

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER GENERAL MEETING OF THE NIGERIA INTER-  
RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (NIREC) HELD FROM THE 22<sup>ND</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019  
AT THE SHERATON HOTEL, ABUJA**

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) held its 2019 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter) General Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel, Abuja from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 with the theme “***JUSTICE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR PEACE***”.

The meeting was co-chaired by His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa’ad Abubakar, CFR, mni, the President-General of the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), and the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev. Dr. Samson Olasupo A. Ayokunle.

**APPRECIATION**

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) acknowledged the immense support and contribution of the Federal Government under President Muhammadu Buhari for ensuring the facilitation and sustenance of the Council particularly the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha.

**RESOLUTIONS**

The NIREC after careful consideration and deliberation on the State of the Nation, the Insecurity in the country and other issues resolved as follows: -

- i. Justice and Good Governance remain the most effective means for the promotion of peace, harmony, mutual co-existence and the development of a country.  
Therefore, all Nigerians must work together in peace and harmony to banish poverty from the land and ensure that every citizen leads a decent and productive life.
- ii. NIREC urges the Government to promote the rule of law, transparency, accountability, consensus building, equity, stronger institutions and efficiency.
- iii. NIREC abhors and condemns the disturbing trend of kidnapping, armed robbery, killing of innocent citizens by bandits, Boko Haram, religious and ethnic tensions, herders / farmers conflicts, militancy, insurgency that are increasingly becoming pervasive in the country. The practices are illegal and repugnant to the norms of our religions, traditions and culture.
- iv. Determined efforts should be made by Government and religious leaders to check the problems in order to protect the moral well-being of the people. They should douse the religious and ethnic tensions that are pervading the country.

- v. The Council urges the Government to promote the rule of law, obey the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and all court orders. Justice leads to good governance and good governance leads to justice and both lead to peace, security and economic development. Injustice breeds all sorts of negative reactions that may culminate into violence and loss of lives.
- vi. NIREC calls on political and Government Authorities to intensify the provision of security in the country in order to minimize criminal activities.
- vii. Concerned about the drop in good virtues in the society leading to criminal activities like rape, kidnapping and killing of innocent citizens etc, the Council calls on family units to spare more time to raise their children in a Godly manner by inculcating positive values in them.
- viii. The Council calls on all religious leaders to serve as peace advocates and avoid preaching inflammatory messages to their followers.
- ix. The Council urges the government at all levels to create more job opportunities for the teeming unemployed Nigerians, especially youths, by resuscitating moribund companies, increase agricultural facilities, increase electricity supply to Nigerians and ensure accessibility of funds for small and medium scale industries to reduce poverty.
- x. The Council calls on the police and other security agencies to be pro-active in intelligence gathering, to display professionalism in managing the current security challenge in Nigeria and avoid the coloration of partisanship in all their operations.
- xi. The Government, Police and Security Agents should ensure that criminals are brought to justice and trials of arrested suspects should be speedily concluded to serve as deterrent to others.
- xii. The judiciary must be independent as stipulated under the constitution. An intimidated judiciary cannot dispense justice. Justice must be allowed to be dispensed. Justice must be given as right to every Nigerian in order to promote peace.

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**His Eminence Alh Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar CFR, mni**  
 The Sultan of Sokoto & President-General,  
 Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA)  
**CO-CHAIRMAN, NIREC**

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**His Eminence Rev. Dr.Samson Olasupo A. Ayokunle**  
 President, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) &  
 President Nigerian Baptist Convention  
**CO-CHAIRMAN, NIREC**

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**Rev. Fr. Prof. Cornelius Afebu Omonokhua**  
**Executive Secretary, NIREC**