellow brothers," he noted.

The graduate of Islamic University, Madina, said Allah linked love for one's country to his religion. He quoted a verse from the Noble Qur'an where Allah says, "He does not forbid us from relating well to those who do not fight us or expel us from our homes."

Speaking further, he cited a narration where Anas Ibn Malik reported that when the Prophet (SAW) travels and returns from his journeys, on nearing Madinah, he would make his camel walk faster due to his love for Madinah. i.e. whenever he is returning from journey, he quickly enters Madinah.



Sheikh Al-Asrau



Sheikh Yunus

must be part of groups committed to national development and eschew disuniting or destabilizing the country.

He added that it is the prayer

"After he was called as a Prophet, he said he would have graciously accepted to join such a committee if invited once more. This shows national development is the duty of everyone irrespective of

and feel deeply attached to it to the extent that they do not want to leave.

According to him, "Speaking about one's country and professing love for it is not a topic that revolves around racism or bigotry.

To read full report log on to: [www.muslimnews.com.ng](http://www.muslimnews.com.ng)

**"We must pray for them for guidance. These curses and negative statements coming from countrymen are too much. I have lived in so many Arab countries and I know how they react to their governments even when they are not living up to expectations."**

**Muslim News**, Nigeria's most authoritative Islamic newspaper, has commenced the distribution of 10,000 cases Dubic Malt to fasting Muslims in Lagos and neighboring States.

The distribution which kicked off in Lagos Island, Surulere, and Victoria Island, Lagos on Monday, April 25, is sponsored by Guinness Nigeria, the manufacturers of Africa's number one non-alcoholic malt drinks: Dubic Malt and Malta Guinness.

*Muslim News* findings revealed that the distribution, the second edition, continued on Tuesday at different mosques in Igando, Ikorodu, Ikotun, Ojodu, among others, and is expected to run through the Eid-ul-Fitr celebration.

The Ramadan/Eid-ul-Fitr free Dubic Malt distribution was also extended to other parts of Lagos and Atan-Otta, Ogun State on Wednesday, with many faithful extolling the medium, which has been serving as the authentic mouthpiece of the Nigerian Muslims since inception three years ago.

In a statement on

## Guinness Nigeria supports *Muslim News* with 10,000 cases of Dubic Malt during Ramadan, Eid



Sheikh Abdul Azeez Abojututu, Chief Imam Surutudeen Central Mosque, Ikorodu receiving Dubic Malt case from Mallam Rasheed Abubakar, Publisher of *Muslim News Nigeria*, who is also the coordinator of the free distribution of Dubic Malt in Ikorodu area of Lagos state.

Wednesday, Publisher of *Muslim News*, Mallam Rasheed Abubakar said apart from being a special medium reporting Islam and Muslims in Nigeria and across the world, the

outfit is committed to the welfare of Muslims.

"To demonstrate this commitment, we reached out to Guinness Nigeria for sponsorship on

the distribution of their premium non-alcoholic malt drink to fasting Muslims during Ramadan and Eid," he noted.

He added that this year's

distribution, second of its kind, is bigger.

"Unlike the last edition, we got more cases to distribute. We received 10,000 cases of Dubic Malt to distribute to our brethren. So, we are expanding the scope of our distribution in Lagos and are also looking at going to neighboring States. We shall also reach out to local and central mosques, and 'itikaf centers.

"We don't want to be known for writing news about Muslims alone. We want to also be known for being concerned about the welfare of Muslims," Abubakar said.

Abubakar appreciated the management of Guinness Nigeria for making this year's edition a reality, thanking Ambassador Abayomi Nurain Mumuni, who facilitated the whole process.

Commenting on the initiative, Corporate Relations Director for Guinness Nigeria Plc – Mr. Rotimi Odusola said "this partnership is in line with our commitment to build thriving communities and support our consumers in moments like this, especially as this coincides with our 72nd anniversary in Nigeria".

By: Abdullahi Abdulganiy

Respected Islamic scholar, Sheikh Dr. Sirraajudeen Bilal Al-Asrau has revealed that seeking the knowledge of the Qur'an and Sunnah strengthens the connection with Allah through obedience and knowing the purpose of human existence, and working accordingly are some of the ways reformation of the soul can be achieved.

Sheikh Asrau made this disclosure on Saturday while speaking (in Yoruba) at the 17th annual Ramadan lecture of the University of Lagos Muslim Community, with the theme; "The Self-Reproaching Soul."

Other ways suggested by the Iwo, Osun State-born scholar include the application of purification and morality, exercising patience at all times, maintenance of optimism and avoidance of pessimism, as well as reading about the biographies of the prophets and righteous ones.

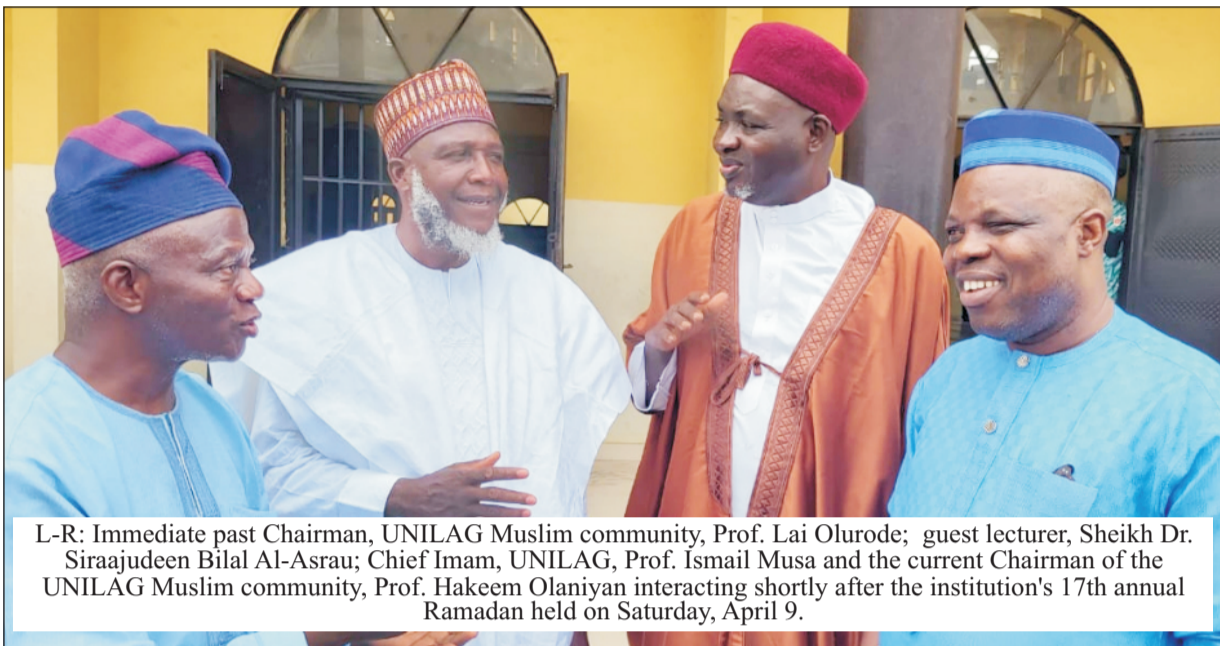
The lecture was summarised into English by Dr. Mustapha Ibrahim, Resident Imam, University of Lagos Muslim Community.

The distinguished speaker defined An-Nafs as the part of the body of a human being that motivates, directs and is responsible for human behaviour, thoughts, whims, morals, emotions, and orientations, whether good or bad.

He went further to give the difference between an-Nafs and ar-Ruuh by stating that the former is the nature of every human being which directs him and is responsible for his actions while the latter (ar-Ruuh) is that part of the body that gives life to the body and with its termination, the function of every organ in the human body automatically comes to an end.

At the programme well attended by the members of the University of Lagos Muslim Community, Sheikh Asrau affirmed the call to the purification of the human soul as one of the objectives of the glorious Qur'an, quoting a number of the Qur'an passages that support his assertion.

## Purify your soul if you want to be successful, scholar urges Muslims at UMC 17th Annual Ramadan Lecture



L-R: Immediate past Chairman, UNILAG Muslim community, Prof. Lai Olurode; guest lecturer, Sheikh Dr. Sirraajudeen Bilal Al-Asrau; Chief Imam, UNILAG, Prof. Ismail Musa and the current Chairman of the UNILAG Muslim community, Prof. Hakeem Olaniyan interacting shortly after the institution's 17th annual Ramadan held on Saturday, April 9.

One of them is Q:91:1-7 (as-Shams) where Allah says, "And by the soul and He who proportioned it. And inspired it (with discernment of) its wickedness and righteousness. He who purifies it has succeeded. And who instills it [with corruption] has failed".

Dr. Asrau, a Ph.D. graduate of Madinah University, Saudi Arabia, brilliantly defined tazkiyah in a technical sense as a situation where the soul is purified from dirt and impurities and developed by inculcating into it good attributes.

He argues that although Imam al-Ghazali (an 11th century Sunni Islamic) believed that purification of the soul is an individual obligation (fard 'ayn), the majority of scholars held the view that it is an obligation of sufficiency or collective obligation (fard kifaayah) on the Ummah in general.

Speaking on the importance of the purification of the soul, Sheikh

Asrau gave four basic points. "1. That Allah swore in the glorious Qur'an eleven times on the prosperity of one who purifies his soul and on the loss of one who neglects doing so. 2. That the soul's main objective is to mislead and call for transgression if not purified. 3. That purification of the soul is the path to paradise. 4. That human beings naturally love perfection and perfection of actions cannot be achieved except with the purification of the soul.

He also explained to the audience the means of purification of the soul, which he describes as; "Striving to purify the soul from immoral manners, adorning it with virtues, regularly observing the obligatory duties as they are the best of acts of obedience that draw the servant closer to his Lord, and doing a lot of voluntary acts. 5. Reflecting on the verses Qur'an.

According to him, there are

three categories of souls. There is the soul that commands evil, which is the worst, the self-reproaching soul which is fair/better, and the reassured soul which is the best.

On the conditions of a reassured soul, Sheikh Asrau mentioned some conditions that assist in attaining this type of soul, including; 1- Union of actions, 2- Simplicity, 3- Searching for new good things to do, 4- Being beneficial to the Ummah, 5- Exhibiting reliance on Allah (SWT), 6- Being connected to faith and its articles always and 7- Not interfering in the privacy of others.

