

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR



S C S N
SUPREME COUNCIL FOR
SHARI'AH IN NIGERIA

المجلس الأعلى للشريعة في نيجيريا



Pre-Ramadan
Meeting



Date:

24th Sha'aban 1445 AH
(5th March 2024)

Venue: Jama'atu Nasaril Islam
(JNI) Kaduna, Nigeria.

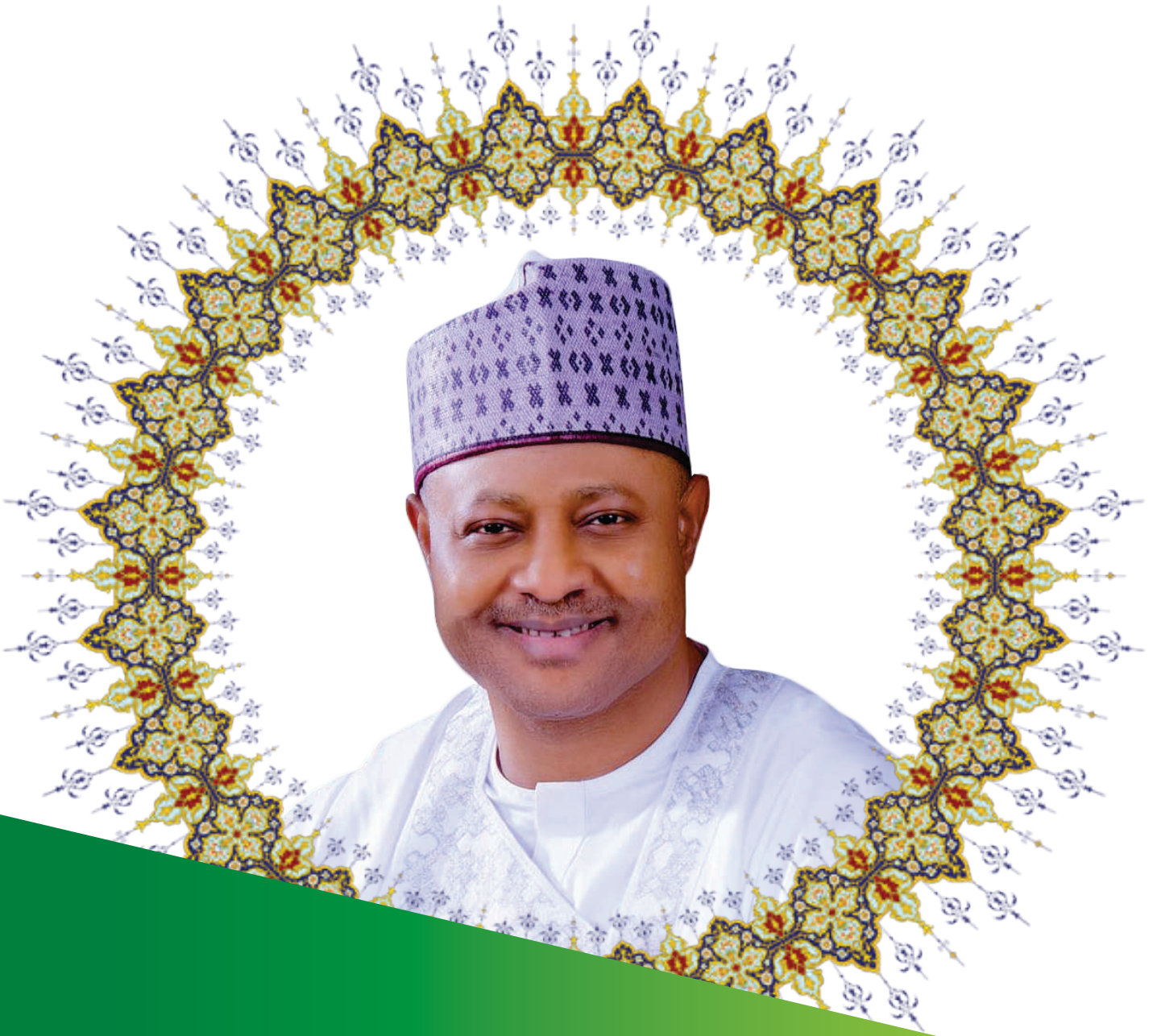
Time: 10:00am



*His Excellency, **Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, GCFR
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*



