



جماعة نصر الإسلام

JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM
Kaduna, Nigeria.

Email:- jniknig@yahoo.com Website:- www.jni.com.ng



**THE NEW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF
JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM LOCATED NEAR THE
GOVERNMENT STATE HOUSE, KAWO-KADUNA,
KADUNA STATE OF NIGERIA.**

JNI AT 50
THE GOLDEN JUBILEE *of*
JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM
1963-2013

By

Professor Sani Abubakar Lugga, MFR, FNIM
The 5th Waziri of Katsina and Consultant to the
National Council of Traditional Rulers of Nigeria

Professor of Management Studies

Doctor of Philosophy in Conflict Management

Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Management

Fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants (Nigeria)

Fellow of the Institute of Professional Financial Managers (UK)

Fellow of the London Graduate School, London, United Kingdom

Key Founder of the Islamic University: Al-Qalam University, Katsina

Visiting Prof., Ecole Supérieure Universitaire, Cotonou, Benin Rep.

Visiting Prof. at St. Clement Private Swiss University, Switzerland

Committee Member, Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs

Committee Chairman, Jama'atu Nasril Islam, Kaduna, Nigeria

Member of Sultan Foundation for Peace and Development

Executive Member, Interfaith Initiative for Peace, Nigeria

Ambassador of Universal Peace Federation (New York)

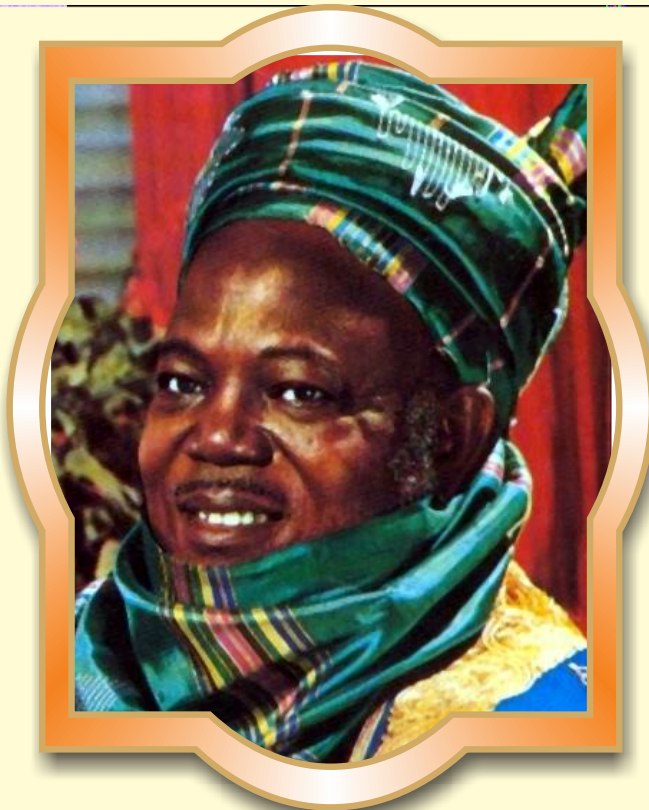
Member of Professors World Peace Academy (Korea)

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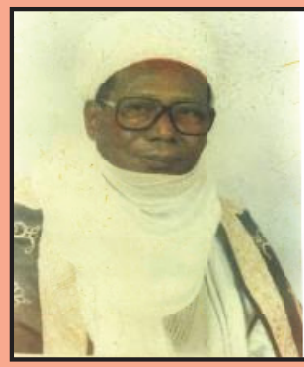
Safar, 1435 Hijrah (December, 2013)



His Excellency
ALHAJI SIR AHMADU BELLO,
THE SARDAUNA OF SOKOTO AND THE PREMIER OF NORTHERN NIGERIA
FOUNDER AND PATRON OF JAMA'ATUN NASRIL ISLAM



**HIS EMINENCE, THE LATE
SULTAN OF SOKOTO
ALHAJI SIR ABUBAKAR III
PIONEER PRESIDENT
GENERAL OF JNI**



**His Eminence, The Former
Sultan Of Sokoto Alhaji
Ibrahim Dasuki SECOND
PRESIDENT GENERAL
OF JNI**



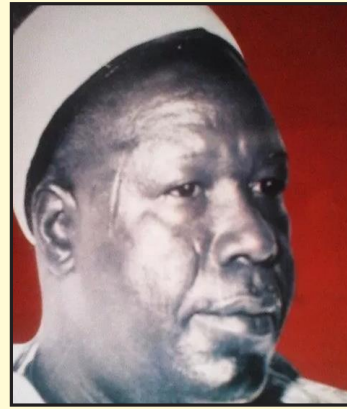
**His Eminence, The Late Sultan
Of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammad
Macido Abubakar III THIRD
PRESIDENT GENERAL OF JNI**



**His Eminence, the Sultan
of Sokoto, Alh. Muhammad
Sa'ad Abubakar III, mni.**



**HRH late Shehu of Borno
Alhaji Bukar Garbai
(1902-1922)**



**HRH late Shehu of Borno
Alhaji Umar Ibn Abubakar
Garbai (1968-1974)**



**HRH Late Shehu of Borno
Alhaji Mustapha Ibn Umar
(1974-2009)**



**HRH, the Shehu of Borno
Alh. Abubakar ibn Umar
Garbai el-Kanemi**

SOME FOUNDING JNI SENIOR ULAMA



Late Sheikh Junaidu, Waziri of Sokoto,
Pioneer Chairman of JNi



Late Sheikh Abubakar Imam, GCON
Pioneer Secretary General of JNi



Late Sheikh Abubakar Gumi



Late Sheikh Nasiru Kabara



Late Sheikh Na'ibi Sulaiman Wali



Late Sheikh Isma'il Idris



Late Sheikh Mudi Salga



Late Sheikh Umaru Sanda

SOME OF THE JNI VICE PRESIDENTS GENERAL



HRH Alhaji Muhd. Ilyasu Bashir, CFR,
Emir of Gwandu



HRH Alhaji Ado Bayero, CFR,
Emir of Kano



HRH Alh. Abdulmumini Kabir Usman, CFR,
Emir of Katsina



HRH Alh. Filwanu Suleiman Adamu, CFR,
Emir of Bauchi



HRH Dr. Muhd. B. Mustapha, CFR,
Lamido of Adamawa



HRH Alh. Shehu Idris, CFR,
Emir of Zazzau



HRH Alh. Yahaya Abubakar, CFR,
Etsu of Nupe



HRH Alh. Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, CFR,
Emir of Ilorin



HRH Alh. Adamu Abubakar Maje, CFR,
Emir of Hadejia



HRH Alh. Usman Shehu Abubakar, CFR,
Emir of Gombe

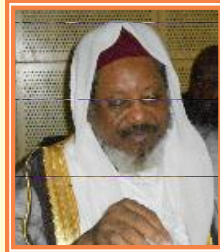


HRH Alh. Muhd. Abali Ibn M. Idrissa, CFR,
Emir of Fika

JNI COMMITTEES' CHAIRMEN



HRH, Alhaji Najib Hussaini Adamu, CON,
Emir of Kazaure
Research and Planning Committee



Sheikh Sheriff Ibrahim Saleh Al-Hussainy, CON,
Central Fatwa Committee



HRH, Alhaji Sama'ila Muhammad Mera, CON,
Emir of Argungu
International & Hajj Affairs Committee



HRH, Malam Muhammad Awwal Ibrahim, CON,
Emir of Suleja
Da'awah and Mobilization Committee



HRH, Dr. Zayyanu Muhammad Abdullahi, CON,
Emir of Yauri
Education and Youth Development Committee



HRH, Malam Zubair Jibril Maigwari II, CON,
Emir of Birnin Gwari
Establishment & Disciplinary Committee



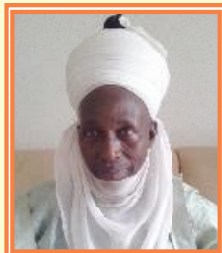
HRH, Dr. Haliru N. Yahaya,
Etsu of Shonga
Health Committee



Alhaji Abdullahi Umar,
Waziri of Gwandu
Publication Committee



Dr. Sani Abubakar Lugga
Waziri of Katsina
Welfare and Disaster Relief Committee



Ambassador Ibrahim Yerima Abdullahi,
Sarkin Bai Gombe
Finance and Investment Committee