### Why we chose the theme on the 'soul'

The chairman of the UNILAG Muslim community, Prof. Hakeem Olaniyan thanked Allah for the success of the 17th Ramadan lecture and specifically appreciated the commitment of the lecturer.

On the choice of the theme,

the Chairman said, "The lecturer himself suggested some topics, we discussed them and we found this particular one very unique and that's why we decided to go for it.

"As you could see, the lecture was so notching, fit for all time, beyond the period of Ramadan. Interestingly, our Imam (at UNILAG) also delivered a lecture on 'the soul' during his Friday Khutbah. He quoted one of the verses that were quoted today, where Allah says, 'he has succeeded, he who cleanses his heart'.

"We can situate in all of these that the heart is the troubled part of our body. The heart, if not nurtured with Allah's words, can make the society turn for the worst. Those who do evil have the opportunity to reflect before they do it; they also have the opportunity of reflecting after doing it. If they have clean hearts, they would not do it.

"We cannot clean the human heart enough. We must continue to preach into the human heart for it to abandon evil and do good. More of us that abandon evil and do good, the better the society."

### We're becoming what we want to be – Prof. Bello

The Former VC of the University, Prof. Rahman Bello, who chaired the annual event, commended the chairman and the officers of the UMC including the Chief Imam, Prof. Ismail Musa for their dedication and commitment to the activities of the community.

Prof. Bello, who bowed out as the 11th VC of the institution, said in his goodwill message, "I remember we started 17 years ago, alhamdulillah, Allah has assisted us to this point and we pray to Him to sustain it for us, and keep it going for years to come.

"Between last year and this year, Allah has blessed the community with more of its members becoming professors. In shaa Allah, by next Ramadan, we'll be having more joining the professional cadre. Alhamdulillah, we are becoming what we want to be. May Allah accept it as acts of worship. Ameen."

## Sheikh Shafi'i urges Nigerians to help gov't. with information

Respected Lagos-based Islamic scholar, Sheikh Dhikrullah Shafii' will tonight, Wednesday, March 30, shelve his weekly fatwa programme (Al-Fatwa) to offer prayers for the victims of the recent fatal train attack that happened along the Abuja-Kaduna rail.

No fewer than 8 persons have been confirmed dead from the Monday attack where it was reported that the terrorists, numbering hundreds deployed explosives in wreaking havoc on the moving train.

Sheikh Shafii' who is an Imam (Spiritual Leader) of The Muslim Congress (TMC) and Mufti of the Conference of Islamic Organisations (CIO) will lead thousands of his followers across

the world in a special prayer session over the incident in place of his usual lecture series, Al-Fatwa, where he attends to Islamic jurisprudential matters every Wednesday at 8:30pm on his official Facebook page.

In a chat with Muslim News ahead of the special session, Sheikh Shafii' called on the federal government to secure the lives and property of every Nigerian, as he urged Nigerians to provide the security agencies with relevant information that will prevent future disasters.

"The Monday train attack in Kaduna is another pointer to the insecure state of Nigeria. Insecurity and economic instability are two major problems we are contending with in the country. Though government is

making strident efforts to secure the country, the truth is that they are not enough.

"Our losses are too numerous when we count them vis-a-vis lives, property and many others. Therefore, we have to continue to call on the government, especially the federal government to up their ante. The state governments should also complement these efforts", he noted.

On the role of the citizens, Sheikh Shafii said, "although the attack is unfortunate, there is also a need for the citizens to be helpful to the government in the war against insecurity.

"The criminal elements causing havoc in the country are a tiny minority. We the responsible citizens must be ready to provide

useful information to the government and authorities.

"When we notice anything strange in our communities, we should immediately stand up against it and reach out to the authorities.

"We must also check our individual families to ensure we are producing responsible members of the society.

Sheikh Shafii' didn't forget to explain the responsibility of religious leaders (both Muslims and Christians) in the fight against terrorism and banditry.

"Schol

ars of both religions also have a duty to sensitise their various followers. And then, we cannot undermine the place of prayer in this whole chaos. Tonight, we will pray for the victims and sensitise our members," he added.



Sheikh Shafi'i

# SPECIAL REPORT: Muslims go into seclusion in search of Night of Majesty

## + Most expensive 'itikaf centre in Nigeria revealed

By: Rasheed Abubakar

**N**igerian Muslims will join their counterparts in other countries to embark on spiritual seclusion in various central mosques as they enter the third phase of the holy month of Ramadan 1443 AH.

This spiritual seclusion, known as 'itikaf, starts from the sunset of the 20th day of Ramadan and ends immediately after the new moon of Shawwal (the tenth month of the Islamic calendar) is sighted.

According to Islamic belief, 'itikaf protects from the evil consequences of excessive talking and also enhances concentration towards the worship of Allah.

Being the last ten days when worshippers engage more in Taraweeh, recitation of the Qur'an, remembrance of Allah, and so on, it also comprises the Lailatul Qadr (Night of Majesty), which, according to the Almighty Allah, is better than a thousand months.

Investigations carried out by Muslim News showed that Nigerian Muslims, like their counterparts across the globe, have expressed readiness and renewed their intentions to embark on this spiritual seclusion at various central mosques after a hiatus of two years.

Furthermore, those who have enough money have concluded all arrangements to perform 'itikaf at the grand mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah, when they go for Umrah (lesser Hajj) during the last ten days, which begins on Thursday (tonight).

It would be recalled that 'itikaf was suspended in Nigeria and other countries including the two holy mosques for two years following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted economic and religious activities.

This medium reported how many central mosques were under lockdown and religious gatherings shut down in many major central mosques in Nigeria, which prevented Muslims from the opportunity to embark on 'itikaf for nearly two years.

The suspension of 'itikaf continued during Ramadan of 2021 as a precautionary measure to stem the spread of coronavirus, which has killed 2,061 and infected 164,588 Nigerians as of April 21, 2021.

Many, however, could not hide their excitement when the Nigerian government in early April 2022 lifted the COVID-19 restrictions and midnight curfew due to the declining number of cases during the beginning of Ramadan.



National Mosque, Abuja

Muslim News findings revealed that the ban lift gave mosque authorities across the country the opportunity to begin planning to accommodate fasting Muslims for 'itikaf in their respective mosques, except for some mosques which have canceled 'itikaf for this year due to other reasons.

### The most expensive 'itikaf

In a vox populi (vox-pop) conducted by our medium on social media handles, it emerged that the 'itikaf organised by the Lekki Muslim Ummah (LEMU), Victoria Island, Lagos is the most expensive, with the fee of N80,000 for registration, without feeding.

The Center only makes provision for a maximum number of 130 slots (80 males and 50 females).

Suleiman Opeyemi Musa'b who sent the infographics of LEMU's 'itikaf wrote, "LEMU is N80,000 excluding feeding."

Following LEMU according to responses gathered from the vox pop is Clear Path Islamic Centre, also in Lekki, Lagos, which charges N40,000. It is not clear if this fee excludes feeding like that of LEMU.

Alhaji AbdulFatai Olajide, Publicity Secretary, LEMU, while speaking with Muslim News on Wednesday, said the community is prepared for the 2022 'itikaf.

According to him, "As usual, we are very prepared. And, we are always meticulous when it comes to events like that. 2019 was the last time we had 'itikaf. We didn't hold any of it in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19. Now that the restrictions have been lifted, we are having our 'itikaf for this year. We are taking a lot of precautions to ensure a

hitch-free seclusion."

Some of the restrictions, he said, are allowing only 130 participants. "Normally we have a capacity for over 300, but we are restricting the number to just 130 – 80 males, 50 females. There will still be social distancing even though the FG has canceled that", he noted.

Clearing the air on the registration fee of N80,000, Alhaji Olajide stated that it was due to the economic situation of the country. "What we normally do during 'itikaf is that we give people 24/7 power, with full AC and other amenities, so that people won't have any reason to complain.

"As you know, electricity is epileptic now. That is why we'll be running on generator throughout the last ten days of Ramadan. When we carried out our budgeting, diesel alone will consume about 5.2 million naira. Other logistics such as cleaning, water, and evacuation of the septic tank, among others are included. We're doing this solely for the convenience of our participants.

Regarding feeding, Alhaji Olajide revealed that LEMU has adopted the service of food vendors since 2019, adding that, "we ensure that the prices of food are reasonable enough for every participant to be able to afford."

Speaking further, "Before that time, we used to cook for them, which was a little bit challenging. For instance, if you have fried rice, and jollof rice alone on the menu list, some people might opt for beans and we can't cook all kinds of food. So, in 2019, we decided to stop cooking ourselves and engage two notable eateries. They set up their shops in our dining hall, for participants to order different varieties and pay for

them. People are happy about this development.

"The only thing we did back then and which we are still doing now is that we ensure that the prices of foods are reasonable for all participants, as little as N500 per meal.

On LEMU being the most expensive, he said he wasn't surprised considering the location, serenity of their Mosque, and quality of services delivered to the participants.

"Naturally, LEMU mosque is the first purpose-built mosque in Lagos. In terms of cleanliness and other amenities, that's why we are charging a premium; It's understandable. No other mosque provides the kind of services we render," he added.

### Other mosques

Muslim News findings revealed that the registration fee is separated from feeding in other central mosques as well. However, even as registration is free in some cases, feeding comes with a cost.

Organisers of the 'itikaf at Daarun Nai'm Central Mosque charge the sum of N30,000, according to Taofeeq Olatide Lawal, who expressed his willingness to perform the spiritual seclusion there.

"Daarun Nai'm Central Mosque is N30,000. But I don't have the money. If someone can sponsor me, I will be happy. If I make it, it's going to be my first 'itikaf ever. Jazakumullahu khaeran in advance," he noted.

Ishola AbdulLateef said there is nothing like registration and feeding fees at Jaaheed Central Mosque, Bayeiku, Ikorodu, Lagos.

"It is free, and there's

nothing like feeding fee, we eat from our own pockets," he said.

At Al-Jaohara Mosque, Epe, Lagos State, the registration fee is N10,000, said Oladosu Tunde. While for Salafi Mosque, Ilorin, Kwara State capital, registration is N5,000 and feeding is N10,000, in the words of Ojuabere Tosho.

Findings also revealed that 'itikaf at Sagamu Central Mosque, Ogun state attracts N10,000, which covers both registration and feeding, as noted by Alliu Ademola Sanni. However, Jimoh Olajojo said at Central Mosque, Ondo state, registration is free and feeding is N1,500 per day.

