

MUSLIM NEWS NIGERIA

...promoting Islam, uniting Muslims

Vol. 8 | No. 1 | JANUARY 2026 | RAJAB 1447 AH | MNAwards



...promoting Islam, uniting Muslims



Mallam Umar Namadi, FCA
Executive Governor, Jigawa State
(Overall Nigerian Muslim Personality of the Year)



The People of Gaza
(Joint Overall Winners of Global Muslim Personality)



Celebrating Global, Nigerian Muslim Personalities of the Year (MNAwards2024/2025)



Sami Shehadeh
(Global Muslim Media Person of the Year)



Hajiya Halima Musa
(Nigerian Muslim Media Person of the Year)



Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah
(Global Muslim Health Person of the Year)



Sheikh Dr Yasir Qadhi
(Lifetime Service to Islam)



Alhaji Aliko Dangote
Founder, Aliko Dangote Foundation
(Humanitarian Organisation of the Year)



Prof Yusuf Olaolu Ali
(Nigerian Muslim Legal Person of the Year)



Assoc. Prof. Ziyaad Mahomed
(Global Muslim Finance Person of the Year)



Hajiya Bala Usman
(Female Public Service Excellence)



Alhaji Kunle Sanni
(Lifetime Service to Islam)



Hajia Hajara Adeola
Founder, Lotus Bank
(Nigerian Muslim-Owned Brand of the Year)



Prof. Abdurrazaq Alaro
(Nigerian Islamic Finance Person of the Year)



Mr. Yusuf Kassim
(Muslim Teacher of the Year)



Ousmane Dembélé
(Global Muslim Celebrity of the Year)



Naglaa Weshah
(Global Muslim Teacher of the Year)



Abdullah EREN, TIKA President
(Global Muslim Humanitarian Organisation of the Year)



Mr. Hamad Ali Al-Khater
CEO, Qatar Airways
(Global Muslim-Owned Brand of the Year)



Dr. Maryam Jamila Ali
(Nigerian Muslim Health Person of the Year)



Dr. Fatima Hendricks
(Global Muslim Advocate for Peace and Justice of the Year)



Lateef Adedimeji
(Nigerian Muslim Celebrity of the Year)

Hadiza Umar Namadi: Pg. 6
Behind Every Visionary Leader Is a Supportive and Impactful Partner

MNAwards 2024/2025: How the Winners Emerged

The Muslim News Nigeria Awards, with the dedicated hashtag #MNAwards, has grown into one of the most prominent global Muslim award platforms and a major annual event in Nigeria, dedicated to spotlighting and celebrating outstanding Muslim achievers both within the country and across the world.

The 2024/2025 edition has taken this mission further, with a record number of categories and a more structured announcement process that reflected the growing impact and prestige of the awards.

This year's awards featured 21 categories, including four newly introduced ones such as "Lifetime Service to Islam, Muslim-Owned Brand of the Year, Female Public Servant of the Year, and Global Advocate for Peace and Justice."

These new additions complemented existing categories in the "Nigerian Muslim Personality of the Year" and "Global Muslim Personality of the Year" nominees, allowing for broader recognition of Muslim excellence across different sectors.

Announcement of winners

The announcement of winners was carried out in two key phases, spaced two weeks apart. The Nigerian Muslim Personalities of the Year, featuring 11 nominees, were unveiled between November 14 and 28, 2025, through our website (www.muslimnews.com.ng) and across all official social media handles, with syndicated reports published in Nigeria's leading newspapers.

This was followed by the Global Muslim Personalities of the Year, comprising 10 nominees, announced from November 28 to December 12, 2025, with reports of the announcement published in some international media including TRT Afrika.

This phased approach allowed each winner to receive focused attention and gave the public an opportunity to appreciate the diversity and depth of Muslim contributions.

In a statement issued on Saturday, December 21, the Publisher of Muslim News Nigeria and Convener of the MNAwards, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, noted that the awards were designed to celebrate underreported Muslim achievers, amplify the community's contributions to humanity, and provide a counter-narrative to the widespread negative portrayal of Muslims in the media.

According to him, "Many of the awardees didn't embark on their remarkable efforts for the sake of recognition or awards. They

are likely seeking reward only from Allah and just doing their own bit to contribute to humanity. However, in an era where the media often focuses on the wrongdoings of a few who falsely act in the name of Islam, it has become necessary to spotlight the positive impact of Muslims across various professions who are doing excellent work but underreported in the mainstream media.

"Now, it's time to recognise their efforts. If we don't tell our stories and honour our own, no one else will do it with justice," he added.

The Publisher stressed that the

MNAwards, currently in its fifth edition, is undergoing continuous evolution, with plans for future expansion and adjustments to include more deserving individuals and organisations." The initiative is seen as a means of promoting Muslim excellence, motivating future generations, and addressing the misrepresentation of Islam in mainstream narratives," he noted.

Recognising excellence aligns with Islamic teachings

Alhaji Abubakar, a renowned media expert and author, emphasised that recognising Muslims who have excelled in serving the masses or advancing their professions aligns with the core teachings of Islam. He noted that the MNAwards initiative is rooted in the Islamic principle of encouraging righteousness through rewards and recognition.

"Islam is, in fact, about rewards," Abubakar stated, adding, "Allah's mercy is greater than the consequences of man's evil actions because He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful. (Check Qur'an 7:156,



Alhaji Abubakar

39:53, 53:31-32.) That's why He promised manifold rewards for good deeds, while punishment is equal to the evil committed. (Qur'an 3: 182, 4:40, 6:160, 73:20). Islam promotes appreciation of good, and that is one of the reasons behind these awards."

According to him, by celebrating Muslim achievers, the awards not only honour individuals but also reinforces Islamic values of gratitude, encouragement, and positive reinforcement within the community.

How the Winners Emerged

A panel of professionals and

including humanitarian, Muslim-owned Brand, Muslim Celebrity, among others were handled directly by the #MNAwards2024/2025 Committee. This transparent and inclusive process helped ensure that the most deserving Muslims were recognised for their exceptional contributions to society and the Ummah.

According to Alhaji Abubakar, this collaborative approach ensured that deserving professionals were honoured, adding credibility and transparency to the selection process.

By partnering with expert bodies in law, medicine, media, finance, and education, the awards maintained a high standard of evaluation based on professional merit and impact within the Muslim community and beyond.

This inclusive methodology also fostered broader community engagement and recognition across different sectors, thereby strengthening the awards' role in promoting excellence, inspiring the younger generation, and amplifying positive Muslim narratives globally.

Challenges of #MNAwards

While the MNAwards has grown into a widely respected platform for honouring Muslim excellence and promoting positive narratives about Islam, executing the programme annually comes with several challenges and the most pressing being lack of sponsorship.

According to the Convener of the MNAwards, while the initiative has continued to gain recognition and impact, sustaining it requires collective support from individuals, brands, corporate bodies, and government institutions.

"This award is an act of ibadah (worship)," Alhaji Abubakar stated, adding, "It is our way of telling our own stories. It is not a commercial venture. Our goal is to recognise and reward Muslims who are doing great things in silence, often without seeking attention."

Despite the noble intentions, he emphasised that sustainability remains a major concern. "For us to continue holding this annually by bringing together Muslim achievers, celebrating them, and forging unity and collaboration in the propagation of Islam across various professions, we truly need your support," he said.

Alhaji Abubakar therefore called on well-meaning individuals, Islamic organisations, government agencies, and corporate entities to partner with the vision.

He said by partnering to promote and sustain the yearly awards, sponsors stand to get brand visibility, stands, and

o t h e r opportunities to showcase their products and services to a wider audience.

"We are telling our own stories and rewriting the narrative of Muslims in

the media. With adequate support, we can scale up, host impactful annual gatherings, produce high-quality documentaries, and expand the reach of this initiative across the globe."

Quoting the Qur'an, he reminded the Muslim community: "O you who have believed, if you support Allah, He will support you and plant firmly your feet." (Qur'an 47:7) Supporting the MNAwards, he noted, is not just about funding an event, it is an investment in the Ummah, a means of uplifting the image of Islam, and a source of inspiration for generations to come."



“

What would Allah gain by punishing you if you are grateful and believe? And Allah is ever Appreciative, All-Knowing.” Surah An-Nisa (4:147)

Al-Mughirah ibn Shu'bah reported: The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, would pray until his feet were swollen. It was said to him, “Why do you do this when Allah has forgiven your past and future sins?” The Prophet said, “Shall I not be a grateful servant?”

Source: Sahih al-Bukhari 1130, Sahih Muslim 2819

”

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.

EDITORIAL POLICY: We shall be fair to all persons, irrespective of their religions and ideologies, as long as that promotes the image of Islam and unites the Muslims. We shall also uphold the ethical standards of journalism.

Support Rawshield PR Company

GT Bank	LOTUS Bank
Account No:	Account No:
0568624004	1011740332

MEET OUR TEAM

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief:

Rasheed Abubakar
08052404597/09068695121

Production Manager:

Jimoh Wasiu
08052303238

Senior Reporter

AbdulMumin AbdulQuadir
0816 844 9946

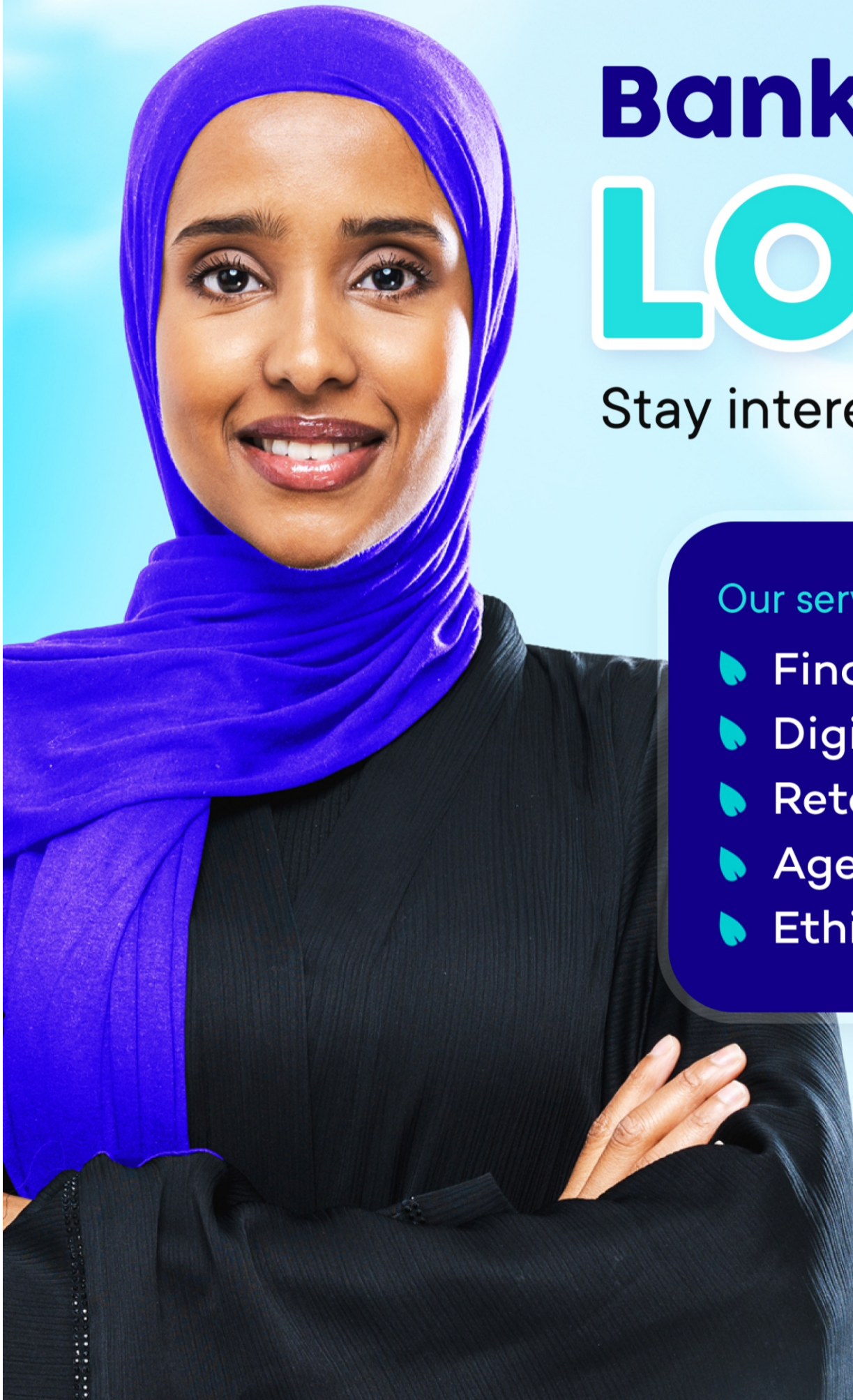
Advert/Sales Representative

Labeebah Dhikrullah
08086465860

OFFICIAL LINE: 09068695121

Muslim News Nigeria is a publication of Rawshield PR Company
Ijeshatedo, Surulere, Lagos.
Tel: 09068695121, 08052404597

[f muslimnews.com.ng](https://www.muslimnews.com.ng) [i muslimnews_NG](https://www.instagram.com/muslimnews_NG)
[m muslimnewsnigeria](https://www.facebook.com/muslimnewsnigeria) [in Muslim News Nigeria](https://www.linkedin.com/company/muslimnewsnigeria)
[✉ muslimnewsng@gmail.com](mailto:muslimnewsng@gmail.com)



Bank with LOTUS

Stay interest free!

Our services:

- Financing
- Digital Banking
- Retail & SME
- Agency Banking
- Ethical Investments

Download LOTUS
Mobile on



0700 56887 2265 (0700 LOTUS BANK)

support@lotusbank.com

lotusbank.com

***5045#**

@lotusbank

GET IT ON
Google Play

Download on the
App Store

Partner . Progress . Prosper .