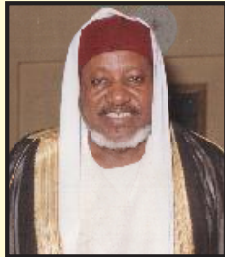


Prof. Nur Alkali,
Interfaith Dialogue and Conflict Resolution



Malam Mohammed Haruna
Current Affairs and Publicity Committee

SOME OF THE ULAMA IN THE JNI COMMITTEES



Sheikh Ibrahim Sheriff Saleh



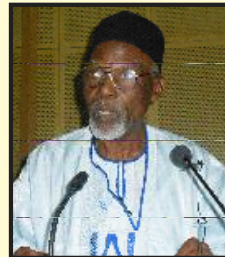
Sheikh Ahmed Lemu
Deputy Chairman, CGPC



Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi



Sheikh Qaribullah Nasiru Kabara



Prof Dawod Noibi



Sheik Sani Yahaya Jingir



Prof Sambo Junaid



Sheikh Sanusi Gumbi



Sheikh Haroun Ajah



Sheikh Aminuddeen Abubakar



Sheikh Abdullahi Bala Lau



Sheikh Tijjani Bala Kalarawi



Haj. Aishatu Aliko Mohammed
Chairman, Women Affairs Committee



Haj. Latifat Okunnu
Former Deputy Governor, Lagos State
Member, International & Hajj Affairs Committee



Hajiya Amina Omoti
FOMWAN National Amirah



Hajiya Maryam Othman
Former FOMWAN National Amirah



Dr. Halima Yalwa Adamu Katsina
Member, Health Committee



Hajiya Rafia Kunle Sanni
Member, Da'awah Committee



Hajiya Bilkisu Yusuf, mni
Member, Women Affairs Committee



From right:- HRH the Emir of Kano, HRH the Shehu of Borno, HE the Sultan of Sokoto, HE Vice President Namadi Sambo and HRH the Emir of Gwandu at the opening of one of the meetings of Jama'atu Nasril Islam.



From left:- HRH the Emir of Katsina, HE the Sultan of Sokoto, the Waziri of Katsina and HRH the Etsu Nupe at one of the meetings of Jama'atu Nasril Islam.



**From the right:- HE the Sultan of Sokoto, HE President Goodluck Jonathan,
HE Cardinal Onaiyekan and other Guests at the
African Interfaith Peace Dialogue organised by the African Union at Abuja**



**HE the Sultan of Sokoto, HRH the Emir of Gwandu, HRH the Emir of Zazzau,
HE Cardinal Onaiyekan and other Guests at the meeting of the
Nigerian Inter-Religious Council**



Their Royal Highnesses, the Emirs, at the opening of one of the meetings of Jama'atu Nasril Islam.



Eminent Scholars at one of the meetings of Jama'atu Nasril Islam.



The JN1 Sultan Bello Mosque, Kaduna



The JN1 Garki Central Mosque, Abuja, the first Central Mosque in The Federal Capital



The JN1 Maiduguri Road Central Mosque, Kaduna



The JNI Muslim Hospital, Kaduna



The Gaskiya Corporation Ltd., Zaria, where the JNI owns majority shares



The Sultan Bello Primary School, the first Muslim Primary School built by the JNI



The Sheikh Sabah College, the first Muslim Secondary School built by the JNI

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

On March 22nd 1945, the **Arab League** was formed with Headquarters in Cairo and with Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen as founding Members. Other Arab countries later joined the League, including several African countries like Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, etc. In 1954, Gamal Abdel Nasser became the Prime Minister of Egypt and in the same year his close friend, the Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, became the Premier of Northern Nigeria. In 1956, Nasser became the President of Egypt and he frequently invited his friend, the Sardauna, to that country. Those visits gave the Sardauna the opportunity to be meeting with Arab League leaders and Muslim scholars of international repute. The Sardauna was tactfully able to maintain excellent relations with both Egypt and Saudi Arabia despite their rivalry at that time, as both countries were contesting for the leadership of the Arab World. For example, the Sardauna was able to secure donations from both Egypt and Saudi Arabia for the reconstruction of the Sultan Bello Mosque, Sokoto, which was officially opened in June 1963 by Sheikh Abdul Aziz, the Chief Imam of Medina,

Sardauna's acquaintance with Muslim Heads of States and great Scholars, particularly through the Arab League, made him to embark on several tours of some Arab countries and countries with majority Muslim populations. In perhaps his longest single tour, he set out in early May 1961 and visited Niger Republic, Guinea, Senegal, the Gambia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Yemen, Iraq and Kuwait from where he proceeded to Saudi Arabia. The main thrust of his tour was to discuss the need for Muslim unity. The Sardauna arrived in Saudi Arabia about the time of the 1961 Hajj where he proposed to the Saudi Government that a meeting be held to discuss issues bedevilling the Muslim World. The Saudi Authorities agreed and a meeting was convened at the Saudi King's Palace in Jeddah in the morning of 29th May 1961 under the chairmanship of the Saudi Arabian Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdul Aziz. The major issues discussed at that meeting were the imperatives of Muslim unity in accordance with the Qur'an and the Sunnah, the need for the convening of an Islamic Conference during the next Hajj period and the establishment of an Islamic University in Medina. After the opening remarks by the Saudi Minister, the

Sardauna, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, was privileged to be the first speaker. In the afternoon of the same day, the meeting was reconvened under the chairmanship of His Royal Majesty, King Saud bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia. Again, the Sardauna was given the honour to speak first after the Saudi King's opening remarks. The resolutions passed at the first meeting were solidified in the presence of the Saudi King.

After the Hajj, the Sardauna visited the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Pakistan, Lebanon, Jordan and the Sudan, where he intimated leaders of those countries on the Jeddah meeting and the prospects of a grander meeting during the next Hajj and appealed to them to attend or send in their representatives. They all concurred and the Sardauna sent a letter to the Saudi King, dated 8th August 1961, in order to intimate him with the latest tours and the successes recorded.

The minutes of the 29th May 1961 meeting held in Jeddah, copy of which is available at the Nigerian National Archives in file no. NAK/PRE/81, clearly credited the convening of that meeting to the Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Premier of Northern Nigeria. Below are unedited

extracts from the minutes of that first International Meeting of Muslim Leaders.

*“The first to speak at that meeting was His Excellency the Premier of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto. He expressed his gratitude to His Majesty the King for summoning this meeting, **which was in fact initiated by the Premier himself**.....The Premier then expressed his happiness over the building of the Medina University which he said would go very far in furthering the cause of Islam. He suggested that when the Foundation Stone of the University is to be laid, His Majesty should invite all Muslim Heads of States to go and witness it....Finally the Premier told the delegates that he was highly impressed with the developments that are taking place everywhere in Saudi Arabia, which are not really for the benefit of Saudi Arabians alone but for the benefit of all World Muslims.*

....Then Sheikh Ibrahim Kaulaha spoke and welcomed the five suggestions put forward by His Royal Highness the Minister of Foreign Affairs and said that all delegates should fight against imperialism and against this cruel act of expelling our brother Muslims from their own land. The question of Algeria and Palestine is very painful and all Muslims are duty bound to fight against the enemies. Sheikh Ibrahim welcomed the idea of building a University in Medina where originally it was the centre of Islamic teaching and hopes that the branches of the University will be opened in other places.

...A delegate from Cameroon Republic agreed with all the suggestions....Another delegate (from Malaysia) spoke supporting the resolutions passed....

....The next person to speak was Alhaji Abubakar Gummi, Deputy Grand Kadi from Northern Nigeria. He expressed his delight that His Excellency the Premier has invited His Majesty the King to Nigeria and said that such visits to Muslim countries will unite Muslims all over the world. Alhaji Abubakar also spoke about the University to be established in Medina. He thought Medina is not a suitable city for the establishment of a University. The city has been well known as religious centre, which should not accommodate some earthly amenities required with every University.”

The resolutions passed at the 29th May 1961 Jeddah meeting led to the convening, just after the 1962 Hajj, of the first Conference of Islamic Congress between 18th and 20th May 1962 in Mecca. The birth of the **“World Muslim League”** with headquarters at the Holy City of Mecca was announced at that Conference. His Royal Majesty, King Saud bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia was elected as the President of the World Muslim League and the Premier of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sarkuna of Sokoto, was elected as the Vice President of the League. That was the FOUNDATION LAYING for a similar organisation in Nigeria!

THE FORMATION OF JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM

From June 1962 to the end of the year, the Sardauna organised a series of meetings with Nigerian Muslim leaders and Scholars where he initiated the formation of a Muslim Organisation with a similar attribute to that of the World Muslim League. The series of meetings culminated into the formation of an organisation that was named, "**Jama'atu Nasril Islam**" (JNI) meaning, the "**Society for the Success of Islam**". A formal public announcement was made in Kaduna on the formation and the objectives of Jama'atu Nasril Islam on the **5th of January, 1963**. Sheikh Abubakar Mahmud Gumi comments on the first meeting held on the formation of the JNI on page 106 of his book titled, "Where I Stand" as follows:-

"Present at this first meeting was the Premier, Ali Akilu, Ahmed Talib, Ahmad Joda, Armiya'u Katsina and many others, including virtually all the Muslim Permanent Secretaries in the government.....We discussed at length the problems of teaching converts in this country and those who wanted to learn about Islam, because there were no qualified teachers or any serious organisation they could turn to for help. Finally, we all agreed to set up an Association to render this type of assistance."