Muslim Islam reported that Al-Usrah Masjid, Port Harcourt, Rivers State charges N5,000 for registration and N25,000 for feeding. For Da'wah Centre, Ijesha, Lagos State, the registration fee is N2,500, while feeding (sahur or Iftar only) attracts N8,000.

Speaking with Muslim News, the founder of Al-Usrah, Prof. Abdul Razaq Kilani revealed that 'itikaf has been the tradition of their mosque for some years, adding, "We only had a temporary setback during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"What we have done is to reactivate all our programmes for 'itikaf such as awareness, registration, sanitation and preparation of the participants spiritually. We have a series of other programmes which we have started from the beginning of Ramadan. In shaa Allah, our 'itikaf will be commencing tomorrow, Thursday."

Kilani, a foremost Islamic scholar and preacher, explained that there are no restrictions on the numbers of participants expected at the mosque.

According to him, "There are many mosques in Port Harcourt that will also have their own 'itikaf. Because of that, we aren't expecting overwhelming numbers that we won't be able to cater for. That is why we didn't put restrictions. Our Mosque is a storey building; the women will be using the upper part, while the men will be on the ground floor."

Regarding feeding, Prof. Kilani noted that there are two options for participants, adding, "The first category are those who want to take their sahur and iftar from the source (the organisers). For the second category, they can buy their foods from vendors who are also at the venue. Those who are not interested in the above can also make their private arrangements. Our Mosque also allows that. All they need to do is register."

"We have two sets of



Prof. Pantami

**When the glorious month of Ramadan sets in, the atmosphere changes and this is felt by all and sundry. The level of spirituality is stepped up with various acts of worship. Sadaqah (charity), nawaafil (supererogatory prayers), tilawatul Qur'an (recitation of the Qur'an), attending knowledge gatherings, and many others.**

One unique gathering in the month is the Tafsirul-Qur'an (exegesis of the Qur'an) sessions that hold at virtually all mosques, Islamic centres, and communities. This brings Muslims together, where the interpretations of the Qur'an - the inimitable words of Allah - are explained in clearer terms.

One of such places is at the An-Noor Masjid, Wuse 2, Abuja, where the Nigerian Minister for Communications and Digital Economy, Professor Isa Ali Pantami was the Mufasir (lecturer) for the year 2022. This has been an annual event and the focus was Surah Al-Imran, the third chapter of the Qur'an.

Surah Al-Imran is dedicated to the household of Imran, the father of Maryam (may Allah be pleased with her), who gave birth to a miraculous son, Isa (peace be upon him).

Sheikh Pantami began the tafsir session with the story of Zakariyah on April 3, referencing verse 33 where Allah said He preferred the families of Adam, Noah, the descendants of Abraham and of Imran above all mankind.

At the well-attended daily tafsir, the erudite scholar proceeded to narrate the story of Maryam on Day 7, where Allah (in verse 37) states that the birth of Maryam was a blessing to her Father (Imran), just as Allah made her among the foremost pious women on earth.

The session expounded on how Maryam (Mary) was delivered at the time her mother was expecting a male child to dedicate to the service of Masjid al-Aqsa. She named the baby Maryam (Mary) meaning "a worshipper." In the end, the Almighty accepted her sacrifice of a female child. He also described that as a goodly acceptance.

The mother of Mary also supplicated to Almighty Allah to

protect her from Satan - the devil. Prophet Zakariyya (Zechariah) was appointed as her guardian.

The Chapter Al-Imran, Verse 36 and 37, says:

"Then when she delivered her [child Maryam (Mary)], she said: 'O my Lord! I gave birth to a female child,' - and Allah knew better what she gave birth to - 'And the male is not like the female, and I have named her Maryam (Mary), and I seek refuge with You (Allah) for her and her offsprings from Satan, the outcast.'"

"So, her Lord accepted her with goodly acceptance. He made her grow in a good manner and put her under the care of Zakariyya (Zechariah). Every time he entered Al-Mihrab to (visit) her, he found her supplied with sustenance. He said: 'O Maryam (Mary)! From where have you got this?' She said, 'This is from Allah.' Verily, Allah provides sustenance to whom He wills, without limit."

He continued with the virtues of Maryam in verses 42 and 43, extending to the miraculous birth of her son, Isa, otherwise known as Jesus by the Christians, who spoke in the cradle defending his mother and explaining his mission. The verses of Suratu Maryam from 27 to 33 were discussed extensively in explaining Jesus' birth by a virgin Maryam, also known as Mary.

Sheikh Pantami, who is also a professor of cyber security, exhibited a high level of scholarship in his tafsir. He eulogised the personality of Isa (Jesus) while conducting the exegesis of verses 52 and 53, saying Prophet Isa was a caller to the oneness of Allah and the obedience and adherence to His commandments and abstinence from His prohibitions.

This belief, firmly established in the Qur'an, contradicts what has been ascribed to him by those who claim to follow his path. Some regard him as 'God'. To some, he is the 'Son of God', but the Qur'an describes Isa as one of the Prophets of God who "invited his people to Allah's religion, just as he commanded to follow the teachings of the Injeel (Gospel) which was revealed to him."

"Some of the children of Israel accepted and believed in his

message, while some rejected and plotted against him. He announced among his people, looking for volunteers to help him in delivering the revelation sent to him for guidance and salvation of his people.

"Al-Hawariyyun (the Disciples) sacrificed themselves to partake in the assignment", he noted in a lecture delivered in Hausa and summarised in English.

The tafsir session of last Friday, April 15 which focused on verses 54 and 55 and interestingly, coincided with the 'Good Friday and Easter' Celebration. Good Friday and Easter are all about the acclaimed crucifixion and resurrection of Prophet Isa.

The Tafsir session was a wonderful opportunity utilised by Sheikh Pantami to clarify the ambiguities surrounding the 'crucifixion and resurrection of Prophet Isa (AS) with sound Qur'anic belief.

The session discussed various plots against Isa (Jesus) Peace be upon him. As a result, Allah made him (Isa) sleep and raised him to Himself.

To destroy the scheme of the plotters, Allah made the plotters crucify one of them thinking it was Isa. This happened as Allah made him (the crucified) resemble Isa without their knowledge.

## Tafsir-ul-Qur'an 3: 50-54

# Prof. Pantami eulogises Prophet Isa, says he invited his people to worship, obey Allah

The Glorious Qur'an 3:54, 55 says:

"And they (disbelievers) plotted (to kill Isa), but Allah planned too. And Allah is the Best of the planners.

And (remember) when Allah said: "O 'Isa (Jesus)! I will take you and raise you to Myself and clear you (of the forged statements) of those who disbelieve, and I will make those who follow you (monotheists, who worship none but Allah) superior to those who disbelieve [in the Oneness of Allah, or disbelieve in some of His Messengers, e.g. Muhammad (SAW), 'Isa (Jesus), Musa (Moses), etc., or in His Holy Books, e.g. the Taurat (Torah), the Injeel (Gospel), the Qur'an till the Day of Resurrection. Then you will return to Me and I will judge between you in the matters in which you used to dispute."

Some lessons learnt from the verses include:

1) Evil people plotted against Allah's Prophets and Messengers. They called Isa, a liar, and alleged his mother of committing fornication among others.

2) After the Prophets and the Messengers of Allah were no more with us physically, the evil people continue to plot against their heirs and inheritors, the religious scholars, and religious leaders.

3) Allah raised Isa (peace be upon him), unto Himself (SWT), while saving him from the plotters.

4) Allah (SWT) exonerated Isa (peace be upon him) and confirmed his respected status.

5) Allah covenanted to save His Prophets and their heirs from all the evil plans against them; and that the evil plans against the men of God will continue to fail woefully.



Cross-section of Muslim faithful listening to lecture

## Ramadan: Minister of Justice



Malami

**Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Alhaji Abubakar Malami has distributed over 17,500 bags of foodstuff to the less-privileged across 21 local government areas of Kebbi State.**

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the foodstuff, which was distributed through Khadimiyya Foundation, an NGO, founded and funded by the minister included; rice, sugar and millet.

Flagging off the distribution at Haliru Abdu Stadium, Birnin Kebbi, the state capital on Saturday, Gov. Atiku Bagudu described the gesture as a right step in the right direction.

Bagudu, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Alhaji Babale Umar-Yauri, advised other political office holders, elected officers and well-to-do Nigerians to borrow a leaf from the Attorney General with a view to reducing hardship amongst less-privileged persons.

"It is very and political office they earn to assist advised.

The governor the state government foodstuff meant to across the 21 LGAs.

In his speech humanitarian gesture been going on since years with the President Muhammadu Atiku Bagudu of Nigeria.

Malami the gesture public from associates who suggested to publicise good deeds and not for pride.

Quoting Qur'an, the minister people secretly definitely earn them from Almighty Allah. He recalled



# 6th Kebbi women's Ramadan lecture

No merit giving birth to children without proper care – Mufti Menk  
Be conscious of the company you keep, Kebbi First Lady tells youths

**T**he Mufti of Zimbabwe, Dr. Ismail Menk has said that there is no merit giving birth to children without taking proper care of them.

The renowned Islamic scholar made this statement while featuring as a guest lecturer at the 6th Kebbi Women's Ramadan Lecture held on Saturday, April 16.

He joined virtually from Al-Madinatul Al-Munawwara, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during his Umrah, lesser hajj.

The annual lecture which debuted in 2016 is sponsored by the Office of the Wife of the Governor, Hajjah Zainab Shinkafi Bagudu, who was among the '30 Muslim women of substance' unveiled by this medium in its March 2022 edition.

Mufti Menk explained that there is a natural connection between parents and children inspired by Allah, adding that children need to be taken care of as part of the will of Allah.

"It is easy to say you want to be a parent. But it is a challenge to nurture children. Why is it that Allah made it that we have to nurture our children? It is so that there will be a link between parent and children and that they would be able to take care of you as you age. Thus, the prayer taught for parents is: Rabbir hamhuma kama rabbayani sagheera. O Allah, have mercy on them as they had mercy upon me when I was small. A successful parent is one who has nurtured his children to establish a link with their maker," he said.

The scholar also decried the

increasing trend of crises in the society, saying some of the culprits killing and committing all atrocities are supposed Muslim children. According to him, every parent would be asked of how they raised their children.

"Today, we see a lot of children who lack manners. Hence, as an Ummah, it is the belief that there is somewhere we went wrong. We need to go back to check how the previous Ummah built an amazing society who were prosperous business men/women but were Muslims first. Muslims first before they were business owners.