*His Excellency, **Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON**
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria*



*His Excellency, **Senator Uba Sani**
Executive Governor of Kaduna State*



*Her Excellency, **Hajiya Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe***
Deputy Governor of Kaduna State

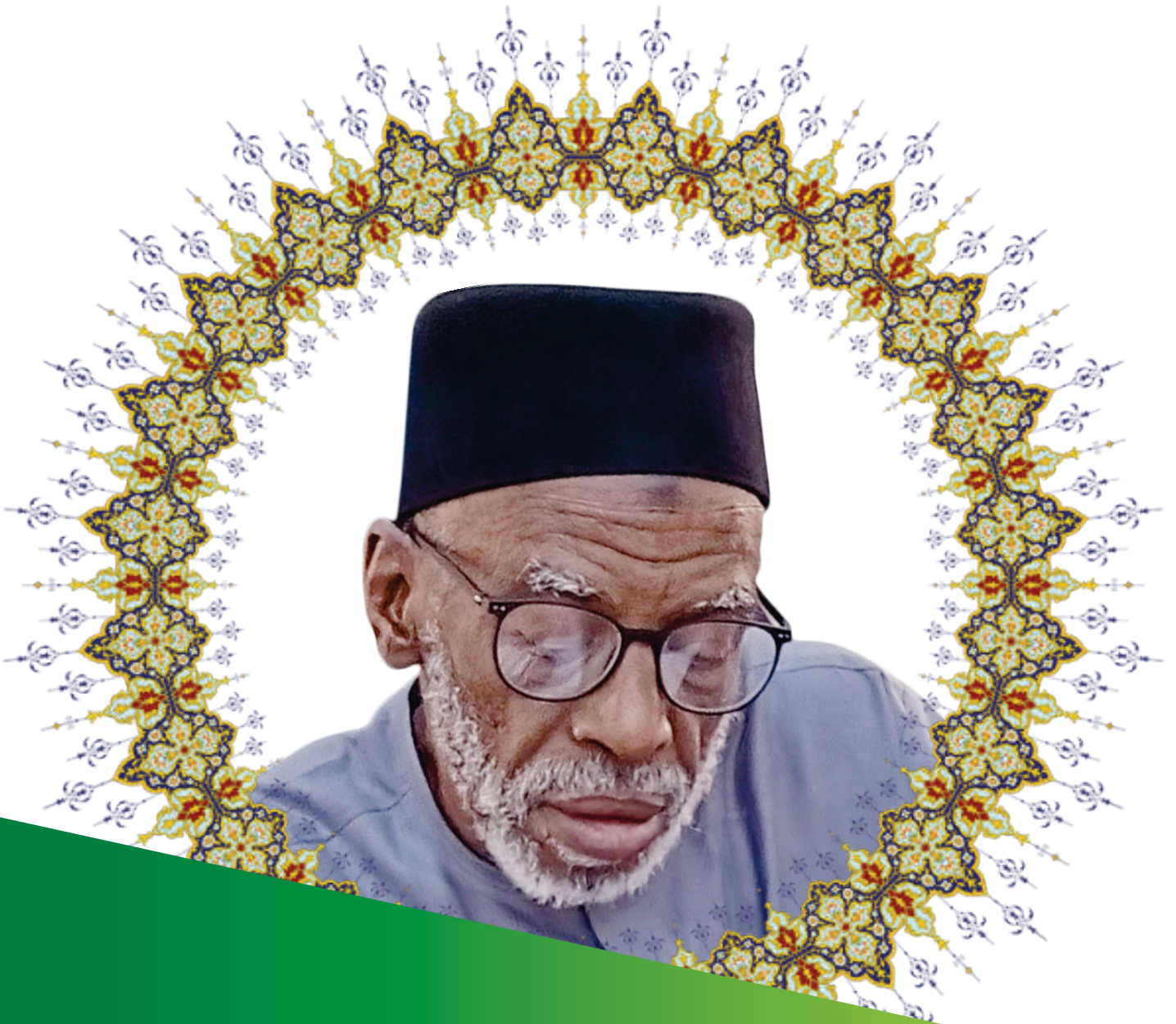


Sheikh AbdurRasheed Hadiyatullah

*President, Supreme Council for Shari'ah
in Nigeria (SCSN)*



Dr. Bashir Aliyu Umar
*Vice President, Supreme Council for Shari'ah
in Nigeria (SCSN)*



Mal. Nafi'u Baba-Ahmad
*Secretary General, Supreme Council for
Shari'ah in Nigeria (SCSN)*

Programme of Activities

1. Registration
2. Quranic recitation
3. Welcome remarks by the President of the Supreme Council for Shari'ah in Nigeria (SCSN), Sheikh Abdurrasheed Hadiytullah.
- 4.

First Paper Presentation

TOPIC:	PRESENTER:	DISCUSSANTS:
Retrospective Analysis and Future Prospect of Shari'ah Implementation in Nigeria (<i>Shari'ah: Jiya, Yau Da Hasashen Gobe</i>)	Dr. Ahmed Bello Dogarawa	1. Mal. Sa'id Ahmad Dukawa 2. Mal Aminu Aliyu Gusau

5. Tea Break

Second Paper Presentation

TOPIC:	PRESENTER:	DISCUSSANTS:
Women in Governance	Dr. Abdullahi Muhammad Ahmad Yankaba	1. Dr. Ibrahim Jalo Jalingo 2. Dr. Muhammad Sani Idris

7. Zuhr and lunch.
8. Comments and general discussions
9. Draft Communique
10. Closing prayers

Welcome Speech

By The President of Supreme Council for Shari'ah in Nigeria, **Sheikh Abdurrasheed Hadiytullah**, at the Annual Pre Ramadhan-meeting of the Majlis Ash Shurah, held in Kaduna, on 5th March, 2024 (24th Sha'aban 1445ah).

Protocols

Assalaamu alaikum, wa rahmatullahi, wa baraakatuh.

All salutations and adorations are due to Allah (SWT), the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. May the blessings of Allah (SWT) be upon His noble Prophet, the Prophet of guidance, the beloved of Allah, the last and seal of all prophets Muhammad, his household, his righteous companions and all those that followed them, till the last day.