Sheikh Abubakar Mahmud Gumi also commented on the founding of the JNI at an "International Seminar on Islam" organised by the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria in Kaduna on Sunday 25th August, 1968. Page 16 of the JNI News Magazine, "HASKE - The Light of Islam", of Rajab 1388 Hijrah (October 1968) reports Sheikh Abubakar Gumi as having delivered a paper on the brief history of the JNI at the Seminar, in which he said,

"At all times and among every generation you find people whom God has inspired to set an example to their sleeping brothers and remind the World of its perpetual and pressing need for unity under the banner of God. It was the case with the late Premier of the former Northern Nigeria, Sir Ahmadu Bello (may God have mercy on him) when he conceived the idea of forming an Organisation which would set an example to the Nigerian Muslims in particular and the entire Muslim World in general, as to the best way to progress and the only sure way to World peace. This Organisation he called, "Jama'atu Nasril Islam. From the name of the Organisation or Society, one can see clearly that it embraces all Muslims and consequently open to them all. Its objectives and aims are also in its name."

The most authoritative book on the life and times of the Sarduna of Sokoto, titled, "AHMADU BELLO, Sardana of Sokoto", published by Hudahuda Publishing Company Ltd. in 1986, devoted

pages 548 to 566 to the formation and operations of the JNI. Below are extracts of comments made by two key pioneer participants in the formation and running of the JNI as contained in that book:-

Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Dasuki, CFR, former Sultan of Sokoto: *“Ibrahim Dasuki notes that...The purpose of the JNI was to give voice externally on behalf of all Nigerian Muslims, to coordinate Islamic activities within Nigeria and to try to educate the people...Waziri Junaidu was the Chairman of the JNI, as traditional Islamic adviser to the Sultan and the House of Assembly. But the Sardauna was the backbone....The Sultan as the “spiritual leader” became the first President of the JNI”.*

Alhaji (Dr) Ahmed Talib, CFR, one of the three pioneer Registered Trustees of the JNI: *Ahmed Talib notes that the Sardauna would spend whatever time and money he had on the spread of Islam. He would always take an interest in Islamic affairs and was responsible for the JNI, for the spread of Islam and for getting Islamic Scholars together. The Major purpose of the JNI was to spread Islam and to teach the average Muslim how to carry out obligations. Later, it became National in scope....The President General of JNI has always been the Sultan of Sokoto. The JNI Council consisted of all Emirs and Chiefs, plus eminent Scholars and influential Muslim leaders. Originally, the JNI was Northern, but later the Council was broadened to include Islamic organisations and groups from throughout the country, including Ansar U-Deen and other groups from Yoruba areas”.*

The JNI hierarchy consisted of His Excellency the Premier of Northern Nigeria, the Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, as the **Patron**, His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Abubakar III, as the **President General**, the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Umar ibn Muhammad al-Amin as the **Deputy President General**, the Waziri of Sokoto, Alhaji Junaidu as the **Chairman** and the pioneer Northern author, Alhaji Abubakar Imam as the **Secretary General**.

The JNI Council consisted of all Senior Emirs and Chiefs, plus eminent Muslim Scholars and influential Muslim Leaders and outstanding Businessmen.

The pioneer JNI **General Purposes Committee (GPC)** membership was made up of Senior Northern Civil Servants based in Kaduna for effective management of the organisation. Members of the GPC included Alhaji Ali Akilu (first indigenous Secretary to the Northern Regional Government), Alhaji Abubakar Imam (first Northern author), Engineer Armiya'u Katsina (first Northern Regional Civil Engineer), Alhaji Abubakar Mahmud Gumi (Grand Qadi), Alhaji Halliru Binji (Deputy Grand Qadi), Alhaji Ahmed Talib (one of the pioneer indigenous Northern Permanent Secretaries),

Alhaji Ahmad Joda (one of the pioneer indigenous Northern Permanent Secretaries), Alhaji Abubakar el-Nafaty (Controller of Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation Kaduna), Alhaji Musa Bida (Inspector of Native Courts), Alhaji Husaini Adamu (Organiser of Arabic Studies and later the Emir of Kazaure), Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki (one of the pioneer Northern Permanent Secretaries and later the Sultan of Sokoto), Alhaji Na'ibi Sulaiman Wali (an Islamic Scholar). Several others, including Ministers and Heads of Departments and Agencies, were co-opted as and when deemed necessary for effective running of the organisation. Sheikh Abubakar Mahmud Gumi confirms that members of the GPC were all civil servants on page 107 of his book, "Where I Stand" as follows:-

"Those of us who were in the General Purposes Committee, especially had to work harder to meet the demands of our normal jobs".

THE COMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The formal public launching of **Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI)** was held on 4th March, 1964 at the Lugard Hall, Kaduna. The Waziri of Sokoto, Alhaji Junaidu, chaired the occasion in his capacity as the pioneer Chairman of the JNI.

A moderate house was loaned to the JNI near the Sultan Bello Mosque at Unguwar Sarkin Musulmi Quarters of Kaduna Metropolis to serve as the pioneer office of the organisation. In order to give the organisation a national outlook, a Yoruba man, Malam Labbaika Bello, was appointed as the pioneer full time Administrative Officer on a salary of £5 (N10) per month. He was initially paid from the first donation of £35 (N70) collected at the first meeting for the formation of the JNI.

The main focus of forming the JNI was educational development of Muslims and *Da'awah* (call to Islam), therefore the General Purposes Committee (GPC) of the JNI approached the Northern Nigerian Minister for Education, Alhaji Isa Kaita, Wazirin Katsina, for assistance to establish a Muslim Primary School where Islamic and Western education shall be taught to pupils. The assistance from the Ministry of Education was given under the grant-in-aid for the establishment of educational institutions (which Christian Missions have been benefitting from, since before the 1960 Independence). The Ministry of Education grant-in-aid was added to the local donations collected and that attracted an assistance of £50,000 (N100,000) from the Saudi Arabian Government.

From these, the JNI was able to establish the **Sultan Bello Primary School** at Unguwar Sarki Kaduna, making it the first Muslim owned Primary School in Kaduna against the then more than ten Christian owned Primary Schools in the City! The first educational materials donation received by the JNI was that of 12,000 copies of the Glorious Qur'an from Muhammad Gardee, a Pakistani who owned the largest shares at the Northern Textiles Ltd., Kaduna. That donation encouraged the JNI to set up a small bookshop at its Secretariat where copies of the Qur'an and other Islamic Books were sold as sources of revenue.

Membership subscriptions and local donations kept on coming-in and the JNI kept on recording successes that attracted annual assistance of £50,000 (N100,000) from the Saudi Arabian Government and a series of donations from other Muslim countries, particularly from Kuwait and Egypt. The JNI then set out to construct a befitting Secretariat for the organisation in Kaduna. The appeal for assistance towards the project met with resounding success locally and the Kuwaiti Government donated £300,000 (N600,000) for the project. About half of the Kuwaiti money was used in the construction of the Secretariat

and the balance was used to construct the first Muslim owned Secondary School in Northern Nigeria, the **Sheikh Sabah College, Kaduna**, named after the then Kuwaiti Emir, Sheikh al-Sabah. The College was taken over by the government after the first military coup and renamed Sardauna Memorial College. The book, AHMADU BELLO, Sardauna of Sokoto, states on page 553 that,

*“The Sardauna comes to be regarded as the **“leader or patron”** of Islam throughout Nigeria and not just in the North. Apart from the reformed brotherhood organisations, there are hundreds of localised Islamic groups and young peoples’ societies throughout the country that are eager for assistance in their endeavours....The Sardauna administratively channels the requests through the JNI....The correspondences give an indication of the range of concerns of local Muslim communities throughout Nigeria, the grassroots demands on the Sardauna, and the manner in which the Sardauna is coming to be regarded as a **“Leader of Religion”, “Shugaban Addini”** in Hausa”.*

It was indeed very clear that Alhaji Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto was regarded as the leader of Islam and Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) served as the umbrella organisation for all Muslims and Muslim Organisations in Nigeria and the neighbouring countries. Muslim Organisations in Nigeria and from the West African sub-region seek affiliation and/or assistance from the JNI.

The National Archives has records of such requests for affiliations and/or for assistance from the JNI in files nos. NAK/PRE/122T (for local requests) and NAK/PRE/52 (for international requests).

Examples of the documented Muslim Organisations that seek affiliation/assistance from the JNI are:- Shamsu Suudie Islamic Society, P.O.Box 3315, Ibadan; Ansar-U- Deen Society, P.O.Box 170 Lagos; Liberian Muslim Community, Monrovia, Liberia; Students Association of West Africa, P.O.Box 3278 Ibadan; Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, No.L19, Ibadan Street, Kaduna; Mid-West Muslim Congress of Nigeria, No.77 Mission Road, Benin City; Muslim Students Society Mosque Committee, University of Nigeria, Nsukka; Islamiyya Arabic and Qur'anic School, No.8 Palm Church Street, Lagos; Islamic Cultural Centre, No.7 Itayemi Street, Surulere, Lagos; Young Muslim Congress, P.O.Box 694, Kano; Ansar U-Deen School, Ihima, Okene; Islamic Youth League of Nigeria, P.O.Box 1420, Ibadan; Islamic Centre, P.O.Box 60, Orlu; Aiyetoro Central Mosque, No.6B Sidi Street, Ajegunle, Apapa; etc.

