



NIREC

Office of the National Co-ordinator/
Executive Secretary

Nigeria Inter-Religious Council

website: www.nirecng.org

Federal Secretariat Complex Phase 1, Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja. (First Floor, Annex 1B, on top of Staff Clinic).

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COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 1ST QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE NIGERIA INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (NIREC) HELD AT THE SHERATON HOTEL ABUJA ON 21ST - 23RD MARCH, 2018.

COMMUNIQUE

A Preamble

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) under the Co-Chairmanship of the Sultan of Sokoto who is also the President - General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR, mni and the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), His Eminence, Rev. Dr. Samson Olasupo A. Ayokunle, held its first 2018 Quarterly meeting at the Sheraton Hotel, Abuja from the 21st - 23rd March, 2018.

In attendance at the formal opening ceremony were:

- The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, His Excellency, Boss Gida Mustapha.
- FCT Minister, Represented by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Christian Chinyeaka Ohaa
- The Governor of Kwara State, Represented by the Deputy Chief of Staff Mr. Leke Ogungbe.
- United States of America Ambassador to Nigeria:-Amb. W. Stuart Symington
- Inspector General of Police Represented by DIG, Shuaibu Lawal Gambo.
- Members of NIREC

- Many religious and traditional leaders from all strata of the federation.

B Appreciation

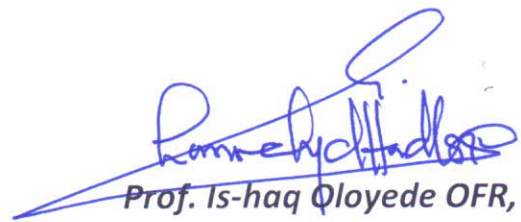
1. The Council expressed its immense gratitude and appreciation to the Federal Government, particularly the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, for ensuring the reactivation of the body after some dormant years.
2. The Council also applauded the Inspector General of Police represented by the DIG, Shuaibu Lawal Gambo who presented a paper titled, "Security and National Development" to the Council.

C Resolutions

NIREC after serious reflections and deliberations resolved that:

1. The Council would continue to encourage and promote the corporate existence of Nigeria as an inseparable entity.
2. The Governments at all levels should beef up security and be pro-active on intelligence gathering in order to prevent the kidnapping of innocent and law abiding persons.
3. The Federal Government should empower security agents and ensure adequate provisions of security in the Country in order to minimize criminal activities.
4. Sources of supplies of ammunitions to insurgents, killer herdsmen, militants and other miscreants should be investigated thoroughly and culprits brought to book.
5. Governments and religious bodies should work together towards the elimination of inter-religious tension in order to foster and promote inter-religious cooperation for the common good of the nation.
6. Governments and security agents should ensure that criminals are brought to justice and trials of culprits should be speedily concluded to serve as deterrent to others.
7. Nigerian leaders should promote God-consciousness in the nation, therefore, Governments and public office holders should treat all Nigerians equally regardless of ethnic or religious backgrounds, in all spheres of life.

8. While appreciating Federal Government's effort on securing the release of some of the Chibok and Dapchi girls, Government should speed up the necessary procedure and activities for the release of the remaining Chibok school girls and the Dapchi School girl (Miss Leah Sharibu) who are still in Boko Haram's captivity.
9. Prayers at public functions should not be regimented. The Council unanimously opposed the usage of the Second Stanza of the National Anthem in place of inspired prayers at Schools and public functions and therefore calls for the immediate reversal of the policy which was ill-motivated to eliminate religious voice from public space.
10. Government should actualize through the Federal Ministry of Education's issuance of appropriate circular on compulsory offer of Islamic Studies or Christian Religious studies (depending on the students' religion) in the Basic and Secondary School curricula as approved by the National Council on Education.
11. NIREC members and other religious leaders are to contact each other across the religious divide in the event of crises within their environment for quick intervention and resolution to douse tension.
12. Governments, organizations and influential Nigerians should take seriously the need to fight poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment which have been responsible for underdevelopment and increase in crime in the nation.
13. The Governments and religious leaders are urged to be transparent in their dealings with citizens and cultivate an understanding among the religious groups in the nation.


Prof. Is-haq Oloyede OFR, FNAL
National Coordinator/Executive Secretary
20th April, 2018