

COMMUNIQUÉ

Communiqué Issued at the End of the 7th Anniversary Lecture and Muslim News Awards (MNAwards) Organised by Muslim News Nigeria

Theme: Framing the Faith in the Midst of Media Misrepresentation and Global Conflicts

Date: Sunday, June 14, 2026

Venue: Olanike Hall, Shamsi Adisa Thomas (SAT) Mosque, First Secretariat, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

PREAMBLE

The 7th Anniversary Lecture and Muslim News Awards (MNAwards), organised by Muslim News Nigeria, was successfully held on **Sunday, June 14, 2026**, at **Olanike Hall, Shamsi Adisa Thomas (SAT) Mosque, First Secretariat, Ikeja, Lagos**.

The conference brought together eminent Islamic scholars, media executives, journalists, academics, legal practitioners, medical professionals, public officials, communication experts, captains of industry, civil society organisations, students and members of the Muslim Ummah to deliberate on the growing challenge of media misrepresentation of Islam and Muslims and to identify practical strategies for promoting fair, ethical and balanced journalism.

The conference featured a keynote address, a high level panel discussion, interactive sessions and the presentation of the Muslim News Awards (MNAwards), including the Global and Nigerian Muslim Personalities of the Year Awards and the 30 Muslim Women of Substance Awards.

The conference was chaired by **Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo**, *President of the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN)*, while the keynote address was delivered by **Mallam Kamor Disu**, *Executive Chairman of the Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC)*.

The panel discussion was moderated by **Hajia Nymat Akashat Zibiri** and featured **Professor Ishaq Lakin Akintola**, **Barrister Mutiat Orolu-Balogun**, **Mallam Hussain Bin Hyacinth**, and **Mallam Talha Musa**.

Following extensive deliberations, participants unanimously adopted the following communiqué.

OBSERVATIONS

The conference observed that:

- Islam and Muslims continue to suffer persistent stereotyping, misinformation and negative framing across sections of the local and international media.
- Selective reporting and sensational headlines continue to reinforce Islamophobia and deepen public misconceptions about Islam.
- The media possesses enormous agenda setting power capable of influencing public opinion, public policy and social attitudes.
- Muslims remain significantly underrepresented in journalism, broadcasting, editorial leadership, digital communication and media ownership.
- Ethical journalism remains the most credible and sustainable response to media bias and misinformation.
- Declining editorial standards, inadequate fact checking and misleading visual illustrations continue to damage public confidence in journalism.
- Strategic litigation has proven to be an effective constitutional mechanism for defending religious freedom and challenging discriminatory actions.
- Many Muslim organisations still rely excessively on press statements rather than sustained advocacy, public engagement and institution building.
- Internal divisions and unnecessary sectarian disputes weaken collective Muslim efforts to respond effectively to misinformation and Islamophobia.
- Muslim owned media organisations continue to play an indispensable role in documenting Muslim achievements, correcting misinformation and promoting balanced reporting.
- Positive contributions of Muslims in education, healthcare, humanitarian service, entrepreneurship, governance and national development remain underreported.
- Sustainable funding remains one of the greatest challenges confronting Muslim owned media institutions.
- Muslim youths remain underrepresented in communication related professions despite the strategic importance of journalism and media.
- Responsible journalism requires fairness, research, verification and careful use of language regardless of religious identity.
- Accurate storytelling has become a strategic necessity in today's digital information environment.

RESOLUTIONS

Following exhaustive deliberations, the conference resolved as follows:

- Muslims should invest strategically in newspapers, television, radio, digital platforms, film production, publishing, documentaries and other communication institutions capable of projecting accurate narratives about Islam and Muslims.
- Wealthy Muslims, Islamic organisations, foundations, philanthropists and corporate bodies should establish sustainable funding mechanisms for Muslim owned media institutions.
- Muslim parents should encourage their children to pursue careers in journalism, broadcasting, mass communication, public relations, filmmaking, digital media and related disciplines.
- Muslim journalists should consistently uphold ethical journalism based on truth, fairness, balance, evidence, verification and professionalism.
- Muslim media practitioners should avoid emotional responses to bias and instead produce high quality journalism capable of commanding professional respect.
- Islamic organisations should move beyond issuing press statements by embracing advocacy, litigation, research, public education, community engagement and strategic communication.
- Muslims should make greater use of constitutional legal mechanisms whenever religious rights are violated or Islam is deliberately defamed.
- Muslim scholars should engage more actively with contemporary media platforms while maintaining intellectual credibility and Islamic ethics.
- Muslim owned businesses and institutions should ensure that their internal policies reflect the Islamic values they publicly promote.
- Governments should continue to uphold constitutional guarantees relating to freedom of religion, freedom of expression and equality before the law.
- Media proprietors should strengthen editorial quality control, fact checking mechanisms and professional ethics when reporting religious matters.
- Journalists should avoid headlines, photographs, captions and editorial language that unfairly associate the criminal actions of individuals with an entire religion.
- Media regulators and journalism training institutions should strengthen continuous professional development on conflict sensitive reporting and religious diversity.
- Muslims should strengthen unity, collaboration and institution building while avoiding unnecessary internal disputes that weaken collective advocacy.
- Scholars, journalists, lawyers, academics, media practitioners and civil society organisations should establish stronger partnerships for public education and media literacy.