In a rare and emotional tribute, *Muslim News Nigeria* has named the 'People of Gaza' as the joint winners of its prestigious Global Muslim Personality of the Year 2025, recognising their extraordinary courage, resilience, and sacrifice in the face of unimaginable suffering, brutality, humiliation and dehumanisation.

The announcement was made in a statement issued by the Award Convener and Publisher of the faith-based newspaper, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, on Friday, November 28, 2025.

It comes barely two weeks after the newspaper unveiled the winners of the Nigerian category of the same #MNAwards, celebrating excellence and impact within the country.

According to him, the Award is not just symbolic, but a heartfelt honour to both the survivors and the more than 69,000 martyrs who lost their lives during the prolonged Israeli genocidal war on Gaza.

The recognition, he said, reflects the unyielding spirit of a people who, despite being starved, bombed, and displaced, have refused to surrender their right to life, dignity, and homeland.

Now in its fifth edition, the #MNAwards celebrates Muslim excellence across all sectors, including governance, health, education, law, and advocacy. It also acknowledges leaders and personalities who use their influence and professions to defend the rights of the oppressed Muslims globally.

Past recipients of the overall Global Muslim Personality of the Year Award include the Emir of Qatar, His Excellency Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and the President of Türkiye, His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who won the Award for three consecutive years for their bold stances in support of Palestine and other oppressed Muslims across the world.

Muslim News Nigeria, a leading faith-based newspaper in the country, noted that this year's decision to honour an entire people rather than an individual was not only unprecedented, but a moral obligation to amplify the voice and resilience of Gaza in a world that more often than not, do look away from the sufferings of the oppressed and disregard the oppressor.

"This year, we decided to take a closer look at the resistance and perseverance of the people of Gaza and Palestine in the face of a genocidal war that has lasted more than two years," Abubakar said, adding that, "despite limited resources and global silence and criminal complicity of the Super Power, they stood tall. They didn't give up on their right to existence."

Why the people of Gaza deserve the honor

In explaining the rationale behind this year award, the Publisher of *Muslim News Nigeria* said the People of Gaza have demonstrated an extraordinary level of steadfastness, collective resistance, courage, and unshakable faith throughout the prolonged and brutal assaults on them and their land.

According to him, "Through relentless bombardment, forced displacement, unimaginable scarcity, as well as deliberate starvation, Gaza's communities have persisted in preserving life, faith, and identity. Ordinary citizens, from youth to elders, medical workers, aid volunteers, teachers, journalists and

more, have taken enormous risks to help one another, document atrocities, and provide relief, amidst the ruins. Their experience has become a living testimony to the world, demanding both accountability and the recognition of their inherent human dignity."

He noted that, despite the grief and unbearable losses, Palestinians continued to worship, educate their children, and uphold their communal virtues as well as human dignity and values.

"They refused to surrender spiritually and morally, even as the physical structures around them were destroyed. That kind of resilience can only come from a deep sense of purpose and unshakable faith," he added.

Remembering the martyrs, saluting the survivors

As part of the recognition, Muslim News Nigeria honours the memory of thousands of brave souls who lost their lives, including innocent tortured and, or raped to death in incarceration, those still experiencing torture in prisons, journalists killed while covering



Young Palestinians in Nuseirat celebrate Israel-Hamas deal, Oct. 9, 2025. [AP]

Global Symbol of Faith, Resilience and Sacrifice

THE PEOPLE OF GAZA: Emerge 'Joint Winners of Global Muslim Personality 2024/2025'



Palestinians hold Friday prayers amid Al-Farooq Mosque rubble in Rafah, Gaza, March 3, 2024 [AA]



Journalists with Palestinian medics after Trump announces Gaza ceasefire | Reuters

bombings, medical professionals who died treating the injured, mothers and children killed or abducted in their homes, and countless civilians caught in the brutal wave of violence.

The killing of baby Zein, a two-month-old and the youngest member of the al-Najjar family, who was murdered alongside 17 relatives in an Israeli airstrike on their home on October 10, 2023, remains one of the most heartbreaking incidents of the war.

Similarly, 6-year-old Hind Rajab was tragically killed after being trapped in a vehicle with her family and later targeted by Israeli forces, including the medics who came to rescue her. These innocent lives represent just a fraction of the mass civilian toll.

He said, "Their names may not all be known, but their sacrifices

echo in every shattered building and with every surviving soul in Gaza. Yet, amid the rubble, they stood firm. Teachers resumed classes in tents, medics operated with bare hands, and journalists kept reporting even after losing their entire families. These are not just victims; they are the embodiment of resistance. They are the voice of justice and humanity."

To the survivors, the newspaper extends heartfelt congratulations and prayers to all Gazans and the suffering Palestinians "May your strength not be in vain. May your stories be heard. May your Land be freed from the River to the Sea. May your communities be rebuilt with dignity and support from the global Muslim Ummah and all people of conscience across the globe," the publisher said.

A clarion call to world leaders and the Muslim Ummah

Alhaji Abubakar called on world leaders, international organisations, and the global Muslim Ummah to act with urgency and sincerity in securing a lasting peace in Palestine, one that is anchored on justice, dignity, and the protection of fundamental human rights.

The publisher stressed that the only viable and just solution remains a two-state arrangement that allows both Palestinians and Israelis to coexist peacefully, each in their sovereign homelands, free from fear, occupation, and violence.

According to him, "The memory of the fallen heroes and the ongoing atrocities in Gaza must serve as a moral compass for humanity. This award is not merely

symbolic; it is a call to action. The sacrifices of the people of Gaza must not be in vain. The world must not look away, and the struggle for freedom, justice, and lasting peace must continue until it is fully realised.

"We urge all people of conscience to protect the Palestinian people from the current and future Israeli aggressions and to ensure the perpetrators of war crimes are held accountable under international laws."

Muslim News Nigeria called on the Muslim Ummah including its governments, leaders, organisations, and communities etc. to step up their support for the people of Palestine. This support, the paper noted, should come through sustained advocacy, humanitarian relief, and diplomatic engagement aimed at ending the suffering and restoring justice.

Gov Umar Namadi Emerges Nigerian Muslim Personality of the Year 2024/2025

- Transforms Agriculture, Health, Education, Security, other sectors with 12-point agenda
- Celebrated for his humility and unwavering support for Islamic values and development



Gov. Umar Namadi

The Executive Governor of Jigawa State, HE Mallam Umar Namadi, FCA, has emerged the winner of the 2024/2025 Nigerian Muslim Personality of the Year Award, organised by Muslim News, Nigeria's most authoritative Islamic newspaper.

Mallam Namadi's emergence as the Nigerian Muslim Personality of the Year was formally announced via a press statement on Friday, November 14, by the newspaper's publisher, who is also the organiser of the #MNAwards, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar.

Now in its fifth edition, #MNAwards spotlights Muslim achievers across various strata of the society, including politics and good governance, health, education, law, advocacy, among others.

Past recipients of the category include His Eminence Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, Sultan of Sokoto; Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, Executive Governor of Borno State; Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, former Minister of Communications and Digital Economy; and the Vanguard of Hijab - a group of 12 distinguished Muslim personalities who played key roles in securing the landmark Hijab victory at the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

Alhaji Abubakar congratulated Governor Namadi on his emergence as the 2024/2025 Nigerian Muslim Personality of the Year, while also urging him to see the recognition as a charge to do more for his people, state, and Islam.

The Publisher noted that the decision to honour Governor Namadi, who has been steering the affairs of Jigawa State since 2023 followed a thorough selection process that reviewed several top Muslim personalities across Nigeria.

"Over the past few months, our team worked diligently on various categories of the

#MNAwards2024. For the Nigerian Muslim Personality of the Year, many notable individuals were considered and made it to the shortlist.

"However, only one winner could emerge. In the end, the judges unanimously settled on His Excellency, Umar Namadi, the Governor of Jigawa State, based on his unassuming personality and remarkable contributions to governance and the Islamic faith," he stated.

The first-time Governor has led Jigawa State with commendable wisdom, tact, and strategic direction over the past two years. His administration is guided by a comprehensive 12-point development agenda known as the Greater Jigawa Initiative, which outlines his vision for transforming the state across key sectors.

His priority areas include: Agriculture, education, healthcare, technology and ICT, youth empowerment, infrastructure, security, governance reforms, institutional autonomy, environment, investment and

revenue and social protection. Known for his pro-masses policies and interventions, Governor Namadi has significantly invested in human capital with developmental projects, as well as upgrade of schools and health facilities across the state, widening citizens' access to

quality education and healthcare.

Despite the raging insecurity in Northwest Nigeria, Jigawa State remains peaceful and has recorded low security breaches. This is due to the active support Governor Namadi extends to the security agencies.

In an attempt to make life easier for his people, Gov Namadi initiated a massive housing project, with units spread across various local government areas of the state.

"The 1,500 units of housing project is valued at 6 billion naira. About 600 units were earmarked for Dutse, the state capital. Other LGAs got between 200, 150, and 100 units. This addresses a critical aspect of human dignity: accommodation."

The Governor is also credited for establishing the Jigawa State Youth Employment and Empowerment Agency which has provided jobs for hundreds of thousands of youths, especially women, supported them with funds that make them productive members of the society.

The brilliant initiative has

agribusiness in the state, making farming easier for nearly 90 percent of the population who depend on it. Little wonder he was recently adjudged winner of the Governor of the Year Award on

Governor's recent policy allowing willing female Muslim security officers to wear the hijab in line with their constitutional rights. Although initially misrepresented by some media outlets as an imposition, the policy was later clarified and widely commended.

Governor Namadi's administration, Alhaji Abubakar added, is committed to promoting moral values and peaceful coexistence among all religious communities, in line with his broader goal of social development and community empowerment across the state.

"Gov Namadi also maintains a balanced and inclusive approach to governance. He does not discriminate against the Christian community in the State. On the contrary, he has hosted Christian leaders and stakeholders at interfaith meetings aimed at fostering peace, mutual respect, and religious harmony. His administration continues to promote unity and peaceful coexistence among all religious groups in the state," he noted.

Jigawa State is intensifying its fight against drug abuse and substance misuse through government initiatives supported by the First Lady, Hajiya Hadiza Umar Namadi, a Guest of King Salman for Hajj 2024. She has organized a series of workshops aimed at sensitizing youths on the dangers of hard drugs, promoting awareness and prevention across the state.

Gov Namadi has been widely recognised for his transformative leadership and commitment to good governance, earning him multiple prestigious awards in recent years.

These include the Award of Excellence for Outstanding and Transformative Leadership from the Abdullahi Mahmood Foundation (March 2025); a Merit Award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) for promoting financial discipline and accountability (May 2024); and the Diamond Prize for Excellence in Food Security, presented by the Nigeria Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) in January 2025, in



The first-time Governor has led Jigawa State with commendable wisdom, tact, and strategic direction over the past two years. His administration is guided by a comprehensive 12-point development agenda known as the Greater Jigawa Initiative, which outlines his vision for transforming the state across key sectors

revenue and social protection.

Known for his pro-masses policies and interventions, Governor Namadi has significantly invested in human capital with developmental projects, as well as upgrade of schools and health facilities across the state, widening citizens' access to

expanded existing businesses and led to the establishment of new ones by young people, thereby boosting the economy and facilitating job opportunities in the state.

In agriculture, the Governor has procured tractors and other farm implements to bolster

initiatives. These include the construction and renovation of mosques, promotion of Islamic education, sponsorship of Muslim pilgrims to Hajj, and active support for scholars and religious organisations.

He also highlighted the

Continued from Pg 5

recognition of his strides in agricultural development.

He was also named Governor of the Year 2024 by the Leadership Newspaper Group for his impactful governance, and honoured as the Northwest Digital Governor of the Year by the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR) under the Presidency, due to his outstanding investment in digitising public service and driving technological innovation across Jigawa State.

Abubakar stated that the latest award from Muslim News Nigeria will add to the growing list of recognitions Gov. Namadi has received for his impactful leadership.

He noted that, like some other northern states, Jigawa often

maintains a quiet media presence, which has contributed to the underreporting of the Governor's achievements.

"That's why we believe it's necessary to celebrate this Muslim achiever and blow his trumpet to the world," Abubakar said, adding, "It aligns with our mission as a faith-based media organisation committed to honouring Muslim excellence and promoting positive contributions to society."

With these impactful strides and more, Muslim News Nigeria finds Gov. Namadi worthy of recognition, in order to encourage him to do a lot more, and to inspire other Muslim public office holders to represent Islam well and protect its image appropriately.

The easygoing and amiable, Governor Namadi is indeed, a good ambassador of Islam in Nigeria.



Governor Malam Umar Namadi served as the Guest of Honour at the 2025 Sheikh Ali Alhuzaiify Qira'at Award National Qur'anic Recitation Competition, organised by the Sheikh Ali Huzaify Foundation in honour of the Chief Imam of the Madinah Mosque. Jigawa State has been announced as the host for the 2026 edition of the National Qur'an Recitation Competition.

Hadiza Umar Namadi: Behind Every Visionary Leader Is a Supportive and Impactful Partner



Hajiya Hadiza

In Jigawa State's ongoing journey of progress, one of the leading figures reinforcing the administration's vision through compassion, faith, and community service is Her Excellency, Hajiya Hadiza Umar Namadi, First Lady and wife of the Executive Governor, Malam Umar Namadi, FCA.

Through her calm strength and purposeful outreach, she continues to complement her husband's efforts in building a prosperous, inclusive, and people-focused Jigawa.

From women's

empowerment to health advocacy and education support, Hajiya Hadiza's work reflects the humane side of governance.

Her initiatives are not stand-alone programmes but strategic complements to the Governor's broader developmental agenda. Her approach ensures that policy reforms from the top are met with empathy and support at the grassroots.

Through her "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity" initiative, she has advanced the administration's mission of economic inclusion by assisting thousands of women across Jigawa's 27 local

government areas.

