

NIGER STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS (NISACORA)

Visits to Niger State Local Government Areas and to Zamfara State
re Sharia Implementation, June, July and August 2000

I. MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETINGS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES OF NIGER STATE, 7 June to 7 July 2000

Kontagora, Rijau, Magama and Mariga LGAs

Shiroro and Munya LGAs

Edati LGA

Lavun LGA

Bida LGA

Agaie and Katcha LGAs

Lapai LGA

Rafi LGA

Gurara LGA

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III. NISACORA RESOLUTIONS ON TOUR TO ZAMFARA STATE

I.

**MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETINGS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES OF NIGER STATE
FROM 7TH JUNE 2000 TO 7TH JULY 2000**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NISACORA
AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF KONTAGORA, RIJAU,
MAGAMA AND MARIGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS,
HELD ON 6TH RABPUL-AWWAL 1421 (8TH JUNE 2000)

Attendance:

1. Malam Shehu Na Rimaye	-	Representative
2. Alhaji Ahmad Yusuf Limamin Rijau	-	Representative
3. Malam Abubakar Gambo	-	Representative
4. Malam Buhari Zakari	-	Representative
5. Malam Muhammad Salisu	-	Representative
6. Malam Muhammad Ibn Imam	-	Representative
7. Malam Abdul-Kadir Na'uzo	-	Member
8. Malam Musa Isa Lapai	-	Member
9. Malam Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman
10. Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member
11. Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary

The opening prayer was said by Malam Ahmadu at 1:25 p.m.

The Chairman started by explaining the purpose of the meeting, re-emphasizing the salient points discussed in the meeting of the *ulama* with His Excellency the Governor of Niger State Engineer Abdul-Kadir A. Kure. He requested that efforts should be intensified to awaken the populace about al-Islam and how it affects their lives

Alhaji Abdul-Kadir Na'uzo drew the attention of the *ulama* to the significance of the meeting seeing the height of the position the Governor attaches to *ulama*, which no Governor has done the like of in the history of Niger State.

Alhaji Musa Isa called for unity amongst the *ulama* pointing out the need to unify their goals and speak with one voice.

Both Alhaji Abdul-Kadir Na'uzo and Malam Muhammad Sambo emphasized the importance of getting rid of unlawful behaviours in transactions, and imbibing the true Islamic way of doing all things.

Malam Narimaye welcomed the message from the Governor and prayed that Allah reward him and the members of the Advisory Committee with paradise. He also declared his acceptance to be a *wakil* in his Local Government Area. He then advised that learning centres should be established, where public enlightenment can be carried out even if it is held for one hour daily. Teachers in these centres may not necessarily introduce specific books, but must encourage the students to ask questions on any issue.

The Imam of the Federal College of Education (FCOE) Kontagora, Malam Muhammad Ibn Imam, after praying for the Governor admonished the *ulama* to purify their minds and struggle to be pious Muslims. He also called for unity. He advised that the Emirs and Chairmen should be contacted. The aid groups should be informed of what is happening and they should be encouraged to act upon the changing trend. Judges must not be left out. They should be admonished. He also requested the Governor to declare his assets now even if he had done so before. He called for the imams to include speeches about the Sharia in their Friday sermons, and for enlightenment seminars to be mounted more especially in the State capital, which should serve as a model to other towns.

The Chairman said that all suggestions and observations have been noted, adding that already such special seminars have been arranged for Emirs.

Malam Buhari Zakari explained that since the inception of the Sharia issue, the *ulama* in Kontagora Emirate have been enlightening individuals, and that this exercise has reached such a stage that when the Sharia is finally fully implemented there will be no problems.

Malam Muhammad Salihu Abubakar suggested that contractors should also be enlightened on the Sharia question. He pointed out also that misappropriation of public funds is more severe than clear-cut theft, and that any public servant caught in the act should be dismissed, and the property he misappropriated confiscated. He added that judges must be warned to exercise justice in their jobs without discrimination of any sort. He did not leave out motorists in the enlightenment programme.

Alhaji Yusuf, the Imam of Rijau, requested that scales and mudus be introduced by the State Government.

