

# AL-MIRAJ

The official bulletin of the Nigerian Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs (NSCIA)

Muharram 1444AH (August 2022)

## NSCIA Receives Polio Heroes' Award

The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) has been honoured with the Polio Heroes' Award by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPCDA).

The prestigious award comes as a recognition of the Council as one of the national bodies that have provided leadership, expertise, technical, financial and material support in various

aspects of the polio eradication initiative in Nigeria in the last three decades. Besides the contributions

*Continues on Page 10*

## 2023 general elections: Sultan, CAN Leader Sign Peace Pact

As the leaders of Muslims and Christians in Nigeria, the President General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar, and the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), have signed a peace pact to ease religious tensions and ensure national ahead of the 2023 general elections.



■ Sultan Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III

The leadership of the two umbrella bodies were represented respectively by Prof. Yusuf Usman and Rev. Samson Ayokunle at the International Religious Freedom Summit 2022 organised by the Global Peace Foundation and 70 international human rights and religious freedom organisations where the peace accord was signed in Washington D.C., United States.

According to news reports, the leadership of the umbrella bodies pledged to continue to embrace dialogue along with the commitment to building resilient communities that are free from fear and violence.

This was conveyed by a statement signed by pastor Olasupo Adeniyi

*Continues on Page 10*

## Soldiers Kill Islamic cleric, Steal his car

A famous Islamic scholar, Sheikh Goni Aisami Gashuwa, was gruesomely murdered by two soldiers of the Nigerian army on his way to Gashuwa from Kano on August 19, 2022.

The cleric was reportedly killed by the soldiers after giving them a lift from Nguru military check-point to Jaji-maji, a nearby community in Karasuwa Local Government of Yobe State, police sources confirmed.

Sheikh Goni was shot dead while his car, a red Honda Accord 2006 model, was taken away by the assailants around 9:00 p.m.

The Yobe Police Command identified the suspects as John Gabriel and Adamu Gideon, both lance corporals of 241 Battalion, Nguru, Yobe. The soldiers were arrested on August 22 and taken to Criminal Investigation Department, Damaturu, for further investigations.

Yobe police spokesman, Dungus Abdulkarim, identified the suspects as John Gabriel and Adamu Gide

*Continues on Page 10*

## The Prophet's Medicine, A Bee

- Page 8



**Muslim Media Watch Commends NAHCON Over Successful 2022 Hajj Operation** - Page 7

## Ilorin-Born Katibi Wins 1st Position at Tanzania Int'l Qur'an Competition



- Page 4



# NSCIA Distributes Food Items To Over 20,000 Persons in Benue, Oyo, Others

As Nigerians seek ways to beat the soaring inflation in the country, the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) has doled out 9,000 food bags to vulnerable Muslims across seven states.

The palliative items, provided by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, were shared in rural communities in Benue, Nasarawa, Niger, Osun and Oyo states to offer relief to citizens most affected by inflation and economic downturn.

"While COVID-19 has interrupted the sources of income of many Nigerians, insecurity has also rendered several others homeless, with some of them seeking refuge in mosques.

"Our main objective is to cushion the effects of high prices of food items in the country, starting with these states and others that will follow," said Khadijah Oladipupo, lead programme officer of the Mission for Education, Socials and Health (MESH).

The distribution exercise was conducted across beneficiary communities with the support of the National Council of Muslim Youth Organisation (NACOMYO), Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN), and Federation of Muslim Women Associations in Nigeria (FOMWAN).



## Istighfar: A Prayer And Answer

**By Sabiqah Bello**

**Istighfar is an Arabic term that essentially connotes to the act of seeking forgiveness from Allah. However, Istighfar is not only a means of gaining Allah's forgiveness and mercy, it is a beautiful supplication with multitude benefits. Istighfar remedies anxiety and sorrow, and increases provision (rizq).**

It is essential to the human heart in finding solace, ease, and a sense of profound connection to Allah. Ibn Abbas (ra) reported that the Messenger of Allah SWA said: "If anyone constantly seeks pardon (from Allah), Allah will appoint for him a way out of every distress and a relief from every anxiety, and will provide sustenance for him from where he expects not." (*Abu Dawud*)

### Istighfar for the heart

Istighfar is a source of strength and steadfastness for the heart. It cleanses the heart from the stain of sin, arrogance, lies, etc. Essentially, Istighfar is the ultimate cure for the spiritual diseases of the heart. These diseases have an impact on our outward actions, because they are often the cause of other sins.

In a hadith, it is narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: "When the believer commits sin, a black spot appears on his heart. If

he repents and gives up that sin and seeks forgiveness, his heart will be polished. But if (the sin) increases, (the black spot) increases" [Ibn Majah].

Engaging in Istighfar does not only cleanse our hearts, but also helps to suppress the feelings and thoughts that distance us from our Creator. By removing the checks and hurdles in the way of obeying the commands of Allah, we act upon those commands in a practical manner, and keep our hearts nourished with His remembrance.

### Istighfar as a means of earning wordly sustenance

Allah is Ar-razzaq, the provider of sustenance. He creates all means of nourishment and gives livelihood to His creations. By seeking His forgiveness, Allah promises to give provision and sustenance to His servants.

"Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Indeed, He is ever a Perpetual Forgiver. He will send [rain from] the sky upon you in [continuing] showers. And give you increase in wealth and children and provide for you gardens and provide for you rivers." (*Quran 71: 10 -12*)

When one engages in sincere Istighfar, Allah "provides for him in ways he does not expect." Istighfar is a means of abundance, growth, and increasing glory and protection. It is  
\* *Continues on Page 4*

**Istighfar is a source of strength and steadfastness for the heart. It cleanses the heart from the stain of sin, arrogance, lies, etc. Essentially, Istighfar is the ultimate cure for the spiritual diseases of the heart. These diseases have an impact on our outward actions, because they are often the cause of other sins.**

## Imprint

**Editor-in-Chief:**  
Femi Abbas

**Editor:**  
Shakir Akorede

**Editorial Assistant:**  
Kamil Sodiq

**Graphics:**  
Bello I. Dan-Azumi

**Publisher:** NSCIA  
National Mosque Complex, Central Business District, Abuja, Nigeria.

Website: [www.nscia.com.ng](http://www.nscia.com.ng)  
e-mail: [nsclahq@gmail.com](mailto:nsclahq@gmail.com)  
[info@nscia.com.ng](mailto:info@nscia.com.ng)  
+234 8139 310727  
+234 8091 420017

*First edition, Dhul Qa'adah 1439 (July-August 2018)*



# Ilorin-Born Katibi Emerges 1st Position at Tanzania Int'l Qur'an Competition

By Alabidun Shuaib Abdulrahman

An Ilorin-born sensational Qur'an reciter, Sheikh Muritala Olatunji Katibi has emerged the first position winner of the just concluded 2022 International Qur'an Competition in Tanzania.

Katibi on August 14, 2022, came ahead of other 88 contestants from 34 countries to clinch the first position.

The event was organised by Mohammed VI Foundation of African Oulema. The contest is in the categories of Quran memorization and Tajweed and Tarteel recitation of the Quran.

The event was an opportunity to present the history of Moroccan Qurans, their aesthetic specificities and their artistic diversity, through their history dating back to the first centuries of history, from the time of the manuscript to the printing provided in Morocco by institutions such as the Awqaf Ministry and the Mohammed VI Foundation for the edition of the Holy Quran.

The Mohammed VI Foundation of African Ulema, according to its founders, is an Islamic religious institution seeking to prevent radicalization and fight sectari-



International Qur'an Competition winner, Sheikh Muritala Olatunji Katibi, receiving the award

anism within Islam.

The foundation's goal is to unite and coordinate the efforts of Muslim theologians from Morocco and other African countries to consolidate Islamic values of tolerance and critical exploration of religious texts.

It also aims to facilitate intellectual, scientific and cultural action by bringing together Muslim theologians from around the world to encourage the establishment of religious, scientific and cultural centers and working towards the revitalisation of a common African, Islamic cultural heritage.

## Istighfar: A Prayer And Answer

\* Continued from Page 3

the gateway to relief and happiness.

Istighfar as a means of earning for Allah's mercy and attainment of Jannah

In the Qur'an, Allah SWT constantly prompts mankind to seek His Forgiveness as He is the 'Off-Forgiving' and 'Most Merciful'. Say, "O My servants who have transgressed against

themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah SWT. Indeed, Allah SWT forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful." (Quran 39: 53)

Sayyidul Istighfar is the best form of "Istighfar", often considered the master prayer for seeking forgiveness from Allah SWT.

Every sentence of Sayyidul Istighfar depends on eternity, where there is the confession of the Lordship of

Almighty. Sayyidul istighfar is also an acknowledgment of His creation. The benefits of making the Sayyidul Istighfar dua is narrated in the following hadith:

"If somebody recites it during the day with firm faith in it, and dies on the same day before the evening, he will be from the people of Paradise; and if somebody recites it at night with firm faith in it, and dies before the morning, he will be from the people of Paradise."

# The Prophet's Medicine, A bee

By Femi Abbas

**I**f any time can demand for a bail out from impossible ailment of man, it is now. There is no better time in human life to seek a permanent rescue from the tempest the twilight of this life. In getting such a rescue, recourse to the Prophet's medicine is a *sine qua non*.

This article is a deliberate diversion of readers' attention from the madness of the moment in Nigeria. Such diversion becomes necessary as a relief from the current overwhelming tension in a country where every news item is a sad development that turns, every grain of hope into an atom of forlorn. A worthy columnist must know when to bite and when to blow editorially with pen if only to sustain the readership of his/her column. This is the time of mental, physical and psychological ailments that are tied to commerce. And, there must be a medicament for each.

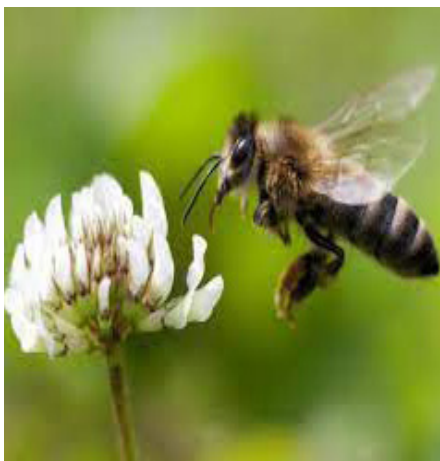
The most appropriate medicament for all diseases in human life is the one prescribed by Prophet Muhammad (SAW) about 1500 years ago which still remains potent and will keep remaining relevant for the rest period of human existence on earth. Please, read how it all began:

Adam, the primogenitor of mankind, was hardly one hour old when he started prescribing medicaments against ailments. He was commanded by Allah to teach the Angels, the names of all things which they (the Angels) had confessed not to know. By teaching the Angels, Adam could be said to have carried out the duty of a teacher which suggests that teaching was probably his first profession. But, those in the information sector could as well, argue that what Adam did was more of information dissemination than teaching.

