

Dhul-Qa'ada'ah 1439 (July 2018)

AL-BAYAN[☾]

A bulletin of the Nigerian Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs (NSCIA)

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Put a stop to these killings - NSCIA advises FG

The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), under the leadership of its President-General and Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR, mni, is deeply saddened and devastated by the orgy of violence and mindless killings being perpetrated across the country.

As a matter of fact, looking at the situation of insecurity in Nigeria today and judging it with the incessant killings of innocent people in their scores for whatever reason, the latest incident of mass murder in some villages in Plateau and Sokoto States can only be described as terrible, wicked, evil, disastrous, devilish and calamitous.

The truth is that similar incidents have occurred in other States like Taraba, Benue, Nasarawa and Zamfara in recent times. Nigeria can definitely not continue like this. These killings must be stopped!

Finding the initial gory

incident (also claimed to be another senseless reprisal) and the attacks that followed regrettably disturbing, the office of the Governor of Plateau State issued a strongly-worded press statement in which the governor condemned the protest that trailed the unfortunate incident of violent attacks in the Northern Senatorial District of the State.

According to the release, the Governor, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong,



Sultan Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III



**Prof Shehu
Galadanci is
Murshid
National
Mosque**

**Firdausi Amasa
Called To The
Bar In Hijab**



**Benue politician confesses
to role in Benue killings**

**Stop Parading Yourselves As Yoruba Elders
-MUCOMYO warns**

blamed the violence resulting from the protest on some religious groups under the auspices of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Northern Zone of Plateau State, the State Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria and Bazata Gospel Team. He then vowed to bring the masterminds of the violent protest to book.

While joining the governor in condemning the incessant heinous mayhem (initial or reactionary), the Council hereby suggests to the Federal Government to bring security to the rural level across the country and re-strategise the security structure of the country.

Let the Truth be Told Contrary to the impression being created by those who are paid to misinform the public, in some of the cases, Muslims were the targeted victims of the killings generally presented as herdsmen killing.

It is the maturity of the Council that does not allow us to make the situation worse by using emotive language based on the level of violence wreaked on Muslims.

There is abundant evidence of many Muslims who were slaughtered, particularly those who were stopped on the blocked highway, identified as Muslims and gruesomely killed by the same elements that are quick to blame their crime on others.

The truth is that the same cannibals who waylaid Muslims on Sallah day a few years ago, roasted and ate them (the video of which went viral and is available) are still active in their systematic campaign of terror in the Middle Belt.

It is also instructive that the Christian Association of Nigeria, Bauchi State Chapter, has described the disturbing situation Nigerians are witnessing in its true light.

According to the Chairman, Reverend Joshua Ray Miller, the attacks are the handiwork of saboteurs and a grand conspiracy to make Nigeria ungovernable, hence make the Buhari Administration appear unpopular as the 2019 general elections approach.

The chairman said, "It is unfortunate that some people are hiding under the disguise of local Fulani herdsmen to perpetrate these killings and from what we are witnessing, they are heading towards the realms of power at the Federal level."

He refuted the allegation of Fulani herdsmen killing Nigerians stressing that "some politicians who are hungry to seize power at the national level were sponsoring criminals to perpetrate heinous crimes in the Northern part of the country." That is the low level of desperation and infamy to which some political and religious leaders have descended because of vanity.

At this point, it is pertinent to call on Nigerians to heed to the warning given by no other person than the General Superintendent of the Deeper Life Bible Church, Pastor William Folorunso Kumuyi, that we should "be vigilant, wary of those who kill for political reasons to resurrect religious war."

Religious Drivers of Murder The same script of murderous rage is being written by the trio of Chief Solomon Asemota, Prof. Joseph Otubu and Rev. Bosun Emmanuel who are hiding under the mask of the National Christian Elders Forum to set the country ablaze with dangerous distortions, spurious claims and outright lies.

Their strategy is to stir the emotions of the unwary majority and appeal to the primordial sentiments of their religious followers.

Many people can recollect the passionate falsehoods and concocted videos produced, mass-circulated and presented by Bosun Emmanuel to several churches just to incite Christians and thwart the electoral victory of President Muhammadu Buhari in 2014.

Among what he said then was that General Sani Abacha was the best President Nigeria ever had. His reason for reaching that conclusion was simply that General Abacha deposed a Sultan. Having failed in his mission to divide Nigerians across religious lines preparatory to the 2015 elections, he has sought fellow Islamophobes and ethnic bigots to drive the same cause he failed woefully at.

The mission is evil and the method is despicable: set Nigerians against one another by circulating hate messages. As some religious leaders hoodwink their audience that they are speaking on behalf of God, the extent to which these elements have poisoned the hearts of gullible Nigerians is hard to imagine.

We, therefore, urge the Federal Government to take security seriously and be proactive by preventing anarchists, whether in religious or political garbs, from exacerbating our woes through their new-found industry of fake news, hate speech and violent language.

In the same vein, those who sit in Ibadan and Lagos issuing press releases on issues that they are too lazy to investigate should be more circumspect. As all that glitters is not gold, not all that is read in the media is true.

As revelations by international media organisations have shown that most images and videos gleefully shared on social media to depict current happenings in Nigeria are either old or sourced from foreign countries, responsible and educated people are not supposed to play to the gallery.

That is why the Glorious Qu'ran enjoins verification of news: "O you who believe! If a fasiq (liar, evil person) comes to you with any news, verify it, lest you should harm people in ignorance, and afterwards you become regretful of what you have done." (Q 18:16)

The Need for Security

The Federal and State governments should accord the security of lives and property of Nigerians its deserved seriousness. Of the factors that give any government the legitimacy with which to govern effectively, security is foremost.

In fact, it is the first responsibility of government. It is obvious that any situation that fails to guarantee the security of life and property will surely allow for mutual distrust and unsurmountable problems of violence and reprisals that can never augur well for peaceful co-existence.

