

KWARA STATE MUSLIM STAKEHOLDERS

No. 10, Albarka Street, Gaa Odota Area, Ilorin, Kwara State.

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Our Ref: KWS/MS/01 /22

Your Ref:

Date: 8th Dhul-Q'adah, 1443
7th June, 2022.

His Excellency,
Mall. AbdulRahman Abdul-Rasaq,
The Governor of Kwara State,
Government House,
Ilorin.

Your Excellency,

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE KWARA STATE GOVERNMENT ON THE PERSECUTION OF MUSLIMS OF KWARA STATE BY YOUR ADMINISTRATION

PREAMBLE

Your Excellency would recall our solidarity with you since assumption of office on 29th May, 2019.

Our support and solidarity were based on the fact that being a Muslim, we must support and pray for your Administration to succeed. Even if you are not a Muslim, we must be interested in your success as a leader. However, as a Muslim we owe you greater responsibility to pray for you and support you. These we have done both covertly and overtly.

We are however disappointed with the way the State Government has been treating the Muslims since your assumption of office. In various ways, the bias and politically miscalculated interest of the State Government to always favour the Christians who persecute Muslim students and the resultant crises during your tenure are too glaring even to the blind.

The representatives of the Kwara State Muslim Community otherwise referred to as **Kwara Muslim Stakeholders** believe sincerely that you are using your office to play politics by sacrificing our rights to favour the Christians who are minority group in the State. For the avoidance of any doubt, out of the 16 Local Governments in Kwara State, Muslims are in majority in 14 Local Governments while Christians are in majority in only 2. The basis of a minority group oppressing the significant majority under your tacit Government support is a question that begs for an answer. **This is seen as tyranny of minority against the majority.**

In all the cases of oppression reported to Your Excellency, you have behaved in a way to show that our demands are inconsequential and unimportant as no practical steps were taken on your part to correct or stop the wrongs.

We therefore lay the following complaints for your immediate attention so as to forestall avoidable religious crises.

01 SCHOOL OWNERSHIP AND FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

As far back as June, 2019, we have alerted Your Excellency on the religious crisis Kwara CAN wanted to cause in Kwara State using Public Schools owned by the KWSG. Our letter Ref. No: KWS/MS/5/18 Dated 24th June, 2019) was submitted to Your Excellency (a copy is herewith attached).

Kwara CAN's litigation on ownership of schools against the State Government ended in the Christian body losing at Ilorin High Court in 2016 and at the Court of Appeal Ilorin in October 2019.

Since governance is expected to be according to the law, your government's inability to take firm control of the running and management of schools formerly belonging to the Christian Proprietors gave room for the crisis the State is facing in our educational system. The illegality of removing hijab from female Muslim students against the court judgments is an affront to the State Government and the law which must not be allowed to continue.

The recent back-pedaling of Oyun Baptist High School (OBHS) Ijagbo from her initial compliance with your government's circular issued in March 2021 that the use of hijab by willing female Muslim students was a great test of your ability to resist trouble-makers irrespective of their positions. The intruding Baptist

Convention agents, parading themselves as school proprietors, drove hijab wearing Muslim students away from the school for close to a month and your government became helpless.

02 KILLING AND MAIMING OF MUSLIMS AT OBHS IJAGBO

The Kwara Muslim Community condemn in the strongest terms and holds your government responsible for her lackadaisical attitude resulting in the killing of Habeeb Idris and maiming of eleven (11) others at OBHS Ijagbo during the hijab crisis. The parents of the theocratically tyrannized female student of the school did all that civilized people in a constitutional democracy should do to avoid the crisis. They laid formal complaint to your agents at the Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM) and the Ministry of education where several meetings were held with the oppressors. They even staged a peaceful demonstration to your office to call your attention to the oppression they were going through when it appeared to them that your representatives in the agencies were incapable of calling the oppressing intruders to order. All these were going on in a Public-School run with taxpayer money and your government refused to show courage until a life was lost in injury caused to innocent citizens. As we write this letter, no single arrest of the murderers has been effected by the police despite the facts that the killing was done in the broad day light and the killers were known.

03 PANEL OF ENQUIRY

To further show that your government was not interested in ensuring justice for the victims of the killing and maiming, you set up Panel of Enquiry to investigate the cause of the crisis instead of Judicial Panel of Enquiry since the crisis involved loss of life. Expectedly, the outcome of the investigative Panel does not provide solutions to the crisis as regular dialogues being recommended by the Panel have always been holding between Muslims and Christians. The problem has been that Kwara CAN has always shown lack of readiness to subject itself to the rule of law and your government shows no courage to check her excesses.

04 UNFULFILLED PROMISE

Your Excellency has been noted for failure of promises. That was why on the 10th June 2020, we wrote you a letter complaining about some of your unfulfilled promises (a copy of the letter is herewith copy attached). You did not only refuse to respond to the letter, you also have failed to fulfil the promises. Here are few of the promises that you are failed to fulfil:

a. Appointment of SA Religion (Islam)

During our Courtesy Visit to Your Excellency led by our Father late retired Hon. Justice Abdul-Kadir Orire, CON - Sarkin Malami of Ilorin, we drew your attention to the neglect of your Administration in appointing S.A. Religion (Islam); but when you eventually appointed one, you did not consult Muslim Community. We viewed this as an affront and total disrespect for our Leader and Father Rtd. Justice Abdulkadir Orire who advised on a competent and effective person to serve in that capacity on behalf of the Muslim Ummah.

The Muslim Stakeholder felt disappointed by that attitude as we are much aware that you dare not treat CAN that way!