"Today we have increased crisis in the society. Some of the people killing and committing all atrocities are supposed children of Muslims. The lack of communication leads to a disconnect between parents and children. Building a relationship with children starts from having a good relationship as parents which will extend to the children. There is no merit in having children if you are not going to take care of them," he said.

– **Be conscious of the company you keep**

In her welcome address, the Kebbi State First Lady thanked all participants, saying the

annual lecture has continued to gain wide acceptance among Muslim women in Kebbi State.

She added: "I am truly very grateful for the support from my husband, Governor Abubakar Atiku Bagudu. I must also thank my organising team and the speakers, some of whom have become 'regulars' — Mufti Menk and Sheikh Jabir.

"Amidst successes, the past year has been a difficult one for us in Kebbi and the entire country. As we struggle to recover from the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, a spate of banditry and insurgency has hit us."

She urged the youths to be very conscious of the company they



Kebbi State First lady presenting gift item to one of the beneficiaries

love of Islam and the desire to worship in the right manner. Parents should also recognise that raising good children can be a source of their salvation in the hereafter."

Other speakers at the event included Sheikh Jabir Sani Maihula, Sheikh Jafar Mahmud Adam, Malama Juwairiya Usman, Malama Zainab Jafar Adam, amongst others.

**Justice, a path that leads to paradise**

Also speaking, Dr. Jabir underscored the significance of justice in Islam, saying it is a path that leads to paradise.

According to him, one of those that would be shielded from the scorching sun on the Day of Resurrection is a just person.

"Whenever you are in a position of leadership including being a president, governor, director or a leader in your house. It is compulsory upon you to be just. Justice is a path to Jannah.

"The sun will be brought one mile above people's heads. Brains will be boiling and

giving everyone what they deserve, rewarding or punishing accordingly and putting things in their rightful places," he said.

Dr. Jabir further stressed that those whom Allah has given life, health and wealth but choose to serve something other than Allah are the most unjust.

**Gov Bagudu thanks his wife for sustaining lecture series**

Kebbi State Governor, Atiku Bagudu who was also present at the event congratulated his wife for sustaining the lecture series over the years.

The governor decried that the insecurity issue in the country was directly linked to upbringing, saying, "this is directly linked to a lot of people who feel neglected.

Bagudu said the country is now feeling the unpalatable consequences, resulting in myriad of security challenges.

The governor urged youths in the state to emulate the speakers at the event whom he described as "men and women of knowledge".

"They are a source of inspiration, they are men and women of knowledge who are internationally acclaimed."

Governor Bagudu was joined at the event by some of his cabinet members, including Special Adviser on Women Development, Hon. Zara'u Wali.



Mufti Menk

## Gov Bagudu distributes 17,500 bags of foodstuff in Kebbi

very important for elected leaders to use what is left of the downturned," he

governor also assured that the government had procured 17,500 bags of foodstuff to be distributed to people in the state during the Ramadan period.

In his speech, the minister said the gesture of this nature had been made only once before, recently over the last seven years with the consent and support of President Muhammadu Buhari and Governor Abubakar Atiku Bagudu in Kebbi State.

He said he decided to make the gesture due to consistent advice from Islamic clerics as well as Islamic clerics that it was not wrong to emulate the gesture for others to emulate.

In a verse from the Holy Quran, the Prophet said those who feed the poor and openly would be rewarded of their action by Allah.

He added that in recent past, he

drilled 236 boreholes across the state, assisted over 2,800 traders with start-up capital and over 500 people benefited from the CBN/FG support scheme.

The minister prayed that the gesture would be a path to earn Jannatul Firdus (highest paradise) in the hereafter.

Alhaji Sa'idu Dakingari, a former Governor of the state appreciated the minister for what he described as a gigantic gesture worthy of emulation by all political office holders.

He charged the committee saddled with the distribution of the items to be just and fear their creator in the discharge of their duties.

In a remark, the State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Alhaji Hassan Shalla assured that the gesture by the minister was not the first of its kind in the state.

He said the gesture was part of the magnanimity of All Progressives Congress (APC) from the federal to local government level.



Some of the trucks load of foodstuffs

# INTERVIEW: Quds Day is a unique manifestation of unity among Muslims - Iranian envoy

*International Quds Day is an annual event during which demonstrators express their solidarity with the Palestinian people and opposition to the occupation of Palestinian territories by the Zionist regime of Israel. The annual event, held on Friday, April 29, coinciding with the last Friday Ramadan 1443 AH was initiated by the late leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Ayatollah Ali Khomeini in 1979. Iranians held rallies in 900 cities and towns on Friday, April 29 to mark the annual International Quds Day after a two-year hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic. In commemoration of the day, Muslim News Nigeria in an exclusive interview with the Islamic Republic of Iran Ambassador to Nigeria, H. E Mr. Mohammad Alibak speaks on the significance of the day and the Iranian government's effort in supporting the Palestinian cause. Excerpts from the interview*

**Today is International Quds Day. Iran is at the forefront of championing this event. Why is Quds important to Iranians?**

The Late Imam Khomeini designated every last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan as the International Quds Day in order to open a new phase of solidarity with Palestinians and invite Muslims and freedom-loving nations to be vigilant in the face of Zionism and global arrogance.

Muslims and freedom-seeking nations hold ceremonies, rituals and demonstrations in order to support the rights of Palestinians to rule their own ancient country and decide their own fate as well as the Palestinian refugees' rights to come back to their homeland.

The participants of the demonstration want to reveal the criminal nature of the fake regime and underline that the Zionist regime is the main and common enemy of Muslim nations and the whole of humanity.

**What is the significance of the Quds Day?**

The Quds Day is a unique manifestation of unity among Muslims and all the world's freedom seekers in expressing support for Palestine and disgust for the usurper Zionist. It also illustrates an unparalleled portrayal of unity among the people of the world to condemn the atrocities and occupation of the Zionist regime and abhor the racist and inhuman nature of the Zionist. The Quds Day also symbolizes resistance. Undoubtedly, the establishment of the illegitimate and forged Zionist entity has become the prime element of instability and insecurity in West Asia since 1948.

The tyrannized and resilient

people of Palestine have risen up with the support of the Muslims and free people of the world, with a chain of Palestinian intifadas, against this massive oppression by the Zionist regime and have frustrated and depressed this forged entity.

The international support for the cause of Palestine have strengthened the might of resistance in the region. The Palestinian resistance groups have increased their rocket power as a deterrent tool to stop Zionists expansionist policy.

The resistance of the Palestinians has become a source of concern for Israel given the coincidence of the Quds Day and the Day of Nakba, which falls on May 15.

**What are the gains of this movement if any?**

During these years, the issue of Palestine has transformed into the main issue of the Muslim world, at least for three reasons. First, the complexion of the Palestinian land, its sanctity and status among the followers of Islam. Second, the nature of the hostility of Zionists, their religious and historical claims, and their expansionist and occupationist spirit. Third, the nature of Western-Zionist coalition which pursues to weaken the Muslim Ummah and generate dissension and split between the Muslims with the hope that Muslim states remain dependent and reliant on the big powers.

The Zionist regime is considered as the violator of fundamental rights including the right to self-determination of Palestinians and the main element of permanent insecurity in the region. There are many reasons to believe so; the Zionist regime breaches international law and regulations as well as human rights and takes mad actions such as imposing collective punishment,



Alibak

blockading Gaza, completing the West Bank separation wall, and evicting and displacing more than 5.7 million Palestinians; the Zionist regime assassinates Palestinian and other Arab and Muslim commanders and soldiers, destroys Palestinian houses and farmlands, Judaizes Al-Quds, promotes and continues settlement constructions in occupied territories; Zionists enforce curfew on the Palestinian citizens of Al-Quds and revoke the identification and permanent residence cards of Palestinians (in violation of international rules and agreements, especially Article 43 of the Hague Convention and the Fourth Geneva Convention). Moreover, the Zionist regime adopted the nation-state of the

Zionist regime is regarded as the main source of insecurity and threat to regional and international peace and stability. This represents the biggest violator of human rights in the world.

While the criminal and occupation-oriented logic of the kid-killer Zionist regime in the past seven decades has produced nothing but the continuation of occupation, murder, racism and dissension in the region, we regretfully are witnessing that a number of Muslim states have closed their eyes on the persistent crimes of the Zionist regime and have fallen into the trap of the Western-Zionist axis and have committed a historical but reversible and amendable mistake. Unfortunately, normalization of relations of some

Jewish Arab and Muslim states with the people Quds-occupying regime has emboldened the Zionists to expand their hostility. The recent desecration in 2018 and atrocities of the Zionists in Al-Aqsa Mosque testify to such separatism and emboldening. The satanic Western-Zionist conspiracy aims to hatch differences among the Muslims and living has undoubtedly targeted the unity and solidarity of the Muslim world in the West Bank and Gaza.

**What is Iran doing to support the Palestinians beyond commemorating this Day?**

**A lot of people believe Muslims are not doing enough to help the Palestinians. Tell us your take on this?**

The Islamic Republic of Iran would spare no efforts, like in the past, in supporting the legitimate and usurped rights of the Palestinian nation. On the basis of the political and democratic plan registered by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Secretariat of the United Nations, the settlement of the issue of Palestine would be possible only through ending occupation and holding a referendum with the presence of the main inhabitants of the land of Palestine and all refugees to determine their own destiny. The return of Palestinian refugees to their motherland and holding a national referendum among the original people of this land to shape their destiny and the type of political system is the most effective solution to resolve this crisis. Based on this proposal, Muslims, Jews and Christians of Palestinian descent should be able to choose the type of legal system that is going to govern their destiny and benefit from its rights freely and equally. This plan, which has been presented based on the principles of democracy and international law as recognized by all governments and nations, could definitely replace the previous failed schemes.

The return of Palestinian refugees to their motherland and holding a national referendum among the original people of this land to shape their destiny and the type of political system is the most effective solution to resolve this crisis. Based on this proposal, Muslims, Jews and Christians of Palestinian descent should be able to choose the type of legal system that is going to govern their destiny and benefit from its rights freely and equally. This plan, which has been presented based on the principles of democracy and international law as recognized by all governments and nations, could definitely replace the previous failed schemes.

