



# NIREC

Office of The National Co-ordinator/  
Executive Secretary

**Nigeria Inter-Religious Council**

*Federal Secretariat Complex Phase 1, Shehu Shagary Way, Abuja, (Ground Floor, Besides Dana Air Office).*

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## **THE COMMUNIQUE**

### **1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER MEETING OF THE NIGERIA INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (NIREC) HELD AT THE ZARANDA HOTEL BAUCHI, BAUCHI STATE APRIL 23RD, 2010**

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 Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), His Grace Archbishop John Onaiyekan, CON held its 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter General meeting at the Zaranda Hotel, Bauchi from 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010. The meeting was attended by the principal officers and members of NIREC from across the states of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The formal opening ceremony of the meeting was attended by His Excellency, the Governor of Bauchi State, Malam (Dr.) Isa Yuguda FNIM, who in an inspiring and passionate address declared the meeting open.

Other dignitaries included the Deputy Governor of Bauchi State, Members of the State Executive Council, Special Advisers to the Governor on Education and Peace and Conflict Management, Emirs, Traditional and Religious Leaders from the North East Zone; Prof. S.A.S Galandanci, Chairman, Ministerial Committee on MADRASAH who made a presentation on their assignment, Prof. Tunde Adeniran, Dr. Rasheed Aderinoye, Deputy Executive Secretary, UBEC, Representative of the United States Embassy in Nigeria and Chief Uche Ezechukwu who made a presentation titled "Religious Crisis and the Nigerian Nation".

**The Council:**

- Expressed its immense gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency, the Governor of Bauchi, State and the people of Bauchi State for the support and hospitality extended to the members.
- Expressed appreciation to the Bauchi Emirate Council, Traditional Rulers and Religious Leaders of the North East Zone of Nigeria.
- Congratulated the Emir of Fika on the receipt of the Staff of Office scheduled for Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, 2010.

**The Council also observed that:**

- Peace and security are prerequisite for development of the country.
- Peace is a process of ensuring and sustaining justice, fairness and equity in the society.
- The two major religions in the country, Islam and Christianity, advocate the message of peace and respect for other religions.
- Sources of conflicts are multi-dimensional and mostly socio-economic, ethno-religious and political in nature.
- The Plateau State crises continue to be a source of concern to all well meaning Nigerians.
- Disregard for the rule of law, poverty, injustice and inequity fuel conflicts.
- Security of life and property still constitute a source of anxiety to all.

**RESOLUTIONS****The Council resolved to:**

- i. Call on the Federal Government to find a lasting solution to the Plateau State crisis and other crises and bring to book the perpetrators, promoters and facilitators of the acts of violence and destruction of lives and property.
- ii. Call on Governments at various levels to give compensation to victims of religious/ethnic disturbances to enable them mitigate the effects of human and material losses caused by unwholesome activities of a few misguided elements.
- iii. Collaborate with the Federal and States Governments in establishing and operating a Relief Fund to assist the victims of crises in the nation.

- xviii. Encourage every parent to accept the vaccine for their child, and ensure that every child is vaccinated against polio.
- xix. Urge all Nigerians to raise their children in the fear of God.
- xx. Call on the Federal Government to reduce the poverty of Nigerians by providing constant electricity, good roads, basic infrastructure and health care system.
- xxi. Urge Governments at all levels to intensify efforts to strengthen security services to make lives and property more secure in the country.
- xxii. Urge those States that are yet to establish State chapters of NIREC, to do so without further delay to enhance the promotion of peaceful co-existence amongst people.
- xxiii. Call on the National Assembly to guarantee free and fair Elections in 2011.
- xxiv. Call on the Federal Government to fully implement the Uwais Report on Electoral Reforms.
- xxv. Urge the Government to make appropriate preparations for the 2011 Elections.
- xxvi. Urge all Nigerians to continue to pray for the quick recovery of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.
- xxvii. Commend the Ag. President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan for steering the ship of State and pray for his success.
- xxviii. Commend the Co- Chairmen of the Council for their dynamic and focused leadership and affirm their commitment to the continued existence of NIREC and its aims and objectives