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It is my great pleasure to extend a warm and cordial welcome to you all, to this important gathering. On behalf of the members of the Supreme Council for Shari'ah, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for the personal sacrifices you all made to honor our invitation, from various parts of the country. May Allah (SWT) reward you all abundantly.

For over two decades, the Supreme Council for Shari'ah in Nigeria has been an umbrella, a pillar and consistent partner in championing the progress and development of the Ummah and our nation in general. The council has actively contributed to the political and socioeconomic development of Nigeria, with the unity and prosperity of the Ummah as the cornerstone of our efforts. As a religious body, one of our core objectives is to see to the realization of a stable Ummah and country that is economically, socially and politically viable. And in spite of the formidable challenges facing our nation, we remain steadfast in our commitment to contribute to its success, through constructive engagement with key stakeholders at all levels.

Fellow brothers and sisters in Islam, we are living in turbulent and unpredictable times characterized by fear, insecurity, excruciating poverty, mutual distrust, corruption, and despondency. Millions of our frustrated youths face an uncertain future and diminishing possibilities. The paramount challenge before us is how best to confront these issues, instill hope, and with the help of Allah (SWT), turn our situation around to success, security, and prosperity.

In addition to discussions on the prevailing challenges, this year's Ramadan meeting will primarily focus on a retrospective analysis and the future prospects of Shari'ah implementation in Nigeria, to be followed by a second presentation on the position of the Shari'ah on the leadership of women. It is expected that the congregation will examine and interrogate the various arguments on this emerging issue, so that the Ummah will be better informed and guided on the matter.