An example of JNI's commitment to assisting all Muslim Organisations was its securing in June 1964

of the sum of £60,000 for the JNI Headquarters' promotion of Islamic activities and £40,000 for the construction of the Lagos Central Mosque from His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The JNI continued to secure assistance from wealthy Nigerians and from Arab Nations for disbursement to Muslim Organisations in Nigeria and the West African sub-region.

The National President of the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN), Brother Abdur Razak Solaja confirmed the unique umbrella status of the JNI, the dynamism of the Sardauna and the beauty of the JNI Secretariat building. This he did at the Opening Ceremony of an "International Seminar on Islam" organised by the MSSN at the Secretariat of Jama'atu Nasril Islam, Kaduna, on Sunday 25th August, 1968. Page 5 of the JNI News Magazine, "HASKE - The Light of Islam", of Rajab 1388 AH (October 1968) reports the Brother as having said in a Welcome Speech that,

"On behalf of the National Executive Committee and the entire Members of the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria, I feel proud and much honoured to have the privilege of welcoming you all to this august occasion. When I look around me and find distinguished Muslim Leaders from the North, including the Sarkin Musulmi himself, the Sultan of Sokoto and the renowned Shehu of Borno, sitting side by

side with distinguished Muslim Leaders from the South, it is with deep emotion that I declare:- Today all of us here are making history, being living witnesses to the occasion when barrier between the two groups of Muslims in Nigeria is eliminated and through the grace of Allah, the first bold step is taken to establish one united Muslim Union in Nigeria. May Allah bless this Union and increase the understanding between the Muslims of the North and their brethren in the South. For this achievement, we owe much to Almighty Allah whose blessing on us has been immense indeed... We also owe a lot to Jama'atu Nasril Islam...

*At this stage, Brothers and Sisters in Islam, I cannot but recall the memory of one of the Muslim Leaders of our own age who incidentally was the late Patron of the Jama'atu Nasril Islam, the late Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto. As a religious leader, he proved to be a worthy successor of the great Uthman Dan Fodio. In the Muslim World, he gave all of us, Nigerian Muslims, an image that surpassed description. He was the Vice President of the World Muslim League, next only to King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, in spite of his being in the practical field of politics, he was not an armchair religious leader. He was himself a field worker, bringing men into Islam – afwaajan. This building here, which is a pride to all Nigerian Muslims, is in itself an eloquent testimony to his efforts for Islam. For all these, and much more that time does not permit me to mention, I crave the indulgence of you all, to rise for a minute in memory of the illustrious **“Soldier of Islam”** while the Grand Qadi kindly says a prayer for his departed gentle soul.”*

Under the Sardauna's guidance, from its formation in January 1963 to his martyrdom in 1966, a span of only three years, the JNII was able to build a Secretariat that was grander than the Secretariat of any religious organisation in Nigeria. The JNII also built several modern Central Mosques and owned many houses, several plots of land, a Bookshop, a Primary School and a Secondary School. The organisation also published a News Magazine in English, Hausa and Arabic. It was called *Nurul Islam* (in Arabic), *Haske* in Hausa and "The Light of Islam" in English. The JNII was also able to bring together Nigerian Muslims from all sects, groups and organisations under its umbrella. It also secured donations with which it assisted hundreds of Muslim groups and organisations to build Mosques and Islamic Schools and to carry out other Islamic activities. Hundreds of thousands of converts into Islam were gained by the JNII through its dynamic leader, the first and only Premier of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto. The Sardauna is today a martyr of blessed memory, whose services to Islam and to humanity are still treasured, not only by Muslims but also by non-Muslims! He was killed in cold blood on 15th January, 1966 by callous

soldier-mutineers who are cursed up to today even by those who were not born at the time of Sardauna's murder in 1966! The death of its pioneer pillar, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, greatly affected the JNI.

INCORPORATION AS AN NGO

Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) was initially registered as a "**Society**" under the Northern Nigeria Cooperative Societies' Law, **Cap. 26, Laws of Northern Nigeria, 1963**. It conveniently survived and flourished under the local registration because of the dynamism and charisma of its founder, the Premier of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto. The January 15th military coup led to the murder of the Sardauna, his dear wife Hafsah, the Nigerian Prime Minister, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the two most senior Muslim army officers, Brigadier General Zakariya Maimalari and Colonel Kur Muhammad and a host of other Muslims. That anti-Muslim and anti-North military coup was a disaster to the Nigerian Nation and a serious blow to Jama'atu Nasril Islam and to all other Muslim organisations in the country.

The General Purposes Committee (GPC) of the JNI that handled most of its day-to-day functions was

mainly made up of Muslim Permanent Secretaries and other Senior Civil Servants based in Kaduna. With the murder of its pillar, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto, the Permanent Secretaries and Senior Civil Servants who made up the core GPC membership, no more had the freedom and wherewithal to continue serving the JNI the way they used to. Of course, foreign Arab assistance ceased and even local donors withdrew into their shells for fear of the new military government that was led by a Christian Army General.

The military regime that took over power in 1966 split Nigeria into twelve States from the original four Regions (with the Northern Region split into six States). Many of the civil servants coordinating the activities of the JNI were deployed to their States of origin and therefore could not effectively run the JNI. The remaining members of the GPC in Kaduna therefore contacted the Sultan of Sokoto and President General of the JNI and the Shehu of Borno and Deputy President General of the JNI, with a view to finding the best way out of the quagmire. In order to remedy the unsavoury situation, it was decided that Muslim Emirs and Senior Muslim Scholars should not just

be mere Members who only attended meetings as and when summoned, but should be brought into the fold of the JNI as officiating Members. To this effect, many First Class Emirs and many Senior *Ulama* were brought closer to the affairs of the JNI. The *Ulama* included Sheikh Sheriff Ibrahim Saleh of Maiduguri, Sheikh Dahiru Usman of Bauchi, Sheik Nasiru Kabara and Sheikh Mudi Salga of Kano and a host of others. That was in addition to the Kaduna based *Ulama* like Sheikh Abubakar Mahmud Gumi and Sheikh Umaru Sanda.

With the situation at hand, it was decided that it was not safe for the JNI to continue operating under a local Northern Regional Licence therefore the organisation should be registered with the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a Trusteeship. That will ensure its sustainability and perpetual succession irrespective of the death of its founding fathers and leaders. Hon. Justice Buba Ardo, one of the pioneer Northern Lawyers, was asked to draft the JNI Constitution in line with the new demands of a national registration. **Jama'atu Nasril Islam** was therefore duly registered with the Federal Government under the Land (Perpetual Succession Act), Cap. 98, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1924, and issued with a

Certificate of Incorporation No. 882 of 25th March, 1967. The Certificate of Incorporation carries the names of the following three persons who were JNI's pioneer **Registered Trustees:-**

1. Alhaji Junaidu, Wazirin Sokoto
2. Malam Ahmed Talib
3. Alhaji Abubakar el-Nafaty, on whose death Engineer Armiya'u Katsina was appointed to replace him on 11th November 1982.

On his accession to the throne of the Sultanate of Sokoto in November 2006, Sultan Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, CFR, mni, who is also the President General of Jama'atu Nasril Islam, embarked on the repositioning of the organisation with a view to rekindling its pioneer glories. The JNI Deputy President General who is also the Shehu of Borno, the JNI Vice Presidents General, who are also Senior Emirs, the Senior Ulama, Members of the JNI Central Council and the General Purposes Committee all set out to assist in the repositioning of the organisation.

The first step taken was the appointment of a **JNI Overseer**, HRH the Emir of Birnin Gwari, Malam Zubair Jibril Maigwari II, CON, who was saddled with the task of ensuring the completion of the

buildings, the furnishing and the movement into the new JNI National Headquarters in Kaduna. The Overseer was also requested to ensure that a solid foundation was laid for the complete repositioning of the JNI. The Overseer and all those who assisted him did an excellent job, as they creditably discharged the tasks assigned them.

With a solid foundation laid by the Overseer, a **Repositioning Committee** was set up under HRH the Shehu of Bama, Alhaji Kyari Umar El-Kanemi, CON, with the mandate of proposing the best ways and means of repositioning the JNI in tune with the times.

The excellent works done by the Overseer and the Repositioning Committee resulted into the National Headquarters of the JNI in Kaduna being brought up to a standard that makes it the best Religious Organisation Secretariat in Nigeria. A new set of highly qualified full time Staff were employed under a Secretary General who holds a Masters Degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies and a Doctorate Degree in Islamic Studies. The life of the JNI was rejuvenated and its Constitution completely reviewed in tune with the current times. New **Trustees** were appointed for the JNI. Incidentally, all the original Trustees have died

over 20 years ago and no replacements were ever contemplated!