- Muslim content creators and social media influencers should produce credible, educational and professionally researched content capable of correcting misinformation.
- Social media users should verify information before sharing it and reject misinformation, fake news, hate speech and inflammatory content.
- Muslim women should be encouraged and supported to participate more actively in journalism, broadcasting, digital communication and media leadership.
- Governments, educational institutions and media organisations should encourage dialogue, religious understanding and peaceful coexistence through responsible communication.
- The conference strongly condemned Islamophobia, religious stereotyping, discriminatory narratives and all forms of hate speech directed against any religious community.
- The conference reaffirmed that shaping truthful narratives has become an important collective responsibility requiring sustained investment in ethical journalism, strategic communication and strong institutions.

AWARDS RECOGNITION

The conference congratulated all recipients of the Global and Nigerian Muslim Personalities of the Year Awards and the 30 Muslim Women of Substance Awards.

Participants noted that recognising excellence encourages greater service to humanity, strengthens positive role models and inspires future generations to pursue leadership, scholarship, professionalism and community development.

The conference also commended Muslim News Nigeria for institutionalising an awards platform dedicated to celebrating positive contributions that often receive little attention within mainstream media.

APPRECIATION

The conference expressed profound appreciation to the Chairman of the Occasion, keynote speaker, moderator, panellists, award recipients, sponsors, partners, volunteers, media organisations, invited guests and all participants for contributing to the success of the event.

Special appreciation was extended to **Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar**, *Publisher of Muslim News Nigeria and Convener of the Muslim News Awards*, for his dedication to sustaining a credible Muslim media platform over the past seven years despite numerous operational and financial challenges.

The conference equally appreciated all organisations and individuals who have continued to support Muslim News Nigeria through partnerships, sponsorships, advertisements and moral encouragement.

DECLARATION

The conference reaffirmed that truthful storytelling, ethical journalism, strategic communication, media ownership and institution building remain indispensable to correcting misconceptions about Islam, strengthening national cohesion and promoting peaceful coexistence.

Participants pledged to continue promoting fairness, professionalism, constitutional advocacy, media literacy and responsible communication while supporting initiatives that strengthen Muslim participation in journalism and media ownership.

The conference further called upon governments, media organisations, educational institutions, corporate organisations, development partners and members of the Muslim community to support initiatives that promote balanced reporting, religious understanding, justice and ethical journalism.

This communiqué was unanimously adopted at the conclusion of the 7th Anniversary Lecture and Muslim News Awards (MNAwards) organised by Muslim News Nigeria on **Sunday, June 14, 2026, in Ikeja, Lagos.**

SIGNATORIES

- **Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo**, *Chairman of the Occasion and President*, Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN)
- **Mallam Kamor Disu**, *Keynote Speaker and Executive Chairman*, Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC)
- **Hajia Nymat Akashat Zibiri**, *Ace Presenter*, and Panel Moderator
- **Professor Ishaq Lakin Akintola**, *Representative of the Panelists and Executive Director*, Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC)
- **Sheikh AbdulRahman Ahmad**, *Representative of Islamic Organisations and National Missioner*, Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria
- **Alhaji AbdurRahman Balogun**, *Representative of Media Practitioners and President*, Muslim Media Practitioners of Nigeria (MMPN)
- **Alhaji AbdulKabir Garuba**, *Editor, The Guardian and Chairman*, Communiqué Drafting Committee
- **Alhaji Rasheed Abubakar**, *Publisher, Muslim News Nigeria and Convener*, Muslim News Awards (MNAwards)