The programme, which provides grants to small businesses and livelihood support to the indigents, aligns with the Governor's goal of reducing poverty and strengthening family incomes at the community level.

Her involvement in the Integrated Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign equally highlights the administration's commitment to health for all. By encouraging parents to vaccinate their children and participating personally in the exercise, she supported Jigawa's drive to reduce child mortality and strengthen primary healthcare services.

In the same vein, her Basic Education Support Programme, which distributed learning materials to schools, reinforced the Governor's investment in foundational education and youth development.

At the heart of her engagements lies compassion for the

vulnerable. Her welfare outreach, which included assistance to elderly citizens and campaign against drug abuse, reflects the administration's inclusive governance model. She has also used her platform to promote faith-based values, unity, and responsible citizenship – values that underpin the Governor's Greater Jigawa Initiative.

Her humanitarian commitments have not gone unnoticed. Her recognition during the 2024 Hajj exercise as a Guest of Honour by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, symbolized international appreciation for the Namadi administration's people-centered leadership and the First Lady's remarkable personality.

Similarly, her appointment as a Girls and Women Speak Ambassador Diplomat by the Peace Ambassadors Advocacy Network further affirmed her dedication to

empowering women and strengthening families — a reflection of the values shared with her husband's administration.

While His Excellency, Malam Umar Namadi drives Jigawa's transformation through reform and innovation, earning him the prestigious recognition as Nigerian Muslim Personality of the Year, Hajiya Hadiza, the First Lady of Jigawa, complements his efforts through compassion, grassroots outreach and social impact. Together, they embody a powerful partnership where governance meets empathy: one building institutions, the other touching lives.

Indeed, behind every visionary leader stands a partner of grace and purpose. In Jigawa State, that partner is Hajiya Hadiza Umar Namadi, a quiet yet steady force whose strength supports the Governor's vision and whose compassion continues to touch lives across the state.



Jigawa First Lady, Hajiya Hadiza Umar Namadi, joined Nigeria's First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, CON, fellow First Ladies, and RHI coordinators at the 2nd quarterly meeting of the Renewed Hope Initiative.



Hajiya Umar Namadi

CONGRATULATIONS

on a well-deserved honor, Your Excellency!



His Excellency,
Mal. Dr. Umar A. Namadi, FCA,
Executive Governor, Jigawa State

The Honorable Commissioner, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology, Jigawa State, Prof. Isa Yusuf Chamo, extends heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency, Mal. Dr. Umar A. Namadi, FCA, on winning the 2024/2025 Nigerian Muslim Personality of the Year Award, presented by Muslim News, Nigeria's leading Islamic newspaper.

This recognition honors His Excellency's transformative initiatives in Agriculture, Health, Education, Security, and other key sectors, aligning with the 12-point agenda of our respected Governor.

Governor Namadi's humility and dedication to Islamic values and development have earned him this award. We wish him continued courage, patience, and strength to drive progress in Jigawa State.

Once again, congratulations, Sir!

Signed,
Prof. Isa Yusuf Chamo
Hon. Commissioner, MOHEST, Jigawa State



Qatar Airways Group has announced the appointment of Mr. Hamad Ali Al-Khater as its new Group Chief Executive Officer, effective Sunday, December 7, 2025.

He succeeds Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, whose service to the airline was acknowledged by the Board.

Mr. Al-Khater joins Qatar Airways Group from Hamad International Airport, where he served as Chief Operating Officer.

In that role, he oversaw the safety, security and reliability of airport operations while steering strategic growth, infrastructure expansion and operational excellence.

He also played a key role in enhancing passenger experience at one of the world's leading aviation hubs.

Before his tenure at Hamad International Airport, Mr. Al-Khater held senior positions at QatarEnergy, where he led business development initiatives, deal execution and major strategic and operational projects, contributing significantly to the organisation's growth and efficiency.

Commenting on the appointment, Chairman of the Qatar Airways Group Board of Directors, His Excellency Mr. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, expressed appreciation to the outgoing CEO and confidence in the new leadership.

He noted that the airline looks forward to building on its strong foundations and expansive global network under Mr. Al-Khater's leadership, supported by a highly skilled workforce in Qatar and across the world.

LOTUS Bank

Also, the Board of LOTUS Bank has announced the appointment of Dr. Isiaka Ajani-Lawal as the bank's new Managing Director and

Qatar Airways, LOTUS Bank Appoint New CEOs as Corporate Reforms Gather Pace

• Dangote Foundation commits ₦1trn to nationwide scholarship programme



Hamad Ali Al-Khater

Chief Executive Officer, effective December 2025, marking a new phase in the institution's growth and strategic direction.

Dr. Ajani-Lawal succeeds the bank's founding MD/CEO, Mrs. Kafilat Araoye, whose retirement brings to a close a distinguished tenure characterised by strong growth, institutional stability and market expansion.

Commenting on the leadership transition, Chairperson of the Board, Mrs. Hajara Adeola, commended Mrs. Araoye for her exemplary service, describing her leadership as one marked by integrity, foresight and lasting impact.

She noted that the outgoing CEO played a pivotal role in shaping LOTUS Bank into a fast-growing, value-driven financial institution. Adeola expressed confidence that Dr.



Zouera Youssoufou

Ajani-Lawal would uphold the bank's core values while advancing its strategic vision.

The newly appointed MD/CEO brings over 25 years of experience in banking and financial services.

Before his appointment, Dr. Ajani-Lawal served as Executive Director, Operations and Technology at LOTUS Bank, where he led key initiatives in operational efficiency, technology deployment, innovation and regulatory compliance.

Dr. Ajani-Lawal holds a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) from the University of Liverpool and possesses extensive expertise in strategy execution, risk management, customer relationship management, credit administration, sales and marketing, and business development.

In his response, Dr. Ajani-



Dr. Isiaka Ajani Lawal

Lawal expressed gratitude to the Board and reaffirmed his commitment to the bank's mission.

He said he is honoured to lead LOTUS Bank at a critical stage of its development and pledged to build on the solid foundation laid by his predecessor, with a focus on ethical, inclusive and digitally driven banking services.

Dangote Foundation

Chairman of the Aliko Dangote Foundation and President of Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote, has announced a ₦1 trillion scholarship initiative aimed at expanding access to education and promoting academic excellence across Nigeria, pledging 25 per cent of his personal wealth to sustain the programme.

Scheduled to commence in 2026, the scheme will support over 1.3 million students across Nigeria's

774 local government areas, with ₦100 billion committed annually over a 10-year period.

It targets the country's most vulnerable learners through three pillars: the Aliko Dangote STEM Scholars programme for 30,000 undergraduates in public universities and polytechnics; Aliko Dangote Technical Scholars for 5,000 TVET trainees; and the MHF Dangote Secondary School Girls Scholars for 10,000 girls in public secondary schools, especially in states with high out-of-school rates.

The programme will be implemented in collaboration with key national institutions, including NELS, NIMC, NUC, NBTE, WAEC and NECO, using a fully digital, merit-based selection and disbursement process to ensure transparency and efficiency.

Dangote described the initiative as a strategic investment in human capital, designed to reduce inequality and drive national development. Oversight will be provided by a Programme Steering Committee chaired by the Emir of Lafia, Justice Sidi Dauda Bage, with progress aligned to Dangote Group's Vision 2030 strategy.

He noted that the Foundation under the supervision of Zouera Youssoufou as Managing Director and CEO also engages in other critical interventions such as empowerment, healthcare, and humanitarian relief. These efforts have significantly impacted lives across Nigeria and beyond.

Lotus Bank emerges Nigerian Muslim-owned Brand of the Year 2024/2025



Lotus Bank, one of Nigeria's foremost Islamic financial institutions, founded by renowned finance expert Hajia Hajara Adeola, has been named the Nigerian Muslim-owned Brand of the Year by Muslim News Nigeria, the nation's most authoritative Islamic newspaper.

The announcement was made in a statement issued by the newspaper's Publisher and convener of the Global and Nigerian Muslim Personalities of the Year 2024/2025 Awards, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar. The publisher noted that Lotus Bank was named the Nigerian Muslim-owned Brand of the Year in recognition of its ethical, non-interest banking model and unwavering commitment to empowering individuals and businesses through Shari'ah-compliant financial services.

Alhaji Abubakar added that the bank stands out as one of the few

financial institutions in Nigeria founded primarily by a leading Muslim female financial expert to meet the financial needs of Muslims, while also remaining inclusive and beneficial to non-Muslim members of society.

He noted that Hajia Adeola, the current MD/CEO of Lotus Capital, established the institution not just for profit but out of a deep commitment to ethical finance rooted in Islamic principles.

According to him, "Her vision was to offer a viable non-interest banking alternative aligned with Shari'ah, promoting fairness, transparency, and financial inclusion."

Prior to founding Lotus Bank in 2021, Hajia Adeola served as the Managing Director and CEO of Lotus Capital Limited, a trailblazing Islamic investment firm she established in 2004, which laid the foundation for her leadership in ethical finance in Nigeria.

According to the statement, since its inception, Lotus Bank has been at the forefront of promoting Islamic finance in Nigeria, offering innovative products rooted in transparency, equity, partnership and values

aligned with Islamic economic principles.

"Lotus Bank, under the visionary leadership of its founder continues to stand out as a pioneer in Nigeria's ethical banking space, contributing to financial inclusion, supporting SMEs, and positively impacting the economy," the statement read.

With its flagship branch located in Victoria Island, Lagos, the Bank officially commenced operations on July 7, 2021, and has recorded significant milestones that reflect its rapid growth and impact in Nigeria's banking sector.

Within just three years, Lotus Bank expanded its balance sheet from approximately ₦30 billion to over ₦350 billion, while its customer base grew from around 250,000 to about 500,000 as of October 2024. These figures demonstrate the bank's strong financial trajectory and increasing appeal among Nigerians seeking ethical and inclusive financial solutions.

In recognition of its contributions, Lotus Bank has received numerous prestigious awards. In 2022, it was named Bank of the Year by Leadership

Newspapers for its efforts in promoting financial inclusion and supporting non-oil export earnings. The bank also won Best Financial Inclusion Initiative and Debit Card of the Year at the 2024 Global Retail Banking Innovation Awards held in Singapore.

Further cementing its reputation, Lotus Bank was honoured with the Ethical Banking Leadership Award of the Year by BusinessDay in 2024 and later emerged as the Best Ethical and Financial Inclusion Bank of the Year at the 2025 BusinessDay BAFI Awards.

Alhaji Abubakar noted that the latest recognition, alongside the bank's remarkable achievements, underscores Lotus Bank's continued commitment, under its current Chief Executive Officer, CEO, Dr. Isiaka Ajani-Lawal, to ethical finance, innovation, and inclusive growth.

He called on Nigerian Muslims to support Muslim-owned businesses such as Lotus Bank and its subsidiaries, while also urging the bank's management to sustain its high service standards and continue serving all customers regardless of their faith, with excellence, professionalism, and fairness.



Hajia Hajara Adeola

Qatar Airways Clinches Global Muslim-Owned Brand of the Year 2024/2025

Qatar Airways has been named the Global Muslim-Owned Brand of the Year 2024/2025 by Muslim News Nigeria, in recognition of its exceptional global presence, industry-leading standards, and distinguished representation of Muslim-owned enterprise on the international stage.

The announcement was made by the Publisher and Convener of the MNAwards, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar.

He stated that Qatar Airways met the criteria set by the award organisers, standing out as a global Muslim-owned brand that delivers exceptional hospitality, enhances the overall passenger experience, and has earned the trust and loyalty of travellers worldwide.

As a national carrier wholly owned by the State of Qatar (a Muslim nation), the airline stands as a strong symbol of Muslim ownership operating at the highest level of global aviation.

The publisher noted that Qatar Airways' vast global network also contributed significantly to its selection. Operating hundreds of routes across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas, the airline connects millions of passengers yearly, including Hajj and Umrah pilgrims, business travellers, and students.

Its strategic route expansion has strengthened aviation links for the Muslim world while supporting global trade, tourism and cultural exchange.

Qatar Airways' reputation for operational excellence is another major factor, Abubakar said, noting that the airline has consistently earned top international honours. He cited its recent recognition as the 'Best Airline in the World' at the 2025 Business Traveller Awards, where it also won multiple other categories for its premium cabins, safety standards, and exceptional customer experience.

These achievements, he added, prove that Muslim-owned brands can compete at the highest levels while maintaining a strong identity and values.

Beyond its commercial success

The airline was also commended for advancing soft-power and positive representation of Muslims worldwide.

Abubakar highlighted that Qatar Airways' services have become crucial for global mobility, particularly for African and Middle Eastern passengers travelling for Hajj, Umrah, education, healthcare or commerce, thereby promoting understanding and strengthening ties across regions.

The MNAwards organiser further praised the airline for its unique consideration of Muslim travellers. Qatar Airways offers features such as prayer time notifications, Qibla direction on its in-flight entertainment, and, where feasible, space for passengers to observe prayers, amenities that remain rare in global aviation. "These are not



Mr. Hamad Ali Al-Khater, new CEO

just gestures; they reflect respect for the faith and identity of millions of travellers," Abubakar said.

Beyond religious accommodation

He added that Qatar Airways' commitment to service excellence extends beyond religious accommodation, noting its investments in modern aircraft, innovative technology, and sustainability initiatives, including a fleet renewal programme aimed at reducing environmental impact. "This is a company that leads with ambition, integrity and innovation," he said.

Humanitarian aid

Qatar Airways has

demonstrated a strong commitment to humanitarian aid through its dedicated air cargo division. Over the past five years, Qatar Airways Cargo has transported over 720 tonnes of life-saving aid for free, benefiting more than 15.5 million people across 34 countries. This support was provided in partnership with Airlink and 42 non-profit organisations, showcasing the airline's significant contribution to global relief efforts.

In 2024 alone, the airline shipped 136 tonnes of essential supplies such as medicine, clean water, and shelter materials to 12 countries, partnering with Airlink and 16 NGOs.