The repositioning efforts culminated into a new Jama'atu Nasril Islam, registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria, under the Companies and Allied Matters Act No.1 of 1990 and issued with a new **Certificate of Incorporation No. CAC/IT/No. 882 of 30th January, 2013.**

This task was handled by a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Yahaya Mahmood, Principal Partner at Arewa Law Chambers, Kaduna. The Certificate of Incorporation carries the names of the following seven **Registered Trustees** of the JNII:-

1. His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, CFR, mni
The Sultan of Sokoto and the President General of Jama'atu Nasril Islam
2. HRH Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai El-Kanemi
The Shehu of Borno and the Deputy President-General of Jama'atu Nasril Islam
3. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Isa Mustapha Agwai I, CFR
Emir of Lafia, Vice President General, Jama'atu Nasril Islam
4. Hon. Justice Salihu Modibbo Alfa Belgore
FNILS, GCON

Former Chief Justice, Federal Republic of
Nigeria

5. Professor Sani Zaharaddeen
Former Vice Chancellor of Bayero University,
Kano

6. Sheikh Adam Abdullahi Idoko
Chief Imam, University Of Nigeria Nsukka
Central Mosque

7. Sheikh Dr. Khalid Abubakar Aliyu
Secretary General, Jama'atu Nasril Islam

The Registered Trustees of any incorporated Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) hold all the assets of the NGO in trust, they are perpetual in nature and can sue and be sued on behalf of the organisation. Therefore all properties of Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI), at all levels of the organisation, are vested in its Registered Trustees as clearly spelt out in Sections 26 and 27 of the JNI Constitution.

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Constitution of Jama'atu Nasril Islam spells out its Aims and Objectives and when these are read together with archival records of the organisation's aims and objectives as outlined by its

founders, it can be stated that the JNI was founded with a view to:-

1. Propagating the principles of Islam and winning adherents to the Faith, by using wisdom and fair preaching.
2. Fostering unity and cooperation among Nigerian Muslims thereby bringing together all Muslims and all Muslim Organisations under one umbrella.
3. Promoting fraternal relationship in the Muslim World and creating an avenue for cooperation and mutual understanding with other Faiths for harmonious and peaceful co-existence in Nigeria in particular and the World in general.
4. Reviving, maintaining and protecting Islamic morals among Muslims of all ages and sexes.
5. Encouraging Islamic Religious activities in accordance with the teachings of the Glorious Qur'an, the Sunnah and other sources of the Shari'ah.
6. Developing and managing Mosques, open air preaching arenas, libraries and similar places of worship and learning.
7. Establishing and running of schools, colleges and tertiary institutions of learning and organising

other educational activities for the purpose of giving requisite education to Muslims in all spheres of learning in general, and in Islamic Religious Studies and the Arabic language in particular.

8. Eradicating the unwholesome negative dependency syndrome associated with the *Almajiri* system of education by improving upon it and integrating it in such a way as to make it proactive and productive.
9. Establishing and operating healthcare and welfare facilities for the benefit of the sick and the needy.
10. Setting standards for *Da'awah* activities and encouraging and guiding the production and dissemination of *Da'awah* materials.
11. Moderating, resolving and reconciling inter and intra religious sects' conflicts and putting in place mechanisms for conflict resolution and reconciliation.
12. Ensuring the qualitative participation of Muslims in the economic, political, social and all other spheres of national life.
13. Establishing and running of publishing and broadcasting houses.

14. Raising funds, acquiring and holding properties and other wealth for the purposes of attaining its objectives.
15. Performing all such other activities for the betterment of the Muslim *Ummah* and the promotion of the cause of Islam.

MEMBERSHIP, THE CENTRAL COUNCIL & THE CENTRAL GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

The conditions for the **Membership** of Jama'atu Nasril Islam are provided for in Section 4 of the JNI Constitution. The Membership is open to every Muslim and to all Muslim groups and organisations registered in Nigeria. Individuals and organisations may however not be admitted into the Membership or may lose their Memberships if found to be unfit by the Central Council.

Section 5 of the JNI Constitution provides for the membership of the **Central Council** which shall have the overall responsibility of formulating policies for the organisation. The Central Council, which is under the chairmanship of the Sultan of Sokoto, who is the President General of the JNI, has the powers to make all such rules and regulations, from time to time as appropriate, for the proper management of the JNI. The

management of the affairs of Jama'atu Nasril Islam is vested in the **Central General Purposes Committee (CGPC)** which is the Executive Arm of the JNI as provided for in Section 7 of the JNI Constitution. The CGPC is under the chairmanship of the Shehu of Borno, who is the Deputy President General of the JNI.

THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Section 8 of the JNI Constitution provides for **Principal Officers** who shall ensure the day-to-day running of the affairs of the organisation through the Officers of the National Secretariat. The Principal Officers are as follows:-

1. President General
2. Deputy President General
3. Vice Presidents General
4. Vice Chairman Central General Purposes Committee
5. Chairmen of all Standing Committees
6. National Legal Adviser
7. Secretary General

Because of the importance of the Principal Officers, on whose shoulders the success of the JNI rest, those currently occupying these important positions are listed below. It is worth

noting that Jama'atu Nasril Islam is the only religious organisation in Nigeria that has fully established Councils in thirty (30) States of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Each of these Councils is headed by a Vice President General. The remaining seven (7) States have Contact Persons through whom full Councils are expected to be established.

1. PRESIDENT GENERAL

His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad
Abubakar III, CFR, mni, the Sultan of Sokoto

2. DEPUTY PRESIDENT GENERAL

HRH Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai El-
Kanemi, CFR, the Shehu of Borno

3. VICE PRESIDENTS GENERAL

1. HRH Alhaji Muhammad Ilyasu Bashar, CFR, Emir of Gwandu, Kebbi State
2. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Ado Bayero, CFR, Emir of Kano, Kano State
3. HRH Dr. Muhammad B. Mustapha, CFR, Lamido of Adamawa, Adamawa State
4. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Rilwanu Sulaiman Adamu, CFR, Emir of Bauchi, Bauchi State

5. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Abdulmumini K. Usman, CFR,
Emir of Katsina, Katsina State
6. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Shehu Idris, CFR, Emir of
Zazzau, Kaduna State
7. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Yahaya Abubakar, CFR, Etsu
Nupe, Niger State
8. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, CFR,
Emir of Ilorin, Kwara State
9. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Adamu Abubakar Maje, CFR,
Emir of Hadejia, Jigawa State
10. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Usman Shehu Abubakar, CFR,
Emir of Gombe, Gombe State
11. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Ado Ibrahim, Ohinoyi of Ebira
Land, Kogi State
12. HRH Alh. Muhammad Abali ibn Muhd. Idrissa,
CON, Emir of Fika, Yobe State
13. HRH Alhaji (Dr) Isa Mustapha Agwai I, CFR,
Emir of Lafia, Nasarawa State
14. HRH Alhaji Attahiru Muhammad Ahmad, Emir
Zamfara, Zamfara State

15. HRH Alhaji Muhammadu Sambo Haruna, Emir of Wase, Plateau State
16. HRH Alhaji Abbas Tafida Njida, Emir of Muri, Taraba State
17. HRH Eze Ali Musa Eme, Abia State
18. Alh. Abubakar Garba Baba, Benue State
19. Justice Muhammad Shehu, Grand Qadi of Abuja, Federal Capital Territory
20. Sheikh Haroun O. Ajah, Ebonyi State
21. Alhaji Ahmadu Obi, Imo State
22. Sheikh Adam Abdullahi Idoko, Enugu State
23. Alhaji Aminu Agbi, Anambra State
24. Alhaji Idris Momod, Edo State
25. Alhaji Inuwa Hassan, Akwa Ibom State
26. Alhaji Ibrahim Harumuna, Bayelsa State
27. Alhaji (Chief) Abubakar Orlu, Rivers State
28. Hon. Mikaheel Asuquo, Cross River State
29. Barrister Ishaq Ojei - CONTACT PERSON, Delta State
30. Mal. Mustapha Balogun - CONTACT PERSON, Lagos State

31. Mal. Kamaldeen Akintunde Esq - CONTACT PERSON, Ogun State
32. Alhaji Kunle Sanni - CONTACT PERSON, Oyo State
33. Brother Abdul Aziz Surajudeen, - CONTACT PERSON, Ondo State
34. Barrister Qaasim Babatunde Odedeji - CONTACT PERSON, Oshun State
35. Alhaji Bello Mufutau Olusola - CONTACT PERSON, Ekiti State

4. VICE CHAIRMAN CENTRAL GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Sheik Dr. Ahmed Lemu, OFR, former Grand Qadi of Niger State

5. CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Central Fatwa Committee - Sheikh Sheriff Ibrahim Saleh Al-Hussainy, CON. (An Islamic Scholar of international repute, a Member of the World Muslim League, President of the Assembly of Muslims in Nigeria).
2. Central Research and Planning Committee - His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Najib Hussaini Adamu, CON, Emir of Kazaure. (A reputable Lawyer and an articulate planner).