Alhaji Abubakar Gambo requested that people should be enlightened on the correct Islamic way of slaughtering animals.

Alhaji Musa Isa, responding to the request by the Imam of FCOE, said that already the aid group has been enlightened, pointing out that a seminar was already delivered in Kontagora Emirate.

Alhaji Abdul-Kadir Na'uzo re-emphasized that wherever a Muslims is, he should be regarded as such. Unity should be the key word amongst Muslims.

Malam Buhari Zakari requested to know if the alcohol law is still in place. The Chairman affirmed this, and added that in fact new measures are being taken to ensure sanity in our courts of law.

The Imam of the FCOE asked for the *nisab* for theft, and he was told that it is currently ₦20, 000.00. He was informed that a review of this law has been proposed to His Excellency.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Malam Narimaye at about 2.52 p.m.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NISACORA
WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF SHIRORO AND MUNYA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS
HELD ON 10TH RABIUL-AWWAL 1421 (12TH JUNE 2000)

Attendance:

Malam Baba Kafanchan	-	Representative
Malam Umar Ahmad	-	Representative
Malam Jibrin Adamu Kuta	-	Representative
Malam Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman
Malam Abdul-Kadir Na'uzo	-	Member
Malam Musa Isa Lapai	-	Member
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer said by Sheikh Abdul-Kadir Na'uzo at 11.50 a.m.

The Chairman ordered that two other *ulama* be invited since two of the designated could not wait for the arrival of the committee. These two were Malam Ibrahim Adamu Kuta and Malam Umar Ahmad Erena.

The Chairman explained the mission of the Committee, which is to mobilize the *ulama* to ensure that Sharia is implanted into the minds of individuals, such that they conduct their day-to-day activities, interactions and transactions according to the Sharia. He expressed the need for the *ulama* to meet various interest groups amongst Muslims and enlighten them about their responsibilities towards Allah. He told members about the first meeting with the Governor over the issues he explained, pointing out that today's meeting signals the coming of the major meeting with the *ulama* at Minna which will feature various intellectual topical issues. Alhaji Na'uzo emphasised that people who will be doing the enlightenment exercise are expected to lay emphasis on using accurate scales, to sell goods sold by weight and giving full measures for things that are sold by measures and on the right attitude to look for contracts and execute them. He also talked on the need for Muslims to unite.

Malam Kawu informed that many letters were written against the person of the Governor and Muslims by Christians opposed to the move to institute Sharia in Niger State.

Malam Abu-Sumayyah explained that it is not Government alone that should deal with the Sharia issue, the *ulama* have to wake up tighten up and marry the Sharia matter for the sake of Allah. He therefore emphasised grass-roots mobilization.

Alhaji Musa Isa advised that in their explanation to the general public, the *ulama* should not implicate the Government. They should instead state what Allah and His Messenger said.

The Chairman re-iterated that all interest groups should be put into consideration i.e. elders, leaders, judges, chairmen, traders etc.

Malam Baba Kafanchan suggested that the Chairman of the Local Government Area should be invited to the Minna meeting.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Abu-Sumayyah at 12.53 p.m.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NISACORA
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF EDATI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA ULAMA,
HELD ON 13TH RABIUL-AWWAL 1421 (15TH JUNE 2000).

Attendance:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. Malam Ahmad Uthman | - | Representative |
| 2. Malam Ahmad Abdulkadir | - | Representative |
| 3. Malam Yahya Sidi Aliyu | - | Representative |
| 4. Malam Abdulkadir Na'uzo | - | Member |
| 5. Malam Musa Isa Lapai | - | Member |
| 6. Malam Muhammad Sambo | - | Chairman |
| 7. Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah | - | Member |
| 8. Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan | - | Secretary |

Ustaz Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah opened the meeting with a prayer at 11:36 a.m.