Thus, for the purpose of academic exercise, a fierce debate might ensue between teachers and journalists, over what can be called the first profession of the first human being. But the truth is that both professionals (teacher and journalist) are right. By teaching, a teacher informs. And, by informing, a journalist teaches. Thus, the two professions are mutually complimentary.

## Adam cures ailments

What Adam actually did by teaching the Angels was to cure the worst disease in them as well as in man. That disease is ignorance. Shortly before the creation of Adam, Allah informed the Angels that He was going to create a new living being and put him in charge of the garden to be called the earth. But, due to feigning knowledge, the Angels kicked against the plan and ad-



vised their Lord not to do it. Allah then told them in a tone of finality that "I know what you do not know". (Q.2:31). It eventually took Adam, by Allah's command, to heal those Angels of their disease (ignorance).

If Adam had not taught them the names of all things on earth, as revealed in the Qur'an, the Angels would have remained ignorant forever. And, Allah's messages to mankind, as contained in the divinely Revealed Books, would not have come through them.

In an ordinary man's view, medicine is the substance required to cure an ailment. Such substance may be natural or artificial. It may also be as crude as herbs or as sophisticated as surgery. However, it is generally believed that a person does not need medicine unless he is ill. That is why the Western conventional medicine is rather curative than preventive. Illness resides in the body just as ignorance makes the mind its abode. Today, in most cases, people neither go to the hospitals nor take medicine unless they are sick.

Though unlettered, Prophet Muhammad



**By recommending the Qur'an as medicine for ignorance, the Prophet simply provided cure for the ailment of the mind. And by prescribing honey for body ailments he simply encouraged prolongation of life expectancy through a boost to the immune system.**

(SAW) had known this before he diagnosed two basic ailments and prescribed two fundamental medicines for them. The first of those ailments is ignorance. The second is poverty. And, poverty in this case is not lack of material wealth alone as many people erroneously believe. It is lack of many things including health and conscience. Thus, in Islam, ailment is basically of two types: ignorance and poverty. Many people are victims of one. Many more are victims of both.

A person is said to be poor-sighted when he cannot see well without artificial aid. He is deemed poor in memory when his remembering ability becomes weak. He is also pronounced poor in health when some of his organs malfunction or he lacks some active enzymes or minerals or vitamins. Thus, man may be poor, not in terms of money or material needs, but despite his possession of both.

## The Prophet's prescription

As an antidote for ignorance, the Prophet prescribed the Qur'an. And for body ailment, he prescribed honey. Qur'an is the encyclopaedia of life which personifies knowledge in all ramifications. There is nothing about knowledge, whether spiritual or mundane, in this world, or the hereafter, that is not contained in the Qur'an.

By recommending the Qur'an as medicine for ignorance, the Prophet simply provided cure for the ailment of the mind. And by prescribing honey for body ailments he simply encouraged prolongation of life expectancy through a boost to the immune system. It is not by accident that a whole chapter in the Qur'an (Chapter 16) is named after the insect that produces honey. Verse 68 of that chapter reads thus:

"And your Lord revealed to the bee (saying): Build your homes in the mountains, in the trees and in the hives which men shall make for you. Feed on every kind of fruit and follow the trodden path of your Lord'.

"From its belly comes forth a fluid of many hues as healing (drink) for mankind. Surely in this, there is a sign for those who can reason...." And, in the Bible, references are made to the use and efficacy of honey in more than 25 places.

Contrary to general belief, honey is not the only product of the bee. There are five others so far known to man. These are: propolis; pollen; royal jelly; bees wax; bee venom and bee bread. More can be discovered, as research continues in line with the Qur'anic challenge. Each of these products has specific functions in maintaining and immunizing the human hormone system.

To produce honey alone, the bees make contact with at least 250,000 plants picking branches and the flower nectars. It is possible for them to contact more plants

\* Continues on Page 8



## Emir of Ilorin Bans Pre-Video, Photo Shooting at Ilorin Central Mosque

**T**he Emir of Ilorin, who is also the chief custodian of the Ilorin Central Mosque, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, has warned that unauthorised pre-wedding video shooting and photographic expeditions for whatever purpose would no longer be allowed in the central place of worship.

The Emir made this declaration while reacting to a pre-wedding video shot recorded at the Mosque, which has since gone viral on social media. He disclaimed the allegation of granting approval to people access into the main hall of the Mosque.

Alhaji Sulu-Gambari, in a statement signed by the Chairman, Central Working Committee of the Mosque and Danmadami of Ilorin, Alhaji Shehu Abdulgafar, OON, said that the sanctity of the Masjid must be respected at all times.

He appreciated the concerns and comments elicited by the video, adding that everything worth doing would be done to ensure that a repeat of the incident does not occur.

The Emir, who is also the Chairman of the Kwara State Council of Emirs and Obas, added that the mosque, particularly the ultramodern edifice, does not exist for such a practice from anyone or group no matter how highly placed. It is important for all Ilorin patriots and visitors to use the mosque only for the purpose of worship, learning and community development.

The emir, therefore, appealed to the Central Working Committee and staff of the mosque to ensure that no one is allowed to shoot any video or take pre-wedding photographs at the Mosque.