This effort saved an

estimated USD 2.19 million in logistics costs, allowing aid organisations to scale their response and use their funds directly where they were needed most. These efforts fall under the airline's "WeQare" initiative, which aims to make a meaningful impact on the world.

Muslim News Nigeria congratulates the leadership and staff of Qatar Airways on the recognition, describing the Award as both a celebration of the airline's achievements and an inspiration for other Muslim-owned brands.

The publication prayed for the company's continued expansion, global impact, and sustained role as a positive Ambassador of Muslim enterprise worldwide.

Sami Shehadeh Named Global Muslim Media Person of the Year 2024/2025



Sami Shehadeh

● **Honoured for fearless frontline reporting during Israel's genocidal war on Gaza**

Veteran Palestinian photojournalist and cameraman with TRT Arabi, Sami Shehadeh, has been named the Global Muslim Media Person of the Year 2024/2025 by Muslim News Nigeria, as part of its prestigious #MNAwards initiative.

The annual award recognises outstanding Musli

coverage during the two-year Israeli genocide war on Gaza, reporting under li f e -



Sami Shehadeh

continuing his journalism amid ongoing bombardments. His return stunned the world and reflected the true spirit of resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to truth," Alhaji Abubakar said.

The *Muslim News* Nigeria publisher also used the occasion to commend all journalists who have resisted Israeli oppression, particularly those in Gaza, praying for Almighty Allah's mercy on the over 250 media professionals killed since the war began in October 2023.

He called on the international community and global media bodies not to let Israel's murder of journalists go unpunished, insisting that the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Alhaji Abubakar recalled that in 2023, Wael Al-Dahdouh, the Bureau Chief of Al Jazeera Arabic in Gaza, received the same honour for his steadfastness in reporting despite losing most of his family in Israeli attacks.

"Like Wael, Sami Shehadeh's story is one of unwavering courage," Alhaji Abubakar continued.

"Since launching his career in 2008, he has covered every major Israeli assault on Gaza – 2008, 2012, 2014, 2021, and the current war, capturing the human toll of war through his lens and putting his life on the line to tell the truth,"



Sami Shehadeh shares a warm handshake with President Tayyip Erdoğan while presenting him with a press jacket at the recently held TRT World Forum.

men in threatening conditions to document civilian suffering and bring global attention to human rights violations.

"On April 12, 2024, Shehadeh was severely injured when Israeli forces targeted his press team while they prepared a live broadcast at the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza," he said, adding, "Despite wearing protective gear and clearly marked 'PRESS' vests, their crew was hit by a tank shell. The deadly Israeli attack led to the amputation of his leg.

According to Alhaji Abubakar, Shehadeh was selected for his fearless and unwavering

thru he said. "Shehadeh exemplifies the values of this award: courage, integrity, and an unshakeable commitment to the Muslim Ummah. He gives voice to the voiceless and holds oppressors accountable," Alhaji Abubakar concluded.

Other past winners of the category include Mohamed Ali Harrath (2021), founder of Islam Channel UK, for pioneering Muslim media representation and Rana Ayyub (2022), an Indian investigative journalist, for her fearless reporting on human rights and anti-Muslim persecution.

Sami Shehadeh and I

BY RASHEED ABUBAKAR

Many people may just be getting to know Sami Shehadeh, the veteran Palestinian photojournalist and TRT Arabi cameraman, who has been honoured with the prestigious Global Muslim Person of the Year (MNAwards 2024/2025) by Muslim News Nigeria.

What struck us most and inspired his nomination was his unimaginable courage: returning to the frontline to expose Israeli war crimes in Gaza one month after losing his leg when an Israeli tank shelled their media tent during the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza.

That story moved me deeply

because I could relate.

In 2015, while working on my second book, "Muslims and the Threats of the Media," I was hit by a truck, leaving both legs severely fractured. Despite the pain and physical challenges, I kept developing the manuscript throughout the period of my recovery. I completed and launched the book while still on crutches even as only a handful of people attended the event.

Despite years of intense pain with a fractured leg that later became infected, I went on to write three more books in that series, documenting media coverage of Islam and Muslims in Nigeria. I was mostly indoors for three years, often discouraged, but with support from family and friends, I stayed



Abubakar

focused.

I didn't receive much recognition then for my media advocacy, but I kept going, before I went to establish Rawshield PR Media, publisher of Muslim News Nigeria, and Convener of the #MNAwards.

I may not have been celebrated in those difficult years, but today, I am proud to use our platform to spotlight people like Sami Shehadeh who show similar courage and resilience.

And I'm especially proud that Sami Shehadeh is being celebrated by Muslim News, not just as a journalist, but as a symbol of sacrifice, resistance, and unshakable faith in the face of a genocidal war.

May Allah protect and strengthen him, as well as everyone of us. And may He grant us successes in our efforts for truth and justice.



ZAKAT AND SADAQAT FOUNDATION

Motto: Spend O Son of Adam, I shall spend on you

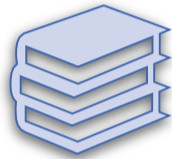
Suite 10, Tafawa Balewa Sq. Complex, East Pavilion, Opp. Ministry of Defence, Lagos Island, Lagos
Website: www.zakatandsadaqat.org.ng,
E-mail: info@zakatandsadaqat.org.ng

ORPHANS AND INDIGENTS EDUCATION SUPPORT (OIES)



FEED

Ensures health and well-being



EDUCATE

Empowers with knowledge and skills



PROTECT

Safeguards rights and safety

GIVE THEM HOPE

Zakat and Sadaqat Foundation
GTBank
0016101127



₦40k/Term/Child
₦120K/Session/Child
(You can do part sponsorship)



Don't harm an Orphan.
Life without parents is not easy.
Nobody chose to die and leave his/her kids to suffer.



@zakatandsadaqat

+234 906 700 0083

zsf.org.ng

ZSF...caring, creating socio-economic balance.



...Simply Hospitality, Truly Spirituality

HAJJ MABRUR VENTURES LTD.

9A, Wing1, Abiodun Fashakin Crescent, Behind Old LASU Building, Anthony, Lagos

Website: www.hajjmabrur.com Email: info@hajjmabrur.com



HAJJ & UMRAH

- Hajj and Umrah Packages
- Pre-Ramadan & Ramadan Umrah
- Kiddies Umrah Excursion
- Aqsa Trip

Why Choose Hajj Mabruur?

- * Unparalleled service excellence
- * Expert guidance throughout your journey
- * Comfortable and hassle-free travel experiences

Book now and make your pilgrimage a resounding success!



BRANCH OFFICE:

Suite 10, TBS Shopping Complex ,
East Pavilion, Opposite High Court
of Lagos, Lagos State Nigeria.
Tel: +234 802 9057 589
+234 813 7900 777

ABUJA OFFICE:

Suites B40, Fanaha Business Suits Complex Ltd.
(yahuza Suya Spot) No. 7 Bozoom Close, Behind
AP Plaza off Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent,
Wuse2, FCT, Abuja.
Tel: +234 813 3818 891

HQ Contacts:

0809 211 3680
adebayo@hajjmabrur.com
0813 790 0777



HMV TRAVEL & LOGISTIC

(A Subsidiary of Hajj Mabruur Ventures Ltd.)

9A, Wing1, Abiodun Fashakin Crescent, Behind Old LASU Building,
Anthony, Lagos.

"We invite corporate bodies, Muslim cooperatives, and educational institutions to partner with Hajj Mabruur and its subsidiaries, trusted stakeholders in Nigeria's travel industry, committed to delivering reliable and mutually beneficial collaboration opportunities."



- OUR SERVICES:**
- Ticketing and Hotel Reservation
 - Students Excursion
 - Tours: Domestic & International
 - Visa Procurement
 - Travel Management
 - Travel Insurance
 - Courier and Logistics
 - MICE
 - Boat Cruise



Aliko Dangote Foundation's Impact Recognised with "Humanitarian Organisation of the Year" Award

The Aliko Dangote Foundation (ADF) has been honoured with the Humanitarian Organisation of the Year award in the 2024/2025 edition of the Global and Nigerian Muslim Personality Awards (#MNAwards), organised by Muslim News Nigeria, the country's leading Islamic newspaper.

The foundation, owned by Africa's richest man and prominent Muslim philanthropist, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, was selected for the honour in recognition of its impactful and consistent interventions in humanitarian service, both within and beyond Nigeria.

Interestingly, Dangote was recently listed on the inaugural 2025 'TIME100 Philanthropy' list as the only Nigerian among the 100 most influential global leaders shaping the future of giving.

While announcing the award in a statement released, the Publisher of Muslim News Nigeria and convener of the #MNAwards, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, noted that ADF's selection was not surprising given its extensive footprint in areas such as health, education, nutrition, empowerment, and emergency relief.

He added that the award underscores the foundation's unwavering dedication to

transformative and inclusive philanthropy, guided by the vision of its founder, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Dangote Industries Limited.

The publisher of the newspaper which celebrates Muslim achievers emphasised that the ADF's diverse range of intervention programmes including efforts in health, nutrition, education, food security and empowerment, among others.

Since its incorporation in 1994 (and re-branded as ADF in 2018), the foundation has committed to reaching one million households via community-based management of acute malnutrition, while improving water and sanitation, behavioural change, livelihood support and the broader health-system across Nigeria and Africa.

Notable examples of its humanitarian work include the distribution of over one million 10kg bags of rice nationwide, reaching vulnerable communities across all states, including non-Muslims, as recently reported in Lagos, Katsina and Kwara States.

Alhaji Abubakar said the Aliko Dangote Foundation has

also made significant investments in education as part of its long-standing commitment to human capital development

through r k entio inclu g a N 1 lion don n to



Dangote



n universities, with N500 million allocated to Bayero University for a business school and N100 million to the proposed Otuoke University in Bayelsa State.

He added that one of the most notable interventions was the construction and donation of fully equipped hostel facilities at Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria. Built at the cost of N1.2 billion, the accommodation has the capacity to house 2,160 students and was fully funded by the Foundation, serving as a testament to its dedication to expanding access to quality education across Nigeria.

Aside from education, Alhaji Abubakar said the Foundation has consistently demonstrated its commitment to humanitarian service by supporting both Muslim and Christian communities across Nigeria through various faith-based interventions.

According to him, "Specifically, in respect to Muslim organizations, one of its notable contributions includes the donation of a mosque valued at over ₦100 million to the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN) located in Utako

District, Abuja. The structure was officially commissioned in 2017 to support the organisation's spiritual and community-building efforts.

"Similarly, in 2025, the Foundation took over a ₦1.1 billion, 250-bed student hostel project initiated by the Ilorin Central Juma'at Mosque in Kwara State. In addition to this, the Foundation pledged a monthly donation of ₦5 million to support the mosque's maintenance and activities until the project is completed."

He noted that the Foundation under the supervision of Zouera Youssoufou as Managing Director and CEO also engages in other critical interventions such as empowerment, healthcare, and humanitarian relief. These efforts have significantly impacted lives across Nigeria and beyond.

He therefore called on Nigerian Muslims and the general public to continue praying for Allah's protection and guidance for the Founder and for the success of all his businesses, including the Dangote Refinery located in Lagos.

He also urged the public to support institutions like the Aliko Dangote Foundation, which not only serve their immediate communities but also participate in continent-wide partnerships aimed at changing Africa's narrative and promoting human dignity across religious and ethnic lines.

TİKA Emerges Global Humanitarian Organisation of the Year

Turkiye's aid agency, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), has been named the Global Humanitarian Organisation of the Year 2024/2025 by Muslim News Nigeria, in recognition of its unwavering commitment to global humanitarian response, particularly its exceptional relief efforts in Gaza amid the ongoing Israeli genocidal war in the besieged enclaves.

The announcement was made by the Publisher of Muslim News Nigeria and Convener of the Award, Rasheed Abubakar, as part of the annual #MNAwards, which honours outstanding Muslim professionals and institutions making positive impacts in their fields, often amid great adversity.

Abubakar stated that during the period under review, the Turkiye aid agency, established in 1992, has reached crisis-hit communities across the world, delivering critical aid, empowering vulnerable populations, and supporting long-term development.

He however noted that TİKA's courageous and consistent work in Gaza during the two-year genocidal war has drawn global admiration and respect.

With its people-centered approach, TİKA continues to extend the friendship and solidarity of the Turkish nation to #Africa.

According to him, "Amid heavy bombardments and complete blockade, TİKA delivered food packages, medicine, tents, blankets, and other essentials to displaced families in Gaza. Despite the dangers, the agency remained active on the ground, reaching communities cut off from aid and working to sustain life under siege."

In addition to emergency



Abdullah EREN, TİKA President

aid, TİKA supported long-term recovery by distributing agricultural inputs to local farmers, assisting in rebuilding damaged infrastructure, and offering psychosocial support to survivors, especially women and children.

The Muslim News Nigeria Publisher highlighted some of the remarkable efforts of the agency in Gaza, particularly its long-standing commitment to supporting the Palestinian people through humanitarian and developmental projects, noting that, over the years, TİKA has constructed housing units, hospitals, and other vital infrastructure for the oppressed people of Gaza.

Abubakar said, "TİKA has not only been delivering food and emergency aid, it has physically built homes and hospitals in Gaza. These were not just structures. They were symbols of solidarity, care, and international support for Palestinians under siege."

Unfortunately, many of

these projects have been destroyed during Israel's ongoing bombardment of Gaza, which escalated in October 2023.

Abubakar cited, among others, the tragic destruction of the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, considered to be Gaza's only cancer treatment centre, which was rendered inoperable after sustained Israeli airstrikes earlier this year. The hospital, which had been a lifeline for hundreds of cancer patients, was one of TİKA's landmark projects in the region.