The Chairman, Muhammad Sambo, explained to the hosts about the Governor's good intention to concretise Islamic development after introducing Sharia law in Niger State. He told them the need for Muslims to pay more attention to areas of interactions such as buying and selling, renting and hiring and execution of contracts, pointing out that the rights of individuals in their interactions must be protected just as offences that call for capital punishment must be avoided. He said that it is in the light of this that the committee was mandated to select a few individuals in each Local Government Area to partake in this struggle. These selected few are expected to meet various interest groups and enlighten them over what affects their lives as Muslims

Malam Abu-Sumayyah pointed out that a meaningful existence, where life and property are guaranteed safe, could only be obtained through the full implementation of the Sharia. The Governor, he added, has relieved himself of the burden by his handing over of the task of enlightenment to the *ulama*. He enjoined the *ulama* to encourage people to fear Allah and embrace the Sharia struggle, without saying anything about the Governor's support for the enlightenment.

Alhaji Abdul-Kadir Na'uzo re-emphasized the idea of keeping the name of the Governor out of this exercise, and advised them to learn the *fiqh* of trade and general interactions. He also informed the *ulama* of Enagi that they are fortunate to be included in the *da'awah* exercise, and requested them to come to Minna with a report of their activities when they are called to Minna for the State meeting.

Alhaji Musa Isa called for unity amongst Muslims. He also requested that the representatives should call a meeting of the *ulama* of Edati Local Government Area and get competent Muslim *du'at* to participate actively in enlightening people.

Alhaji Kawu encouraged that they should call the various interest groups – traders, butchers, and contractors – and admonish them, and that they should be prepared to face any test or calamity which may befall them.

Malam Ahmad Abdul-Kadir expressed happiness on behalf of all others over the Committee's visit, that at least their fears that the Sharia issue has been shelved have been allayed.

Malam Yahya A. Salihu said that there are stakeholders who should be contacted to ensure progress on Islamic practices in Enagi and its environs. He requested, particularly, that Bima Abdul-Rahman must be admonished, and pointed out that Christians living in Enagi and unfortunately, some Muslims, do not like the Sharia to be instituted.

Malam Musa Isa promised to get some elders including Sheikh Ahmad Lemu to talk to Bima Abdul-Rahman.

The meeting came to the end at 12:35 p.m. with an closing prayer said by Sheikh Abdul-Kadir Na'uzo.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NISACORA
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF LAVUN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA,
HELD AT KUTIGI ON 13TH RABIUL-AWWAL 1421 (15TH JUNE 2000).

Attendance:

Alhaji Abubakar Tifin The Imam Of Kutigi	-	Representative
Alhaji Muhammad Makiniki	-	Representative
Malam Muhammad Emichezo	-	Representative
Malam Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman
Sheikh Abdulkadir Na'uzo	-	Member
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member
Alhaji Musa Isa Lapai	-	Member
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary

Sheikh Abdul-Kadir Na'uzo led the opening prayer at 1.30 p.m.

He then explained the purpose of the meeting positing that the Committee had come to deliver a special message from the Governor on the Sharia issue, which is expected to take off soon. He stated that the Governor's fear on this issue is the unenlightened Muslims rather than the non-Muslims. He therefore wants the ignorant and the sceptical to be informed. He said the Governor's wish is to get the Muslims enlightened about transactions and interactions by the *ulama* through the Committee, using the most effective way possible. He added that the Governor gave this Committee

the mandate to select *ulama* from all over Niger State to carry out the enlightenment exercise, which Allah commanded through His Messenger. The three representatives should recruit others to help them accomplish the task, which he said rests on the shoulders of all knowledgeable Muslims.

The duty of the *ulama*, Na'uzo continued, is to inform verbally or in writing, the task of physical enforcement rests on the constituted authority. He also called on Muslims to unite; this concept is indicated in the constitution of the membership of NISACORA; comprising individuals from all Islamic groups. He also requested the three representatives to keep a progress report of all their activities, as this will be demanded for during the State meeting.

The Chief Imam of Kutigi asked if he could call people in other towns of Lavun Local Government Area such as Doko He was told he could do so if it would be practicable and problem-free to him.

Malam Isa Makiniki suggested that the Governor should listen to the advice of the *ulama* before he decides on crucial issues. He also requested for a vehicle for the *du'at*.