You are much aware that the Muslim Stakeholders have never and will not ask you for personal favours for her individual members, but we owe our community the responsibility to ensure they are fairly treated by a government they donated their sovereignty to.

b. Demolition of Mosque at Bishop Smith Memorial College Ilorin

The unfortunate demolition of the BSMC School Mosque during the hijab crisis of February 2021 was a satanic act upon which we were prevailed upon not to react as the State Government – the owner of the school would build a new one in replacement. This was the assurance we got from the two S.A. Religions who visited the school along with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education shortly after the incident.

15 months after this promise was made, it is yet to be fulfilled in spite of the fact that we were requested to submit Drawings and Bill of Quantity for a new Mosque to be erected in the College.

c. Enforcement of Court Orders

Since Kwara CAN went to Court in 2013 to challenge the State Government on Schools Ownership, it has consistently lost. The State Government inability to enforce the declaratory judgments by the High Court of Justice Ilorin and the Court of Appeal Ilorin on School Ownership, shows your Administration's weakness in effecting the Court Order, which gave Kwara CAN that had been declared by the court of law as meddlesome interlopers the liberty to disturb public peace in our Schools.

05 OBHS Re-Opening

The re-opening of Oyun Baptist High School Ijagbo without fulfilling the 3 conditions laid-down by the Kwara Muslim Stakeholders shows how you hold Christians in high esteem to the detriment of the Muslims who not only constitute the majority in this State but who have been unduly wronged.

This is very unfortunate. Instead of the State Government to obey the Court of Law and damn the consequence, the Government is always 'dancing to their tune'. What the Government is doing shows that the life of the Muslim killed and that of our children that were attacked by CAN thugs are not important to the State Government.

We are not unfamiliar with this attitude of government. Same attitude was maintained by the previous government giving rise to 'Otoge mantra.

OUR DEMANDS

1. The Kwara State Government must compensate adequately without further delay the family of Late Habeeb Idris killed by Kwara CAN thugs on 3rd February, 2022 at OBHS Ijagbo. Equally, all the criminals that participated the killing and maiming of some Muslims in Ijagbo should be arrested and prosecuted immediately.
2. The Kwara State Government must build a new School Mosque for Muslim Students/Teachers of Bishop Smith Memorial College Ilorin to replace the one demolished by Kwara CAN thugs.
3. The Kwara State Government should appoint a new Commissioner for Education and Human Capital Development, while the present Permanent Secretary in the Ministry who act more as CAN agent than public servant should be moved to another Ministry.

4. The Kwara State Government must enforce freedom of worship in our schools by ensuring that separate devotions are held for Muslim and Christian students at the School Assembly; and no external Imam or Pastor should be allowed to participate in morning devotion aside from the School teachers.
5. The Kwara State Government should change the names of all Schools formerly owned by both Muslim and Christian Proprietors by adding 'Government' into them e.g., Ansarul-Islam Government Secondary School Ilorin, Bishop Smith Government Memorial College, Ilorin etc.
6. The Kwara State Government should ensure, henceforth, that appointments and postings of Principals into all the Schools should be based on merit and seniority and should be the sole responsibility of Kwara State Teaching Service Commission instead of by Former Proprietors as it is being done now.

Conclusion

The entire Muslims of Kwara State feel cheated by all that have happened during your tenure which include:

- a. Lack of serious concerns for our demands which we surely believe would always promote peace, progress and development in the State.
- b. Your Administration compromise of our rights and privileges to serve the interests of Christians who are the insignificant minority in the State as evidenced in our submission so far on:
 - (i) Killing and maiming of Muslims in Ijagbo
 - (ii) Compensation of Kwara CAN with the sum of N8 million in spite of their denying us of our rights especially in public schools
 - (iii) Non-construction of a new School Mosque in BSMC after hoodlums from CAN demolished the previous one
 - (iv) Under-rating the Muslims in the State by appointing S.A. Religion (Islam) without consulting the Community.

- (v) Non-declaration of 1st Muharram (1st day of Islamic Calendar Year) Public Holiday despite Easter Holidays for Christians
- (vi) Leaving our Primary and Secondary Education in the hands of non-Muslims who have been terrorizing and intimidating us since the Commissioners for Education & Human Capital Development and Tertiary Education left their offices.
- (vii) Non-inauguration of members of Arabic Board and Inter-Religious Committee since their appointment; in addition to the fact that the constitution of the Inter-Religious Committee was not satisfactory to us. A situation whereby Kwara CAN is made to submit lists of its members for appointments, but the State Government chooses whoever it likes to represent the Kwara Muslim Ummah is most unacceptable.

Finally, we warn that all issues raised in this Memo are very crucial to the well-being of Kwarans especially the lovers of peace. Your Excellency would therefore be doing well if you address them promptly.

We are copying this Memo to: His Royal Highness, Mamartaba, Sarikin Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari CFR, His Eminence, Dr. Muhammad Bashir Imam Salih - Chief Imam of Ilorin, Leaders of all Islamic Bodies in Kwara State and the Inspector-General of Police, Police Force Headquarters, Abuja, for their information.

Thank you, Your Excellency.



Alh. Ishaq Abdulkareem
Chairman



Prof. Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan
Secretary

CC:

His Royal Highness, Mamartaba, Sarikin Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari CFR
His Eminence, Dr. Muhammad Bashir Imam Salih - Chief Imam of Ilorin
The Inspector-General of Police, Police Force Headquarters, Abuja
Leaders of all Islamic Bodies in Kwara State
Jama'atu Nasril Islam, Kwara State Branch
Federation of Muslim Women's Association In Nigeria (FOMWAN) , Kwara State Branch
National Hijrah Association of Nigeria, National Headquarters, Ilorin
NACOMYO Kwara State Branch
CMO Kwara State Branch