

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE
(AANI)

NEW AANI EXCO'S COURTESY CALL ON THE SULTAN OF
SOKOTO, HIS EMINENCE ALHAJI MUHAMMAD SA'AD
ABUBAKAR III, CFR, mni

SPEECH BY AANI PRESIDENT, MAJ-GEN (rtd) L. A. ONOJA, CFR,
PhD, mni

APPRECIATION

His Eminence, we are honoured to be accorded this singular historic courtesy call notwithstanding your ever busy schedule. Your hospitality underscores the importance you attached to AANI. We indeed congratulate the Sultan for elevating the great banner of his fore bearers.

As the 20th Sultan of the great Sokoto Caliphate and the first Sultan to be a member of the National Institute (mni) we profoundly appreciate your indefatigable role as a great leader.

We thank His Eminence for his consistency in promoting understanding, unity and peace among Nigerians, especially in these very challenging times. Today His Eminence is globally acknowledged as a bridge builder in a diverse country facing a number of challenges of development. We all bear witness to the tireless efforts of His Eminence to promote all inclusive mass education for the less privileged, peace, national integration and social dialogue in resolution of national conflicts.

NEW EXCO

His Eminence, kindly, permit me to acknowledge and commend the immediate past EXCO of our Alumni Association led by Alhaji Jani Ibrahim FNSE, OON mni for tireless efforts towards repositioning of our prestigious AANI. We promise to build on their efforts to move AANI to the next level in the quest to build a better society.

We recall with appreciation that His Eminence was ably represented by HRH Emir of Nasarawa, Alhaji Hassan Ahmed II at AANI's 33rd AGM

in Kuru, Jos on the 2nd of March this year. Your inspiring and unifying speech set the tone for a successful AGM which elected this EXCO.

NEW AGENDA

The historic AGM elected new Executive Council members that include Major General Lawrence Anebi Onoja (rtd), CFR, PhD, mni, President; Dr. Garba Usman Tetengi, PhD, SAN, mni, Vice President; Comrade Issa Aremu, B.sc, MA, mni, Secretary General; Hajiya Ramatu Usman, BB.Ed, mni, Assistant Secretary General and Dr. Bello Rabi Alkali, PhD, mni, Publicity Secretary.

Others are Hon. Sola Ephraim-Oluwanuga, LLM, BL, MA, FCI Arb (UK), mni, Legal Adviser; Dr. Pat Emembolu Eze, MON, PhD, mni, Welfare/Social secretary; Alhaji Abbas Bello, FCA, mni, Financial Secretary and Mrs Comfort Olu Eyitayo, CFA, FCA, mni, Treasurer.

Once again I will like to reiterate the fact that the new EXCO shall take AANI to a higher level through many activities and initiatives that include;

- (a). Seeking the continued support, guidance and blessings of the Heritage Council through His Eminence and also through the Board of Patrons led by former President Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, GCFR, mni.
- (b). Seeking the support of (a) above in AANI's planned revenue drive.
- (c). Resuscitation of AANI State Chapters and empowering of those already active.
- (d). Introduction of a yearly AANI Reunion Day through a national retreat.
- (e). Completion of the multiple purpose AANI centre.
- (f). Promotion of the visibility of AANI through regular constructive policy suggestions to all tiers of government towards a better society.

COMMENDATION OF THE FEDERAL AND SOKOTO STATE GOVERNMENT

His Eminence, kindly permit us through your good office to commend President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCON for his administration's commitment to the transformation agenda. We are particularly encouraged by the resolve of the President to promote dialogue as the means for conflict resolution. We applaud the recent bold move by the Federal government setting up an amnesty committee on the issue of Boko Haram as well as the displayed official sense of urgency for the committee to report to government within the two weeks. It was a remarkable exhibition of statesmanship to extend the hands of dialogue to all aggrieved in the ongoing unfortunate avoidable conflict.

We observe with all modesty that it was indeed the Eminence that first commendably called on the federal government to grant amnesty to the members of the Boko Haram. No compromise is too much or too token in the great task of nation building. AANI hails the inter-faith support for the new initiative on the resolution of the conflict in the North, especially the constructive support of the Catholic Church as articulated by both The Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, John Cardinal Onaiyekan and Bishop Mathew Kukah of Sokoto Dioceses who lent their respective support for His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Abubakar Sa'ad III, over his stance that the federal government should grant amnesty to the members of the Boko Haram. This inter-faith solidarity for peace and social dialogue shows that both Islam and Christianity are for peaceful coexistence and that the great two religions are not at war contrary to popular mis-information. We in AANI will offer our experiences and knowledge at the National Institute to further deepen the efforts of all stake holders to restore sustainable peace and development in Nigeria.

We salute the efforts of the Sokoto State Governor, Aliyu Wamako, in promoting peace and development in the state. Your Projects on Road Construction, Housing, Agriculture and other Infrastructural provisioning are commendable. The recent successfully held conference organised by the Sokoto State Government on Islam and Fundamentals

of peaceful coexistence in Nigeria.” is another additional evidence of Sokoto state contribution to peace and development in Nigeria. The achievement of his Excellency are well documented; renovation and fencing of all public schools, distribution of books that worth billions of Naira, water tank projects, the Independent Power Project (IPP) as well as almost 1000 kilometres roads in both the urban and rural areas among others.