The Chief Imam of Kutigi terminated the meeting with a closing prayer at 2:13 p.m.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM BIDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
HELD AT GALADIMA'S COMPOUND ON 17TH RAB'UL AWWAL 1421 (19TH
JUNE 2000)

Attendance:

Alhaji Usman Toma Galadima Nupe	-	Representative
Sheikh Sa'id Enagi	-	Representative
Malam Idris Khalifa	-	Representative
Malam Abdullahi Mujahid	-	Representative
Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Isa Lapai	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary, NISACORA

The meeting started with an opening prayer led by Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo at about 11.50 a.m.

The Chairman, Malam Muhammad Sambo, transferred the chairmanship of the meeting to Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo because of the former's ill-health.

The presiding Chairman explained that the meeting has been initiated by the Governor's good intention to institute the Islamic law in Niger State. The Governor in an earlier meeting stressed the need for the *ulama* to educate and mobilise Muslims towards this end, because Sharia, according to the governor has been with Muslims from

the beginning. What the *ulama* should do is to draw the attention of the people to observe Islamic rules and regulations. The presiding Chairman informed the meeting that Bida Local Government Area was not the first the Committee was visiting.

He told the representative *ulama* that their duty is to do everything to foster unity amongst Muslims in addition to undertaking vigorous enlightenment campaigns covering people of various occupations and position in the society. The presiding Chairman then paused to allow other members of the NISACORA to make their contributions.

Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah stressed that when the Sharia finally gets instituted, it will take care of people's welfare, the faith of the citizens notwithstanding. He pointed out that the Governor, by constituting the Committee has played his part. It is now the duty of the *ulama* to propagate his intention. Every Muslim must therefore play his role, with the hope of getting rewarded by Allah in the hereafter. He stressed that the *ulama* has been particularly assigned this duty by Allah – the Exalted. The *ulama* should therefore try to enlighten individuals on their religious obligations.

Alhaji Musa Isa Lapai stressed that it is the duty of the *ulama* to enlighten the community. This is the right of the community on the *ulama*. He then called for intra-religious groups' cooperation in Bida Local Government Area. He also enjoined the leadership of the religious groups to practise the technique of delegation of duties. "One person should not do everything," he stressed.

Malam Muhammad Sambo drew attention of the meeting to some historical aspects, which led to the abolishing of the *budud* aspect of the Sharia in the then Northern Nigeria and the retention of the *mu'amalat*.

He explained that the Niger State Governor called on the *ulama* to sensitise the *ummah* on the need to re-entrench the *budud* and consequently gain back the lost glory.

Malam Abubakar Kawu stressed that the Governor has decided to act on what will ensure the realization of the Islamic law instead of making verbose pronouncements on the radio and television.

Malam Idris Abdullahi of the "Muslim Ummah" Bida, suggested that there is need to advise the Governor to concentrate on providing people's needs according to the Islamic injunctions instead of bothering about what the corrupt members of the *ummah* say or do. Government must intensify efforts to ward off evil deeds. All offenders must be punished. He made these pronouncements because according to him, both alcoholism and prostitution are still being promoted in Bida.

Alhaji Musa Isa Lapai, responding to Idris's position, advised that such points should be brought to the State meeting to be held later in Minna.

Alhaji Toma requested for more information on the Committee, and Malam Muhammad Sambo explained that it is an enlightenment forum and committee for the *ummah* and an advisory committee to the leaders. Alhaji Toma went on to say that they have already prepared and presented to the Governor, a package, that if it is utilised can help to mould the society. He therefore suggested that all official activities in the State, henceforth, should exemplify the Sharia so that everybody will know that the Government is not jesting.

Malam Mujahid said that there is the need for the Governor to invite the Local Government Chairmen and address them over the Sharia issue. He also called for the State to assist the various Muslim groups to help them enhance their *da'awah* activities in rural areas.

The Chairman stressed the need to enforce the proper conduct of transactions especially by Muslims.

Malam Idris informed NISACORA members that some people were caught drinking alcohol, but instead of meting out the Islamic punishment on them that is eight strokes of the cane, they were each fined ₦500.00 (five hundred naira only) and released.