Restoration of Masjid Al Aqsa and preservation of Palestinian heritage

TİKA has played a significant role in preserving and restoring the cultural and historical heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem, especially around Masjid Al Aqsa. Over the years, TİKA has carried out numerous restoration projects not only within Masjid Al Aqsa itself but also on many

Palestinian houses and buildings surrounding the holy site. These restoration efforts are crucial in protecting the Palestinian identity and heritage in the Old City, which faces ongoing threats.

TİKA's work includes repairing and reinforcing the ancient structures, restoring traditional architectural features, and maintaining the historic fabric of the area. These actions help preserve the cultural and religious significance of the site for Palestinians and Muslims worldwide.

Israel's attempts to erase Palestinian heritage and alter the character of the Old City have made TİKA's interventions even more important. By restoring Masjid Al Aqsa and nearby Palestinian homes, TİKA safeguards the identity and history of Palestinians in this contested area, standing as a vital defender of their heritage amid political and cultural pressures.

Collaboration in goodness

Abubakar further stated that TİKA has consistently worked

alongside other Turkish humanitarian organisations to deliver lifesaving aid to the people of Gaza, even under the most challenging circumstances.

Despite Israeli restrictions on aid entry and frequent bombardments, TİKA together with other Turkiye aid agencies have continued to work tirelessly to ensure that food, medicine, and other essential supplies reach those in desperate need.

According to him, "At a time when many international organisations struggled to gain access, TİKA, alongside other Turkish NGOs such as IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, Diyanet Foundation, and Red Crescent, among others, ensured that aid convoys were mobilised and reached Gaza, especially during the short-lived ceasefires."

Abubakar also extended special recognition to the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation for its steadfast dedication to the Palestinian cause, particularly in Gaza.

He said the IHH team has remained on the frontlines, delivering critical aid despite the immense dangers posed by the ongoing Israeli aggression. Their selflessness has come at a high cost, as several IHH staff members have been directly targeted and tragically killed by the occupation forces.

Beyond Gaza, The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) has continued to play a vital role in global humanitarian efforts in over 150 countries, including conflict-hit areas in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. Its operations have spanned education, healthcare, agriculture, water provision, and emergency relief, touching the lives of millions of people in need.

Muslim News Nigeria has honoured Consultant Gynaecologist, Dr. Maryam Jamila Ali, with the prestigious title of Nigerian Muslim Health Person of the Year 2024/2025.

The announcement was made in a statement issued by the Publisher of Muslim News Nigeria and convener of the Global and Nigerian Muslim Personalities of the Year Awards, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, with input from the Islamic Medical Association of Nigeria (IMAN), under the leadership of its President, Prof. Ibrahim Oreagba.

Dr. Maryam, a Specialist in Gynaecological Oncology at the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) and Senior Lecturer at the University of Jos, stands out for her commitment to clinical excellence and academic mentorship.

She not only delivers top-tier care to her patients but also nurtures the next generation of medical professionals with a balanced approach that blends knowledge with compassion.

Her leadership journey began early, when she was appointed Health Prefect at Al-Iman Primary and Secondary Schools, Jos. Even then, she earned respect for her calm authority and deep concern for others' wellbeing — qualities that continue to define her medical and humanitarian contributions today.

For over twelve years, Dr. Maryam Jamila Ali has made remarkable contributions to medical research and public health, serving as principal or co-investigator on numerous national and international projects focused on HIV, cervical cancer, and reproductive health issues affecting vulnerable groups.

Dr. Maryam Jamila Ali Named Nigerian Muslim Health Person of the Year 2024/2025

Her work has yielded more than twenty peer-reviewed publications in esteemed journals such as BMC Cancer, PLOS ONE, and the Tropical Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

A respected global health scholar, Dr. Ali has participated in prestigious fellowships, including the Global Health Emerging Scholars (GHES) Fellowship and Northwestern University's STAMINA Program. She also lends her expertise as a peer reviewer for international medical journals.

Beyond clinical and academic achievements, Dr. Ali has held key leadership roles within the Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN) and the Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN), where she continues to mentor younger professionals.

As a committed member of IMAN, she served as the first Ameerah of the Plateau State Chapter, championing health outreaches that bridge medical care with Islamic ethical values and community service.

Dr. Ali's professional journey is anchored in a deep commitment to women's health and serving underserved communities. As the Medical Director of Ibrahim Garba Memorial Hospital in Jos, she has rendered consistent clinical services without pay, an embodiment of khidmah, the Islamic ethic of selfless service.

Her dedication extends beyond hospital walls, as she regularly leads medical outreach programs providing free obstetric, gynaecological, and surgical care in low-income and rural areas.

Her work with vesicovaginal fistula (VVF) repair missions in Plateau and Benue States has restored dignity and improved the quality of life for women often neglected by the healthcare system.

Dr. Ali has also played a vital role on the Plateau State Hajj Medical Team, notably leading the 2022 and 2024 contingents, offering both healthcare and spiritual support to Nigerian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

Partnering with NGOs like Eden Health Mission and Compassion Initiative, she has extended preventive health education and surgical services to remote communities. These acts of service, grounded in compassion and professionalism, underscore her deserving recognition as Nigerian Muslim Health Person of the Year.

Dr. Ali is also widely recognised for her leadership in health education, particularly in promoting premarital health screening, women's reproductive rights, and ethical medical practices through Islamic platforms such as the Islamic Online University and the Islamic Medical Association of Nigeria (IMAN).

Beyond her clinical and

academic roles, she actively coordinates charitable initiatives that support widows, orphans, and internally displaced persons, especially during Ramadan and Eid, demonstrating a seamless integration of her medical profession with faith-driven social service.



Dr. Maryam Jamila Ali

The Convener of the #MNAwards, Alhaji Abubakar, congratulated the awardee for her outstanding achievements and far-reaching impact in the medical field over the years, noting that she exemplifies the true spirit and message of Islam.

"It is therefore our pleasure to recognise your dedicated service to your

profession, people, communities, and Islam. We are truly proud of you. You are an inspiration to all Muslim ladies out there, proving that Islam does not hinder women from attaining excellence, scholarship, and professionalism. We hope this recognition motivates you to do more for the country, humanity, and the Muslim community," Alhaji Abubakar stated.

Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah clinches Global Muslim Health Person of the Year

Renowned British-Palestinian plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah, has clinched the Global Muslim Health Person of the Year (MNAwards2024/25) for his exceptional medical service and humanitarian efforts in the Gaza Strip during the brutal two-year Israeli genocidal war.

The announcement was made by Rasheed Abubakar,

Publisher of Muslim News Nigeria, a leading faith-based newspaper dedicated to celebrating Muslim achievers whose work uplifts both the Ummah and humanity at large.

Abubakar said Dr. Abu Sittah's unwavering

commitment to treating war victims under extreme conditions, including his work at Al-Shifa and Al-Ahli hospitals amid relentless bombardment, earned him global recognition.

He noted that despite life-threatening risks and severe shortages, the British-Palestinian surgeon emerged as a symbol of both medical excellence and moral courage.

The award, he added, honours not only Dr. Abu Sittah's surgical expertise but also his fearless advocacy, as he continues to speak out against injustice and stand in solidarity with oppressed people around the world.

Abubakar, Convener of the MNAwards, cited one harrowing night, reported by multiple media, when Dr. Abu Sittah performed six amputations, a grim reflection of the devastating injuries caused by Israeli airstrikes on innocent Palestinians over the two-year onslaught.

"Many of his patients were children," he noted, "underscoring the profound human cost of the conflict and the surgeon's heroic dedication, which has earned him international accolades and recognition."

For over two decades, Dr. Abu Sittah has been at the forefront of war-zone medicine, but

his role during the 2023–2025 Israeli genocidal war on Gaza has solidified his reputation as a global symbol of medical resistance and compassion. Working in overcrowded and under-equipped hospitals under constant threat of bombardment, he risked his life daily to save others.

The Publisher of Muslim News Nigeria highlighted Dr. Abu Sittah's courageous stand against Israel's deliberate targeting of hospitals, describing it as a calculated war strategy aimed at dismantling Gaza's fragile healthcare infrastructure.

According to him, "Despite the grave dangers, Dr. Abu Sittah refused to remain silent. He openly criticized Western governments for their support of the Israeli regime and the punitive actions taken against those who dare to speak out."

He entered Gaza in October 2023, shortly after Israel launched its bombardment, and worked in hospitals such as Al-Shifa and Al-Ahli Arab Hospital. However, he left Gaza after several weeks due to the escalating Israeli attacks and the deteriorating humanitarian situation, which made continued medical work nearly impossible.

Since leaving, he has continued to be a vocal advocate, speaking internationally about the healthcare crisis, Israeli war crimes, and the targeting of medical facilities. He has also faced political backlash, including entry bans from Germany and France, because of his outspoken stance.

He criticized Israel for

allegedly extracting organs from the bodies of Palestinians returned in sealed bags, describing the act as a grave ethical and humanitarian violation. In an interview with Al Jazeera, he stated that the organs removed were those typically used in transplant surgeries, including the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, and corneas.

The claims were later confirmed by Palestinian authorities in Gaza, who called for an international committee to investigate what they described as a "horrific crime."

While congratulating Dr. Abu Sittah for his selfless service to humanity during the ongoing conflict in Gaza, Muslim News Nigeria Publisher also extends heartfelt condolences to the over 1,722 healthcare workers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Among those who made the ultimate sacrifice are Dr. Ayman Abu Al-Ouf, Dr. Khaled Al-Masri, and Dr. Razan Al-Najjar.

"We will also not forget the eight Red Cross paramedics killed by Israeli soldiers, along with six Civil Defence first responders and a UN staff member. Their dedication and bravery will forever be remembered."

We also acknowledge the many medical professionals who have been detained by the Israeli regime, forcibly displaced, or evacuated amidst the violence. Notable among them are Dr. Ahmad Mhanna and Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, both of whom were arrested while steadfastly providing care under dire conditions. Others, including numerous healthcare workers, have been forced to flee or operate under extremely difficult circumstances to continue serving the people of Gaza.

Muslim News Nigeria honours all these brave men and women, whose sacrifices embody the spirit of compassion and resilience in the face of adversity.



Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah

Tinubu's aide Bala Usman bags "Female Public Service Excellence Award"



Hajiya Bala Usman

Special Adviser to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Policy and Coordination, Hajiya Hadiza Bala Usman, has been honoured with the prestigious Female Public Service Excellence Award by Muslim News Nigeria, the country's most authoritative Islamic newspaper.

Her nomination was officially announced on Friday, November 14, 2025, by the Publisher of the newspaper and organiser of the Global and Nigerian Muslim Personalities of the Year Awards (#MNAwards), Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar.

According to Alhaji Abubakar, the award category was specially created to spotlight outstanding but often unsung Muslim personalities who have shown excellence in public

service while upholding Islamic values.

Hajiya Hadiza Bala Usman was nominated in recognition of her exceptional leadership as the Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) from 2016 to 2021, where she implemented key reforms in maritime operations.

Her ongoing role in the Tinubu administration, where she monitors and coordinates Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure policy efficiency, also contributed to her selection.

Alhaji Abubakar noted that Bala Usman stands out not only as a capable administrator but also as a devout Muslim woman and politician who is helping to drive the realisation of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's

Renewed Hope 8-Point Agenda.

According to him, "Hajiya Bala Usman has led key reforms including the introduction of the Citizens' Delivery Tracker for monitoring ministerial performance, institutionalisation of performance assessments across ministries, development of a National Public Policy Framework, and enforcement of accountability measures to ensure alignment with President Tinubu's agenda."

Despite her demanding role in public service, Hadiza Bala Usman has consistently mentored many young girls to pursue excellence in their chosen careers and life paths.

She is an active member of several mentorship platforms, including The Muslim In National Development (MIND)

Foundation, where she supports the growth of emerging Muslim professionals.

Hadiza Bala Usman's Islamic background and identity as the daughter of renowned historian and Islamic scholar, Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman, have significantly shaped her values and reform-driven approach in governance. Her unwavering dedication to public service, transparency, and youth empowerment reflects her deep-rooted principles.

The Publisher of Muslim News Nigeria congratulated her for the recognition, saying that the formal presentation of her and other winners in different categories will take place during the newspaper's 7th anniversary lecture, with the date to be announced soon.

South African activist, Dr. Hendricks honoured as Global Advocate for Peace and Justice of the Year 2024/2025

A South African activist and one of the crew members aboard the Global Sumud Flotilla, Dr. Fatima Hendricks, has been honoured with the Global Advocate for Peace and Justice of the Year 2024/2025 by Muslim News Nigeria, the country's most authoritative Islamic newspaper.

Publisher of the newspaper who also doubles as the convener of the prestigious #MNAwards, Rasheed Abubakar, made the announcement in a statement issued on Saturday, December 6, 2025.

Abubakar said Dr. Hendricks was selected for the honour in recognition of her courageous humanitarian advocacy, unwavering support for oppressed peoples, and steadfast commitment to justice, even in the face of danger, spanning over 30 years.

He noted that Dr. Hendricks' decades long activism highlights the devastating impact of oppression on health, education, and family life, and has taken her across the globe, including the United States, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Palestine, the Syrian border, and Nigeria.

Dr. Hendricks, an occupational therapist, is a wife, mother of two and a cancer survivor. She holds three master's degrees, a doctorate, and brings over 30 years of international experience in health and education programme development. She is the author of "Please Forgive Me and Living Love".

Abubakar said the Muslim woman of substance became even more prominent when she courageously boarded the Gaza-bound ship in September 2025, as part of the Global Sumud Flotilla, a peaceful humanitarian mission aimed at breaking the illegal siege on the Palestinian territory.

According to him, "Her participation in the voyage, despite the serious risks involved, elevated



Occupational Therapy students at UKZN listen attentively to a presentation by Dr. Fatima Hendricks, a crew member of the Global Sumud Flotilla who was previously held in captivity by Israel.