### A welcome development

The decision of the Emir of Ilorin has been described a welcome develop-

ment.

It will be recalled that his Royal Highness had earlier warned that unauthorized pre-wedding videos and photographic shootings would no longer be allowed after a viral video emerged showing a prospective couple having access to the Main Hall of the mosque for the photographic tour.

His Royal Highness in a statement signed by the Chairman, Central Working Committee of the mosque and Dan Madami of Ilorin, Alhaji Sheu AbdulGafar, OON, appreciated the concerns and comments generated by the video since it has gone viral, while adding that everything will be done to ensure such incident does not repeat itself.

In an interview with **Al-Mi'raj**, Dr. Haruna Sanusi Lafiaji, lecturer at the Islamic Studies Department, Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, said the decision of the emir is worthy of appraisal and highly welcome.

The popular preacher on social media argued that the mosque is sacred and only reserved for inculcating spiritual disciplines and moral values in the worshipers, and not a place of photo shoot where people go for video skits and photographic explorations.

Dr. Haruna added that pre-wedding is not from the teachings of Islam because it involves prospective spouses exposing their bodies and touching themselves wrongly. He then appealed to young couples-to-be to plan and execute their weddings in line with the teachings and provisions of Islam.

In his part, Alhaji Ma'sood Adebimpe, member Central Working Committee of the Ilorin Central Mosque, said the

*\* Continues on Page 7*



**HRH Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari**

**“It is important for all Ilorin patriots and visitors to use the mosque only for the purpose of worship, learning and community development.”**

**M**uslims under the aegis of Oyo Muslim Community (OMC) are set to raise 2.5 billion naira for the construction of state of the art Islamic centre, hospital, standard library and Nursing school, News Live Nigeria reported.

The high level fund raising was held on August 28, 2022, on the permanent site, Agbogangan, Oba Adeyemi High School road, Mabolaje, Oyo under the chairmanship of Prince Sulaimon Ajibola Afonja, former chairman of First Bank Plc.

According to News Live Nigeria, over 13 acres of land, donated by Alhaji Miftahudeen Shuaib Ishola Agboluaje, Chairman and Founder of Ishola Motors and Sons Ltd, will

## Oyo Muslim Community to Raise N2.5 Billion for Islamic Centre, Hospital, Others

have about seven facilities including a modern library, Muslim hospital and standard event hall.

Alhaji Daud Igiogun, the project committee chairman, said the fund, when realised, would be channeled into seven different facilities: nursing school, hospital, event hall, vocational training center, standard library and an Islamic centre.

“Our hospital when completed, will look after all kinds of people – rich

and poor, because Muslims are honour-bound to provide treatment for the sick, whoever they may be.

“Healthcare is a part of life we all consider to be something we are entitled to; it is our right to have access to healthcare whenever we need it. However, those living in poverty do not have access to healthcare – even the most basic medical supplies are out of reach for many vulnerable people.

Given the factors that kept us going; transparency, selflessness and sincere prayers, our target will be met. There are philanthropists across Nigeria who believe in this cause, and are resolute to touch lives positively”, Alhaji Daud explained.

## All Hope Not Lost on the Unity of Yoruba Muslim Scholars – Sheikh Habeeb Adewuyi

**T**he Chief Imam of Maktab Central Mosque, Ikorodu, Lagos and Convener of a one-day Da’wah workshop for scholars and Islamic preachers in Yorubaland, Sheikh Habeeb Adewuyi, has expressed optimism that all hope is not lost on the unity of Islamic scholars of Yorubaland.

The Sheikh made this known at the sidelines of the Da’wah workshop held at Pealworts Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos, when he played host in collaboration with Mamlakah Limited to some scholars in Yorubaland on August 20, 2022, who have come from different parts of Southwestern states and Kwara to discuss the way forward to the myriad of challenges facing Muslims and Islam.

The idea of the workshop, as mentioned by the Convener, stemmed from his interaction with Dr. AbdulMajeed Roshood, a medical consultant, on the imperative need for unity among scholars of Yorubaland.

The workshop has as its theme, the words of Allah, “And hold firmly the rope of Allah altogether and do not become divided.” (Al Imran: 102)

By the nature of the programme, only few of the invited scholars had the role of steering the discussions on a number of carefully selected topics ranging from the importance of unity in words and action (Shaykh Abdulwahab Ajia); the danger in disunity (Shaykh Tajudeen Al Adabiy Baba Lagbeni); Comparison between Da’wah and evangelism (Shaykh Dr. Musa Aloungbija) and Approach to Unity and Preference-making (Shaykh Imam Ridwan Jamiu).

Others who made meaningful interventions include Alhaji Kunle Sanni (Chairman, Oyo State Muslim Community), Alhaji Amoo Alaga, Dr. Nasir Abdulsalam (Director, Arabic Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan), Prof. Abdulghaniy Abdulhameed Akorede Agbarigidoma, Dr. Munirudeen Salahudeen Ar-Riyadi and Ustadh Abdullahi Jabata.

An e-questionnaire meant to elicit information on the degree of challenges was shared through the virtual space for all participants to fill.

The result indicates the seriousness of the challenges facing Muslims and Islam, especially in the following areas: Da’wah work; inadequate Shari’ah seminar programmes for Arabic students and young scholars; inefficient management of Arabic schools and private conventional Islamic schools; poor Mosque management, insufficient social and humanitarian interventions such as endowments, developmental initiatives and civic engagement; inviting non-Muslims to Islam through nice preaching among others.