It will be recalled that our last two Pre-Ramadhan meetings, held in March, 2022, and the 13th of March, 2023, in Osogbo and Abuja respectively, the primary focus then, was on ensuring unity of Muslims and keeping alive the Muslim-Muslim agenda in our democracy, with a majority Muslim population. Alhamdulillah, with the grace and blessing of Allah (SWT) the idea of a Muslim-Muslim ticket in our political life has been emphatically established. But of course, the idea of a Muslim-Muslim agenda, which we believe is the right of the Muslim majority in a democracy, is not on its own, a solution to the myriad of challenges facing our country. We are indeed facing near existential challenges, the resolution of which will require more than half-hearted efforts from all of us. Justice as embodied in the teaching of Islam, is the key that opens the doors of prosperity in any society.

Accordingly, while we all rightly expect a lot from our leaders, we should also as Muslims remember and remind our brethren of the divine dictum—

“Innal laaha laa yughaiyiru maa biqawmin hattaa yughaiyiroo maa bianfusihim; wa izaaraa araadal laahu biqawmin sooo'an falaa maradda lah; wa maa lahum min dooniheeminw waal(11)”

“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. And when Allah intends for a people ill, there is no repelling it. And there is not for them besides Him any patron.(11)” **(Suratul Ra'ad Q12 V11)**

We must therefore engage in critical self-introspection and repentance continuously, individually and at the collective level, and appeal for a helping hand for those in dire need.

On the part of the leaders we elected, it is incumbent upon all of us to seize every opportunity of engagement to remind them of the weight of the burden on their shoulders, to cater for the welfare and well-being of those under them, in line with the well-known principle in Islam, “*Sayyidul qaum khaadimuhu*” (the leader of a people is their servant). We should not tire from reminding them to be mindful of the day of reckoning, when we shall all unfailingly stand alone before the Almighty, to account for our actions and urge them to fear Allah (SWT) and uphold the fundamental tenets of justice.

Recently, in response to a plethora of unsatisfactory comments by Ulama from segments of the Ummah regarding the existential challenges of insecurity and unprecedented increase in food prices from a spiraling inflation, the Council organized a Conference themed “**Matters Arising from 2023 Elections & Associated Socio-economic Challenges**” on the 4th and 5th of Rajab 1445AH (16th - 17th January 2024). Its aim was to provide a platform for Muslim leaders and organizations to deliberate on these challenges for our national development. The Conference featured paper

presentations on sub-themes such as "Repentance to Allah: A Panacea for Social and Economic Development," "LGBTQAI+," "Etiquettes of Scholarship in Islam," and "Islamic Brotherhood and Growing Tendencies of Tribalism." The outcome eventually culminated in a second meeting with the President, where all the issues raised at the conference were discussed.

Much earlier, on the 9th of August, 2023, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, granted a private audience to a delegation of 20 of our Council members. A range of issues affecting the Ummah and the country, including the Niger Republic coup saga, insecurity, imbalance in appointments, subsidy removal, the challenging socioeconomic situation, and the general state of the economy, were raised and discussed. The delegation offered advice to the President on tackling these issues. He acknowledged the pivotal role of the council and the value of the partnership in the resolution of our many challenges.

Over the past year, the Council has also actively engaged in high-level interactions and advocacy efforts concerning the social well-being and development of the Ummah and the nation at large. These engagements included meetings with the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, the Deputy Senate President, the Chief of Defense Staff, serving Ministers, Senators, Governors, and other important leaders.