## Israel's reign of terror in Masjid Al-Aqsa must stop, TMC says

**A foremost Islamic organisation in Nigeria, The Muslim Congress (TMC) says the reign of terror unleashed on Muslims in Masjid Al-Aqsa, Jerusalem by Israeli occupational forces must be reined in immediately.**

The organisation decries the continuous violation of the Muslims' third holiest sanctuary in the world even in the period of Ramadan fast, noting it is a deliberate provocation of the Muslim Ummah and a subversion of international laws, conventions and resolutions.

The Society made the disclosure in a press release issued on Thursday in Lagos by its President, Alhaji AbdulWasiu Taiwo Bangbala, who described the Israeli incessant attacks on Palestinians as a clear subversion of international laws, thereby calling on the Muslim world to show genuine commitments in confronting Israelis reign of terror in the region.

The release was issued at a time the Iranians were preparing for the International Quds Day, on Friday (today), during which demonstrators express their solidarity with the Palestinian people and opposition to

the occupation of the Palestinian territories by the Zionist regime of Israel.

According to Alhaji Bangbala, "In what has become a routine violence against Palestinians, it was yet another attack on worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque (Masjid Al-Aqsa) on Friday 15 April 2022. Since the recent Jewish Passover holiday, Jewish Israeli settlers under the protection of the Israeli occupation forces, attacked and assaulted worshippers who were prevented from carrying out their religious obligations during the holy month of Ramadan. No fewer than 158 Palestinian worshippers were reportedly injured, as heartrending videos surfaced on social media showing the unsparing Israeli forces attack infirmed elderly, women and children with rubber bullets, batons and tear gas at Masjid Al-Aqsa.

"These recent raids and assaults on the third holiest place in Islam evinces dangerous escalation of Israeli aggression against Palestinians resident in Al-Quds and in other occupied parts of Palestine. Israel's constant desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque is certainly a deliberate provocation of the Muslim Ummah,

and clearly a subversion of international laws, conventions and resolutions," he noted.

Bangbala also lamented what he described as blatant gerrymandering by the international community in the handling of the legitimate cause of the Palestinian people. He stated that the UN has always veered away from blaming Israel despite its continued aggression against Palestinians.

"Israel's acts of impunity and its criminal occupation must be reined in. These unprovoked aggression and acts of violence by Israel are not, and cannot be about security or law and order. They are clearly indicative of Israel's thirst for supreme sovereignty over Palestine and its people. The conceited idea that Israel, as a Jewish majority nation-state must secure and expand supreme sovereign control over the land of a historic Palestine has imbued Israel with the impetus to continue in its hostilities against the vulnerable Palestinians. The sheer impudence with which it carries out wanton and unprovoked attacks on Palestine with no serious consequences and material recourse for Palestinians has further revealed

the selective solidarity of the West and the warped diplomatic stance of the UN. While Israel continues its current aggression on Palestinians, the UN, as always, has veered away from blaming Israel.

"It is a shame that the world powers continue to look away while the attacks on Masjid Al-Aqsa and its peaceful worshippers become normalised, and yet frustratingly, the barbarous acts against the helpless worshippers get little or no airtime on mainstream media. As witnessed in recent years, Israeli extremists have violated not only the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque but have, yet again, demonstrated brazen irreverence for the holy month of Ramadan, unleashing mayhem on the worshippers going about their religious obligations.

"Masjid Al-Aqsa is the holiest site for Muslims in Jerusalem and a symbol of the Prophetic memory linking the three venerated sites of Makkah, Medina and Jerusalem. The historic mosque is emblematic of the wholeness of Islam. The centrality and importance of Masjid Al-Aqsa to the Muslim Ummah is indisputable, hence, every Israeli attack on The Mosque cannot

be reduced to incursion against the Palestinians alone but an affront to Muslims across the globe.

"Ironically, many Muslim countries in the Arab world are complicit in the age-long oppression against Palestine and its people. While some Muslim majority countries, such as Turkey, Jordan and Egypt, may have offered statements condemning the recent attacks, a host of these countries have added to the severity of the untold misery of the Palestinian as most of them remain in disapproving dalliance with the aggressor, thereby giving a degree of political and diplomatic cover to the apartheid Israel over their hapless neighbour. And so, the subjugation and humiliation by Israel carries on unhindered."

Meanwhile, the Amir called on the Arab countries to show genuine desire in confronting the Israeli plot by matching words with actions and strategies. This is just as he advised the international community that there must be conscientious efforts in finding lasting solutions to the lingering conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians.

To read full report log on to: [www.muslimnews.com.ng](http://www.muslimnews.com.ng)

**Night of Majesty...**— cont'd from pg. 7 programmes. The normal taraweeh we do after Isha. Then, from 2:00 am, we wake up for tahajud. During that period, we continue with the Qur'an recitation we started from the beginning of Ramadan. Also, we have daily tafsir, which is done in English. We live in an environment where we have people of diverse backgrounds. Using English will allow other ethnic groups to understand the message of the Qur'an. That has started since the beginning of Ramadan and in shaa Allah, it will continue during 'itikaf," he added.

#### Free i'tikaf in the north, south

We were also reliably informed that both registration and feeding are free in many northern and southern states, including Enugu and Kebbi States, among others.

This, we were told, is not unconnected to their poor living conditions, which requires financial support for the Muslim minorities in non-Muslims dominated states.

Ustadh Musa Ani, the Imam of Islamic Center Central Mosque, Uwani, Enugu said, "We don't have such (registration and feeding fees) here. People will only indicate to perform 'itikaf and provisions will be made for them based on the available resources at our disposal."

About feeding arrangement, Imam Ani told Muslim News that it is being catered for by the mosque and the support they receive from some individuals and organisations.

According to him, this place isn't like other States. We are the minority here and many of our people, especially the reverts need assistance both during and after Ramadan. There are times people don't have money to buy foodstuff.

#### Zakāt al-Fitr... — cont'd from pg. 2

A second evidence is that the purpose of zakāt al-fīṣr, as expressly mentioned by the Prophet ṣalla Allahu ṣalayhi wa ṣallam, is to ensure that no one is deprived on the day of Eid. Therefore, if one lives in a society where 'deprivation' is not of staple food items but of other necessities, it would make more sense to give zakāt to fulfill those needs.

Thirdly, they state that money is the primary commodity used to barter with, hence it is the aṣl, or 'general rule', with regards to zakāt.

This opinion (that zakāt al-fīṣr may be given in currency) is the opinion of many respected scholars and researchers of our times, including Sh. Qardawī. **Personal Anecdotes and Practical Issues**

Once upon a time, I followed the opinion that it was obligatory to pay zakāt al-fīṣr in grain. As with most opinions I followed fifteen years ago, it was based purely on taqlīd – even though at the time I was sure that it was ittibāṣ of the Sunnah. We were in Houston, TX, and a group of us, making taqlīd of our Shaykh, decided to collect rice and

Life isn't easy generally for us here.

Imam Ani acknowledged the efforts of Muslim corps members who he said go extra miles in assisting the indigent Muslims during and after Ramadan.

"The corps members also do their best by providing food items to the indigent Muslims. They seek fund across the State to assist them, because their 'alawee' (stipends) cannot care for everything they really need. That's why we're calling on Muslims all over Nigeria to assist

the Southern Muslims.

#### Activities During I'tikaf

A person, both male and female, doing i'tikaf should busy himself/herself with a lot of act of worship such as reading the noble Qur'an, remembrance of Allah, voluntary prayers, among others. Acts like backbiting, gossiping and all vain and forbidden utterances should be avoided during I'tikaf.

The mother of the Faithful,

Aisha said, "The established conduct for a person in i'tikaf is that he doesn't visit the sick, or attend a funeral prayer, he doesn't have intercourse with his wife or embrace her in desire, he doesn't go out of the mosque except in case of an unavoidable necessity..."

It's however painful to see some places of I'tikaf becoming halls of discussion, story-telling, arguments, quarrels, unwarranted movement in and out of the mosques

and siting in its surroundings without necessity. Entering of places of I'tikaf reserved for women, unnecessary free mixing and exchange of messages with women folks. All these are actions that contradict the teachings of Allah's Messenger.

However, there is nothing wrong with visiting receiving visitors in I'tikaf, especially visits by members of once family. Several sayings of the Prophet (peace be upon him) supported this. It must nevertheless be emphasised that the main objective of the Seclusion is to witness Lailatul-qadr (Night of Majesty) in prayer and devotion.

#### Lailatul-Qadr

Allah has blessed the Muslims with Night of Majesty in Ramadan the most virtuous night of the year. It's a night that is better than a thousand months and any action therein, for instance, reciting the Qur'an, is better than acting for one thousand months which do not contain the Night of Qadr.

Scholars hold different opinions as to the particular night, which is the Night of Qadr but the popular opinion, relying on the Sayings of the Prophet, says that it falls within the odd nights: 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 of Ramadan. The most popular opinion which is based on the tradition of Prophet Muhammad is 27th night of Ramadan.

#### Dua for Lailatul-qadr

'A'isha said, "I said, 'Messenger of Allah, if I know what night the Night of Power is, what do you think I should say during it?' He said, 'Say: "O Allah, You are Pardoning and you love pardon, so pardon me."' (Tirmidhi)

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي  
Allahumma innaka `afuwun tuhibbul `afwa fa fu `annee



Brethren performing 'itikaf waiting for the arrival of Imam, Sheikh Ridwan Jamiu, for the Friday, April 29 Jum'ah prayer.

“  
**The established conduct for a person in i'tikaf is that he doesn't visit the sick, or attend a funeral prayer, he doesn't have intercourse with his wife or embrace her in desire, he doesn't go out of the mosque except in case of an unavoidable necessity...**  
”

distribute it to some families. To make a long story short, it was not easy finding people who were interested in taking thirty pounds of rice; eventually, we did find a few refugee families, but after much calling and searching. Even back then, I realized the futility of trying to implement such a program on a city level. Had we been responsible for the zakāt al-fīṣr of the entire community, we would have had to figure out how to distribute tons of rice (Houston easily has thirty thousand Muslims giving zakāt al-fīṣr, if not more)

After moving to Madinah, I would buy grain and physically find a poor person to give it to. I did this for all the years that I was there. Poverty in Madinah is more pronounced and apparent than America, yet even then I had some interesting experiences. Once, I approached a beggar who was sitting in front of the Masjid al-Nabi, and offered him a bag of grain. He just gave me one of those 'looks', handed the bag back to me, and said, "I don't want it." Imagine that... refused by a beggar! On another occasion, I gave it to a young girl who was begging on the

side of the road. She eagerly grasped it and put it next to her. On my way back home, I saw her sitting at the same spot, still begging, but without any grain. As I wondered what happened to the bag of grain, another person walked by and handed her a bag. As soon as the generous 'Samaritan' had walked away, she ran to a stall nearby where the bags of grain were being sold, and then sold it back to the original owner for less than its buying price. She then returned to her place, waiting for more generous people, eager to give their 'zakāt al-fīṣr' to her. After some questioning and research, I found out there was a nice little racket going on between the stalls and the beggars: bag sold to customer for ten riyals, given to beggar, who promptly sells it back for eight riyals cash. Net result: beggar gets eight riyals, stall keeper gets two, and the grain remains with him.