At the end, all identified challenges were tagged alongside their corresponding solutions, with the hope that further actions will be taken to develop on the information gathered at the workshop.

The workshop ended with a number of recommendations including the creation of a steering committee charged with the responsibility of driving this unique initiative and also engaging with critical stakeholders in the society.

## Emir of Ilorin Bans Pre-Video, Photo Shooting at Ilorin Central Mosque

*\* Continued from Page 6*

decision for the Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, was a reminder that the mosque was not built for frivolous purpose. Alhaji Adebimpe, who was the former Press Secretary to the then Governor of Kwara State, Dr Abubakar Bukola Saraki, pointed that the committee is well guided to prevent anyone from using the place of worship, which he described as one of the best around the world, for anything contrary to Islamic values.

The Ilorin Central Mosque was built in 1981 and is situated in the cosmopolitan city of Ilorin, the Kwara State capital.

The 20,000-capacity sprawling edifice was renovated in 2012 through sponsorship by both private individuals and the state government. With its several golden domes, which accentuate the majesty of the imposing masjid, it is the second biggest mosque in Nigeria, after the Abuja National Mosque.



\* *Continues from Page 5*

depending on the richness of the vegetation in which they dwell. ( Nectar is the main raw material which the bees use to produce honey). Propolis, on the other hand, is produced by the bees from the resin of certain specific trees.

#### Propolis

Through research, propolis has come to be known as the strongest anti-biotic ever discovered by man. This product is used not to protect the living alone but also to preserve the remains of the dead. At least it is on record that the famous historic Egyptian mummies were embalmed with propolis several millennia ago. This same propolis is the product used by the bees, themselves, to sterilise their bodies against bacteria and secure their hives against viruses brought into those hives by predators. Whenever the bees sting such predators to death, it is propolis they use to embalm them to prevent their decaying bodies from polluting the hive.

Pollen is the secret of longevity. It heals almost all the old age diseases like prostate, arthritis, pneumonia and bronchitis. It rejuvenates the nerves and reinvigorates the hormonal glands especially in the aged people.

#### Royal Jelly

Royal jelly on the other hand does not only solve the problem of infertility in men and women. It also rejuvenates its consumers agewise and in physical look. Besides, Royal Jelly acts as the exclusive food of the queen bee which enables her to lay an average of 2000 eggs every day. And bee venom is a natural vaccine which strengthens human immunity against all diseases. It works like magic in the human system especially when applied through the natural acupunctural points in the body.

#### Bees Wax

Bees wax, as distinct from other products, is used to produce non-chemical cosmetics and to coat pharmaceutical tablets and capsules while bee bread is used to prevent or heal children's diseases.

The use of each of these products to heal human ailments depends on the extent of knowledge of apitherapy possessed by the user. (Apitherapy is the use of bee products to prevent or heal human or animal ailments). A specialist in this field is called apitherapist.

The uniqueness of using these products for healing or prevention of diseases is in the fact that they do not entail any negative side effect. And that is a major sharp difference between them and the synthetic drugs manufactured chemically by the conventional pharmacists.

Honey is the only known product in the world that serves as both food and medicine. Hippocrates, the father of medicine, once reportedly told his patients while prescribing honey for them thus: "let your

“

**Raw honey, for instance, contains about 80 different substances that are most important for human nutrition. Besides glucose and fructose, honey contains all of the B-complex minerals like vitamins A, C, D, E and K as well as trace elements such as magnesium, sulphur, phosphorus, iron, calcium, chlorine, potassium, iodine, sodium, copper and manganese.**

food be your medicine and your medicine your food". There is no known nutritional value in terms of vitamins, minerals and enzymes that is not proportionally present in honey.

Raw honey, for instance, contains about 80 different substances that are most important for human nutrition. Besides glucose and fructose, honey contains all of the B-complex minerals like vitamins A, C, D, E and K as well as trace elements such as magnesium, sulphur, phosphorus, iron, calcium, chlorine, potassium, iodine, sodium, copper and manganese. The live enzyme content of honey is one of the highest of all existing foods. Honey also contains hormones and antimicrobial and antibacterial factors.

The composition and nutritional value of honey differ in relation to the floral sources honeybees have visited. For example, recent research supports the claim that dark coloured honeys have larger amounts of antioxidants. The inorganic contents of honey, minerals and other trace elements, play a significant role in human metabolism and nutrition. Owing to its chlorine content, honey is appreciated as an excellent tonic and helps people to overcome suffering from constipation and other enteric problems. (38.2% fructose, 31.0% glucose, 17.1% water, 7.2% maltose, 4.2% tri-saccharine & other carbohydrates, 1.5% sucrose, 0.5% minerals, vitamins, enzymes).

Whereas no synthetic medicine can and should be taken by any ill person without doctor's prescription, honey requires no such prescription for anybody who is not allergic to it. Honey is a multipurpose food and medicine. It can be taken along with other foods or alone.

And, as an antiviral and antibiotic substance, honey is the best medicine for the eye and the ear diseases, tooth ache, insomnia, staphylococcus, constipation and whitlow as well as for burns and wounds.

#### Components of Honey

After many centuries of disputing these facts ignorantly, conventional doctors have finally come to realise that no medicine is as effective in sealing up surgical

wounds and healing sores as honey. Today, honey is used for these purposes in most public hospitals in various parts of the world, including Nigeria.

Besides the above medicaments, the bees also assist mankind in producing foods by pollinating their crops. At least, these wonderful insects are responsible for pollinating about 80 per cent of the crops anywhere in the world. It is, therefore, an understatement to say that without the bees, humanity would starve to death. Bees are a vital part of our environment. Killing them is like killing oneself.

If most people were knowledgeable about the efficacy of the bee products in preventing and healing diseases, hospitals would have been less congested and substantial percentage of their incomes would have been saved to enhance the quality of their lives. The world of bees is a wonderful world. It takes only those who know it to appreciate it and benefit from its healing miracle.

Through divine instinct, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had known this almost one and a half millennia ago and he had recommended it to humanity accordingly. The fact that honey is still a subject of scientific research today is a further confirmation that the unlettered Prophet from Arabia was a divine genius.

The case of bee and honey is like that of hen and egg. No one can tell which first came into existence. Without bee there can be no honey. And without honey, the bees cannot exist since honey is the food upon which they depend for survival.

But, how can one recognise genuine honey in this era of rampant adulteration? That is one of many questions to be answered in this column in the future God willing.

The story of the insect called bee is inexhaustible despite centuries of research on it. It is therefore impossible to tell it all in a one page column of this type. Much more will be said on this subject subsequently if only to assist Nigerians in safeguarding their health matters thereby enhancing the quality of their lives.

That Prophet Muhammad (SAW) knew this much even as an unlettered person at a time when the world was assailed by blatant ignorance and primitivism is a further confirmation of Michael Hart's classification of him as the greatest human being that ever lived on earth. But then, what makes the difference between the bees and other insects? What type of life do the bees live vis a vis other insects? What is the relationship between the bees, the plants and human beings? How do the bees conduct their communal life and how do they make honey? Besides honey, how do they produce other substances useful for human health? These and other relevant questions about the insect called BEE will be answered in this column in sha'Allah.



# 2023 general elections: Sultan, CAN Leader Sign Peace Pact

*\* Continues from Page 1*

Ayokunle on August 10, 2022, in Abuja. The immediate past President of CAN made known that the two religious bodies also promised to embrace a vision of common humanity and speak publicly of hope for Nigeria's peaceful and bright future.

"This is a difficult time in Nigeria, with ever-escalating security crises and an overwhelming loss of trust in the government. And unfortunately,

so much of the crisis in Nigeria has had a religious context," he said.

This was why it was important for the Sultan and CAN to sign the 'Declaration for a Peaceful and Secure Nigeria' on a global stage, the cleric noted.

He added, "The Declaration we signed lays out a number of principles that we believe all Nigerians can readily affirm. It states that all people are endowed by the Creator with inherent value and fundamental rights, regard-



less of nationality, ethnicity, culture, region or the many other differences that often divide us, and that the essential freedom and dignity of every person must be respected and protected."

## NSCIA Receives Polio Heroes' Award

*\* Continues from P. 1*

to achieving a polio-free Nigeria, the Council was also acknowledged for its tremendous role in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Held on Thursday, August 25, 2022 at the NAF Conference Centre and Suites, Abuja, the award ceremony was part of the NPHCDA's activities to commemorate the third anniversary of Wild Poliovirus Eradication in Nigeria.

The award was received on the Council's behalf by the Secretary General, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, OFR, FNAL, who was ably represented by the Council's Administrative Secretary, Alh. Abubakar Akande.

The event, which was a gathering of the top echelon in the health industry both from within the country and the global community, featured international organisations such as World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Rotary International,



Alh. Abubakar Akande receiving the award on behalf of the council's Secretary General, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, OFR

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC), Gavi – the Vaccine Alliance – and United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as local organisations like Aliko Dangote Foundation, Sir Emeka Ofor Foundation, Federation of Muslim Women Associations in Nigeria, Northern Traditional Leaders Committee on Primary Healthcare Delivery, and Christian Association of Nigeria, among others.

## Soldiers Kill Islamic cleric, Steal his car

*\* Continues from Page 1*

on, both lance corporals, of 241 Battalion, Nguru, Yobe.

The soldiers are believed to be a criminal team. Sources said they killed the cleric after they saw what they thought was money in the cleric's car who was returning from Kano.

Premium Times reports that John Gabriel was recently redeployed for allegedly stealing N480,000 belonging to his commanding officer. The media organisation confirmed that the officer was redeployed to the checkpoint sometime in July 2022 after being interrogated as the prime suspect in the theft of N80,000 and N400,000 on two occasions.

"The commanding officer had to redeploy him because he could not establish any evidence of stealing but he cursed him and told him that if it's his character he would meet his end.

"Ironically, the day the Commanding Officer, Mr Oyemole handed over to a new commanding officer Mr Gabriel was arrested for killing the Islamic Cleric," revealed Premium Times source.

Al-Mi'raj gathers that the scholar was buried on August 20 in Gashua amid tears by his family, thousands of his students and followers.



**“  
Even in Western  
contexts such as  
UK and US, reli-  
gious headgears  
for Muslim girls,  
Sikh students and  
Catholic sisters  
in educational  
institutions are  
accepted as the  
norm**”

**\* Continues from Back Page**

hijab decision, it is the expressions of disapproval by lawyers and the basis of such expressions that worry me the most.

In the first instance, even though the theory of Nigeria being a secular state is always constitutionally anchored on the provisions of section 10 of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, this is not the only perspective on the matter. The other aspect of the debate, which is more realistic in my view, is the multireligious state theory.

This theory is also very much sustainable within the same provisions of Section 10 that neither a state nor the federal government shall adopt any religion as state religion.

Former Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Abuja, Mr John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan in the foreword to a book (Religion, Politics and Power in Northern Nigeria, 1993) by Bishop Mathew Hassan Kukah of the Catholic Diocese of Sokoto succinctly demonstrated the fallacy of the secular state theory in the following timeless words: “[E]ven nations which make much of separation of religion and politics find many ways in practice to act against this principle.”

It seems to me that this is why our prolonged debate over the “secular” nature of the Nigerian state has remained inconclusive. “Secular state” means different things to different people.

It is surely more useful to tackle concrete issues of interaction of politics and religion and from there evolve just and fair solutions to our problems of peaceful co-operation.

Why I found the disapproving comments by lawyers, particularly of the Christian faith, worrisome is the demonstration of unconscientious cherry-picking of when and how to chant the secular state theory slogan. Although it seems to be the case that it is the Nigerian style, regardless of religious affiliation, that issues of national significance are always left bereft of needed intellectual public engagement.

This posture encourages the citizenry to employ persuasive sentimentalism and orchestrated sensationalism without logical basis to score points against each other on issues with polarised views. But I think professionals, and more particularly lawyers, should always strive to rise above such in the interest of building a collective value system that cater for diverse aspirations.

The same lawyers that berate the Supreme Court for favouring a particular religion on the hijab case know that

non-legal days called dies non-juris that indicate legal holidays for judges and the court as contained in the various rules of courts up to the Supreme Court include entire weeks beginning with an Easter Monday or a Christmas day.

This is just one example out of many clear biases for the Christian faith without logical explanation under the Nigerian law. Problem of space for in-depth analysis precludes my further examination on the matter. Suffice it is to say that the hijab decision came out as a result of the invitation of the court’s jurisdiction by a private individual for the protection of their right to religious observance.

The court can only pronounce on the merits of the matter before it. Thus, it was not a case of Islam versus all other religions in Nigeria and need not be viewed as such.

The decision, for instance, cannot be used to compel a Muslim girl who does not wish to wear the hijab to do so in any public educational institution let alone a pupil or student of any other religious affiliations. But note that non-legal days as I pointed out above are compulsorily observed by all lawyers and judges regardless of religious adherence from time immemorial. Whence then the secular state theory?

In conclusion, I think it is important for all Nigerians regardless of religious affiliations to always try to be objective and dispassionate about issues that by their nature must be susceptible to diverse perspectives such as religion, culture or ethnicity.

It is disingenuous, in my view, to instrumentalise religion for personal gains or weaponize religious sentiments that are not shared. A question that begs its answer is - who is likely to be hurt by a Muslim girl wearing hijab in an educational institution?

Even in Western contexts such as UK and US, religious headgears for Muslim girls, Sikh students and Catholic sisters in educational institutions are accepted as the norm so much so that the reaction by some Nigerians to the Supreme Court decision may be mistaken for backwardness in this age of rights.

For example, as far back as February 25 2015, the US Supreme Court in EEOC v. Abercrombie & Fitch ruled against the retailer Abercrombie & Fitch, 8-1, deciding that the company’s failure to accommodate a job applicant who wore a hijab violated civil rights law.

This is not even a government or public institution, and it is in respect of religious observance and the right to work which to me is an essential right but not as foundational as the right to education.





- Continued from Back page

should resist the temptation of inflaming passions through the baseless allegations of the so-called Fulanisation and Islamisation, which are actually a smokescreen for their discreet atrocities and undisguised bigotry against Muslims in Nigeria.

This is just a piece of advice and religion is essentially about giving advice.

In the same manner, the Council strongly condemns the gruesome murder of Sheikh Goni Aisami Gashua last Friday (August 19, 2022) by two suspected soldiers, Lance Corporals John Gabriel and Adamu Gideon of the 241 Recce Battalion, Nguru, Yobe State.

Following the arrest of the criminals in army uniform, we call for calm among the Muslim ummah especially in Yobe State and immediate action from the authorities starting with the prosecution of the perpetrators in order to serve as a deterrent to others who use their positions to kill innocent Nigerians.

According to reports, Sheikh Aisami was driving back to Gashua from Nguru, when in adherence to the Islamic code of assisting the needy, he offered to give a soldier a ride in his car when he met him at the military check-point to Jaji-Maji in Karasuwa Local Government Area of Yobe State.

However, he shot him dead in cold blood some kilometers away, called his colleague to assist in fleeing with the deceased vehicle and threw millions of his family members, students, followers and the entire Muslim community into mourning. We are particularly grieved by this tragedy because it is axiomatic in Islam, according to the narration of Ibn

## Satanic Church Ritual: Commending the Judiciary, Condemning Bigotry and Demanding Immediate Action on Sheikh Aisami



The suspects. Lance Corporals John Gabriel and Adamu Gideon

Mas'ud, that "the death of a scholar is a loss that cannot be replaced for as long as the day and night alternate."

While appealing to Muslims to have faith in the military authorities and the judiciary in thoroughly investigating the murder and bringing the perpetrators to justice, we urge them not to read religious motives into the incident as others would do. We are not like them. Since we come from Allah and we shall all return to Him and no soul would taste death except with His leave, the Ummah should rest assured that the perpetrators will come to judgement.

Muslims should therefore remain calm as they join us in praying that Allah grants him and others like him Aljannah Firdaos.

Meanwhile, we wish to express

our disappointment in the Federal Government on the way and manner in which the murder of Gen. Alkali was handled. Up till this moment, we have not heard what became of his killers. While we sue for justice in the case of Sheikh Aisami, we charge the Federal Government to ensure that the killers of Gen. Alkali are brought to face the wrath of the law.

Once again, the Council commends the judiciary, condemns those who use every available instance to cast aspersion on Muslims and Islam in Nigeria and charges the authorities to expeditiously bring the murderers of Sheikh Aisami to book.

Signed: Prof. Salisu Shehu  
Deputy Secretary General

**MATTERS ARISING***With*

Dr. Azizat O. Amoloye-Adebayo

## The Supreme Court, the Hijab Decision and the Secular State Theory

**O**n Thursday 16 June 2022, the Supreme Court of Nigeria delivered a judgement that approved the use of hijab by Muslim female pupils in Lagos State's public primary and secondary schools.

The implication of the decision as a matter of law is that any Muslim girl or woman attending all public educational institutions in Nigeria has an unfettered right to the use of hijab if they so choose.

Unsurprisingly but regrettably so, a considerable number of Nigerians, most notably of the Christian faith and Christian organisations have expressed displeasure at this stance of the Supreme.

Not only were different social media platforms massively deployed for the various expressions of disapproval of the decision, but a lawyer in fact also wore traditionalists' attire into a court as practical manifestation of his perspective on the decision.

The main plank of the arguments against the decision is that Nigeria is a secular state and that the issue of religion as manifested by the Hijab case should be left in the realm of private observance. Thus, there are charges of Islamization of Nigeria or that of clear bias for Islam as a religion.

In fact, in the online version of The Sun Newspaper of 10 July 2022, some lawyers alluded to the fact that the hijab decision seems to protect only a particular religion and could pose a threat to the unity of Nigeria; it is insensitive to the religious rights of others and could also promote religious bigotry.

Out of all the comments against the

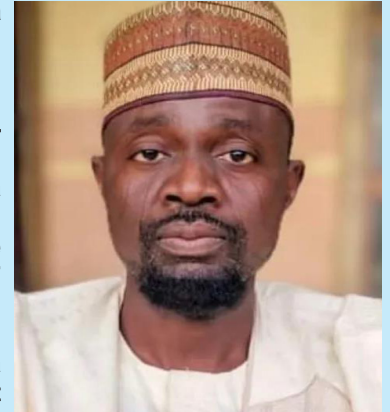
*\* Continues on page 10*

## PRESS RELEASE

### Satanic Church Ritual: Commending the Judiciary, Condemning Bigotry and Demanding Immediate Action on Sheikh Aisami

**O**n Tuesday, August 9, 2022, an Ikeja Special Offences Court sentenced Pastor Erinmole Adetokunbo and another Christian, Adedoyin Oyekanmi, to death for the heinous crime of beheading a seven-year old Muslim boy, Kazeem Rafiu, and using his head for rituals in a church.

It was the culmination of a five-year case involving the duo, who on June 7, 2017 viciously cut off the innocent boy's head, buried it under the altar of their church and threw his body into the canal. It was a most condemnable murder of the highest order committed in the name of fetish development of the church.



**Late Sheikh Aisami**

In the words of the just judge, Oluwatoyin Taiwo, who delivered the judgement, the evil pastor and his accomplice "have cruelly and intentionally killed a seven-year old boy. This deprived him and his family of a bright destiny." Though the judgement would not restore the precious soul of the young Kazeem, it proves that the path adopted by Lagos Muslims of allowing Christian criminals to be treated as other criminals and not criminalise Christendom for it is civil and logical.

The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) cannot but acknowledge the development which it had been closely monitoring since the unfortunate incident sent shock waves to the country in 2017.

We unequivocally commend the judiciary for meticulously carrying out the investigation and delivery of justice. Though it is well known that justice delayed is justice denied and we hope that the wheel of justice shall roll much faster in future, it is still gratifying that the prosecution was diligently carried out until judgement was served without fear or favour. Many Muslims felt beheading a Muslim boy for church rituals is distasteful and provocative enough for NSCIA to have condemned Christianity and the Christians. Such Muslims, who expect NSCIA to adopt divisive propaganda approach of others, fail to realise that two wrongs do not make a right.

The stance of the Council, however, is that one does not bite a dog because it has bitten one and you don't roll with pig in the mud just because it enjoys doing so. The Council believes that criminals are criminals and they should be so treated without appealing to base emotions or using the crime of a minority to vilify, malign or torment the majority.

Neither the church nor the Bible asked the evil pastor and his accomplice to do what they did, we insist, and they should be distanced from the teachings of Jesus. If the Council had chosen to be cantankerous like others, innocent Christians would have been unduly tormented, the church would have been maligned and the polity would have been overheated on the sensationalisation of a pastor murdering a Muslim and burying his head in his church.

For the avoidance of doubt, the penchant for weaponising religion for political expediency and constantly harassing Muslims in general for the misdemeanor of every criminal that is nominally associated with Islam is detestable to every conscientious Nigerian, not just Muslims.

Religious leaders should rather be circumspect in their utterances and pronouncements as true people of God, not politicians in cassocks. They

*\* Continues on page 11*