Respected Brothers and Sisters in Islam, as the holy month of Ramadan Kareem approaches, the Council would like to, as is customary, appeal to the Ulama to meticulously convey and elucidate on the following messages to our Muslim brethren:

1. The imperative need for Muslims to turn to Allah SWT with sincere repentance and unwavering devotion. Amidst the myriad socioeconomic challenges gripping the nation, the place of collective prayers for lasting peace and viable solutions cannot be overemphasized. Muslims across Nigeria should also be urged to seek refuge in their faith, through perseverance, fostering a deep connection with Allah SWT through earnest repentance and heartfelt supplication. In the sanctity of prayer, the community can unite in beseeching divine intervention for the resolution of the country's challenges. This spiritual resurgence should serve as a beacon of hope, guiding individuals towards a path of righteousness, resilience, and the pursuit of peace in our beloved nation.
2. The best part to real guidance is the implementation of a Shariah legal system in Nigeria which has been a source of significant interest nationally and internationally since its pronouncement in Zamfara state in 1999. The Council has observed with great concern how a succession of state governors in Shariah-implementing states are progressively relegating it to the back seat of their governance, thereby raising questions about its viability. The Council is hereby appealing to the Ulama to take advantage of the Ramadan period to call for the revitalization of Shariah in majority muslim states in the country, through the establishment of appropriate institutions to consolidate its effectiveness and relevance.
3. We earnestly implore our esteemed Ulama to exemplify the highest standards of methodology during their Tafseer activities. In view of the pivotal role of religious leaders in

guiding the Muslim Ummah, especially during this sacred time of spiritual reflection and enlightenment. We should always remember the Prophetic saying *"Al'ulama'u warathatul Anbiya'a"* (The Ulama are the successors of the Prophets). We therefore beseech you to employ a compassionate and inclusive approach to ensure that messages resonate with the diverse audience within the community. The Tafseer sessions which should serve as platforms to promote unity, tolerance, and understanding among followers, emphasizing the core values of Islam, such as compassion, justice and kindness, can contribute significantly in fostering a harmonious society. This way, the Ulama can inspire positive change and enhance the spiritual experience of Ramadan for all believers in Nigeria.

4. On the current political situation in the Niger Republic, we should express gratitude to the Nigerian government and ECOWAS for heeding our calls on the lifting of sanctions on Niger Republic, Guinea and Mali. Also, the Ulama should call on the military junta to seek a path toward greater inclusivity, regional cooperation and approach diplomatic relationships with neighboring countries, particularly Nigeria, with a spirit of collaboration and brotherhood. By fostering open dialogue and amending strained relations, the junta can seize upon an opportunity to contribute to regional stability and peace. A more flexible and diplomatic stance can lead to increased trust and cooperation, benefiting both nations.
5. We should repeatedly emphasize the importance of strengthening cooperation and understanding among Islamic scholars. This has never been more crucial than in the face of the daunting socioeconomic and security challenges confronting the Muslim Ummah in Nigeria. Islamic scholars, as custodians of religious wisdom and moral guidance, play an important role in shaping the values and attitudes of the Muslim community. By fostering a united front and promoting collaboration among scholars, a collective effort can be directed towards addressing issues such as poverty, education, and economic empowerment.
6. Highlight the imperative to strengthen cooperation and understanding among all ethnic groups, especially the Hausa and Fulani. This is paramount in addressing the tangible socioeconomic and security challenges faced by the Muslim Ummah in Nigeria and the wider aspects affecting the region. As two major muslim ethnic communities, the collaboration between Hausa and Fulani is essential for fostering unity and solidarity within the broader Muslim community. By overcoming historical and cultural differences, these communities can pool their strengths to collectively address issues such as poverty, education, and economic development. This collaborative effort will not only fortify the resilience of the Muslim Ummah but also create a foundation for sustainable solutions, fostering a more secure and prosperous future for the entire Muslim community in Nigeria and the region in general.
7. Call on the Ummah to fervently pray during this sacred month of Ramadan and beyond for peace in Nigeria, and divine intervention in tackling acts of terrorism, insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, ethno-religious crises, and other criminal activities. We should also call upon all

stakeholders, including the government, civil society and the private sector to collaborate effectively in addressing the root causes of insecurity and implementing comprehensive strategies for its eradication. Let us emphasize the importance of investing in and strengthening Nigeria's security institutions, providing them with the necessary resources, training, and technology to enhance their capacity to combat threats effectively. It is necessary to also amplify and encourage the promotion of community-oriented policing, fostering trust between security forces and local communities, and the need to implement programs that empower communities economically and socially, addressing the underlying factors that contribute to insecurity.