The question arises: how many dozens of pounds of rice would a poor person really want or need to collect? Wouldn't it be more beneficial for her to simply be given the money so that she can use

it on more important needs? This is especially the case in Western lands, where the quantity of extremely poor Muslim families – those who are so desperately poor that they need to be given staple food items – is typically far, far less than the quantity of those who are paying zakāt al-fīṣr.

#### Conclusion

Zakāt al-fīṣr was given in staple food items during the life of the Prophet ṣalla Allahu ṣalayhi wa ṣallam because there were many families who were in dire need of it. Such food items were more accessible to the Muslims than gold and silver, and poverty was so pronounced that it was more needed by the poor than gold and silver.

There is no unequivocal textual evidence that implies that it is a requirement for the zakāt to be accepted that it only be given in staple food items. Rather, what is required is that such staple items or their equivalent be given, depending on the need, situation and circumstance of each community. And one of the equivalents is money.

There are quite a few opinions from the early scholars allowing such a substitution, and in fact it became official policy during the Caliphate of the noble Ṣumar b. ṢAbd al-Azīz, the 'fifth Rightly Guided Caliph'. Hence, one of the madhhabs adopted this position as well.

Taking into account the goals of the Sharīṣah and applying them to the situation of Western Muslims, there seems no reason to oblige Muslims to give zakāt al-fīṣr in staple food items. For us, money is more easily available than grain, and it is also more needed by the poor. Additionally, trying to apply the majority opinion at a community level is very impractical, if not outright impossible.

Having said that, there is no doubt that if an individual person is able to do give zakāt al-fīṣr in staple food, and finds worthy recipients, he or she has followed the letter and spirit of the law. But if someone gives money instead, the obligation of zakāt al-fīṣr has been fulfilled.

*And Allah knows best.*

**By Dr. Yasir Qadhi**

# Ahman Pategi University matriculates 269 pioneer students, as VC charges them to pursue excellence, embrace positivity

By: Abdullahi Abdulganiy

**A** budding private university in Patigi, Kwara State, Ahman Pategi University (APU) has successfully organised a matriculation ceremony for no fewer than 269 pioneer students.

The ceremony, attended by the Etsu Patigi, His Royal Highness, Alhaji Ibrahim Umar Bologi, was held recently at the Aliyu Ahman Pategi Hall in the university premises.

The occasion was also witnessed by several dignitaries, including the Proprietor of APU, Hon. Aliyu Ahman Pategi; Executive Director, World Institute for Peace, Mr Lamina Kamiludeen; representatives of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Commission (HYPPADEC).

While welcoming dignitaries, the Vice Chancellor of the Institution, Prof. Mahfouz Adedimeji said the number of the matriculating students admitted in the 2020 and 2021 exercise is 269.

The list, Muslim News gathered, excluded the students running pre-degree at Ahman Pategi College of Advanced Studies.

The Nigeria's youngest VC at 47 therefore enjoined the matriculating students not to take the grace of being among the first set for granted as it only takes divine grace to be among pioneers in any society.

"Today's occasion is mainly for the students and I want to felicitate the lucky set, the matriculating pacesetters of this university. I also congratulate their families, especially their parents and guardians, on the uniqueness of their children and wards.

"It is apposite that their names as pioneer students will be inerasable in the annals of the University as it takes divine grace to be among the pacesetters or pioneers in any society. I, therefore, want to encourage the lucky students, with their parents and our stakeholders at large, not to take the grace for granted.

"Dear students, as today is your day and a definitive chapter in the book of your sojourn not only at Ahman Pategi University but also in life, it is important that you re-commit yourselves to the pursuit of excellence and embrace positivity in doing so. The University is a small city when there are ideas, ideals and ideologies which are often in a state of flux.

"In the years ahead and perhaps even now, this university won't be a difference. It is your responsibility to separate the wheat from the chaff and remain guided by always ensuring that you do the right thing. For example, you cannot succeed without adhering to the rules and regulations and discharging your primary assignment in the university with utmost commitment," the VC said.

Muslim News findings revealed that the institution, which began operations on February 3, 2021 after approval by the Federal Executive Council of Nigeria under



Cross-section of matriculating students with the VC (m) and other invited guests

the chairmanship of President Muhammadu Buhari, started with two faculties, namely Faculty of Humanities, Social and Management Sciences.

We also gathered that it currently boasts of 10 departments, including Languages & Literary, Economics, Accounting, International Relations, Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Computer Sciences, Forensic Science and department of Physics.

Prof. Adedimeji, Nigeria's youngest VC at 47, added that efforts are ongoing for phased expansion to make APU join outstanding higher education providers.

"Though Ahman Pategi University began just last year, it has recorded its few rings of success stories. Apart from starting academic work less than two months after receiving its provisional licence to operate, the University emerged the first Nigerian university to host the national beach soccer league, which was broadcast on Super Sports cable channel late June last year.

"The University also gave a good account of itself at the 9th edition of the All-Nigeria Universities Debating Championship and 2nd edition of All Nigeria Universities Quiz Challenge hosted by the University of Ilorin between February 13 and 19, 2022. APU is the only university established in the past six years to participate in the academic tournament.

"The University has also succeeded in networking with other institutions and organisations both within and outside Nigeria while publications bearing the name of the University have appeared in

international outlets. Soon, staff of the university will be engaging schools in the hosting community to add more value to their teaching and learning experiences and deepen the community service component of the university mandate."

The Vice Chancellor, meanwhile, thanked all stakeholders, management, academic and non-academic staff of the university, noting, "the modest efforts

of individuals and societies. At the level of individuals, education improves their income, enhances their careers, improves their skills and employment opportunities. At the societal level, citizens that live in highly educated societies tend to be healthier, have higher rates of economic stability, lower crime rates, greater equality and more political stability. Therefore, the benefits are both personal and societal.

"Education brings out the best in individuals and societies train and retrain its citizens. Such individuals become instrumental to developing their societies. There is an intricate relationship between education and society. Both are bounded entities. Because our society is a social Institution that teaches us how we relate with each other, it then becomes a major facilitator of our system of education," he stated.

Hon. Ahman Pategi who is also the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the University recalled how they were exposed to three areas of education growing up in Patigi Town.

"Growing up in Patigi town, we were educated in three areas; the traditional education which prepares one for a vocation in life such as carpentry, goldsmith, farming, motor mechanic and teachings from our mothers, uncles and elders; secondly, the traditional Quranic or Christian education that prepares one for moral and ethical living in the African value ways, and, thirdly; the formal western education. In Africa, it is said that children are

brought up by the entire village.

Earlier, before his presentation, the proprietor remembered personalities who started the Ahman Pategi University journey with him, but are no more to witness the present.

"We should give glory to Almighty Allah for making us witness today. Some of those that we started this journey with have passed away. Two are of particular interest. Architect Susan who designed this whole estate and Etsu Ibrahim Chatta."

In his keynote address, the Etsu Patigi appealed to the matriculating students to study hard and desist from social vices capable of destroying their future.

"You must ensure that Ahman Pategi University meets international standard and the National University Commission standard," he added.

The first class monarch also commended the proprietor of the university, saying the establishment of the institution in his domain will not only enhance higher learning, but also improve socioeconomic activities.

"I want to specifically appreciate the efforts of the school proprietor, Hon. Aliyu Bahago (Galadima Patigi) for the establishment of Ahman Pategi University in my domain which will enhance in uplifting higher level of education in our community and also improve socioeconomic activities. We assure you and the school management of our unflinching support at all times and pray that the Almighty Allah will continue to guide and protect you in all your undertakings.

"I want to applaud the efforts of our amiable and dynamic Vice Chancellor, Prof Mahfouz A. Adedimeji, fspsp, the board of trustees, the governing council, the management and the entire university community for the educational contribution."



Prof. Mahfouz

highlighted and those foregrounded could not have been recorded without the divine guidance of Almighty Allah and the support of people of goodwill."

For his part, the proprietor of the institution, Hon. Aliyu Ahman Pategi made a presentation on the impact of education on individuals and the society.

According to him, "Education is beneficial to

#### 4. CURRENT COPIES OF THE UNDERLISTED DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE UPLOADED ONLINE

- i) Audited Account;
- ii) Tax Clearance;
- iii) Evidence of VAT remittances;
- iv) Police report/Court Affidavit on the Company Directors

#### 5. ALL APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO UPDATE THEIR RECORDS WITH THE COMMISSION, IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE(S) VIZ:

- v) Certified True Copy of FORMS CAC2 & CAC7;
- vi) Memorandum and Articles of Association or Office address;
- vii) Current Curriculum Vitae of the Company's staff to be responsible for Hajj Matters/ administration.

#### 6. MODE OF APPLICATION AND CLOSING DATE

- I. All applications should be done online through this web address **hto.nigeriahajj.com.gov.ng** Guidelines are provided for ease of registration
- II. To begin the application process click "New Registration" at the above link
- III. All applications, along with the prescribed SECURITY REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT and relevant attachments should be submitted NOT later than 30th April, 2022.

#### 7. ALL APPLICANTS SHOULD NOTE THAT:

- i) All applications would be subjected to further scrutiny by the Commission and other relevant Government Agencies, where necessary,
- ii) Allocation is subject to availability of slots and previous performance of company,
- iii) Only applications from companies not indebted to the Commission or any Saudi Arabian Agencies either on Umrah or Hajj will be processed,
- iv) Failure to present the proposed accommodation for inspection by 14th May, 2022 may lead to disqualification without any notification,
- v) Failure to remit your full payment for 2022 Hajj services by 7th May, 2022

may lead to disqualification without formal communication.