She went to Gaza to break the Israeli siege ... They faced brutality and were even arrested. Before she left, she took off her wedding ring and gave it to her husband, Dr Suleyman Teo, saying, 'Keep this ring. If I return by the will of Allah, you may place it back on my finger.' – Shaykh Abduragmaan Alexander (Masjidul-Quds, South Africa)



Muslim News Publisher presents copies of the newspaper, award plaque, and certificate to Dr. Fatima Hendricks during her visit to Lagos in December 2025.

her global profile as a symbol of resistance, compassion, and unwavering commitment to justice.

"By joining the flotilla, Dr. Hendricks not only showed solidarity with the oppressed people of Gaza but also used her voice to amplify their suffering and advocate for their basic human rights. She boarded a vessel to Gaza not with weapons, but with love, hope, and relief materials. She endured Israeli brutality when she was arrested and detained with grace and came back to raise her voice for justice," Abubakar said.

The Publisher further stated that Dr. Hendricks' fearless advocacy for justice and freedom, especially now, for the people of Palestine, even in the face of intimidation, reminds us that true service to humanity transcends borders and comforts.

"It's a reminder of Nelson Mandela's famous quote: 'Our freedom is not complete without the freedom of Palestine.' Like Mandela, Dr. Hendricks' courage inspires others to stand for the oppressed in Gaza and other parts of the world, where she continues to be celebrated," he said.

Abubakar congratulated her and other crew members of the Sumud Flotilla and reaffirmed the platform's commitment to recognising Muslims whose lives and work illuminate peace, justice, and compassion on the global stage.

Abubakar also noted that Dr. Hendricks and the other awardees did not embark on their noble missions for the sake of recognition or awards. He said, "Their work is rooted in sincerity, compassion, and unwavering commitment to justice and humanity.

"However, in a world where Muslims are often misrepresented due to the actions of a few, it becomes crucial for us to take the initiative to celebrate those who embody the true values of Islam.

"By telling our own stories and amplifying the voices of Muslim changemakers, we reclaim our narrative and inspire future generations to uphold truth, peace, and justice," Abubakar added.

Prof. Yusuf Ali SAN honoured with Nigerian Muslim Legal Person of the Year 2024/2025

Renowned legal practitioner and Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN), has emerged Nigerian Muslim Legal Personality of the Year for 2024/2025.

Publisher of *Muslim News Nigeria* and convener of the Global and Nigerian Muslim Personalities of the Year Awards, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, made the announcement in a statement on Friday, November 14, 2025.

Alhaji Abubakar said the award, organised by *Muslim News Nigeria*, the country's most authoritative Islamic newspaper, honours Prof. Olaolu Ali's huge, long-standing contributions to the legal and justice sector, both as a practitioner and intellectual.

Ali is the Principal Partner and Founder of Yusuf Ali & Co. (Ghalib Chambers), a household law firm and major employer of young professionals in Nigeria, with offices in Ilorin, Lagos, and Abuja.

A senior advocate with four decades of experience in the legal profession, Ali was appointed Professor of Law Practice by the Federal University of Oye (FUOYE) Ekiti, in recognition of his extensive industry experience, scholarly contributions, and standing in law practice.

Prof. Olaolu Ali is a Life Member of the Body of Benchers and has played pivotal roles in advancing jurisprudence and legal reforms in Nigeria. His notable appointments include Sole Judge of the Kwara State Local Government Election Petition Tribunal in 1996 and Member of the Kwara State Local Government Election Appeal Tribunal in 1997.

He also chaired the Kwara State Law Reform Committee and has held key leadership roles within the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA).

As a Patron and Legal Adviser to numerous professional and socio-cultural organizations nationwide, Prof. Olaolu Ali also serves as a Member of the Council of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

Widely regarded as one of Nigeria's most decorated lawyers, Prof. Ali has represented state governments, high-net-worth individuals, and corporate entities in landmark cases across various superior courts, from the High Court to the Supreme Court.

The legal scholar has contributed over 17 chapters to various legal books and authored more than 40 articles in reputable journals covering litigation, commercial law, jurisprudence,

practice and procedure, and constitutional law.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions and impact, Prof. Olaolu Ali has received over 100 awards honoring his professionalism, expertise, and humanitarian service.

Notable among these are the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Governing Board of Editors of the American Biographical Institute; the Award of Excellence as a Doyen of Legal Luminaries in Nigeria by *Nigerian Vogue*; the Distinguished Personality Award from the Faculty of Law, University of Ibadan; and the Kwame Nkrumah Leadership Award as the 2010 Africa Legal Icon by the All Africa Students' Union, among others.

Alhaji Abubakar stated that *Muslim News Nigeria* is proud of the remarkable achievements and impactful contributions of Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, recognising him as a worthy ambassador of Islam within the legal profession.

"As a token of appreciation for his dedicated service, scholarship, and expertise, *Muslim News Nigeria* proudly announces Prof. Yusuf Ali, SAN, as the Nigerian Muslim Legal Personality of the Year 2024/2025. We hope this recognition inspires him to continue making

meaningful contributions that uplift Islam and the Muslim community."

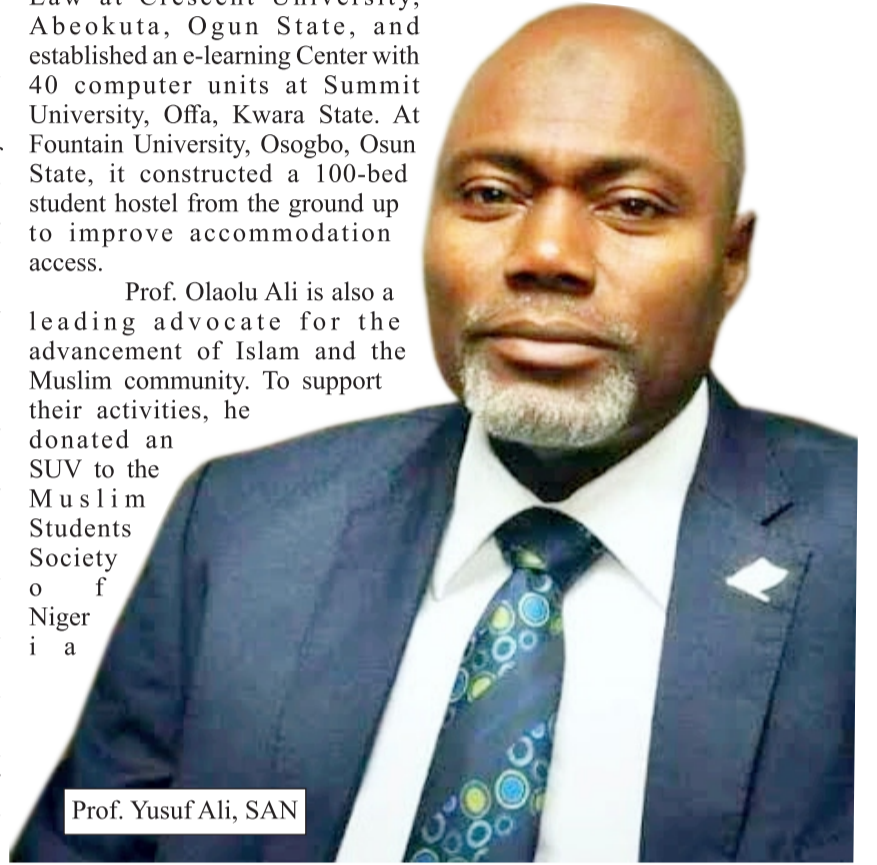
Beyond his towering influence in the legal profession, Yusuf Olaolu Ali is deeply committed to philanthropy and giving back to society. In 2009, he established the Yusuf Olaolu Ali Foundation, which focuses on advancing education, healthcare, and community development. The Foundation has awarded numerous scholarships, provided financial support for medical treatments, and championed various community initiatives.

Notably, the Foundation donated an ICT Center equipped with 40 computer units to the College of Law at Crescent University, Abeokuta, Ogun State, and established an e-learning Center with 40 computer units at Summit University, Offa, Kwara State. At Fountain University, Osogbo, Osun State, it constructed a 100-bed student hostel from the ground up to improve accommodation access.

Prof. Olaolu Ali is also a leading advocate for the advancement of Islam and the Muslim community. To support their activities, he donated an SUV to the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria.

(MSSN) and a brand-new car to the University of Ibadan's Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies. Additionally, he donated a bus to the Madrasah (Islamic and Arabic Learning Centre) of the Chief Imam of Ilorin.

Prof. Olaolu Ali holds the chieftaincy title of the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, an honour bestowed upon him by His Royal Highness, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin, in recognition of his legal scholarship and significant contributions to the socio-cultural development of the Ilorin Emirate.



Prof. Yusuf Ali, SAN

Veteran broadcast journalist and Director of News, NTA, Hajiya Halima Musa (mni, NPOM) has been named the Nigerian Muslim Media Person of the Year 2024/2025, an award organised by *Muslim News Nigeria*, the country's most authoritative Islamic newspaper.

The announcement was made by the Publisher, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, with endorsement from the National leadership of Muslim Media Practitioners of Nigeria (MMPN) leadership led by its President, Alhaji Abdurrahman Balogun.

Hajiya Musa, a distinguished media executive with over two decades of experience in news production, reporting, and media management within the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and other federal parastatals, was recognised for her outstanding professionalism, contribution to national development and unwavering commitment to Islamic values.

Alhaji Abubakar described the broadcasting icon as a devout Muslimah known for her humility, dedication and upholding Islamic values in both private and professional life, serving as a role model for Muslim women in the media.

While congratulating her on the well-deserved recognition, Alhaji Abubakar noted that Hajiya Musa has consistently mentored younger journalists and media professionals, particularly women by promoting excellence, ethics, and professionalism in journalism.

According to him, "Hajiya Musa is a proven leader with

NTA Director of News Halima Musa Conferred with Nigerian Muslim Media Person of the Year 2024/2025

expertise in formulating and implementing news policies, directing large-scale media operations, and providing strategic public relations support at the highest levels of government."

Also speaking, Alhaji Balogun said Hajiya Musa is a committed and exemplary Muslim professional who has consistently upheld Islamic values throughout her career.

"Hajiya Halima Musa has always represented Islam wholeheartedly, both in character and appearance. She is a complete Muslimah who openly identifies with her faith at all times," he said.

The National President of MMPN noted her pivotal role in the formation and growth of the Muslim community within the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA).

According to him, "She has been instrumental in establishing key initiatives such as the annual Ramadan lecture and other religious programmes

at NTA. Her efforts also contributed significantly to the construction of a modern mosque at the NTA headquarters in Abuja."

He added that even before assuming her current role as Executive Director of News, Hajiya Musa consistently ensured

fair coverage of stories that highlight the progress and achievements of Islam and Muslims.

"She is upright, focused, and committed to professionalism. Allah has placed her in a position of influence, and she is using it effectively to promote Islam and ensure balanced, ethical journalism. We need more media professionals like her," he noted.

Hajiya Musa brings not only decades of hands-on media experience but also a robust academic and professional training background.

Her academic journey began with a Secondary School Certificate from Government Girls Secondary School, Kano, in 1986, followed by an IJMBE certificate from the College of Arts, Science & Remedial Studies, Kano in 1988. She later obtained a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from Bayero University, Kano in 1991, where she graduated as the best student.

In 2022, she earned a Master's

degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), further enhancing her skills in strategic communication and conflict-sensitive reporting.

That same year, she completed the Senior Executive Course 44 at the prestigious National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru — a programme aimed at grooming Nigeria's top policy-makers and public service leaders.

Between 2016 and 2018, Hajiya Musa served as Special Assistant, Media to the Federal Commissioner at the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), where she developed media strategies and managed press engagements related to humanitarian issues.

She returned to NTA where she had built her career, and from 2019 to 2021, she served as Acting Director of News, maintaining the station's reputation for journalistic excellence. Her capacity was formally confirmed in January 2022, when she became the substantive Director of News.

In this role, she leads the entire News Directorate, overseeing the implementation of editorial policies and ensuring ethical and timely news broadcasts across the NTA network.



Hajiya Halima Musa

Lateef Adedimeji Wins Nigerian Muslim Celebrity of the Year 2024/2025



Adedimeji

Popular Nollywood actor Lateef Adedimeji has been named Muslim Celebrity of the Year for the #MNawards2024/2025 by Muslim News Nigeria, a prestigious recognition celebrating his professional excellence and unwavering commitment to Islamic values in the entertainment industry.

The announcement was made by the Publisher of the newspaper, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, who noted that Adedimeji stood out among his peers for meeting the criteria set for the award, which recognises Muslims making impactful contributions to society in their respective professions/careers while staying true to their faith.

Adedimeji's fame has soared in the last four years, with major roles in notable biopics such as Ayinla (2021), Jagun Jagun (2023) and the recently released Lisabi 1&2 (2024), which earned accolades at the 2025 Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards (AMVCA) and 2025 Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA).

Despite his rising profile, the actor has remained steadfast in his callings while observing a relatively decent lifestyle and openly identifies as a Muslim and reflects Islamic values both on and offscreen.

Adedimeji consistently projects a good image of Muslims in the public sphere with the frequent use of Islamic greetings, supplications, and messages on his social media platforms, where he

commands millions of followers.

On social media, he regularly posts Islamic reminders, quotes from the Qur'an and Hadith, and encourages followers to pray, fast, and seek knowledge.

His verified page becomes especially active with Islamic content on Fridays, during Ramadan and Dhul Hijjah, the month of Hajj, and publicly celebrates Islamic festivals, encouraging others to stay connected to their faith.

One strong example of Lateef Adedimeji's commitment to charitable causes and Islamic awareness is his active participation in Islamic youth events, humanitarian campaigns, and da'wah-driven initiatives across Nigeria.

He has been a frequent guest speaker at Islamic lectures, Ramadan symposiums, and youth empowerment programmes, where he speaks openly about his journey, Islamic values, and the importance of staying connected to one's faith even in the entertainment world.