8. Let us also use our respective podiums this Ramadan to advocate for the establishment of an expansive social safety net to provide immediate relief to the most vulnerable in our populations. In this regard, we appeal to the federal and state governments, to provide immediate relief and succor to the multitudes of the disadvantaged against the stifling economic hardships. In addition, we call on all governments to also consider organizing community feeding for them, in as many centers, especially during the time of iftar.
9. Reiterate our total rejection of the atheistic western agenda preaching universal acceptance of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQI+) in our society. We should make our voices clear to the Nigerian government that religious leaders are vehemently against any attempt to soften the position of our country, and will stand in support of the government to remain steadfast in resisting pressure from western powers.
10. With one voice, reiterate our total condemnation of the ongoing relentless genocidal oppression perpetrated by the zionist government of Israel against the Palestinian people. Ulamah should call on the Nigerian government to condemn the ongoing Israeli genocide on Palestinians and even consider severing diplomatic ties with Israel. We hope Nigeria has not totally lost the opportunity to stand on the side of justice and freedom, the two key values it championed in the 1970's and 80's as a frontline country that led to the liberation of Southern Africa (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia and Mozambique)
11. Ulamah should highlight the increasing moral decadence within Muslim communities in Nigeria. Traditional values of Islam that once anchored the society are clearly fast eroding, giving way to a range of ethical challenges. Instances of moral corruption, dishonesty, and a diminishing sense of communal responsibility have become more prevalent. This troubling trend not only undermines the core principles of Islam but also threatens the social fabric that binds our communities together.
12. In these challenging times, it is crucial that we uphold the principles of peace, unity, and understanding. We should preach against resorting to violent protests against the government and strive for dialogue and constructive engagement with governments to address our concerns. Islam encourages us to seek solutions to problems with our leaders

through peaceful means only. Violence only begets more violence, and it is our duty as responsible citizens and followers of Islam to promote harmony and stability. Together, let us channel our grievances through peaceful avenues, fostering a culture of tolerance and cooperation for the betterment of our society.

13. Finally, we should in unison, keep appealing to our governments to:-
- a.) Take concrete steps to address the issue of corruption, leakages and wasteful spending. Corruption is like a cancer, which destroys everything noble and undermines the principles of good governance. Here, it is perfectly justified to ask our leaders, why should the ordinary Nigerian be made to bear the brunt of the insecurity with trillions being spent on the security agencies without positive result or accountability? Why should the ordinary Nigerian suffer difficulties from power failure and its skyrocketing cost with over \$ 20 billion wasted on power, without positive results or accountability? There is no doubt that we cannot reasonably expect solutions to issues bedeviling our lives until our leaders summon the political will to address the issue of corruption, whenever, wherever and whoever is involved.
 - b.) Urge the federal government to re-examine the neo liberal economic template of our economic policies and perish the thought of plans to totally abolish all subsidies and commercialize strategic public agencies, without any semblance of social safety net to mitigate the attendant horrendous consequences on the population.
 - c.) Critically reflect on the implication of the proposed state police to ensure a balance between tackling insecurity, our social cohesion and the probability of abuse for personal and political agenda.

In conclusion, I wish to express our profound gratitude to all our various stakeholders in the development of the social and religious well-being of our Ummah. May Allah (SWT) reward our esteemed invited guests and participants for squeezing time out of tight schedules to attend this meeting.

Allahumma A'izzal Islaama wal Muslimeen, wa azhillas Shirka wal Mushrikeen, wa dammir a'adaa'aka, a'adaa'addeen, wansur Ibaadaka muwahhideen, bi rahmatika, Yaa Arhamar Raahimeen. Wa subhaanakallahumma wa bihamdika, ash'hadu an laa ilaaha illa anta, astagfiruka wa atubu ilaika.

Wassalamu Alaikum wa rahmatul Laahi wa barakatuh

5th MARCH, 2024 (24th SHA'ABAN 1445AH).

KADUNA



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