There is too much bloodshed in the country and it is the responsibility of Government at all levels to stop it.

Our Sympathy and Appeal

The NSCIA sympathises, as usual, with the government and people of Plateau State as well as the families of other innocent Nigerians caught up and killed in that glee of madness.

The Council also urges all Nigerians to desist from resorting to violence as a means of achieving their objectives. They should always think of the implications and consequences of violence, mutual suspicion, hate speech and unwarranted rivalry. Rwanda was not a movie; it was real.

Nigerians should always remember that no one, no matter how powerful and connected he assumes himself to be, can accurately predict the end of a war. Those who fan the embers of discord and war, waylay Muslims and kill them should be wary of the consequences of their actions.

The media should also be cautious and crosscheck their facts. Sacking unprofessional reporters who would have been well paid by their sponsors and apologising to Nigerians for reports that had induced readers to commit murder is like medicine after death.

As citizens of the same country, we cannot depend on lamentations, expression of condolences and sympathy as the basis of our prayers to God for the stoppage of unnecessary carnage unleashed by some of our countrymen, both state and non-state actors, against others.

The action required of us is vigilance, truth, fairness and introspection, instead of being pawns in the hands of political interests who masquerade as religious and ethnic champions but do not mind the cost in human lives for achieving their selfish ends.

"...Verily, Allah does not change the condition of a nation until such a nation changes its style of living...." (Qur'an 13:11).

For peace, progress and development to be achieved, all hands must be on deck to accompany prayers with positive and purposeful actions. God save Nigeria from Nigerians. ■

The Right Step

This is a bulletin of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA). Its name is AL-BAYAN meaning factual, in dept. It is an avowed step forward in the life's odyssey of the entire Nigerian Muslim Ummah. It is a pivotal means of communication between the various Muslim organizations in all parts of Nigeria and the apex Muslim body called Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA).

Every step in the life of man has a purpose. To some people, such a step may be right and timely. To others, it may be wrong and meaningless. But at no time in the history of man has an educational step been deemed to be or perceived as wrong and this cannot be an exception.

Whether in the primordial or contemporary times, education has never been a hindrance to human development. On the contrary, it has remained the main propeller of human progress. A society without education can never dream of progress.

From time immemorial, the solid ground upon which education has permanently been based in any circumstance is information. There can be no education without information.

Prophet Adam (AS), the primogenitor of human beings, was hardly one hour old when the Almighty Allah asked him to teach the Angels the names of all other creatures. And he perfectly did exactly that to Almighty Allah's delight. From thence, Adam became not only the master of those creatures but also, the principal recipient of Allah's guidance in performing the duties of Allah's vicegerent on earth.

The cited historical incident about Adam and the Angels here was revealed to us in Qur'an 2 verses 30-34.

Thus, communication based on a solid background of information became the first human profession on earth and it will be the last profession of man in the Hereafter.

When all human beings might have been judged and classified by Allah into Paradise and Hell in the Hereafter, according to their performances on earth, all other professions would have become moribund and redundant.

That is the stage, at which the occupants of Hell will want to know what will be happening in Paradise while the residents of Paradise will want to know the condition of the occupants of Hell.

The only profession that will remain functional at that point in reporting the right side to the left side and the left side to the right side is journalism which deals exclusively in information transfer.

The focus of this bulletin will be on authentic information with which Nigerian Muslims can properly understand the hostile environment in which they live, like a lily by the mossy stone, in order to know how to wear formidable armours against the arrows of life. We are all on board on a rugged ship embarking on a voyage towards the Cape of Good Hope. All hands must be on deck to ensure that this ship does not capsize.

In Almighty Allah alone we absolutely put our trust.

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Firdausi Amasa Called To The Bar In Hijab

Amasa Firdaus, the law graduate who challenged the restriction on the use of hijab during call-to-bar ceremonies, has been called to bar.

Firdaus was called on Tuesday, 10th July 2018, seven months after the controversy.

Firdaus was in December denied entry into the hall for the ceremony which took place at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, for refusing to remove her hijab.

Islamic bodies, including the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), had rallied around her, calling for a review of the dress code.

In a historic ruling, the body of benchers responsible for calling law graduates to bar, in June approved the use of hijab as proper dress code.

The recent development has attracted commendations and jubilation from Islamic organisations, among which is the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria, Lagos State Area Unit.

In a statement by its Amir (President), Saheed Ashafa, the MSSN Lagos said that allowing Ms Amasa to be called to the bar would encourage Muslim females to be dedicated to their academics.

He said: "This is a welcome development. We hope that as time goes on, we will get something better. The use of hijab is not only constitutional but also mandatory for all Muslim females.

"The law school has shown enough maturity in this matter by calling Amasa to bar with her hijab. Not allowing her would have been a breach of her right, an injustice and would send a bad signal that the justice house is ill. It will also be counterproductive to the agenda of the federal

government to encourage girl-child education. The victory of Amasa would encourage other females to pursue any course of their choice without fear of being victimised.

"We urge other institutions having cases to determine relating to hijab to follow this step, it is practical enough. The hijab is not a harmful outfit. It is mandatory for every female Muslim. Denying it means the denial of the Muslim females of their fundamental human right, which is against the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended)."

He subsequently said that Ms Amasa deserved to be celebrated, adding that she demonstrated a heroic act by fighting for the freedom of other Muslims.

The Director-General (DG) of the school, Isa Ciroma, said the performance of the graduands was justified.

The director-general said that the members of staff of the school had closely monitored the aspiring lawyer during their training and their records, perused by the screening committee and found them worthy to be called to the Bar.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the Body of Benchers, Bashir Dalhatu, admonished the graduands to abide by the rules and provisions of the profession, adding that it is sacrosanct and required strict adherence at all times.

