



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

THE THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE NIGERIA INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL (NIREC) HELD AT THE DANKANI GUEST PALACE HOTEL SOKOTO, FROM 12TH TO 13TH OCTOBER, 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; and the President of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and President, Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor held its 3rd Quarterly General meeting at the Dankani Guest Palace Hotel, Sokoto, from 12th-13th October, 2010. The meeting was attended by the principal officers and members of NIREC.

The formal Opening Ceremony was held at the Sokoto State Polytechnic and was attended by their Excellencies, the Governor of Sokoto State ably represented by the Secretary to the Sokoto State Government, Alhaji Sahabi Isa Gada, Governor of Kano State Malam Ibrahim Shekarau and Governor of Katsina State represented by Alhaji Abubakar Yusuf Bindawa, Special Adviser on Community Development.

Other dignitaries present at the Opening included His Excellency, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, Emirs, Traditional/Religious Leaders and Elder Statesmen from the North West Zone, Leaders of Religious Associations, Permanent Secretaries and Community Leaders.

Two papers on the "The Role of Traditional and Faith Leaders in Promoting Peace and National Security" were delivered by Reverend Nesta Andy-Philip of the University of Abuja and Dr. Lateefa M. Durosinni of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife.

The Council:

- Expressed its immense gratitude to His Excellency, the Governor, Government and excellent people of Sokoto State for the support and hospitality extended to the members and appreciation to the former

President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, the Governor of Kano State for personally attending the Opening Ceremony as well as the Governor of Katsina State for sending a representative and thanked them for the goodwill messages they delivered.

- Sympathised with the victims of the recent flood disaster that affected parts of Sokoto, Kebbi and Jigawa States and prayed that God will comfort them in these trying times.
- Commended those who provided relief to the victims and call on others to emulate this and provide succor to all those in need.

The Council also observed that:

- Traditional and faith leaders are advocates of justice.
- Justice and social peace building are related, and involve putting in place deliberate, consistent and proactive steps that could lead to positive social transformation.
- Religious value systems play very significant role in collective self awareness and identity.
- Faith leaders are charged with the responsibility of ensuring peaceful co-existence which is a divine desire of God for men.
- Religion when properly understood and practiced educates the mind positively and promotes stability and security
- Religious Leaders are expected to preach peace, provide a strong moral compass for their adherents and develop a code of conduct based on positive value system.
- No society has ever progressed through the exaltation of extortion and gratuitous violence, hence Nigerians must uphold peace and harmony at all times.
- As the nation prepares for elections, the utterances of some leaders is heating up the polity constituting a threat to peace

RESOLUTIONS

The Council:

- i. Congratulates the President, Commander in Chief His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan and the entire nation on the memorable occasion of the 50 years of independence from colonial rule.
- ii. Appreciates the enormous contributions of the Nation's founding fathers and the sacrifices they made in establishing a firm basis of our nationhood.
On the Culture of Violence
- iii. Condemns categorically and in strong terms the bombings that occurred in Abuja during the Anniversary celebrations.