Malam Sa'id Enagi declared that the Government of Niger State has not placed the *ulama* in a position they are supposed to be. He expressed fear that the politicians simply want to deceive the *ulama* so that they can maintain their status quo at the expense of that of the *ulama*. He therefore called for real Government financial support to the *ulama* and they will *insba* Allah show him (the Governor) how the Sharia can be implemented fully and properly. He also suggested that a Sharia Defence Council should be set up in addition to the Council of Ulama comprising of militant Muslim youths.

Alhaji Toma promised to give their meaningful suggestions, in writing, to NISACORA. The Muslim *ulama* also suggested that a seminar on the Sharia be organised for civil servants.

Alhaji Toma then thanked NISACORA members for sparing time to come. The Chairman promised to convey their messages to the Governor.

The meeting was terminated with a closing prayer led by Sheikh Sa'id Enagi at 1:20 p.m.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ULAMA OF AGAIE AND KATCHA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS
HELD AT AGAIE ON 17TH RAB'UL AWWAL 1421 (19TH JUNE 2000)

Attendance:

Malam Ahmed Ndanusa	-	Agaie	-	Representative
Malam Idris Nami	-	Agaie	-	Representative
Malam Mambagi	-	Agaie	-	Representative
Malam Muhammad Madiu	-	Katcha	-	Representative
Malam Abdullahi Katcha	-	Katcha	-	Representative
Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-		-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo	-		-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-		-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Isa Lapai	-		-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-		-	Secretary, NISACORA

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo, who was also mandated by the Chairman to explain to the representatives the mission of NISACORA. He did this saying, among others, that the Governor appointed the members of NISACORA and charged them with the responsibility of going round the State and enlightening people about the Sharia law, with particular reference to the aspects covering transactions in a typical Muslim community. He pointed out that Sharia has in effect been instituted in Niger State. What remains according to him, is the re-entrenchment of all aspects of the Sharia. He also informed that in the very near future all representative *ulama* would be invited to Minna to give a report of their enlightenment activities.

Sheikh Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah explained the responsibility of the *ulama* to enjoin people to do good and avoid evil. It is the work of the *ulama* to educate and warn, while the task of the Government is to adjudicate and enforce compliance. He added that every sector should know its duties and stand by them.

Malam Musa Isa Lapai expressed the need for the representatives to establish sub-committees so as to simplify the enlightenment job, stressing that preaching must be focussed on what Allah the Exalted commanded and the teachings of his Honoured Prophet. He also informed that the Niger State Government has started renovating courts of law, and has decided to overhaul the State judicial system by pushing out bad eggs in the system.

Malam Muhammad Sambo praised the State Government's foresight in employing the *ulama* to research and expose to the *ulama* what Sharia Law is all about. He therefore advised that the *ulama* should concentrate on the transactions aspect of Islam so that, people, by acting according to Islamic injunctions, will leave happy lives and sanitise the society. He stressed that the *ulama* should preach to the people how Sharia affects every aspect of their livelihood. He enjoined the representatives to talk to various interest groups on this.

Alhaji Ahmad Ndanusa expressed gratitude to the members of the NISACORA.

Malam Abubakar Kawu stressed the need for unity among the *ulama* and the need for them to support the Governor's stride to legislate according to the Law of Allah the Exalted, in Niger State.

Malam Muhammad Madiu called on the *ulama* not to keep their knowledge to themselves, while the rest of the *ummah* should expose their ignorance and try to learn. He also called on the Government to help the *ulama* both financially and morally.

Malam Abdullahi Katcha suggested that the *mu'azins* be called for a course that will enable them discharge their duties properly.

Malam Mambagi expressed his happiness over the visit of the NISACORA to Agaie and then prayed that the Government come to the aid of the *ulama* in any possible way.

Malam Abdullahi Katcha also expressed the need for NISACORA to censor all Qur'anic schools in the State and also assist in running them.