- vi) All remittances to the Commission's account must be from the company's corporate account. Any payment outside this will not be accommodated and will be referred to appropriate Government Agencies,
- vii) Any remittance outside the dateline announced will not be treated,
- viii) Any change in transportation, ticket and accommodation arrangements (without the written consent of the passenger(s) concerned) will be considered as a violation,
- ix) Any Travel Agent that has a challenge with any airline should immediately notify the Commission for possible intervention. Where the pilgrim(s) suffered a loss or as a result did not perform Hajj, the company shall be held liable,
- x) Any applicant that has passenger(s) that have violated Saudi Arabian Immigration law by refusing to exit the Country after past Hajj or Umrah Operation and could not render proper account of the absconded pilgrims may be disqualified,
- xi) Applicants may be requested to submit hard copy of completed filled online form, where necessary,
- xii) All Hajj Licensed Companies on Grade A and B are to employ the services of a minimum of two Nigerian Saudi Based or Saudi Nationals with relevant documentation, while those on Grade C and D are to enlist a minimum of one, for co-ordination of reception, accommodation, Mashaeer outing and departure of their Pilgrims out of the Kingdom. Details of the employees must be deposited with the Commission.
- xiii) Each applicant must comply with the contents of the Application form and Guidelines.
- xiv) The Commission shall not be liable to any applicant for any loss or inconvenience incurred in connection with the application process,

Signed:  
**Management**

**For: Enquiries contact:**  
**Bashir: 07037776092**  
**Nabila: 08033332550**

# Saudi Arabia allocates 43,000 Hajj slots to Nigeria

**T**he Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has allocated no fewer than 43,000 seats to Nigeria for the 2022 Hajj.

The slot is against the 95,000 allocation approved for the country in the previous years.

The Executive Secretary, Kano State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Muhammad Abba Dambatta, disclosed this to reporters in Kano on Wednesday, April 20.

This, he said was revealed to him by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria, (NAHCON) on Tuesday.

He said NAHCON had also invited all heads of State Pilgrims Welfare Boards across the country for a meeting in Abuja, today, adding that they were expecting to receive Hajj allocations for each state.

He noted that the quota given to Nigeria was reasonable in view of the fact that in 2019, when Saudi allocated 95,000 seats to Nigeria, only 47,000 pilgrims, both state and international, participated in the holy exercise.

Dambatta said the state pilgrims Welfare Board would not register new pilgrims until it finishes registering 2020/2021 intending

pilgrims, who paid their deposit but could not go to Hajj due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The Executive Secretary

also disclosed that intending Pilgrims would witness an increase in Hajj fare, noting that the increase would be largely due to exchange rate and

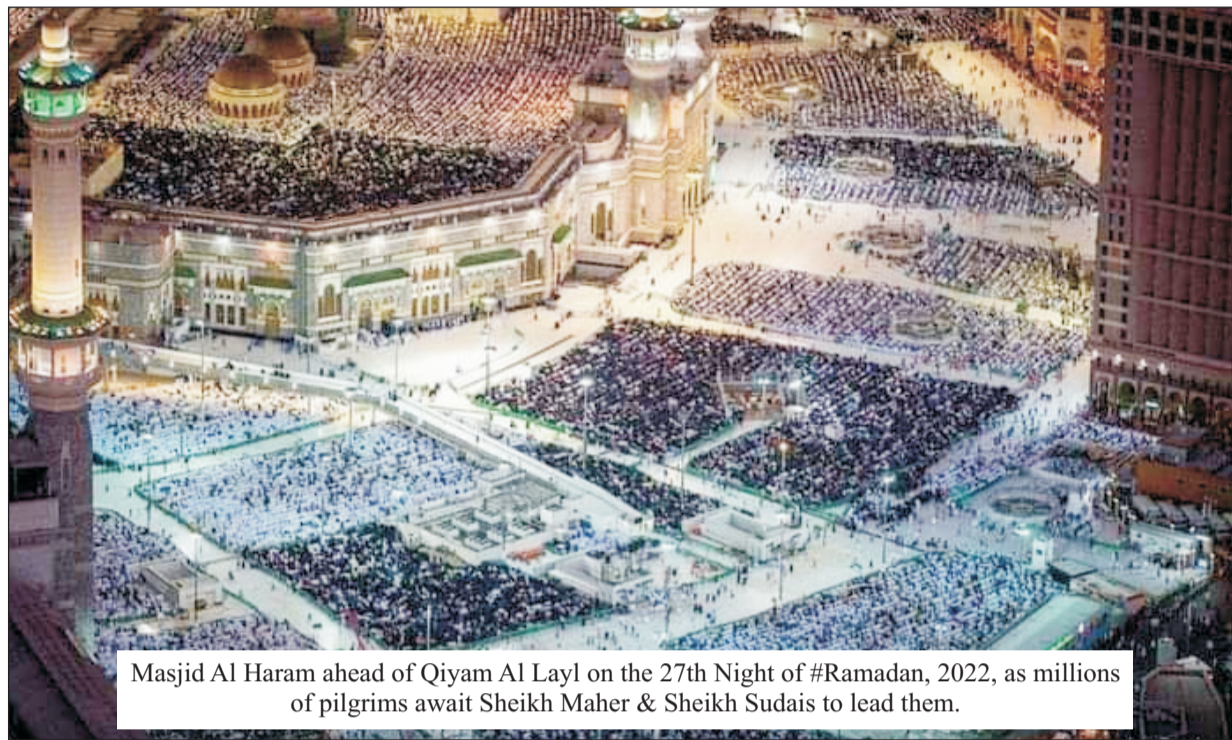
services.

He explained that there was an increase of 15 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) in Saudi, saying there would be expectation that all the prices for services to be rendered for the pilgrims in the Holy Land would be increased.

“Saudia said the existing shuttle buses used should be changed completely because they have been in use for over 10 years. Now brand new buses would be used to transport pilgrims. In this regard, the price for this service will be increased.

“So also accommodation, the Saudi authorities said new houses should be used for the 2022 Hajj, so they would be increased in this regard.

“If you look at feeding, due to the increase in VAT, feeding charges will also be up. This is in addition to the Coronavirus test before going to Saudi and on returning to Nigeria. All these are factors to be considered this year,” Dambatta said. – *ThisDay*



Masjid Al Haram ahead of Qiyam Al Layl on the 27th Night of #Ramadan, 2022, as millions of pilgrims await Sheikh Maher & Sheikh Sudais to lead them.

**T**he National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) on Thursday allocated 33,976 slots to all 36 states of the federation and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for 2022 Hajj in Saudi Arabia.

The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the commission, Alhaji Zikrullah Hassan, announced the allocation during a meeting with Chief Executives of State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Boards, agencies and commissions at Hajj House, Abuja.

Hassan said that the commission decided to allocate the seats after careful deliberations and considerations of the 2019 Hajj performance.

Muslim News reports that the breakdown of the Hajj slots allocated to each state indicates that Kaduna, Kano, Sokoto, Niger got highest seats of 2,491, 2,229, 2,404, 2,256 respectively.

Allocation to other states include: Katsina 2146, Kogi 313, Adamawa 1166, Kwara 1406, Lagos 1562, FCT 1538, Nasarawa 684, Taraba 651, Zamfara 1303, Yobe 860, Oyo 629, Osun 460, Ogun 497, Plateau 824, Bauchi 1362, Jigawa 614, Gombe 1005, Borno 1195, Benue 103, Ekiti 83, Edo 94, Ebonyi 51, and Anambra 17.

## How NAHCON shared 43,000 allocated slots with states, private tour operators, armed forces

The NAHCON Chairman said that the commission also allocated 9,032 slots to the licenced private tour operators as well as 239 slots to the Armed Forces.

“On Sunday, April 17, 2022, the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria received an official confirmation from the Saudi Arabian Ministry for Hajj that there will be Hajj 2022.

“We also received that the 2022 Hajj allocation to Nigeria which is 43,008. We also received the information it is best for us to conclude all arrangements with service providers by the middle of May 2022.

“Prior to that, we have received medical guidelines from Saudi Arabia, which we have transmitted to all the states and FCT,” he said.

Hassan said that all intending pilgrims must be registered online through e-hajj, adding that the e-track was already active.

“In due course we shall release the registration guidelines and

every registration procedures shall be strictly in accordance with the guidelines.

“Saudi Arabia has indicated that anybody above 65 years must not be allowed to perform Hajj.

“All intending pilgrims must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. By full vaccination I mean the three doses and of course PCR is mandatory.

“Unlike now we are doing Umrah (lesser Hajj) without PCR, for Hajj it will be PCR and Saudi Arabia is saying 72hours, we are going to work on possibly 48hours, before embarking on the trip,” he said.

The NAHCON boss urged executives of states pilgrims boards to expedite action to ensure timely completion of registration of intending pilgrims.

### 'Hajj fare will be high'

On the cost of Hajj fare for the 2022 Hajj, Hassan said that the 2022 Hajj fare would be high because of a number of factors.

“Firstly, we are going to run

the 2022 hajj on N410 to a dollar as against N306 to a dollar in Hajj of 2019. If you look at the difference in gap is about 34 per cent jump in cost because Hajj is about 97 per cent determine by the foreign exchange.

“Secondly, Saudi Arabia has increased its Value Added Tax (VAT) from five to 15 per cent. That again is a jump in cost.

“Thirdly and equally very important, recently in a meeting with Saudi authorities they told us 2022 Hajj is going to be expensive because they have invested much in Munah and Arafat. Therefore, the cost of services will not be as it used

to be,” he said.

On his part, the NAHCON Commissioner of Operation, Licensing and Tour Operators, Alhaji Abdullahi Hardawa, said there was likelihood of increased in the cost of 2022 Hajj fare compared with what was obtainable before.

– *NAN*



Alh. Hassan

## Your savings well secured, NAHCON Chairman assures pilgrims

**A**lhaji Zikrullah Hassan, Chairman/CEO, National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has assured Nigerians that all his proactive Hajj reforms in the Commission would be institutionalised before the expiration of his tenure.

Hassan stated this while delivering a lecture entitled: “Hajj operations in Nigeria and the challenges for the Muslim Ummah” in an online platform, “No Dull Moment In Islam”.

The NAHCON boss who traced the history of Hajj administrations in Nigeria from the 50s, said lack of legal framework and the political will of successive helmsmen accounted for policy

somersault over the years.

He said one of the major reforms of the Commission was the launching of Hajj Saving Scheme (HSS) on Oct. 4, 2020 with JAIZ bank in line with global practises and to ease the performance of hajj for every Nigerians.

He said, though the scheme, which has come to stay, is being condemned in some circles, against the backdrop of alleged corruption and lack of transparency in its operations.