3. Central Da'awah and Mobilization Committee - His Royal Highness, Malam Muhammad Awwal Ibrahim, CON, Emir of Suleja. (an Academician of high repute and the first Civilian Governor of Niger State).
4. Central Education and Youth Development Committee - His Royal Highness, Dr. Zayyanu Muhammad Abdullahi, CON, Emir of Yauri. (A former Vice Chancellor of the famous Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto).
5. Central International & Hajj Affairs Committee - His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Sama'ila Muhammad Mera, CON, Emir of Argungu. (An academician and the pioneer Chancellor of Kano State University, Kano).
6. Central Establishment & Disciplinary Committee - His Royal Highness, Malam Zubair Jibril Maigwari II, Emir of Birnin Gwari. (A former Principal, an administrator and an educationist of high standing).
7. Central Health Committee - His Royal Highness, Dr. Haliru N. Yahaya, Etsu Shonga. (A Medical Doctor of many years reputable standing).
8. Central Publication Committee - Alhaji Abdullahi Umar, the Waziri of Gwandu. (A Professional

Accountant and Chairman of the oldest publishing house in Northern Nigeria, Gaskiya Corporation, Zaria).

9. Central Welfare and Disaster Relief Committee - Dr. Sani Abubakar Lugga the Waziri of Katsina. (an astute Administrator, a Leader of many NGOs, a Philanthropist, an Academician and a trained Instructor with the First Aid Group, since the 1960's)
10. Central Finance and Investment Committee - His Excellency, Ambassador Ibrahim Yerima Abdullahi, Sarkin Bai Gombe. (A Professional Accountant, an Ambassador and a former Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria).
11. Central Interfaith and Dialogue and Conflict Resolution - Prof. Nur Alkali. (an accomplished Historian, an expert in dialogue and conflict resolution and former Vice Chancellor of University of Maiduguri).
12. Central Current Affairs and Publicity Committee - Malam Mohammed Haruna. (Newspapers and magazines publisher and columnist, former Editor and Managing Director of the famous New Nigerian Newspapers).

13. Central Women Affairs Committee - Hajiya Aisha Aliko Mohammed. (One of the founders and Leader of FOMWAN and an advocate and promoter of women education).

6. NATIONAL LEGAL ADVISER

Alhaji (Barrister) Murtala Aminu, OFR, a first generation Northern Lawyer

7. SECRETARY GENERAL

Sheikh Dr. Khalid Abubakar Aliyu, Academician and Chief Imam, Jos Central Mosque

PATRONS

Section 28 of the Jama'atu Nasril Islam Constitution provides for the appointment of Patrons for the organisation, whose role shall be advisory. The patrons shall be the following who are Muslims:-

1. All former Presidents/Heads of State.
2. All former Heads of Armed Forces and the Para-Military Services.
3. All former Chief Justices of Nigeria and Presidents of the Court of Appeal.
4. Retired Inspectors General of Police.
5. Two outstanding Muslim Scholars.

6. A maximum of two outstanding Muslim Business Leaders from each of the six Geo-Political zones of the Country.

In view of this Jama'atu Nasril Islam Constitutional provision, the following **are some** of the organisation's **Patrons:-**

1. HE Alhaji Shehu Aliyu Shagari, GCFR, Turakin Sokoto
2. HE General Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR
3. HE General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, GCFR
4. HE General Abdulsalami Abubakar, GCFR
5. HE Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, GCON
6. Hon. Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais, GCON
7. Hon. Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi, GCON
8. Hon. Justice Dahiru Musdapher, GCON
9. Hon. Justice Mamman Nasir, GCON, Galadiman Katsina
10. Hon. Justice Umaru Abdullahi, CON, Walin Hausa
11. General Aliyu Gusau, GCON
12. Ambassador Zakari Ibrahim, CFR, mni, Talban Katsina
13. Alhaji Mohamed Dikko Yusuf Katsina, GCON

14. Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Ahmadu Coomassie,
GCON, Sardaunan Katsina
15. Alhaji Aliko Dangote, GCON

THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT & BRANCHES

Jama'atu Nasril Islam operates administrative structures as provided for in Sections 9, 10, and 11 of its Constitution. The structures are as follows:-

1. NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The JNII Constitution prescribes that the National Secretariat shall be headed by a full time Secretary General, who shall be learned in Islamic and Western education with exposure to modern management, an experienced administrator pragmatic, mature, accommodating and exposed to local and international issues.

The various Departments shall be headed by Directors who must be knowledgeable in Islam and in their fields of assignments. They shall be good administrators with coordinating capability and on full time.

Other supporting Staff shall be employed as and when necessary for the smooth administration of the National Secretariat, as no organisation can survive under a weak Secretariat.

2. STATES COUNCILS

The States and the Federal Capital Councils are under the Vice Presidents General and they operate on the basis of the organisational and administrative structures and patterns provided for in the JNII Constitution. Every State Council shall be responsible for its own internal organisation and proper and effective operations.

3. EMIRATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS COUNCILS

The Emirate Councils shall operate under the Emirs and the Local Government Councils shall be under an appropriate District Head. Similar structures with local nomenclature shall operate in States that do not operate the Emirate System. The JNII Constitution also has provisions for the establishment of District, Town, Village and Ward Committees. Every Emirate or Local Government Council of the JNII shall be responsible for its own internal organisation and proper and effective operations.

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTIES

Jama'atu Nasril Islam started its operations in a small house loaned to it at Unguwar Sarkin Musulmi Quarters of Kaduna Metropolis in January 1963.

Within three years, the JNI was able to build a Secretariat that was grander than the Secretariat of any religious organisation in Nigeria. The JNI also built several Central Mosques and acquired many houses, several plots of land, a Bookshop, a Primary School (Sultan Bello Primary School) and a Secondary School (Sheikh Sabah College). The JNI also established the Jama'atu School of Arabic and Islamic Studies in Kaduna, which was later upgraded to a College of Education.

JNI enjoyed a lot of goodwill from some individuals and governments in the form of donations and allocations of plots of land and built-up properties right from its inception to date. Therefore, the organisation, at National, States and Local Governments levels has hundreds of properties in its possession. These are mainly made up of Mosques, Schools, Open Air *Eid* Grounds, Houses, Offices, Some Commercial Structures, etc.

Jama'atu Nasril Islam also has some investments in Shari'ah compliant businesses. For example, the JNI is the majority share holder in the oldest printing outfit in Northern Nigeria, the Gaskiya Corporation Ltd., Zaria, Kaduna State, which was established in 1939.

DA'AWAH & DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION

The major focus of the founders of Jama'atu Nasril Islam was *Da'awah* (call to Islam) which they carried out as ordained in Islam, that is, "to call people to Islam with wisdom and fair preaching". That accounted for the first activities of the JNII centring on the establishment of schools and Mosques for the education of those who shall carry the banner of *Da'awah*. In Islam, education comes before anything, as Islam prescribes that no one can worship Allah or carry out worldly affairs without education. The Sardauna of Sokoto informed the Meeting of the World Muslim League in Mecca in November 1964 that,

"A new Society under my patronage has just been formed and has been given the name of Jama'at-el-Nasr-el-Islam...The Society has already embarked on a large scale programme for the training of Muslim missionaries and the opening of Primary Schools, one of which is already in operation. A Magazine in Nigerian vernacular and English has started to be produced for the improvement of Islamic general knowledge among the masses."

This clearly set the agenda for the JNII, which is to EDUCATE Muslims in both Islamic and Western education with a view to making them good and useful citizens and learned "missioners" in the conduct of the *Da'awah*. In order to eliminate

conflicts, the Sardauna and the missionaries concentrated on the Maguzawa (pagan) areas and avoided the Christian areas. Page 567 of the book, AHMADU BELLO, Sardauna of Sokoto, states that, *“After the 1964 elections, the Sardauna tours the far North, including Kano, Katsina and Sokoto, concentrating on small areas of non-Muslim populations. He does not go into any of the “Christian” areas of the Middle-Belt.”*

The same page of the book reports that, the beauty of the “call to Islam” or “conversion to Islam” campaigns of the first generation leaders of the JNI was the peaceful manner the campaigns were conducted through the use of wisdom and convincing language to persuade non-Muslims to join Islam. The book quotes the Sardauna as having said in one of his conversion campaigns, that,

“Many people now understand clearly that Islam is a religion of great faith and affection, which unites all mankind, irrespective of colour, language or economic standing. Islam is the most democratic religion, which required its adherents to like their neighbours as they like themselves and also to share their sorrows and happiness.”

