

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 4th QUARTER MEETING OF THE NIGERIA INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (NIREC) HELD FROM 25TH – 27TH NOVEMBER, 2020 AT REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL, ABUJA

PREAMBLE:

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) held its 2020 Fourth Quarter Meeting at Reiz Continental Hotel, Abuja from the 25th to 27th November, 2020 under the theme: **“Questing for Peace in the Challenges of Insecurity and Covid-19”**. The meeting was co-chaired by His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammed Sa’ad Abubakar, CFR, mni, the Sultan of Sokoto, President-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and His Eminence, Rev. Dr. Samson Olasupo A. Ayokunle, President of the Christian Association of Nigeria and Nigerian Baptist Convention.

ATTENDANCE:

Present at the opening ceremony of the meeting were Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha, Secretary to Government of the Federation (SGF); Mr. Olusade Adesola, Permanent Secretary of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), representative of the FCT Minister; Mr. Michael Gelpke, representative of the German Ambassador; DIG Lawal Shehu, representative of the Inspector General of Police; Most Rev. Ignatius Ayau Kaigama and Mallam Dr. Nurudeen Lemu who presented papers on the theme of the meeting. Members of NIREC and representatives of the Christian and Muslim youths were in attendance.

RESOLUTIONS

The NIREC after careful consideration of and deliberation on the State of the Nation, the quest for peace in the challenges of Insecurity and Covid-19 and other issues resolved as follows:

1. NIREC abhors and condemns the disturbing trend of kidnapping, armed robbery, killing of innocent citizens by bandits, Boko Haram, drug abuse, religious and ethnic tensions, herder-farmer conflict, militancy and insurgency, that are increasingly becoming pervasive in the country. The

practices are illegal and repugnant to the norms of our religions, traditions and cultures.

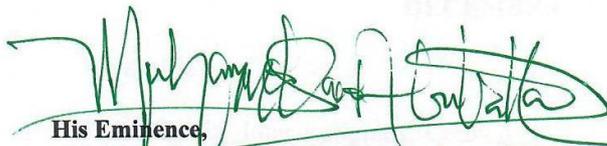
2. The “END SARS PROTEST” was a genuine spontaneous reaction by the youth against SARS brutality, injustice, insecurity and bad governance. NIREC condemns the hijacking of the peaceful protest by hoodlums that gave rise to the death of many people and the destruction of property.
3. NIREC urges the government to involve traditional rulers, religious leaders, retired security and economic experts in ending the challenges of insecurity and youth restiveness
4. The Council urges government to involve the youths in the security architecture of the country, the meeting of Governors, Traditional rulers, economic policy formulation, and community policing.
5. The Council urges the government at all levels to create more job opportunities for the teeming unemployed Nigerians, especially the youths, by resuscitating moribund companies, increasing agricultural facilities, granting empowerment loans to youths, increasing electricity supply to Nigerians and ensuring accessibility of funds for small and medium scale industries to reduce poverty.
6. The Council urges the government to reopen the borders, ensure food security, and re-engineer the security apparatus of Nigeria.
7. The security of Nigerians is paramount. Government should discharge its duties of protecting Nigerians in accordance with the constitution.
8. The Council urges the government to reverse the increase in the price of fuel and electricity.
9. The Council admonishes all Nigerians to work together in peace and harmony in order to banish kidnapping, bloodshed, poverty from the land and ensure that every citizen lives a decent and productive life.
10. The Council calls on all religious leaders to serve as peace advocates and avoid preaching inflammatory messages to their followers.
11. The Council urges the government to provide good governance and the rule of law which remains the most effective means of promotion of peace, harmony, justice and mutual co-existence in Nigeria.
12. NIREC calls on government to organize a skill training summit for the youth to keep them busy and reduce the time they spend on social media.
13. The Council resolves to continue to promote peace and harmony among Nigerians and shall always speak truth to authority at all times.
14. NIREC calls on all Nigerians to pray fervently for God’s mercy and the forgiveness of our sins, especially the massive shedding of innocent blood,

unending harassment, humiliation of Nigerians by bandits, criminals, Boko Haram and the healing of our land.

15. NIREC calls on private organizations and influential Nigerians to take seriously the need to support government and Nigerians by fighting poverty, illiteracy and unemployment that has been responsible for backwardness and increase in crime in the nation.
16. NIREC commends the Federal Government of Nigeria particularly the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 headed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha for the prompt management of the pandemic and calls on all Nigerians to observe the protocol (wearing of facial mask, social distancing and washing of hands) provided by NCDC to ensure that Covid-19 is completely eradicated.

CONCLUSION

The Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) acknowledged the immense support and contribution of the Federal Government, under President Muhammed Buhari to the Council. NIREC especially appreciates the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha.



His Eminence,
Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, CFR, mni
The Sultan of Sokoto/ President General,
Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and
Co-Chairman, NIREC)



His Eminence,
Rev. Dr. Samson O. A. Ayokunle
President, Christian Association of
Nigeria (CAN) and Co-Chairman, NIREC



Fr. Prof. Cornelius A. Omonokhua
Executive Secretary, NIREC