In 2022 and 2023, he partnered with NGOs and Islamic organisations during Ramadan to distribute food packs and relief items to the needy. Last year, he teamed up with Lagos Food Bank initiative to support Muslim families during Ramadan, using his platform to encourage others to give sadaqah and support the less privileged.

The organisers also noted that since rising to fame, Adedimeji has not been linked to any major controversy, immoral conduct, or media-infused scandals involving drugs, infidelity, or financial

misdeds which are common issues in the entertainment scene.

These actions not only reflect his personal piety but also serve to inspire millions of his fans, particularly Muslim youths, to strengthen their Islamic identity and engage in acts of kindness and charity.

The Publisher of Muslim News Nigeria congratulated the popular actor on his emergence, praising his consistent Islamic lifestyle and positive public image.

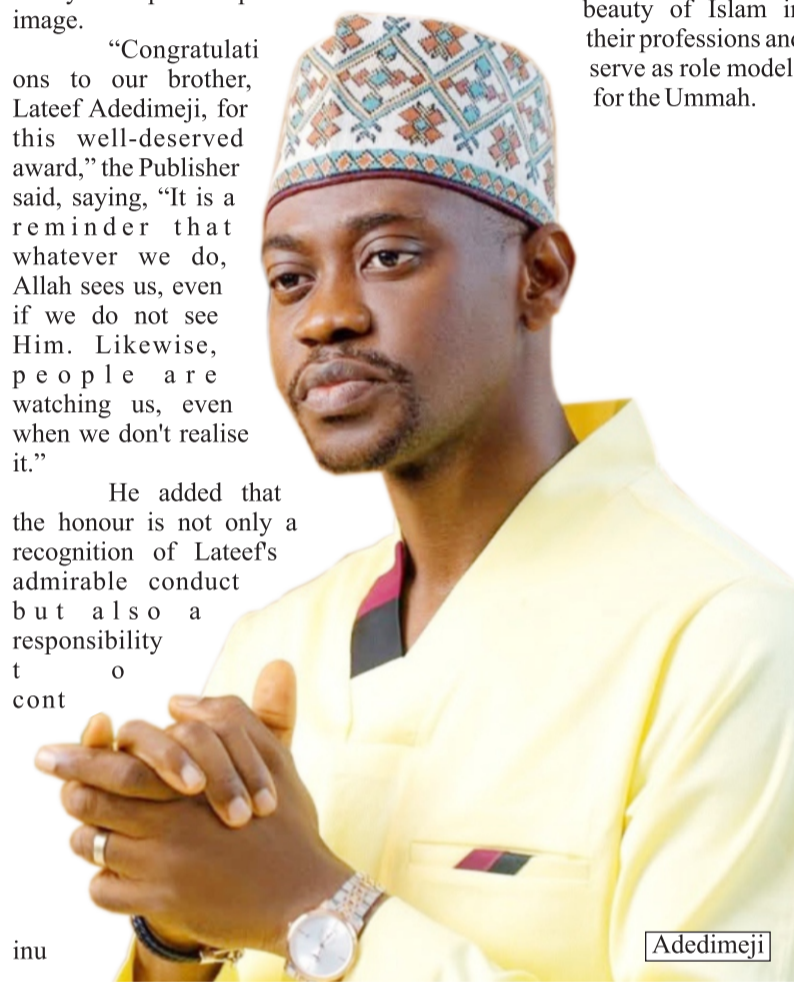
"Congratulations to our brother, Lateef Adedimeji, for this well-deserved award," the Publisher said, saying, "It is a reminder that whatever we do, Allah sees us, even if we do not see Him. Likewise, people are watching us, even when we don't realise it."

He added that the honour is not only a recognition of Lateef's admirable conduct but also a responsibility to

serve as a good role model guided by Islamic principles.

"This award should serve as motivation for other Muslim celebrities to proudly uphold and display their Islamic identity," he said. "As Allah tells us in the Qur'an, Muslims are the best community raised for mankind - to enjoin good and forbid evil. May this award inspire more Muslims in the entertainment industry to live by that."

The Muslim Celebrity of the Year, like other categories of the awards, is part of Muslim News Nigeria's broader initiative to spotlight Muslims who reflect the beauty of Islam in their professions and serve as role models for the Ummah.



Adedimeji

Ousmane Dembélé Named Global Muslim Celebrity of the Year 2024/2025

French international and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) forward, Ousmane Dembélé, has been named the Global Muslim Celebrity of the Year 2024/2025 by Muslim News Nigeria, under its annual MNAwards, which recognises outstanding Muslim achievers both in Nigeria and across the globe.

The announcement was made by the Publisher of Muslim News Nigeria, Rasheed Abubakar, on Thursday, December 4, 2025.

The Global Muslim Celebrity Person of the Year category has consistently been dominated by Muslims in sports, unlike their counterparts in music, film, and modelling.

Abubakar congratulated Dembélé saying he had a phenomenal season, winning multiple titles with PSG which culminated with the UEFA Champions League crown and recently clinching the Ballon d'Or. Beyond his athletic excellence, he

was honoured for exemplifying Islamic values in both his personal and professional life.

"Dembélé is not only a top-class footballer but also a committed Muslim," said Abubakar. "He observes his prayers, fasts during Ramadan despite his demanding football calendar, and maintains strong bonds with fellow Muslim teammates."

The publisher added that Dembélé embodies modesty and discipline, steering clear of scandals and excessive media attention. "He is calm, humble, and carries himself with dignity - qualities cherished in Islam," he noted.

Dembélé's charitable contributions to his countries of heritage, Mali and Mauritania reflect a deep sense of social responsibility. His quiet consistency, both in faith and conduct, has made him a role model for many young Muslims navigating fame while holding onto Islamic values.

Dembélé also earned global Muslim admiration for his firm

support for the people of Palestine during the ongoing Israeli genocidal war on Gaza.

While many celebrities and athletes avoided taking sides, Dembélé was among the few Muslim footballers who publicly showed solidarity with Palestinians - liking pro-Palestinian posts, sharing symbolic content, and maintaining a clear stance without engaging in divisive or inflammatory rhetoric.

His subtle digital activism resonated deeply with many Muslim youths, especially as calls grew louder for influential figures to use their platforms for justice. Dembélé's approach reflects a calm yet conscious personality who is committed to truth and compassion, key traits encouraged in Islam.

This courageous alignment with an oppressed people, despite potential backlash, further justified his selection as the Global Muslim Celebrity of the Year 2024/2025.



Dembele

Maths specialist Yusuf Kassim clinches Nigerian Muslim Teacher of the Year Award

Muslim News, Nigeria's most authoritative Islamic Newspaper, has named Mr. Kassim Yusuf Adegboyega, fondly known as Leecrown, as the Nigerian Muslim Teacher of the Year 2024/2025 (#MNawards).

The Publisher of the newspaper and initiator of the award, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar said honouring Mr Yusuf is to celebrate his exceptional impact on classroom instruction, youth mentorship, and educational reform across Nigeria.

In a statement released on Friday, November 14, Abubakar congratulated Mr. Kassim, who teaches at Epe Girls' Senior High School in Lagos, describing him as a responsible and conscious Muslim whose life has been dedicated to religious activism and moral upbringing.

"Throughout his career, he has focused on building and mentoring students to become disciplined, committed, and spiritually conscious individuals. His approach emphasizes not only academic excellence but also the importance of aligning one's life with the expectations and guidance of their Creator," he noted.

This latest recognition comes after Mr. Kassim was named the Overall Best Senior Secondary School Teacher in Nigeria for 2024 by the Federal Ministry of Education, a prestigious national honour that further cements his influence in the education sector.

A Mathematics specialist under the Lagos State Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), Mr. Kassim has transformed teaching and learning through creative pedagogies, student-centred innovations, and sustained academic excellence. His approach to education transcends routine instruction; it reflects a deep commitment to nurturing holistic learners equipped for a dynamic

world.

Mr. Kassim's educational journey is rooted in a firm foundation of professional and academic excellence. He holds a Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) in Mathematics and Computer Science, a Bachelor of Science (Education) degree in Mathematics, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Mathematics Science Education.

His strong academic background in both pedagogy and subject expertise provides him with a robust understanding of learning psychology, educational development, and innovative teaching strategies.

This extensive training has been instrumental in his ability to design effective instructional models and assessment frameworks that respond to diverse learning needs in modern classrooms.

At the heart of Mr. Kassim's teaching philosophy lies a belief that education must nurture the total child. He emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication as essential skills for the 21st-century learner.

His classrooms are known for their supportive atmosphere, high expectations, and innovative learning experiences that empower students to reach their full potential.

Mr. Kassim has distinguished himself as an

building system, and the Progressive Advanced Support System (PASS), which streamlines continuous assessment and promotes active student participation.

He also authored the "Master of Study Analysis Handbook for WASSCE/NECO Candidates", a comprehensive guide that demystifies Mathematics and supports students preparing for national examinations. Through these innovations, he has significantly enhanced student outcomes, making Mathematics more engaging and accessible.

Beyond his classroom, Mr. Kassim organizes periodic in-house seminars for teachers within Lagos State, fostering professional collaboration and promoting effective teaching practices. His Progressive Advanced Support System (PASS) has also been adopted by other educators as a model for continuous student evaluation.

The results of Kassim's instructional innovations are evident in his students' consistent performance in national examinations. Between 2020 and 2024, his students recorded over 95% average pass rate in Mathematics at the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) - with 100% distinction rates achieved in 2020, 2022, and 2024.



Kassim Yusuf

Leetitude Excellence Academy, Evergreen Tutorial Services, and Alpha Masters Team - platforms dedicated to mentoring students and training young educators.

Through his annual outreach programmes, he has provided free JAMB forms to over 90 indigent students in the last three years, along with free lessons and CBT training. His mentorship has inspired students who are now published authors, professional footballers, and youth ambassadors representing Lagos State at national levels.

He also organizes competitions like the Best Brains Contest and Young Managers' Quiz Challenge, which encourage academic curiosity and leadership among students.

As a committed member of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Mathematical Association of Nigeria (MAN), Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), and Microsoft Educator Centre, Mr. Kassim represents a new generation of digitally competent

and globally minded teachers.

He has facilitated workshops on collaborative teaching, assessment strategies, and STEM integration in Nigerian schools. His leadership roles include serving as Branch Executive Member of NUT Epe (2021-2025) and Head of the Inter-House Sports Committee (2023).

He is also a recognized Teachers' Ambassador under the Lagos State S.A.I.L Initiative, promoting innovative teaching and professional excellence.

Beyond academics, Mr. Kassim is a humanitarian and community advocate. He has led awareness campaigns on environmental conservation, hygiene promotion, and cultural preservation.

Through community service, he supports indigent pupils with educational materials and participates in periodic blood donation drives at the General Hospital, Epe.

Looking ahead, Mr. Kassim envisions an education system where every learner has access to quality, inclusive, and technology-driven instruction. His mission is to train the next generation of teachers to adopt innovative and student-centred practices that respond to global trends in education.

As the Teacher in Charge at Epe Girls' High School, you have consistently set a remarkable standard. Your dedication to educating and mentoring young minds, your long-standing leadership within MSSN, and your unwavering commitment to the Epe community have left a lasting impact. We are honoured to share this moment of celebration with you. Congratulations, Sir. – Abdulhameed Ishaq, Ag. Amir, MSSN Epe Area Council

educational innovator with the creation of groundbreaking tools such as the Master of Study Test (MOST), a mathematics confidence-

Driven by compassion and a deep sense of social responsibility, Mr. Kassim has created several youth-oriented initiatives such as

Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), and Microsoft Educator Centre, Mr. Kassim represents a new generation of digitally competent



Naglaa Weshah

Palestinian Educator Naglaa Weshah Named Global Muslim Teacher of the Year 2024/2025

A Palestinian educator at Al-Bureij Camp in Gaza, Palestine, Naglaa Weshah, has emerged the Global Muslim Teacher of the Year 2024/2025 by Muslim News Nigeria, in recognition of her unwavering dedication to education and resilience under siege in Gaza.

The announcement was made by the Publisher of the newspaper and Convener of the Award, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, as part of the annual #MNawards, which honours outstanding Muslim professionals and institutions providing positive impacts in their fields, often amid great adversity.

During the two years of the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza, Weshah's school became a shelter for families fleeing the bombs. It was later targeted and completely destroyed.

Alhaji Abubakar noted that it is on record that Israel did not only kill over 70,000 Palestinians, including children and women, the occupation forces also destroyed homes, offices, media houses, factories, and educational facilities.

Despite the massive destruction of Gaza, a few teachers, volunteers, and nonprofit organisations, and including the likes of Naglaa Weshah, did not give up. They continued to show resilience.

"Naglaa, along with others, converted tents, damaged classrooms, and overcrowded shelters into makeshift learning spaces to teach the students," Alhaji Abubakar noted.

The forty year old mother of three recently told The Guardian (UK) in an interview that education became an act of defiance for her, as a way to say, "We are still here." She added, "And so long as we continue learning, we will remain."

Alhaji Abubakar described Weshah as a spirit of resistance, sacrifice, and commitment to education, especially in the most difficult

circumstances, saying, "Her classroom has become a shelter of hope for Gaza's children, many of whom have been orphaned or displaced."

Abubakar congratulated Weshah and her team, saying the recognition is not only for her teaching, but for "her courage, compassion, faith and undying spirit in the power of knowledge, even in the face of genocide."

Naglaa Weshah began her teaching career over ten years ago, first in Khan Younis, then in Deir al-Balah, and now in Al-Bureij camp, located in the central Gaza Strip. Before the war began, she taught six classes, each with about 40 students.

The convener also mourned all instructors and educators who lost their lives during the genocidal war that is still ongoing, praying to the Almighty to forgive them for their shortcomings.

Prof. Abdurrazaq Alaro Named Nigerian Islamic Finance Person of the Year

Versatile Islamic scholar and financial expert, Professor Abdurrazaq Abdulmajeed Alaro, mni, has been named the Nigerian Islamic Finance Person of the Year 2025 by *Muslim News Nigeria*, the country's most authoritative Islamic newspaper.