Alhaji Ahmadu Ndanusa at 3:37 p.m. said the closing prayer.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF LAPAI
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
HELD IN LAPAI ON 17TH RABI'UL AWWAL 1421 (19TH JUNE 2000)

Attendance:

Malam Muhammad Ndanusa Abdur-Rahman	-	Representative
Malam Muhammad Bello Jangede	-	Representative
Malam Abubakar Magaji	-	Representative
Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Isa Lapai	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary, NISACORA

The meeting began at about 4.38 p.m. with an opening prayer led by Malam Abu-Sumayyah. The Chairman explained the purpose of the visit, which he said was to explain the intention of Niger State Government to continue in its stride to institute the Sharia in the State. He said NISACORA was in Lapai to concretise this struggle and actualise the Governor's plan. He then craved the indulgence of *ulama* of various Local Government Areas to concentrate on the teaching of the modes of Islamic transactions in the different endeavours of human livelihood so that everyone will know and actually interact with other Muslims and non-Muslims according to the Sharia. He advised the *ulama* to get to the grassroots and intensify the campaign for the institutionalisation of Islamic law in the State. They should do this, he added by mobilising other *ulama*, clearly explaining to them about this development.

In this enlightenment exercise, the Chairman added, the *ulama* should talk to various interest groups such as traders, contractors, etc., pointing out to them their responsibility to Allah and His Messenger – may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him; and the role they can play to ease out the job of Islamising transactions in Niger State.

Alhaji Na'uzo stressed that the representatives should embrace this important call by the Governor. He reminded them that the Prophet (SAW) said that “the world started with righteous people and will end with righteous people” and deduced from this that perhaps the struggle to reinstate the Sharia is a signal that the world is ending and said further, that perhaps Allah wants to include the members amongst righteous people that is why He brought this matter during our time.

Abu-Sumayyah emphasised the need to take up this enlightenment programme diligently and with a sense of decorum. “Preachers must not be involved in committing shameful and sinful acts,” he said.

Malam Musa Isa added that whatever a caller wants to call to, must be based on Allah's injunctions and the teachings of His Messenger (SAW). He also called for unity

amongst the *ulama*. He also informed the representatives that they would be required to submit a report of their enlightenment activities during the State meeting, in Minna.

Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo explained that the invited *ulama* should serve as true representatives of the entire Muslim community of Lapai Local Government Area.

Malam Abubakar Magaji expressed his happiness on behalf of the representatives over NISACORA's missions, pointing out that he felt highly honoured. He pointed out to NISACORA that there is the need for the very strong committee formed by the Emir of Lapai to be informed that NISACORA has selected some *ulama* to be their representatives on the Sharia enlightenment programme, who will help to enlighten other *ulama* on the intention of Government to re-entrench the full Islamic law and how it has set out to accomplish this.

Alhaji Muhammad Ndanusa praised Allah for getting him chosen to be a member of the committee affirming that *da'awah* has finally got a base in Niger State, as from today.

Malam Muhammad Jangebe explained that the *ulama* in Lapai can be categorised into two: a group that insists that it must be obeyed by their students even when they go wrong, and the other who observe the fitness of individuals who come before them, before they allow them to operate.

Alhaji Musa Isa promised to undertake the duty of making things right in Lapai Local Government Area.

Malam Abubakar Kawu stressed the need for unity amongst the *ulama* for its sake and for uniformity of purpose.

The closing prayer was led by Malam Muhammad Jangebe at about 5:37 p.m.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF RAFI
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA,
HELD AT KAGARA ON 20TH RABI'UL-AWWAL 1421 (22TH JUNE 2000)

Attendance:

Alhaji Yahaya Balarabe Abdullahi, the Chief Imam of Kagara	-	Representative
Malam Muhammad Bagobiri	-	Representative
Malam Idris Kakuri	-	Representative
Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Isa Lapai	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary, NISACORA

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer led by Imam Yahaya Balarabe at about 10.35 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting was then explained by the Chairman, stating that the sole reason was the good intention of the State Governor to institute the Sharia law in toto in Niger State. He stated that the main concern of the Governor is to see that people are enlightened on the Islamic law of transactions, and therefore enjoins the *ulama* to emphasise this aspect in their meetings and public enlightenment programmes. He informed further that the Governor wants the five members of NISACORA to go round the entire Local Government Areas of Niger State to mobilise and seek the co-operation of the *ulama* towards accomplishing his desire to serve al-Islam and the Muslims for the progress of all.