"The Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee has been carrying out its mandate in a just and fair manner without giving room for compromise, affection or ill-will," he added.

The Nigerian Law School said 1,550 students were successful after the April 2018 Bar final examinations while their success rate is put at 68.6 per cent.

The school also called to the Bar 12 other graduates from the previous 2018 final examinations. ■



*His Eminence Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar
Sultan of Sokoto and President-General NSCIA*

Evidence of Leadership

"A leader is a man who has the ability to get other people to do what they don't want to do, and like it". Harry S Truman (1884 - 1972) Former U.S. President

By Femi Abbas

Good leadership is recognized not by official position or use of force. Genuine leaders are known by their utterances, their actions and their conduct. Such are leaders who never say YES when they mean to say NO. They never make promise and renege on it. And they never betray those who trust them.

Those were the qualities which the Almighty Allah admired so much in Prophet Muhammad (SAW) when He said: "There is surely an excellent example for you (Muslims) to emulate in Prophet Muhammad for those of you who believe in Allah and the hereafter and also remember Allah at all times".

Philosophers who assert that every new century has a way of producing a great leader may be right after all.

The example of His Eminence Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, the Sultan of Sokoto is a manifest attestation to that assertion. Ever since he assumed the exalted royal office of his forefathers, this great man has convincingly demonstrated all the qualities of genuine leadership. Every statement he made, socially, religiously and politically and every action he has taken officially or personally has proved to be a school from which all well-meaning people have learnt one thing or the other.

In January 2010, when he was invited as a Special Guest of Honour to a religious seminar organized by the Chritian Association of Nigeria (CAN) with the theme: 'Knowing Your Muslim Neighbour', Sultan Abubakar delivered an historic speech that reverberated meaningfully throughout the world. And a couple of weeks later, he also invited the leadership of CAN to a special conference of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA). The theme of that conference was: 'Islam in the Eyes of the Christians'. He is the first Sultan ever to engage in such an interfaith affair and his speech on that occasion was also electrifying. Please read that speech as presented below:

"I would like to begin in the sublime name of our Merciful Lord and Creator, Allah (SWT), the Grantor of all earthly bounties and divine favours, who has gathered us here today.

Your Excellencies, Your Royal Highnesses, you may recall that over one and a half years ago, we initiated, as we had done for the JNII, a thorough review of the activities of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs [NSCIA] and an extensive reform of its structures. It is our firm belief

that these reforms are not only desirable but necessary, to reposition the Council to play its strategic role as the apex Islamic body in the country and to respond, effectively and meaningfully, to the challenges facing the Muslim Ummah in a multi-cultural and multi-religious society. We have had extensive consultations over the last one year and have received very useful inputs on the reform agenda from all the constituent bodies of the Council. Our strategic objectives in this exercise, have been and shall remain:

Firstly, the promotion of Muslim Unity and Solidarity, to accord the Ummah the ability to speak with one voice and to act and work together for the advancement of Islam.

Secondly, the development of Education and Economic Enterprise, to enable the Muslim Ummah play an active role in the socio-economic life of Nigeria.

Thirdly, the promotion of peace and religious harmony both within Muslim Communities and between the adherents of Islam and Christianity.

Fourthly, the establishment of effective linkage with Government, at local, state and federal levels, to safeguard the interest of the Ummah and to build consensus on those vital issues that bind us as a nation.

It is therefore our hope that as we bring this reform process to its logical conclusion, we will receive the support and patronage of the entire Muslim Ummah as well as the co-operation of all our stakeholders including State Governments and indeed the Government of the Federation.

Your Excellencies, Your Royal Highnesses, our Distinguished Guests, it may be pertinent to point out that the last few months have been a trying period for our nation which culminated in the passing away of our dear president, His Excellency Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua. May Allah [SWT] accept his gentle soul and reward him with al-Jannat ul-firdausi for his sense of probity and selflessness and for the great service he rendered to this nation. May Allah [SWT] also continue to shower His infinite mercy and blessings on this nation of ours and guide us all in doing what is right and honourable. The task of overcoming Nigeria's problems calls for sacrifice, dialogue and understanding; and all national stakeholders must overcome the myopia of greed and self-centredness to move this great nation forward and safeguard its strategic



interests.

Our Distinguished Guests, we must begin to look into the future with hope and confidence and to ensure, first and foremost, that we shore up the foundation of our political system. The National Assembly, and indeed all tiers of Government, should not relent in their current efforts at Electoral Reform and in ensuring that Nigerians have a genuine electoral process that guarantees free and fair elections. Unless and until we do that our nation will continue to be haunted by the unholy alliance between fraudulent elections and illegitimate electoral outcomes, the consequences of which we all know too well. We must break away from this vicious cycle and confer on Nigerians the power and indeed the ability to decide, freely and willingly, who leads them at all levels of governance.

Secondly, there is also the urgent need for us to re-evaluate our conception of leadership as a nation. When a person is appointed to a position of authority, his family and friends, including long lost ones, come together to celebrate the great fortune which had smiled on their brother and the numerous opportunities at his disposal and at the disposal of family and friends, to acquire riches. When we focus almost entirely on the opportunities which leadership offers, we tend to lose sight of the enormous responsibilities it confers. We must, at our sober moments, take courage to remind our leaders about these responsibilities; their onerous nature; how Allah (SWT) has conferred on you the responsibility of serving as a shepherd over the people; and indeed how, on the Day of Judgment, the Almighty will ask you to render a full account of how you discharged this responsibility.