The announcement was made in a statement by the Publisher of *Muslim News Nigeria*, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, who described Prof. Alaro as one of Nigeria's foremost and most versatile Islamic scholars.

He praised the law professor for his outstanding contributions to the growth and development of Islamic finance both within the country and on the global stage.

Currently a Professor of Islamic Law of Banking and Finance, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State, Prof Alaro has played a pivotal role in shaping the policies and regulatory frameworks of Islamic finance in the country. His extensive work spans across Takaful (Islamic insurance), Sukuk (Islamic bonds), Islamic banking, and pension systems.

Prof. Alaro is a key member of the Central Bank of Nigeria's Financial Regulation Advisory Council of Experts (FRACE), and

also serves on the National Insurance Commission's (NAICOM) Takaful Advisory Council, where he was recently appointed Chairman.

He provides advisory support to other major financial bodies including the Debt Management Office (DMO), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the National Pension Commission (PenCom).

According to Alhaji Abubakar, "Prof. Alaro's contributions have not only advanced the understanding of Islamic finance in Nigeria, but also laid the foundation for institutionalising ethical, non-interest-based financial systems in the country."

He noted that Prof. Alaro is

Islamic law of financial transactions, spanning banking, insurance, and capital markets.

The respected Muslim scholar has played an instrumental role in developing Islamic instruments in Nigeria, notably the Sukuk. Since its introduction in 2017, Sukuk financing has facilitated the development of over 124 road projects covering more than 5,280 kilometers across the six geopolitical zones, highlighting the tangible impact of the frameworks Prof. Alaro and his peers helped design.

Beyond Nigeria, he has participated in major international Islamic finance forums, such as the International Shariah Scholars Forum, International Islamic Liquidity Management Roundtables,



Prof Alaro

Lecture of the University of Ilorin titled "Islamic Financial Services: The Interplay of Religion, Law and

Corporate Social Responsibility," marking the first-ever lecture on Islamic Banking and Finance Law in West Africa.

An alumnus of the Islamic University of Madinah, Saudi Arabia, where he graduated top of his class in 1993, Prof. Alaro also holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Banking and Finance from

Omdurman University, Sudan. His research spans financial engineering, Shari'ah governance, Islamic insurance, and risk management. He has published over 60 scholarly articles and delivered papers at high-level forums across Africa, Asia, and Europe.

As a transformative figure in the growth of non-interest finance, Prof. Alaro's regulatory input has helped guide instruments like Sukuk, which have been used to fund major infrastructure projects across Nigeria. His leadership continues to shape Islamic financial services in West Africa, making his recognition as Nigeria's Finance Person of the Year a well-deserved honour.

Reacting, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, said that the choice of Prof. Alaro for the award is well-deserved going by his numerous contributions to the understanding and progress of Islamic Finance in Nigeria and beyond. – Unilorin Bulletin, November 24, 2025

an internationally certified arbitrator, Shari'ah consultant, and Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. His core expertise lies in the

and the SOAS Workshop on Islamic Finance at the University of London. In April 2021, Prof. Alaro delivered the 196th Inaugural

Islamic Banking and Finance from



Prof Ziyaad Mahomed

INCEIF scholar Ziyaad Mahomed wins Global Islamic Finance Person of the Year 2024/2025

Associate Professor Mahomed is one of the leading lights in the Islamic finance industry across the world and has played prominent roles in providing leadership for both public and private institutions on Islamic finance in many countries of the world, including Nigeria.

Associate Professor Mahomed currently serves as Lead Researcher (Sharia) at the Centre of Excellence in Islamic Social Finance. He is also a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, UK, as well as an Adjunct Professor at the Asia School of Business (in collaboration with MIT Sloan and Bank Negara Malaysia).

The Islamic finance expert

capital market has supported the certification of some of the largest sovereign and corporate Sukuk issuances in Malaysia and Nigeria," the *Muslim News Nigeria* Publisher noted.

"Associate Professor Mahomed has also led numerous consulting projects on policy and strategy for large financial institutions and governmental organisations, focusing on Islamic banking, takaful, sukuk, sustainability, fintech, and social finance. His expertise, experience and leadership have been instrumental in the development of frameworks for Islamic banking and takaful systems in the UK, Maldives,

finance in Africa and Southeast Asia. Abubakar noted that Associate Professor Mahomed's work does not end with policy design and implementation alone, it also extends to capacity building and academics.

The scholar is the Head of Online Programs at INCEIF University in Malaysia. He is credited for establishing the Social Finance Unit at INCEIF in 2017. His training programs and capacity building sessions on various aspects of Islamic finance has been attended by more than 12,000 participants from around the world.

He is also notable for developing the Micra short course

Sustainability, and Social Finance. He has nearly 100 academic and professional publications to his name. His research has been cited by 278 scholars, focusing on Sukuk, Islamic social finance, Shariah, and fintech.

One of Associate Professor Mahomed's phenomenal contributions to Islamic finance was his development of a unique Shariah screening criteria for stocks that integrate SRI and ESG principles with the Maqasid (Objectives of Islamic Law). His multifaceted contributions include active involvement in the creation of both VBI (Value-Based Intermediation) and VBiT (Value-Based Takaful) in Malaysia, underscoring his pivotal role in advancing ethical financial practices.

Associate Professor Mahomed parades very rich academic credentials. He holds a Master's and PhD in Islamic Finance from Malaysia, an MBA from South Africa, a BA (Hons) in Business (Finance) from the UK, and certifications in the Islamic sciences from South Africa and Jordan.

Associate Professor Mahomed's exceptional contributions across Shariah governance, social finance innovation, policy advisory, capacity building, and academic leadership in over 20 countries make him deserving of the recognition as Global Finance Person of the Year

What a proud moment for our INCEIF family! Heartiest congratulations to Assoc Prof Dr Ziyaad Mahomed on being named Global Islamic Finance Person of the Year 2024/2025 by Muslim News Nigeria - the country's most authoritative Islamic newspaper. – INCEIF University, December 7, 2025

Renowned for his over 25 years of excellence in the Islamic finance industry, Associate Professor Ziyaad Mahomed has been named the Global Islamic Finance Person of the Year #MNAwards2024/2025, a prestigious award organised by *Muslim News Nigeria*, the country's most authoritative Islamic newspaper.

The Publisher of the newspaper and Convener of the award, Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar, while announcing the winner, said Prof. Mahomed has played a pivotal role in advancing ethical finance practices, shaping institutions, and mentoring professionals around the world.

Alhaji Abubakar said

sits on the boards of several financial institutions, which include but not limited to HSBC Amanah

and Munich Re in Malaysia; TajBank (Nig), FBN Quest, and One17 Capital in Nigeria; Ayady Takaful and BML Islamic in Maldives; iConsult Africa in South Africa; EduPro in the United Kingdom; and IMAN in Uzbekistan.

"His advisory roles in the

Nigeria, the Philippines, Afghanistan, and Kazakhstan," he added.

Associate Professor Mahomed serves as a Senior Consultant with the World Bank, providing strategies and frameworks for the advancement of Islamic

during his tenure as Associate Dean of eLearning and spearheading the development of a master's online degree employing advances eLearning methodologies.

As an academic, Associate Professor Mahomed teaches Islamic Jurisprudence, Law of Contract,

Muslim News honours Alhaji Kunle Sanni with 'Lifetime Service to Islam' award



Alhaji Kunle Sanni

Respected Islamic leader and rights advocate, Alhaji Ishaq Kunle Sanni, has been recognised with the "Lifetime Service to Islam Award" by Muslim News Nigeria, the country's leading Islamic newspaper.

The announcement was made by the publication's founder and award convener, Alhaji Rasheed

Abubakar, who described the Ibadan-born activist as a consistent voice for the Ummah for over four decades.

Alhaji Sanni currently serves as the Chairman of the Muslim Community of Oyo State (MUCOYS), a position that places him at the heart of Muslim affairs in one of Nigeria's most politically active states.

According to Alhaji Abubakar, his selection was based on his outstanding decades record of activism, leadership, and community service.

"Alhaji Kunle Sanni's contribution to the growth and protection of Islam in Nigeria dates back to the early 1980s when he co-founded the National Council of Muslim Youth Organisations (NACOMYO), then known as COMYO," Abubakar said, adding, "The organisation became the umbrella body for all Muslim youth groups, advocating for Muslim rights within the Southwest and Nigeria at large."

As a career da'iyah (caller), Alhaji Sanni has been vocal against discriminatory policies targeting Muslims, particularly in the education and governance sectors. His fearless activism which started from higher institution of learning sometimes comes at great personal cost, including the loss of employment during one of the notable

religious freedom struggles in Oyo State.

He led impactful advocacies on hijab rights for Muslim ladies, Hijrah holiday, inclusion of Muslims in politics and governance (such as Goodluck Jonathan Iopsided National Confab), among others.

Fearless, courageous and highly principled, the honouree was instrumental to the establishment of MSSN at his alma mater, Ilora Baptist Grammar School in Oyo State, which was deeply rooted in Christian missionary and coerced conversion and forced baptism of Muslims students.

He was a serial 'offender' for boycotting Sunday Church service that was mandated on all students during his secondary school days. He was punished almost every Monday by the then Principal for his refusal to attend Church service. The young Kunle Sanni, however, was neither cowed nor got intimidated.

Beyond activism, Alhaji Kunle Sanni is a well-known publisher and distributor of Islamic literatures. He is a successful businessman with offices in Ibadan and Abuja. He previously managed the IMAN Centre under the guidance of the late Alhaji Yisa Yagboyaju before establishing his own ventures.

Widely respected for his integrity and deep commitment to the Ummah, Alhaji Sanni is also regarded as the de facto Amir (leader) of Muslims in Oyo State, harmonising interests across sects

and regions while maintaining close ties with religious scholars and community elders nationwide.

The Publisher stated that Alhaji Kunle Sanni's lifelong efforts in defending Muslim rights, empowering youths, and providing moral leadership made him a natural recipient of this year's Lifetime Service to Islam Award.

He added that Alhaji Sanni plays a unifying role for Muslims in the state. His inclusive leadership style has earned him widespread respect from Islamic scholars, business leaders, and Muslim organisations across Nigeria.

According to him, "Alhaji Kunle Sanni has done so much for the Ummah that it would be difficult to capture it all. Even at old age and when indisposed, Alhaji Sanni remains a fearless advocate for Muslim rights at all levels."

Muslim News publisher explained that the Lifetime Service to Islam Award is a newly introduced category of the Muslim News Nigeria Awards, created to honour Muslim elders - male and female, who have offered decades of service to Islam, in addition to the conventional professional award categories.

"These leaders must be recognised for their immense contributions to the defence and celebration of Islam, especially while they are still alive," Abubakar said. "We are proud to begin with a respected figure like Alhaji Sanni. May Allah reward him in this life and grant him Al-Jannah Firdaus in the hereafter."

Sheikh Yasir Qadhi Conferred with Lifetime Service Award for Contributions to Islam

Renowned Muslim scholar and academic, Dr. (Sheikh) Yasir Qadhi, has been conferred with a special "Recognition Award for Lifetime Service to Islam" by Muslim News Nigeria, in acknowledgment of his decades-long contributions to Islamic scholarship, global Da'wah efforts, and his unwavering commitment to the peaceful propagation of Islam.

The announcement was made by publisher of the newspaper and Convener of the MNAwards, Rasheed Abubakar, as part of the 6th edition of the Global Muslim Personalities of the Year 2024/2025 Awards, which annually honours Muslim achievers and institutions in Nigeria and across the world.

According to Abubakar, the Special Recognition Award is reserved for individuals who have consistently demonstrated excellence in Islamic education, thought leadership, and character, impacting the Ummah positively across generations and

geographies.

"Dr. Yasir Qadhi's intellectual depth, global influence, and dedication to balanced Islamic teachings make him a shining example of scholarship rooted in tradition and relevance. From his lectures and books to his engagements on interfaith platforms, he continues to shape minds and guide Muslims, particularly youth, with clarity and wisdom," Abubakar said.

Sheikh Yasir Qadhi, a graduate of the Islamic University of Madinah and Yale University, is a leading figure in Islamic academia and an advocate for moderation. His efforts in teaching the Seerah (Prophetic biography), Qur'anic sciences, and countering extremism through knowledge have reached millions worldwide.

Abubakar noted that the criteria for the Lifetime Service Award include global impact, consistency in service to the Ummah, educational contribution, Da'wah without hate, and moral integrity, adding that Dr. Yasir Qadhi not only meets these

standards but truly embodies them.

"Sheikh Yasir Qadhi has travelled the world, including Nigeria where he was warmly received during the 1Ummah Convention. His balanced approach to Islam, clarity in teaching, and openness to dialogue have earned him love and respect from Muslims across the globe," Abubakar stated.

The Convener also emphasized that Sheikh Qadhi's scholarship has been pivotal in shaping contemporary Islamic discourse, particularly among the youth, through his work in Quranic sciences, Hadith, Seerah, and his advocacy against extremism.

Abubakar also praised the scholar's consistent solidarity with the oppressed, especially his vocal support for the people of Palestine amid the genocidal war on Gaza.

He said, "He continues to speak out against injustice not only in Gaza but

also in other regions where Muslims live as minorities and face persecution. That courage, guided by Islamic ethics, is worthy of recognition."

He added, "We believe those making the Ummah proud

should be celebrated while they are alive, not after death. This honour is a token of appreciation and encouragement for Sheikh Qadhi to continue his noble mission of guiding the world with knowledge and compassion."



Dr Yasir Qadhi

MTN Bet@Gist



Buy a new SIM Enjoy awoof[®] airtime

Enjoy

3 mins extra on every
6 mins (combined)
+
₦2,100
for 2 months

Dial *123*2*1# to join



Na so I call the Landlord
ask am - Oga
dey increase every
learn
my account balance

T&Cs Apply

What are we doing today?