The good political, administrative and moral examples set by Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto and the Muslim leaders of his generation, both in Government and in the Native Authorities, resulted in non-Muslims embracing the

religion of Islam in multitudes. An excellent description of the efforts of the Sardauna in the conversion of non-Muslims to Islam "in multitudes" was given by the National President of the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN), Brother Abdur Razak Solaja at the Opening Ceremony of an "International Seminar on Islam" on Sunday 25th August, 1968. The Brother said in his speech that, *Furthermore, in spite of his being in the practical field of politics, he was not an armchair religious leader. He was himself a field worker, bringing men into Islam – afwaaajan.*"

Afwaaajan is the Arabic word used in the Glorious Qur'an to describe how the people were joining Islam in "multitudes" or in "large groups" during the time of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Hundreds of thousands of people were known to have joined the religion of Islam through the Da'awah of the Sardauna and other first generation leaders of Jama'atu Nasril Islam. Archival records abound on that feat and the Sardauna himself declared at the Meeting of the World Muslim League in Mecca in November 1964 that,

“It will please you, dear Brothers, to hear that in my endeavour to expand the religion of Islam, I have, by the grace of Allah, been able to convert some 60,000 non-Muslims in my Region to Islam within a period of five months, i.e. from November 1963 to March 1964. Prior to this remarkable achievement, I have successfully been able to build several Mosques in as many suitable centres as possible.

These Mosques have proven to be a great source of encouragement towards Islam particularly amongst the communities of areas where many people have been newly converted. Furthermore, the Government of Northern Nigeria, of which I am the Head, has made arrangements whereby religion is taught in all government schools...Private Qur’anic and Ilm schools are being reorganised and assisted financially.”

If the Jama’atu Nasril Islam foundation Da’awah and educational pursuits had continued, the organisation would have been able to eradicate the misunderstanding of the religion of Islam both within Muslims and non-Muslims. And, if the policy of “private Qur’anic and Ilm schools are being reorganised and assisted financially” as enumerated above by the Sardauna, had continued, the issue of the “Almajiri” syndrome would now have been history. Had these JNFI founding policies of DA’AWAH & DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION been pursued vigorously over the years since the

founding of the organisation, religious fundamentalism, insurgencies, youth unemployment, "*Almajirci*" and the like would never have been endemic in Nigeria!

Those JNI policies were clearly geared towards ensuring that Muslims acquired a respectable level of both Islamic and Western education. That would give Muslims the clear and true understanding of Islam and the means to gainful employment. In addition, the policies would have given Muslims equal opportunities both in government and in the private sector. Is there a better "medicine" to insurgencies and insecurities?

Jama'atu Nasril Islam commenced its educational development with the building of several Mosques, *Islamiyya* Schools, a Bookshop, the Sultan Bello Primary School and the Sheikh Sabah College. The JNI also established the Jama'atu School of Arabic and Islamic Studies in Kaduna, which was later upgraded to a College of Education. Efforts are on to develop the permanent site of this all important College at Unguwar Yelwa, along the Kaduna-Zaria Road. The JNI also has the vision of establishing a JNI Islamic University in the nearest future.

HUMANITARIAN SERVICES

Following the educational development policies were the establishment of small clinics and orphanages and the provision other humanitarian services. The leader of Jama'atu Nasril Islam, the Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, pointed this out and urged Muslims all over the world to unite towards the provision of humanitarian services, especially to the downtrodden. He drew attention to the way Christians were concentrating on the provision of such services at the Meeting of the World Muslim League in Mecca in November 1964 where he said,

“You can see that the programme on which I am working is not a matter for any individual. It requires a large scale of international organisation, as is done by the Christian missionaries.....In this regard, I may refer to the tremendous financial aid that the Christian missionaries are receiving all over the world – from Europe, America and other Christian countries, with which they are able to provide hospitals, welfare clinics, schools and other amenities.”

The Sardauna was simply saying that, if leaders of other faiths could provide humanitarian services to the people, why can't the Muslims do the same? Therefore, Jama'atu Nasril Islam combined its Da'awah and educational policies with the provision

of humanitarian services. Even though on a small scale at the beginning, the JNI has now established an elaborate Nigerian Aid Group that operates like the International Red Crescent Society. In addition, the JNI has a full pledged Hospital in Kaduna. Both the Aid Group and the Hospital provide services free of charge to the public irrespective of religious affiliation, race, colour or creed.

The Aid Group of Jama'atu Nasril Islam was founded in 1973 on the advice of His Royal Highness the Emir of Katsina, Alhaji Sir Usman Nagogo, who was made its founding National President. A Working Committee was set up by the National President with a view to fully establishing the Group, prior to its official inauguration. The Working Committee was made up of the following:-

1. Chairman - Alhaji Muhammadu Kabir Usman (then the Magajin Garin Katsina and later the Emir of Katsina)
2. Secretary General - Alhaji Rufa'i Yahaya (General Manager, NTA, Kaduna)
3. Organising Secretary - Alhaji Muhammadu Ali Kaita (Shatiman Katsina)

4. Administrative Secretary - Alhaji Abubakar Katsina

5. Co-opted Members - eleven in number

The Aid Group of Jama'atu Nasril Islam was officially inaugurated on 30th October 1975, by the Deputy President General of the JNII, the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Mustapha Umar ibn el-Kanemi, CFR. The Aid Group has over one million uniformed Members and has Branches in 27 States of the Federation. Its Headquarters is located in Kaduna. Efforts are on to seeing that Muslim Aid Groups in Nigeria come under one roof, like the International Red Crescent Society, in order to ensure the securing and disbursement of local and international welfare and relief materials to the disabled and the needy.

The JNII Muslim Hospital located at Kaltungo Road, Tudun Wada, Kaduna, was founded as an out-patient clinic in 1987 by some philanthropists. Jama'atu Nasril Islam later took over the clinic and gradually upgraded it to a full pledged Hospital. JNII offers other medical services that include public awareness on health issues and assisting government and non-governmental organisations in the provision of health care services to the people.

One of the most prominent works of Jama'atu Nasril Islam in these regards is the organisation's assistance in the global campaign against Polio, Malaria, Measles and other killer diseases.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FUNDS' RAISING

The Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, even though he was the all-powerful Premier of Northern Nigeria, had never committed Government Funds into the activities of Jama'atu Nasril Islam. Equally, His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto and their Royal Highnesses the Emirs who were leaders of the JNI, have never committed Native Authority Funds into the organisation. The series of investigations carried out by the Christian-led military government of 1966 never revealed any financial misappropriations or fraud against the Sardauna or any of the Northern Emirs. Archival records and evidences from those concerned and from media reports of those days, clearly pointed out that those investigations were aimed at unearthing the use of Government and Native Authorities financial resources to fund Islamic activities by the Sardauna and the Emirs. Alas, it was established that the Sardauna never used any government funds in his religious activities and indeed he never owned a private bank

account, plots of land or private houses. The Sardauna of Sokoto and his colleagues did not leave behind bags of money or series of properties to their inheritors, but they left them tonnes and tonnes of honour and goodwill!

Jama'atu Nasril Islam activities were funded from subscriptions and donations from its Members and from local and foreign donations. On the day of the first meeting for the formation of the JNII, the sum of £35 (N70) was collected as donation from those present at the meeting. Sheikh Abubakar Mahmud Gumi, who was present at that meeting, comments on the donation on page 106 of his book titled, "Where I Stand" as follows:-

"Present at this first meeting was the Premier, Ali Akilu, Ahmed Talib, Ahmad Joda, Armiya'u Katsina and many others, including virtually all the Muslim Permanent Secretaries in the government.....We discussed at length the problems of teaching converts in this country and those who wanted to learn about Islam, because there were no qualified teachers or any serious organisation they could turn to for help. Finally, we all agreed to set up an Association to render this type of assistance.....Malam Abubakar Imam, who was unanimously elected to be the General Secretary of the new Association, prepared a box in an adjacent room and we each went in to put our donation. The money collected was to be used to start off its

functions. When everyone had put in his contribution, the total amount collected was £35.”

Page 559 of the book, “AHMADU BELLO, Sardauna of Sokoto”, quotes Alhaji (Dr) Ahmed Talib, CFR, one of the three pioneer Registered Trustees of the JNI and one of those present at the first meeting for the formation of the organisation as saying,

“There was no public money in the JNI, but private contributions by individuals and organisations, plus assistance from other countries such as Saudi Arabia”.

Membership subscription fees and Members' donations, coupled with local donations from individuals and organisations, added to foreign assistance made up the funds of the JNI. Sometimes the JNI used Islamic functions to raise funds or even out-rightly organise Appeal Fund Launching ceremonies. It was such membership subscriptions, personal members' donations, local and international donations and appeal funds launchings that enabled the JNI to fund all its operations. For example, in addition to local donations, the JNI received an assistance of £50,000 (N100,000) from the Saudi Arabian Government with which it was able to establish the Sultan Bello Primary School at Unguwar Sarki

Kaduna, making it the first Muslim owned Primary School in Kaduna against the then more than ten Christian owned Primary Schools in the City! Also, the first educational materials donation received by the JNI was that of 12,000 copies of the Glorious Qur'an from Muhammad Gardee, a Pakistani who owned the largest shares at the Northern Textiles Ltd., Kaduna. That donation encouraged the JNI to set up a small Bookshop where copies of the Qur'an and other Islamic Books were sold as sources of revenue.