Distinguished guests, we must also, at our sober moments, take courage to remind our leaders about the severity of Allah's torment on those who violate this trust and the great reward which awaits those who fulfill it. We must also not fail to remind our leaders that our security and that of our families does not lie in how much wealth we have been able to accumulate but the effort we have expended to make a meaningful and sustainable improvement on the life of our people and the cumulative effect of this improvement on the prosperity and development of our respective States and Societies. Needless to add, there is no way we can make genuine progress as a nation when a significant number of our populace wallows in abject poverty unable to secure the requisite means for their sustenance and to cater to the health and educational needs of their families. Democracy must build a humane society capable of looking after the legitimate needs of its citizenry. For it to be truly successful, it must be able to bring real progress to all sectors of our diverse society.

Thirdly, we must all work hard to limit the influence of wealth in our society and to support those values that promote social responsibility, excellence and hard work. Presently, the challenge before us all is real and serious: How can one genuinely get elected in the current democratic dispensation without an overriding need to accumulate wealth? How can personality, character and record of performance become tangible assets in the public arena to translate into real electoral victory for those who possess them? How could we extol the virtues of those who promote public interest and ensure that they receive the honour they deserve both during their life-time and after their demise? How can our religious and traditional institutions re-prioritize these societal values and ensure their institutionalization?

Your Excellencies, Your Royal Highnesses, Distinguished Guests, we cannot conclude these remarks without raising the issue of Muslim-Christian relations and the quest for peace and religious harmony in Nigeria. Despite the problems in Plateau State, we must state that genuine progress has been made in this arena. Kaduna State has, for long, remained a beacon of hope for all of us. It must remain so and we call upon all religious groups to join hands with the State Government to ensure the sustenance of peace, stability and



**His Eminence Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar
Sultan of Sokoto and President-General NSCII**

development in this great State.

The activities of the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) also give us much cause to hope for a bright future for Inter-religious relations in Nigeria. In addition to the Council's numerous activities, I was opportune, last April, to address a Seminar organized by the National Executive Committee of the Christian Association of Nigeria, under the theme, Knowing Your Muslim Neighbour. As far as we know, this activity was the first of its kind in Nigeria and marks a very important milestone in Christian/Muslim understanding. Today we are reciprocating that unique and important event by also listening to our Christian brothers on how they see Islam and Muslims. I believe more of such events will be held in the near future.

Finally, I wish to end these remarks with a call on our politicians and those vying for Political Office: We must endeavour to insulate traditional rulers from partisan politics. As Community leaders, our people who belong to different political persuasions look up to us to safeguard the strategic interests of our society and to serve as guardians of its culture and value system. We must not be distracted from performing these vital societal roles. We advise politicians who aspire to national leadership to conduct their campaigns with honour and decorum. We must not trample on the cherished values upon which the socio-cultural and religious edifice of our society has been built.

With these words I thank you, once again for honouring our invitation.

Wassalamu alaikum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuhu. ■



The activities of the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) also give us much cause to hope for a bright future for Inter-religious relations in Nigeria

Prof Shehu Galadanci is Murshid National Mosque

The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) recently announced new changes to the administration and management of the Abuja National Mosque, with the renowned Prof Shehu Ahmad Sa'id Galadanci confirmed as the Murshid (General Administrator, or Grand Instructor) to oversee the affairs of the complex.

The Secretary-General of the NSCIA, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, told newsmen in Abuja that the council has also appointed Alhaji Sakariyu Babalola as Deputy President-General (South), Prof. Salisu Shehu Deputy Secretary-General (North) and Haroun Muhammad Eze, a lawyer, as Deputy National Legal Adviser.

The appointment of Babalola brings the number of Deputy President-Generals to two, after the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Umar Garbai El-Kanemi Deputy President-General (North).

"Since the demise of the late Chief Imam, Sheikh Musa Muhammad, on 2nd of May, 2015, the council undertook a number of restructuring. In line with the best practices in National Mosques all over the world, the Abuja National Mosque would now have a Murshid rather than a Chief Imam.

"Similarly, the three Deputy Chief Imams of the Mosque had recently been elevated to the position of Imams of the Mosque and one other vacancy had been declared (to be occupied by a qualified person from either the South-South or South-East Geo-political zone of Nigeria), thereby, bringing the total number of Imams to four," Oloyede said.

He said the Murshid would be supported by the three Imams of the mosque and a Director of Finance and Administration.

"His duty, among other things, is to see to the upliftment of the Muslim community spiritually and intellectually," he said.

Prof Shehu Ahmad Sa'id Galadanci

Oloyede added that rather than the three Khutbah (The special Friday sermon) in different local languages, the mosque will introduce a technology where only the Arabic khutbah would be delivered and worshipers can come with their mobile phones and tune to a frequency to listen to the interpretation of the sermon in Nigeria's major languages.

The late Sheikh Musa Muhammad held the dual positions of Chief Imam and National Murshid.

The resolutions of the restructuring of the National Mosque administration was taken by the NSCIA at its 6th meeting of the Extended General Purpose Committee (EGPC) on 9th October at the National Mosque under the chairmanship of the President-General and Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III.

The new Murshid was among other things a National Security Adviser (NSA) to President Shehu Shagari and was Nigeria's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for nine years at the time he was to be appointed as the Chief Imam of the Abuja National Mosque. ■

Courtesy: Daily Trust

WHY AREN'T WE GRATEFUL?

By Abu Mazedatil Khayr Bn Sa'eed

We complain too much and we hardly appreciate the favours of Allah. We do report Allah to His servants by telling them all we suffer in life. But life is not all about pains and distress. What about your children who are not afflicted by any terminal ailment? What of your job or business that is spinning wealth like drizzles of rain?

You might be traveling long distances without an auto-crash or air mis-hap. That mere sound sleep you experience at nights is not as easy for the man across the road. Think of the other numerous favours of Allah in your life, even if the burden of trials is heavy!

But if you can not remember any, then ponder over the favour of Islam which the non-Muslims are not so fortunate to enjoy. Certainly, if you count the favour of your Lord, you can never exhaust it.