“It would interest Nigerians to know that each subscriber to the scheme receives a monthly update on his/her deposits detailing whatever profit accrues to it. Pilgrims on the HSS monitor their accounts directly

from their phones if they wish.

“Besides, NAHCON had constantly given progress reports to State Welfare Boards on performance of the scheme, the most recent being in March 2022 when the Commission released details of profit distribution to each of the state boards.

Dividends were shared to the states with the details forwarded to them,” he said.

Hassan said the concerns of major stakeholders was the fact that nobody has benefited from the scheme to perform hajj due to Covid-19 restrictions which had prevented performance of hajj rites for two consecutive years.

He said the saving scheme and other reforms carried out by the

Commission are being gazetted into law so that anyone coming behind him would only consolidate on it as against eradicating the policies.

He assured all pilgrims who had contributed not to panic as their savings are well secured and the first batch will use it to perform 2022 hajj.

He, however, said the Commission has not come up with the actual amount to be paid or balance up for 2022 hajj operations due to the fluctuations of Naira against US Dollars in the foreign exchange market.

The Hajj fare, which he hinted may be a little bit higher than the amount charged in 2019, was also due to some new policies by the Saudi Arabia Hajj authorities.

He said underage children as well as adults more than 65 years of age would not be allowed to perform the hajj.

On selection of various Hajj welfare committees such as Ulama, Media and Medical, he assured Nigerians that the Commission would be fair and just to all concerned and ensure a transparent process.

Hassan appealed to Nigerians with useful ideas to come forward with it and assist the Commission to improve on its various reforms.

About 50,000 Nigeria pilgrims are slated to perform 2022 Hajj exercise out of the over one million pilgrims approved by Saudi Arabia authorities for this year.



Sheikh Ahmad

## Sheikh Ahmad admonishes Muslims in the creative industry on repentance at Sound Sultan's 1st Annual Ramadan lecture



Sound Sultan

By: Labeebah Dhikrullah

**A** respected Islamic scholar and National Missioner of Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria, Sheikh Abdur-Rahman Ahmad says the door of repentance closes for human beings after death, noting that repentance is only before death or disability.

He explained this while speaking to *Muslim News* on the sidelines of the 1st Annual Sound Sultan Ramadan Lecture and Iftar that took place on April 7, 2022 at the Temple HQ, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The gathering, put together by Idris Olorunnimbe, Group CEO/ Founder, The Temple Company, saw in attendance some beautiful faces from the Nigerian entertainment industry including Kehinde Bankole; Bisola Aiyeola, Tobi Bakri, both finalists from Big Brother Nigeria in 2017 and 2018, among others.

Sheikh Ahmad was the guest lecturer at the programme which was attended by wife, children and family of late Sound Sultan whose real name is AbdulGaniy Fasasi, who died on July 11, 2021.

Explaining the concept of tawbah (repentance), the Ansar-Ud-Deen leader said, "Anyone who dies, the door of repentance has closed for the person. Repentance is only before death or before disability. If the person dies a Muslim, it is prayer, especially by the children he left behind or sadaqatun jaariyah that will get to him."

"In a Hadith, it is said that some dead people will be elevated in their position, and then they will be asking, Oh Allah, to what do I owe this elevation. And it will be said to them, it is due to the prayer of your children for you for forgiveness. But in terms of repentance, when death comes, the door of repentance closes for that person."

According to the scholar, there is no sin Allah cannot forgive if repentance is sincere and genuine.

"The scholars have said Allah can forgive all sins if repentance is sincere and the person doesn't return to that sin. However, one of the greatest sins that Allah has warned against is the sin of associating partners with Allah. He has said in the Qur'an that He would not forgive that partners are associated with Him, but He can forgive all other things apart from that. In fact, scholars have said even the sin of Shirk, if repentance is

sincere and the person never returns to it, it is still hopeful that Allah would forgive because of His statement in the Qur'an that He forgives all sins.

"Repentance is best when the person who is repenting had been involved in sin ignorantly and is still able to commit that sin, if he repents at that point, then Allah hopefully would forgive him. Allah still is merciful; we cannot limit His mercy. The only thing is we must not do anything with impunity. Allah hates impunity. Even if the person commits a sin, he knows it's a sin and he's committing it and he repents sincerely, Allah forgives his sins. Allah says sincere repentance is for those who acted with ignorance and repent before it's too late."

Sheikh Ahmad, meanwhile, explained the stages of tawbah as, "One is to regret, be remorseful. Like the Prophet said, "remorse is tawbah". Two, is to have a firm resolution not to return to the sin. Third, is that the person must be conscientious in giving Allah's due to Him. That means you must be conscientious in worship. You must be conscientious in doing that which Allah has commanded and forbidding that which Allah has prohibited.

"Again, it must be emphasized that repentance to Allah

is for the sins that are against Allah. For those that are against fellow human beings, there is the need for restitution. You have taken someone's land unjustly. You have eaten someone's wealth unjustly. You have usurped someone's property, the repentance for such is for you to return what you have acquired illegally and unjustly before you can now ask Allah to forgive you. Otherwise, there is no way you would sin against a human being and you are only asking Allah for forgiveness without making restitution to the person whose right is at stake."

The scholar clarified that the lecture is not a commemoration of the death of Sound Sultan, but a continuation of a legacy he started during his life, hoping the reward would be extended to him.

He advised Muslims in the entertainment industry to learn about their religion because many things they do in their career is not in line with the faith they profess.

"Like I said, this is not a commemoration of the death of the person. When he was alive, he was active in organising something like this. This is not organised by his family. You know the company that organised this. It is because he has been organising something like this.

The first one that was organised was very active. The one that was organised during COVID, he was the one who handled the recording and broadcast. This is a continuation of something he was doing when he was alive and it is hoped that the reward would also be extended to him.

"Well, I make bold to say that so many of the things they are doing are not in line with their faith. My lecture is partly directed to them to reassess themselves to take stock of their lives and repent from those things they do that is not in line with Islam. I hope that they would learn about their religion, ask the scholars what is halaal, haraam, adjust as much as practicable by avoiding those of the things they do in entertainment industry that is haraam, so that they would become better Muslims.

"I do believe that at some levels they could repent, and some of them could even choose something else as a career which is going to be better for their Iman and Islam. I just hope and pray that Allah will make whatever it is that we have said and whatever it is that they have also learnt beneficial for those of us who are saying it and for them too and make a big impact in their lives," he noted.



Adedimeji

## Nollywood actor, Lateef Adedimeji, other Muslim scholars speak at NTA 10 Ramadan lecture

Group of Companies and Chairman Signature Global Real Estate, was held on Sunday, April 3 (Ramadan 2nd), at the NTA Channel 10 Lagos premises in Tejuosho, Yaba area of Lagos.

Others Muslim scholars at the well-attended event were Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mukthar, Chief Missioner, Al-Huda International Prayer Mission and Dr. Mustafa Bello, a senior lecturer at Lagos State University, LASU.

In his welcome address, the convener, Alhaji Tajudeen Uzamot, a veteran broadcaster congratulated Muslims in Nigeria and across the world on the arrival of Ramadan 2022, urging them to maximize their rewards during the blessed month by engaging in prayers, good deeds, and attending religious gatherings.

Alhaji Uzamot clarified that the lecturers were carefully selected to address the topics owing to their level of exposure on the topics given.

According to him "This gathering is to reawaken the people. This, thus, is the reason we carefully

selected our lectures. The first lecturer who spoke on youth development and empowerment is an actor and is abreast of the challenges faced by the youths. We also have an erudite scholar from Lagos State University (LASU), who will speak on what the month wants from us.

"At the programme today, we would be giving out gifts received from donors to some less-privileged as taught by the month. This year's edition is unique as we would be empowering 6 vulnerable people in different ways such as sales of clothes, sewing machine, sales of soft drinks and others", he unveiled.

**Having a mentor is important - Actor Lateef**

Presenting his lecture on the topic: Youth Empowerment and National Development, Nollywood Actor, Lateef Adedimeji emphasised the importance of the youths having mentors and doing things with the fear of Allah.

In his words, he said "As a youth, you must have a mentor. The

moment you don't have one, you begin to misbehave. Aside from Allah, we must be accountable to someone. This would make us tread softly and on the right path.

"There is equally the need to have the fear of Allah in whatever we do. This would prevent us from doing wrong and hurting others. If this is done, every other thing would go smoothly. If you see people not doing things right, with the fear of Allah, you will stand to correct that. What is important is for you to have something good doing. If it is not paying now, it will do someday."

**Care for the less-privileged, solution to insecurity - LASU lecturer**

Speaking on the theme of the lecture, a senior lecturer from the Lagos State University (LASU), Dr. Mustapha Bello, encouraged all present on the importance of feeding the less-privileged and caring for one's neighbours.

"The message of Ramadan is clear. Ramadan is a month of mercy, forgiveness and transformation for Muslims. In the

light of insecurity prevalent in our society today, we ask Muslims to show empathy, kindness and be good to their neighbours, not in an abstract term. Remember what the prophet said on neighbourhood.

"As Muslims, if we want to reduce insecurity, banditry, ritual killings, and all other forms of abnormalities, the privileged should be kind to the less-privileged, not only in Ramadan but should be made a habit. We should also provide guidance in terms of mentorship because if a soul is rescued, then our level of insecurity will reduce", he emphasised.

**Lagos Commissioner calls for imbibition of the message of Ramadan**

In his message, the Lagos State Commissioner for Home Affairs, Prince Olanrewaju Elegushi called on all to imbibe the teachings and lessons in the holy month.

"Ramadan has its message. I want to believe everyone knows the message, which is for us to help each other, feed the needy, be tolerant and prayerful. It is a month of peace and also an avenue to pray for our leaders.

"These are the messages of the month which I want us to take into consideration and practise." he advised.

By: Abd. Waheed Shotonwa

**M**uslim actor and Youth Ambassador, Abdul Lateef Adedimeji was among the personalities that delivered lectures at the 2022 edition of NTA 10 (Tejuosho, Yaba, Lagos) Ramadan lecture, with the theme, 'What do we need from Ramadan fasting?'.

The event staged in conjunction with Uzamot Communication and Dr. Ahmed Salawudeen, President of Standard



Doing doesn't stop till it gets what it wants.  
When opportunity calls, Doing answers.  
When everyone else is still thinking,  
Doing's already done.

**What  
are we  
doing  
today?**