Membership subscriptions and local donations kept on coming-in and the JNI kept on recording successes that attracted annual assistance of £50,000 (N100,000) from the Saudi Arabian Government and a series of donations from other Muslim countries, particularly from Kuwait and Egypt. The JNI then set out to construct a befitting Secretariat for the organisation in Kaduna by launching an appeal fund for the project. The appeal for assistance met with resounding success locally and the Kuwaiti Government donated £300,000 (N600,000) for the project. About half of the Kuwaiti money was used in the construction of the Secretariat and the balance was used to construct the first Muslim owned

Secondary School in Northern Nigeria, the Sheikh Sabah College, Kaduna, named after the then Kuwaiti Emir, Sheikh al-Sabah. The College was taken over by the government after the first military coup and renamed Sardauna Memorial College. The balance of the money, after the construction of the two edifices, was kept as revenue for assistance to sister Muslim organisations and groups and for other Islamic activities.

Jama'atu Nasril Islam's prudent management of resources was legendary to the extent that donors were rushing in to donate as they were confident that their donations were in safe hands. JINI became the repository for donations that were passed to other Islamic organisations and groups as assistance. An example was the securing in June, 1964 of the sum of £60,000 for the JINI Headquarters' promotion of Islamic activities and £40,000 for the construction of the Lagos Central Mosque from His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia. The JINI's fine reputation made it possible to continue securing assistance from wealthy Nigerians and from Arab Nations for Islamic activities and for disbursement

to Muslim Organisations in Nigeria and the West African sub-region.

If the fine examples of revenue generation - **SUBSCRIPTIONS & DONATIONS** - by the first generation JNII Leaders could be revived, enough funds could be raised from local and international sources for the organisation. Jama'atu Nasril Islam has 12 excellent provisions in Section 20 of its Constitution on the ways and means of raising funds - **from monthly membership subscriptions to appeal fund launchings**. If these provisions could be effectively implemented, the cap-to-hand method of fund raising will be a thing of the past! Just imagine if only **10%** of Nigeria's estimated 80 million Muslims would contribute **only N100 monthly** into the coffers of the JNII, the organisation would be generating about **N9.6 billion annually!** And if the wealthy Nigerian Muslims would pay the mandatory annual *Zakkat*, billions of Naira, millions of tonnes of produce and millions of livestock could be collected; for poverty alleviation, welfare services and other activities in line with Islamic injunctions.

If such revenues could be generated by the JNII, it will enable it invest in productive sectors of the economy thereby becoming self reliant in the long

run. After all, the first generation JNII, with its very meagre resources, was able to invest in the Kaduna Textiles Ltd., Gaskiya Corporation Ltd. and a host of other Shari'ah compliant ventures. It also secured donations of, or purchased some properties that are still in its possession.

BUILDING ON THE LAID FOUNDATION

On general terms:- generations upon generations shall continue to pray for the repose of the gentle souls of the Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello and his team of sincere, dedicated, incorruptible, just and fair Leaders. They laid a solid foundation upon which Northern Nigeria in particular and the Nigerian Nation in general would have been built to greatness! Alas, their foundations have been destroyed. But true believers in the Almighty Allah never lose faith in His mercies. It is hoped that relief shall soon come from Allah and Nigeria's multifaceted problems shall dissolve into thin air.

On Jama'atu Nasril Islam:- All praise is to Allah, the Lord of the Universe. It is 50 years since the laying of a solid foundation for Jama'atu Nasril Islam by its Founding Fathers of blessed memory. They bequeathed a JNII that was built on the true teachings of Islam - that is love for one another,

peace, security, stability, justice and fairness. The **new-JNI** being built today, under the guidance of HE the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, CFR, mni, and his able lieutenants, should imbibe those JNI founding attributes. This will make the JNI to become the beacon for the reorientation of both Muslims and non-Muslims with a view to building a peaceful and virile society. Such will go a long way in dousing the religious tension in Nigeria and could bring to an end the ethno-religious and other security challenges facing the country. Under the first generation JNI, Muslims and non-Muslims lived peacefully together and there is no reason not to repeat that feat today.

Jama'atu Nasril Islam has the prospects of bringing about peace and harmony, education and enlightenment, development and progress to Nigeria. With its membership, attributes and spread, the JNI is most entitled to support and assistance even from foreign donor agencies. After all, there are multitudes of local and foreign donor agencies that are operating all over Nigeria and morally and financially assisting peace-related, inter-faith, inter-ethnic and inter-communal activities. Jama'atu Nasril Islam, with branches all

over the Federation and with membership drawn from all the ethnic groups, is certainly best placed to lead in the emancipation of Nigeria from the clutches of religious and ethnic disharmony. No other religious organisation is endowed with such spread and membership in Nigeria, as the JNII. What is left now is for the **new-JNII** to harness its human and material resources with a view to **building on the foundation laid by its founders**.

For this to be achieved, the various organs and levels of the organisation must sit up to their responsibilities. Five of the JNII organs that must take up the challenge are:-

1. **Traditional Rulers** - it is not gainsaying that the major beacons behind the establishment of the JNII were the Traditional Rulers. It's founding Patron, President General, Deputy President General, Vice Presidents General, etc, were all from the Traditional Institution. In addition, all the Muslim Ruling Houses in Nigeria were built on Islamic pillars, especially those within the ambit of the Sokoto and Borno Caliphates. The Royal Fathers in the JNII therefore have great challenges before them of ensuring that "**haske bai dushe ba a hannun su**" as the Hausa would say. Literally meaning, "let the light not be put-

out in their hands". Nearly all the JNI States and Emirates Branches are under the Traditional Rulers. The Royal Fathers should therefore kindly do their utmost to ensure the survival of their JNI Branches, thereby by extension giving life to the National JNI.

2. **Muslim Scholars** - The role of the *Ulama* in any Muslim Organisation cannot be overemphasised. They are the backbone as they lay down the Islamic rules and regulations and ginger the public to join and participate in any Islamic endeavour. Our great teachers, successors to the Prophets (Peace be upon them), should respectfully play their roles in ensuring the growth of the JNI. The numerous "sects" should not be stumbling blocks as Allah knew very well that there will be various schools of thoughts and understandings and He still admonished Muslims to *"hold fast to Allah's rope, all together, and not to disunite"*.

3. **Civil Servants** - as clearly shown, the Civil Servants were the vanguards in the establishment of the JNI. Their innovative roles, based on their managerial skills, are great assets to any organisation. Civil Servants at Federal, States and Local Governments levels have a lot

to contribute in the growth and sustenance of the JNII. Politicians, Security Forces and the like should be interested in the roles the JNII can play in entrenching and stabilising religious and ethnic harmony. This is the surest way to peace and stability. Therefore, it is humbly incumbent upon those in Government to embrace and assist the JNII to climb to greater heights.

4. **Captains of the Private Sector** - Here lay the strength or weakness of any organisation. No organisation, or even government, can survive without funds. JNII sprang 50 years ago and thrived greatly on donations from the wealthy members of the Muslim Community, both locally and internationally. Indeed, Islam makes it mandatory on the wealthy to give out *Zakkat* from the stipulated cash, some farm produce, some livestock, some precious stones, etc. *Zakkat* is not voluntary; it is mandatory and one of the five pillars of Islam. Many Muslim countries have eradicated poverty through the collection and distribution of *Zakkat* to the stipulated beneficiaries. The Muslim Authority is supposed to collect and disburse *Zakkat* and as such wealthy Nigerians have no better avenue today to channel their *Zakkat*, than Jama'atu

Nasril Islam. Many State and Emirate Branches of the JNI have set the ball rolling in these regards and what is left is for this laudable effort to be expanded to all levels of the organisation.

In addition to the mandatory *Zakkat*, the Muslim "haves" are enjoined to assist the needy and the Religion of Islam through the use of their wealth. Allah prescribes this as the "**best trade**" that will purify the wealth in this World and save the wealthy from the torments of worldly disasters and Hell Fire in the Hereafter. JNI needs the understanding, cooperation and assistance of its wealthy members.

5. **General Membership** - the contributions of the general membership of any organisation is its engine-fuel. The Founders of the JNI mobilised the *Ummah* to participate in Islamic Religious activities. The *Ummah* carried the messages to the grassroots and their cooperation led to the successes recorded by the JNI in its formative stages. Today, more than ever, the JNI needs its members to ginger into action - rise to gain Religious and Western education, love one another, love the neighbours irrespective of their religious beliefs, join politics and the civil

service, be gainfully employed and be fair and just to all. These are the panacea for peace, security and stability.

In addition to these, the JNI needs financial contributions from its General Members. As earlier stated, if only **10%** of Nigeria's estimated 80 million Muslims would contribute **only N100 monthly** into the coffers of the JNI, the organisation would be generating about **N9.6 billion annually!** This is a part from the expected billions from the mandatory Zakkat!

LET THIS GENERATION CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION LAID BY THE FOUNDERS OF JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM.