

Appendix 31:

COMMUNIQUE OF FIRST NATIONAL INTER-FAITH FORUM ON CORRUPTION [javascript:void window.open\('http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=1610', 'win2', 'status=no,toolbar=no,scrollbars=yes,titlebar=no,menubar=no,resizable=yes,width=640,height=480,directories=no,location=no'\);](http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=1610)[javascript:void window.open\('http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=1610', 'win2', 'status=no,toolbar=no,scrollbars=yes,titlebar=no,menubar=no,resizable=yes,width=640,height=480,directories=no,location=no'\);](http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=1610)[javascript:void window.open\('http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1610&Itemid=2&pop=1&page=0', 'win2', 'status=no,toolbar=no,scrollbars=yes,titlebar=no,menubar=no,resizable=yes,width=640,height=480,directories=no,location=no'\);](http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1610&Itemid=2&pop=1&page=0)[javascript:void window.open\('http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1610&Itemid=2&pop=1&page=0', 'win2', 'status=no,toolbar=no,scrollbars=yes,titlebar=no,menubar=no,resizable=yes,width=640,height=480,directories=no,location=no'\);](http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1610&Itemid=2&pop=1&page=0)[javascript:void window.open\('http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&task=emailform&id=1610', 'win2', 'status=no,toolbar=no,scrollbars=yes,titlebar=no,menubar=no,resizable=yes,width=400,height=250,directories=no,location=no'\);](http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&task=emailform&id=1610)[javascript:void window.open\('http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&task=emailform&id=1610', 'win2', 'status=no,toolbar=no,scrollbars=yes,titlebar=no,menubar=no,resizable=yes,width=400,height=250,directories=no,location=no'\);](http://www.efccnigeria.org/index2.php?option=com_content&task=emailform&id=1610)

Thursday, 16 August 2007 PREAMBLE: The determination of EFCC to fulfill its mandate made it invite faith-based organizations to collaborate with it in the fight against corruption in Nigeria. Members of faith-based organizations and the leaders of the two apex religious bodies in Nigeria (CAN, and NSCIA) participated in a one-day programme on "The Role of Faith Communities in the Fight against Corruption" held at Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja on 15th August, 2007.

The well attended programme was addressed by the Executive Chairman of EFCC, the President of CAN, Archbishop, Dr. John Onaiyekan and Sheikh Mohammed Ibn Uthman, the Chief Imam of Sahaba Mosque, Kano. The Secretary-General of Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Secretary-General JNI, Dr Lateef Adegbite, and Bishop John Praise were also in attendance. After an extensive deliberation on the nature, consequences and methods of fighting corruption, the forum unanimously declared as follows:

DECLARATION AGAINST CORRUPTION:

1. We are of the belief that corruption is evil against God and man, and that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Therefore, we urge every religious organization to imbibe the spirit of honesty and transparency in the discharge of its sacred responsibilities.
2. As the representatives of the Muslim and Christian communities in Nigeria, we resolved to work together towards increasing the level of public awareness against corruption, since every Nigerian deserves to be adequately informed about corruption and its detrimental consequences.
3. Faith based communities should conscientiously join in the fight against corruption.
4. The Federal Ministry of Education, should as a matter of urgency, include anti-corruption programmes in the curriculum of every level of the educational system.
5. Every mosque and church in Nigeria should vigorously preach against the menace of corruption.
6. Every mosque and church should organize symposia and seminars to create awareness against corruption.
7. A national inter-faith advisory committee on corruption should be established by EFCC in collaboration with Nigeria Inter-religious Council (NIREC) to coordinate the fight against corruption.
8. Religious organizations should show exemplary leadership by institutionalizing transparency and accountability within their organizations.
9. Merit awards for excellence in integrity, transparency and accountability should be instituted.
10. Public officers should be commensurately and timely remunerated.
11. Basic needs of the citizens, the absence of which generates corrupt tendencies, should be provided.
12. A social security scheme which is in line with chapter 2 of the 1999 Constitution should be established to actualize the lofty goals set out in that chapter of the Constitution.
13. The leadership of both Muslim and Christian religious communities would be involved in the planning and

execution of the programmes for December 9th International Day against Corruption.

14. Only an independent EFCC could effectively prosecute the war against corruption. We therefore urge government not to use any technicality to obstruct or hinder effective implementation of the Commission's programmes.

15. Nigerians in general should not be judged or condemned by the misdemeanor of a few.

16. We appreciate the initiative of the EFCC and support of the UNDP in creating this wonderful and unique forum and urge all Nigerians to cooperate with the Commission in the discharge of its onerous responsibility.

Signed

Archbishop John Onaiyekan
President of CAN

Signed

Dr. Lateef Adegbite
Secretary-General of NSCIA

Signed

Prof Isiaq Oloyede
Secretary General of
NIREC

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CAN, NSCIA want teaching of anti-graft courses in schools
www.nigerians-abroad.com

RECOGNISING the role education can play in the eradication of corruption in Nigeria, the Christian Association of Nigeria and the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) have called on the Federal Government to introduce courses on anti-corruption in all schools.

The two groups made the call in a statement jointly issued in Abuja, tagged "Declaration Against Corruption," after a one-day inter-faith forum organised by the civil society section of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

They urged that technicality should not be used to obstruct or hinder the effective implementation of the EFCC's programmes. To strengthen the grip of the agency on the scourge of corruption, the two bodies said it was necessary to establish a national inter-faith advisory committee on corruption as collaboration between Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) and the EFCC.

It read in part: "The Federal Ministry of Education should as a matter of urgency, include anti-corruption programmes in the curriculum at every level of the educational system. We are of the belief that corruption is evil against God and man, and that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

"As representatives of the Moslem and Christian communities in Nigeria, we resolved to work together towards increasing the level of public awareness against corruption, since every Nigerian deserves to be adequately informed about corruption and its detrimental consequences."

Besides, they suggested that incentives be awarded to public officers who achieve excellence in integrity, transparency and accountability.

According to the religious bodies, Nigerian workers deserve timely payment of their salaries and benefits as well as provision of their basic needs. They stressed that the absence of these essential needs triggers corrupt tendencies. But for this to be a worthwhile effort, the two religious groups enjoined leaders in all parts of the country to show exemplary initiative by institutionalising transparency and accountability.