Sometime last year, I was suddenly awakened to a heavy heart on a certain torturous night. I then put a call across to a brother in faith to confide in him about my fear. After listening to my numerous complaints, he asked in one breath:

"You've just complained to me about your problems, but you've not informed me about Allah's favour in your life, some of which I know. What about His blessings on you which we all envy? What of the goodwill you enjoy everywhere you go?"

"You travel often and yet there has never been any mis-hap. What about His protection over you? Abu Mazedah, why aren't you grateful to your Lord? Hearing this, I was ashamed. I sighed deeply and handed the phone before he did, with an appreciative utterance of "thank you my brother!"

The best lesson in this regard can be learnt from the exceptional patience exhibited by U'rwah Bn Zubair. He was the second son of the noble companion, Zubair Bn Awwaam, and therefore a younger brother of Abdullahi Bn Zubair, the brave son of Asmaahu Bint Abi Bakr.

On a particular day of his glorious days, U'rwah had lost one of his seven children and when it was time for him to lead the janazah prayer over him, he was heard saying in a submissive voice and with a sense of gratitude:

"O' Allah, if you have only taken one of my seven children, leaving six; I thank you that you didn't take six, leaving only one for me.."

Thus, you must always thank Allah in any circumstance. You must also understand that trials are naturally accompanied by a cause for gratitude. For example, having a problem at work should make you to be grateful for being profitably engaged; and being distressed at all must grant you the privilege of being challenged!

I therefore thank Allah that my life is not monotonous in the days of hardship. If trials would generally make one stronger and probably creative, why should a Muslim not thank Allah in the days of hardship?

The truth is that, those who are always grateful to Allah, especially in distress, are liable to be happier, less stressed, less distressed and even more satisfied with their lives and social interactions.

Scholars of Islam have defined gratitude as an attitude of acknowledging a benefit that one has received. For example, in *Al-Madaalij*, Ibn Qayyim described it as a confirmation of Allah's favour in the tongue of his servant; while Ibn Mandhuur in *Lisaan Al A'rab* simply calls it a lavish of praise on the doer of good for what he does.

Ibn A'thir, in his *Nihaayah*, also described it as sincere appreciation of favours with both words and actions. Thus, gratitude, in the opinions of scholars, implies a consistent affirmation of one's faith in Allah. It is the direct opposite of kufr and also a pleasant way of worshipping Allah.

In *Suwar min Ayatil Ahimma*, Imam Maalik was reported to have seen a blind handicapped man glorifying Allah. The imam then stopped and asked him "for what are you thanking Allah?" The blind, handicapped man answered thus: "Didn't He bless me with a healthy heart to glorify His name?"

In another event, reported by Imam Muslim in his *Saheeh*, an immigrant companion of the Holy Prophet, may the peace of Allah be upon him, once told another companion called Abdullahi Bn Amr Bn A'as in a casual conversation: "Am I not one of the poor immigrant Muslims?"

Abdullahi Bn Amr then replied, asking him: "Do you have a wife at home?" "Yes", answered the man. Abdullahi asked further: "Do you have a house in which you live?" "Yes", the man answered again. Abdullahi then remarked thus: "Then, you're rich!" The man added further: "I also have a servant at home..". Abdullahi then concluded thus: "Then you're a king!"

You're indeed a king because there are millions of other people on the planet earth struggling to secure a man or woman's attention for a spouse, whereas you have one who delights your heart. You are neither tied to a hospital bed, nor confined to asylum, you're a king!

You're capable of securing a plate of food, while many others can secure it as well, but they are too ill to swallow a portion, you're a king! You possess the eyes, nose, tongue and limbs with which you see, smell, speak and walk respectively, like a king, because you are a king!

Some others are equally blessed with such organs, but theirs may not be as effective yours - The limbs and organs may even be sterile; and yet, the physically challenged have no excuse for not worshipping Allah, otherwise they'll be punished.

Imagine the liquid in your eye-ball sockets drying up! Which of the favours of your Lord will you deny? ■

Igbo Muslims want spread of Islam in South East

The chairman of Ebonyi State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Alhaji Abas Egbu, has called for the establishment of Islamic schools and building of mosques for ease of practice of Islam and propagation of the religion in the South-East.

Egbu said Ebonyi is the only state in eastern Nigeria with a Muslim pilgrims board that is independent of the Christian board.

He said Igbo Muslims are equally genuine and committed adherents of Islam despite their small population and should be given robust support in the area of da'wah.

Egbu made the call in Abakaliki when he received the National Organising Secretary of Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of

Nigeria (ADS), Alhaji Ibrahim Kilani. He commended what he called the fairness and impartiality of the state government towards Islam and Muslims.

The Vice President General, Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and leader of the Muslim community in the state, Dr Haroun Ajah, described ADS as a force to reckon with in the state. He also used the occasion to commend Dangote Group for donating items to the state's Muslim community during the last Ramadan.

The Seriki Hausawa in the state, Alhaji Danjomo Gambo, who was also visited by Alhaji Kilani, commended ADS for its impact in the state. ■



Benue politician confesses to role in Benue killings

Police have nabbed a councillor and seven other suspects in connection with the killings in Benue State.

One of the suspects has been identified as Benjamin Tivfa, a serving councillor of Fidi ward in the state.

Police spokesman Jimoh Moshood, said Tivfa admitted to have supplied arms and ammunition to the bandits for their criminal activities.

He identified other suspects as: Victor Ganabe, 35; Daniel Kyase, 33; Adajo Tomza, 28; Msugh Teraki, 23; Julius Avaan, 49; Terkula Udeh, 37; and Sunday Cheche, 34. They all admitted to being members of Benue State

Livestock Guards.

Moshood said: "The bandits confessed that the Councillor is a member of their gang and responsible for supply of arms and ammunition including money to finance their operations.

"The Councillor admitted to have bought 15 rounds of AK47 ammunition from the last suspect, Sunday Cheche and also confessed to have provided money to finance the operations of the gang.

"The Councillor admitted to have bought 15 rounds of AK47 ammunition from the last suspect, Sunday Cheche and also confessed to have provide

He said investigation is in progress to arrest other members of the bandits. ■

Stop Parading Yourselves As Yoruba Elders

The Muslim Community of Oyo State (MUCOMYO) has finally broken its silence over the Christian leaders who for a long time have paraded themselves as Yoruba leaders under the aegis of Afenifere and it asks them to stop doing so as Yoruba Land does not belong to Christians alone but also multitude of Muslims.

Chairman of the Muslim Community of Oyo State (MUCOMYO), Alhaji Ishaq Kunle Sanni, stated this in a press conference address he delivered recently in Ibadan, Oyo State capital.

Alhaji Kunle Sanni, also a leader of the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN), in the address titled, "Yoruba Christian Leaders Stop Parading Yourselves as Yoruba Leaders" dated Thursday 5th July 2018 equivalent to 21st Shawwal 1439AH, held at the Islamic Centre, Bodija, Ibadan, advised the people to be fair, just and deal with everybody with love, adding that precisely is the message of Islam.

The religious leader queried the

rationale behind their so claiming to represent Yoruba Land that is known for equally good number of well-to-do Muslims but who have been ostracized in Yoruba affairs for a long time.

Kunle Sanni said the agenda of the Afenifere group for "Christian proselytization" hiding under the canopy of Yoruba irredentism is what disqualified them from representing the Yoruba, noting that they have for so long treated any Muslim in their midst like a mole.

More touching to the Muslim community Kunle Sanni leads is the hypocrisy being displayed by the people who claimed to be fighting for restructuring for the growth of Yoruba but who, having taken money to do the bidding of some kind of political party in the buildup to 2015 general elections, are now again attending regular meetings with former President Olusegun Obasanjo for no Yoruba good but to unseat President Muhammadu Buhari for their own self ends.

Obasanjo, it would be recalled, had been accused by many of these Afenifere

-MUCOMYO warns

leaders of jilting Chief Obafemi Awolowo to favour Alhaji Shehu Shagari as President in 1979 and the same Obasanjo repeated the same thing with MKO Abiola in 1993 saying Abiola was not the Messiah to rule Nigeria, just like he also did by damaging the Yoruba states' attempt to achieve regional economic integration with the Alliance for Democracy (AD).

It is therefore surprising to the Muslim leader that all of these same leaders of Afenifere, including a daughter of Chief Awolowo, Tokunbo, are now holding meetings with the same Obasanjo to plot against President Buhari.

Sanni thus asked what could have caused that insincerity and hypocrisy if not because the interest is not of Yoruba but of their own hidden Christian agenda.

The Defender investigations have recently confirmed that Obasanjo's 2019 agenda is to install a southern Christian

Continues on back page

Islam and UN Days (I)

By SEKINAH LAWAL

Every July 11 is World Population Day. And the theme for 2018 is: "Family Planning is a Human Right". From available records, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the 1968 International Conference on Human Rights, where family planning was, for the first time, globally affirmed to be a human right.

However, Islam has given us the right many centuries ago. Islam respects and adores women so much that they have been given different rooms of planning their family by exclusively breast-feeding their kids for at least two years among others.

Islam also enjoined good governance to ensure that all families enjoy good services and comfortable standard of living.

They were just talking about accountability, informed decision-making, privacy and confidentiality, which Islam has laid emphasis on since. Unfortunately, many of our leaders are no longer accountable to the people.

The institution of marriage and procreation is great in Islam. "And indeed We sent messengers before you and made for them wives and offspring" (Al-Raad: 38)

However, many Muslims need to fear Allah towards discharging their responsibilities to their wives and children, not grooming miscreants in the name of marrying four wives.

Islam has forbidden celibacy (state of not being married), monasticism (life of monks & nuns) and castration (removal of the male glands) for such purposes. The prophet (saw) made this clear when he told those companions who were considering acetic forms of life: "I pray and I sleep; I fast and I

break my fast; and I marry women. Whoever turns away from my way of life is not from me."

The prophet (saw) not only encouraged marriage but he encouraged marrying those women who are child-bearing. He stated: "Marry the loving, child-bearing women for I shall have the largest numbers among the Prophets on the day of Resurrection."

From the Islamic perspective, children are gifts and blessings from Allah. Allah mentions some of the bounties that He has bestowed upon mankind in the following verse: "And Allah has made for you spouses of your own kind and has made for you, from your wives, sons and grandsons, and has bestowed upon you good provisions." (Al-Nahl: 72)

Allah also said: "Wealth and children are the adornment of the life of this world." (Al-Kahf: 46). And Allah says; "Kill not your children because of poverty - We provide sustenance for you and for them" (Al-Anaam 151)

In Al-Isra: 31, Allah SWT also says: "And kill not your children for fear of poverty. We shall provide for them as well as for you. Surely, the killing of them is a great sin" Hence, Muslims should never abort or kill their children out of fear of poverty. It is Allah who provides for them.

It is permissible to control the timing of births with the intent of distancing the occurrences of pregnancy or to delay it for a specific amount of time, if there is some Shariah need for that in the opinion of the spouses, based on mutual consultation and agreement between them. However, this is conditioned by that not leading to any harm, by it being done by means that are approved in the Shariah and that it not do anything to oppose a current and existing pregnancy.

To be continued.

Drug and Substance Abuse: Let's play our roles as parents

By SEKINAH LAWAL

We have a very big problem at hand which we must all play our roles, most especially as parents, to solve. It has to do with substance and drug abuse which has degenerated beyond the scope of improper use of either prescriptive or prohibitive drugs to include the unthinkable misuse of other substances.

Our youths, men and women now abuse substances through smoking, oral consumption (swallowing, eating with food and mixing with drinks), sniffing, and injection for many different reasons, but the detrimental effect on our society is obvious. Increasing crime rate, direct damage to health, high rate of school dropout, truancy, casualties in hospitals and emergency departments as well as prison inmate tallies are strong indicators of debilitating effects of substance abuse in the society.

Dear parents, let us watch out for symptoms like intoxication, ecstasy, tranquility, energy, expanded consciousness and so on. But also, there are far-reaching consequences of impaired memory, paranoia, hallucination, amnesia, depression, suicide, heart attack, vital organ (heart, lung, brain, kidney) damage, violence, and sudden death among others.

Youths now turn to several unassuming substances like used sanitary pads, petrol, methylated spirit, gum, super glue, talcum powder, dung smoke, fumes, caffeine contents, stimulants, latrine and so forth, as alternatives to high grade drugs. These produce relative negative effects in the long run.

Family members, friends and neighbors should be able to spot signs of substance abuse and we must act as parents and before it gets to this, let us raise our children up in the true

Islamic ways of life. Prevention is far better than looking for treatment.

And for those already in it, chances for successful treatment or rehabilitation are aided by early detection. Some of the signs to watch out for include the following

- Child suddenly begins to lie and/or steal
- Leaves for an unknown location at a particular time
- Withdrawal or unnecessary privacy
- Giving up on values/belief/worthy activities
- Rudeness
- Drop in grades
- Truancy
- Diminished attention span
- Secrecy and dodging questions
- Unwarranted usage of body spray, air freshener, or insecticide
- Company with strange friends
- Swing of mood, appetite, and/or sleep
- Looking unkempt as unusual.

Increasing cases of substance abuse among even primary and secondary schools students has made it necessary for parents to pay closer attention to and be available for their children. We should be the best friend of our child and even seek to be a friend of our child's friends. Check on them in schools or mosque they attend to confirm their punctuality and behaviour.

In the event that you find out that your child has been abusing substance, the best way to respond is with calmness, and friendly manner. Then work with your child to obtain professional help. ■

HONOUR AT LAST FOR MKO ABIOLA

The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), under the leadership of its President General and Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR, mni has noted, with appreciation, the national honour conferred on its late Vice-President General, Alhaji Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola, by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

For the Nigerian Muslim Ummah, the recognition and the award of the Grand Commander of the Federal Republic (GCFR) on him, is a welcome development, in the spirit of justice and national reconciliation. Though seemingly belated, this investiture is a personification of justice against injustice and a clear manifestation of giving honour to whom honour is justifiably due.

This Council congratulates the family of MKO Abiola, the Nigerian Muslim Ummah and all Nigerians in general.

This historic act by President Muhammadu Buhari has effectively closed the door on the injustice of the past. However, the council urges the president to look into other instances of injustice for possible redress. It will definitely be a right step in the right direction.

The NSCIA, on behalf of the Nigerian muslim ummah prays to Almighty Allah to repost the soul of late Alhaji MKO Abiola in eternal bliss and grant the members of his family the fortitude to continue to bear the agony of the unfortunate historical incident and also reward all those who fought for justice in this instance in our dear country. GOD BLESS NIGERIA!

Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, OFR, FNAL
Secretary-General, Nigerian Supreme Council
for Islamic Affairs.



Late Alhaji Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola

Adamu Ciroma: The Demise of An Icon

As if Nigeria is in a season of deaths, breaking news keep coming in torrents announcing the demise of great Nigerians of history and thereby reminding us all that the phenomena called death is truly the leveler of mankind.

The latest of such news was that of Mallam Adamu Ciroma whose obituary was announced last Thursday. He was said to have died at the ripe age of 84 years. Thus, like those who preceded him in death

he became a falcon that parted way with falconers without a prior hint. And at a time when the life span in Nigeria dropped to less than 50 years, who can call the demise of an octogenarian a shocking? But human death

is neither about age nor about position. This is confirmed in the Qur'an where Allah says: "Every soul shall taste death and you will only be given your rewards on the day of resurrection. So, whoever is drawn away from Hell and admitted into Paradise will surely attain his desire. And what is the life of this world except a mere enjoyment of delusion...". Q. 3:185.

In a sombre circumstance like this, the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), under the leadership of its President-General and Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR, mni, can only pray for a comfortable repose of Mallam Ciroma's soul in eternal bliss and commiserate with his family and associates over the loss of of an irreplace icon like him.

Human life is like a tree with roots, stem and foliages. Some are thorning and fruitless, some are smooth and edibly fruitful. Tet, many are neither here nor there. We thank the Almighty Allah for making Mllam Ciroma a man of pleasant legacy and memorable history. This is not the right time to recount the history of his birth or the positions he occupied while alive. That he lived a glorious life that ended very well is a lesson for many Nigerians who may also wish to leave behind a footprint on the sands of time after their demises.

Human life is just a passge through which the attainment of Paradise or otherwise is inevitable. The belly of the earth is the permanent homes from which no physical journey is possible again. It was Mallam Ciroma's turn to move to his own permanent home. Every other living being will follow suit when it comes to his or her turn according to destiny. "We shall all pass through this world but once. If therefore, there is any good that we can do or any kindness that we can show to any fellow human being, let us do it now without delaying or neglecting it for we may not pass through this world again. We are all from Allah and to Allah we shall all return. ■

Professor Is-haq O. Oloyede, OFR, FNAL
Secretary-General, NSCIA



WE MOURN JUSTICE AKANBI

Nigeria's radio waves throbbed with a worrisome breaking news very early Sunday morning (June 3, 2018) announcing the demise of a Nigerian colossus, Justice Muhammad Mustapha Akanbi, the pioneer Chairman of Independent Corrupt Practices (and other related offences) Commission (ICPC), who was also a former President of Nigeria's Federal Appeal Court.

His demise at the age of 85 brought a new dimension to the current situation in Nigeria. Coming up at this precarious time in the country's trending but unpredictable developments, the demise of a vertical personality like Justice Mustapha Akanbi is a further confirmation that death is indeed a leveler of mankind.

As the apex body of the entire Muslim Ummah in Nigeria, under the leadership of its President-General and Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR, mni, such a demise could not have come as a shock since by Islamic norm, death is a natural phenomenon with a natural dragnet that cannot be escaped or manipulated in any way by any mortal being. Death is a debt which every mortal being owes and must pay at one point of life or another. We are all from Allah and to Allah, we shall all return.

Like any great man in life with exemplary footprint, Justice Mustapha Akanbi came into the world and lived by the divine rules and regulations of his Creator to the best of his ability.

While alive, he embarked upon a series of temporal and spiritual activities absorbing experiences from various legitimate engagements in which he was involved. Such experiences enabled him to formulate a guiding philosophy in life with which he charted his causes of actions. Yet, the philosophy he formulated from those actions was not merely for his own survival but for him a way of providing a right path through which people who wouldn't want to go astray could pass with piety. And now, with his demise, that philosophy has become a guide to those of the living who may need guidance either as a warning on the vanity of human wishes or as encouragement towards the pursuit of good deeds or both.

With an unblemished conscience, while alive, Justice Akanbi stood out vertically in the midst of his horizontal colleagues either as a lawyer or as a judge or a crusader against corruption. By his lifestyle, he evidently personified asceticism in all its ramifications using contentment as a template for his exemplary life. And that was why, shortly after his retirement as President of the Federal Appeal Court, the former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo had to beg him to accept the Chairmanship of the ICPC when that anti-corruption outfit was established at the dawn of the current republic.

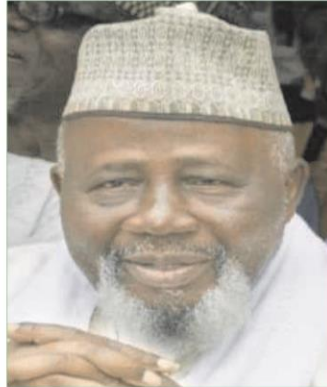
After the expiration of his tenure in that office in 2005, he bluntly rejected the idea of renewing it saying "Nigeria was not made for one man". And when the pressure started to mount on him to continue he quickly resigned and made his resignation public.

He then went on to establish the famous Mustapha Akanbi Foundation in 2006 as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), which he fully dedicated to transparency and accountability. Despite his towering stature in the society, Justice Akanbi so much exemplified humility that unlike most of his colleagues, he lived in a modest bungalow in his hometown of Ilorin till his demise.

On behalf of the entire Nigerian Muslim Ummah, the NSCIA under the leadership of its President-General and Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, heartily condole with the government and people of Nigeria especially the judiciary and commiserates with the citizens of Kwara State praying the Almighty Allah to repose his enviable soul in eternal bliss and grant the members of his family as well as his sincere associates the fortitude with which to bear the agony.

Inna liLlah wa inna ilayhi raji'un! ■

- By: Prof. Salisu Shehu, Deputy Secretary-General NSCIA



Late Justice Muhammad Mustapha Akanbi

Stop Parading Yourself As Yoruba Elders -MUCOMYO warns

Continued from page 6

as President. There has been no rebuttal of that claim since then.

The MUCOMYO leader said, "Islam preaches fairness, equity and love, even in a hostile situation against Muslim, Islam still preaches fair treatment and justice. Qur'an 5:8 states 'O' you who believe, stand up as witnesses for Allah in all fairness and do not let the hatred of people deviate you from justice. Be just. This is closer to piety, and fear Allah. Surely Allah is aware of all you do

"Islam is against hate speech, hostility and all forms of iniquity. It promotes love, unity and peaceful co existence.

"The Afenifere or Yoruba Council of Elders (YCE) have always pretended to be the vanguard of Yoruba interest, to confront their enemies and fight against their marginalization from the so called Hausa-Fulani Oligarchy. It is however crystal clear that this amalgam of Christian predator's modus operandi in its absolutism is furtherance of Christian political domination in the southwest and ostracization of the Muslims who constitute the majority in four out of the six states in the region. What an absurdity!!

"Statistics will unveil to you their hypocrisy when you look at their membership, you hardly find a Muslim in their midst.

"You now wonder if there is a paucity of elders among the Yoruba Muslims which militated against bringing them on board Yoruba Council of Elders (YCE) or Afenifere. Is Retired Justice Abdul Jabbar Bolasodun Ajibola, a former attorney general and Minister for Justice and former Judge in the world court in a Hague, and octogenarian is not qualified to be a Yoruba elder?!

"Baba Habib Fasinro is 99years old, a retired and accomplished civil servant, still active. What disqualified him from being among Yoruba elders? Chief Sakariyau Babalola, a business mogul an octogenarian active and vibrant. Is he unworthy of being among the Yoruba elders?!

"What of the first African professor of Geology, professor emeritus Muhammed Oyawoye, a London trained university of Ibadan professor. What denies him from being considered among Yoruba elders?! Or Offa people are not Yorubas?!

"Distinguished legal luminary, Alh Abdullateef Femi Okunnu, is an octogenarian too. Why was he not invited to the Yoruba council of Elders?! Is it because he spots a beard?!

"What about Professor DOS Noibi, who is so much recognized internationally as a scholar that the queen of England awarded him the prestigious honour of Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) He was disqualified by this tribal Christian jingoist as Yoruba Elders. We can continue ad infinitum to mention Yoruba Muslims who are qualified to be among the Yoruba Council of Elders.

"What disqualifies them is the agenda of the group for Christian proselytization hiding under the canopy of Yoruba irredentism. Therefore a Muslim in their midst is like a mole in their eyes. ■