The Chairman then requested the representatives to offer their pieces of advice or suggestions after all members of the NISACORA have contributed.

Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo urged the representatives to enlighten various interest groups, such as traders, contractors, butchers, judges and road transport workers on the Islamic regulations governing their occupations. He warned the participants that even though the Governor is fully involved in this matter but neither the invited representatives nor the *du'at* should mention that.

Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah explained the glories associated with the introduction of the Sharia in Niger State in particular and Nigeria at large. He therefore cautioned all about the danger associated with neglecting the duty of enlightening the ignorant about the Sharia.

Alhaji Musa Isa Lapai highlighted the need for the representatives to contact other *ulama* and seek their co-operation and participation in the struggle to enshrine the Sharia in the State's legal system. He advised the representatives to select a chairman and a secretary from amongst themselves. He also informed the representatives [sic], as a report of these will be required when the statewide meeting is called.

Malam Kawu stressed the need for unity amongst Muslims, and the necessity for them to purify their intentions, correct their actions and remain steadfast no matter the type of difficulty or insult they may encounter in the struggle.

The Imam, Malam Balarabe, expressed his happiness over the NISACORA visit, and advised that Niger State should take a leaf from Zamfara State especially in matters concerning transactions and appointment of judges.

Kadi Muhammad Sambo expressed that indeed a general overhauling of courts is already in progress in Niger State. Judges, he added, will be subjected to a special training.

Malam Muhammad Bagobiri, before anything else, demanded to know the names of the members of the NISACORA. The chairman said that it was an oversight not to have introduced the members at the beginning of the meeting, and went ahead to introduce them.

Malam Yahaya Balarabe called the attention of the NISACORA to the financial implication of this struggle, more especially that the intention of the Governor was

required to be propagated State-wide. To this, the Chairman assured that as the struggle continues the Governor will be approached for assistance.

Malam Idris Kakuri suggested that the Niger State Government should purchase scales for weighing what is to be sold by its weight, and “mudus” for measuring what is sold by the measure and distribute them to some concerned individuals on soft loan basis before the people become enlightened enough to buy them themselves. He also advised that the State Government should establish a Ministry for Religious Affairs. He additionally craved the Government’s support for grassroots *da’awah* activities in view of the effort he observes the Christians are putting in propagating their religion in rural areas. The Christians have tactfully left the urban areas and moved to the villages. He also advised that during the State meeting the *ulama* should be told to make use of their occasions, such as *walima*, to chip in something on the Sharia. He also pointed out the need for *ulama* to re-direct their disciples towards unity amongst all Muslims irrespective of the group they belong.

Kadi Sambo hinted on the plan to use the radio and the television by buying some air time for Islamic *da’awah*. This, he said, will be done without mentioning that NISACORA is undertaking it.

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah at about 11.52 p.m.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF GURARA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
HELD ON 24TH RABPUL AWWAL 1421 (26TH JUNE 2000)

Attendance:

Malam Sadiu Rajab	-	Representative
Malam Isa Muhammad	-	Representative
Malam Abdulkadir Garba Gambari	-	Representative
Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na’uzo	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Isa Lapai	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary, NISACORA

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer led by Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na’uzo at about 9.55 a.m.

The Chairman explained the purpose of the meeting as, the Executive Governor requested to get the *ulama* to enlighten Muslims about the transactions aspect of the Sharia which he noticed was not well grasped by them. The Governor informed

members of NISACORA that the Sharia has been enshrined into the judicial system of Niger State, he added.

He also enjoined that the *ulama* should be admonished on aspects such as family relations, the right way to execute contracts and engage in trading etc. These he suggested, should constitute part of the *juma'ah* sermons, points to be stressed in public preaching sessions, teaching periods and dialogues. He therefore enjoined the representatives to invite and talk to various interest groups, such as butchers, traders, contractors, community leaders, etc. on the transactions aspects of the Sharia, pointing out how al-Islam moulds their practices in their various trades. He pointed out that the inclusion of the *ulama* in Gurara Local Government in this programme was on brief of the Governor. The representatives are therefore expected to submit a report of their activities when they are called to the State meeting to be held at Minna.

Sheikh Na'uzo stressed the need for Muslims to unite, drawing the attention of the representatives to the composition of the membership of NISACORA, which he said is made up of various Muslim groups but held under the umbrella of al-Islam. The formation of the NISACORA, he pointed out will check the diabolical plans of Christians against our State Governor and the Muslim *ulama* in general. He urged the representatives to be grateful to Allah for getting this opportunity from the Governor to serve al-Islam and the Muslims.

Malam Abu-Sumayyah reiterated that al-Islam is a complete code of conduct. He stressed that it is the responsibility of the *ulama* to explain the religious duties to the ignorant, while the duty of the Government is to enforce the law and devise punitive measures against defaulters, which the Governor has promised to carry out.

Alhaji Musa Isa Lapai called on the *ulama* to put emphasis on what Allah has decreed and the Messenger explained instead of implicating the Government. He also urged them to work hand-in-hand with other *ulamas* for accomplishing the purpose of this onerous duty.

Malam Sadisu expressed happiness for being a member of the campaign team, but was quick to express his worry on how they were going to contact the various groups easily. To this, the Chairman said there is a good underground plan for the modalities, but said that the NISACORA wants to see the efforts of the representatives before the State meeting in Minna.

Malam Abubakar Garba expressed happiness for the meeting. He was at last happy that the Government has now come out to assist in concretising what is in fact its duty. He said they would do their best to contact the various interest groups.

Malam Isa Muhammad thanked NISACORA members and promised to pursue its call as much as possible.

The Chairman promised that the NISACORA will advise the Governor on the need to meet Local Government Chairmen and encourage them to enact the Sharia.

Malam Gambari called for enforcement of the alcohol sale and consumption law, strict expression and decisive measures on defaulters. The Chairman promised that the

NISACORA would relate with the members of the Liquor Prohibition Law Enforcement and Surveillance Team.

The closing prayer was said at 11.00 a.m. by Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF SULEJA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
HELD ON 24TH RAB'UL AWWAL 1421 (26TH JUNE 2000)

Attendance:

Malam Yusuf Maikanti Yunus	-	Representative
Malam Muhammad Suru	-	Representative
Malam Muhammad Falalu	-	Representative
Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Isa Lapai	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary, NISACORA

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer led by Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo at about 12.30 p.m. The Chairman explained the purpose of the meeting, stating that the Executive Governor has consolidated his stand to implement the Sharia full wide in Niger State. He therefore wants the *ulama* to enlighten the Muslim *ummah* on, particularly, social and economic responsibilities of Muslims. This, he opined, could be achieved by putting emphasis on the transactions aspect of al-Islam at every opportunity available to preach to people. The Chairman enjoined the representatives to work with other *ulama*, especially the imams of *jami* mosques, to enlighten various interest groups, such as butchers, traders, milk sellers, Local Government Chairmen, etc. on the transactions segment of the Sharia. The Chairman also informed that the Governor has promised to reform all the courts of law in the State, and other sectors of the social and economic life of its citizens.

Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo explained that the intention of the Government is to ensure that everybody in the State is aware of the meaning and workings of the Sharia including its inherent powerful potential to bring positive change in public social and economic life. He also informed that a general meeting will be called in Minna where every Local Government will be required to submit a report of its enlightenment mission.

Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah posited that as far as the human being is concerned, there are two ways of living --the good and the bad. The Sharia provides the good way, and that is why the *ulama* insist that the Sharia should be implemented completely. He then said that this will be impossible without three things -- enlightenment of the system to be implemented, enforcement of the law governing the

system, and the interest of the believers to respect the law and retain the system. He therefore implored the representatives to always quote what Allah decreed and explained by His Messenger, rather than implicating the Governor.

Malam Muhammad Suru requested to be allowed to say what he had to say so that he could be allowed to proceed to Jere where he was expected to preach to a group of Muslims who have been waiting for him.

He was allowed. He, among other things, expressed his happiness over this visit and accepted the duty vested on them by the Governor. He also enjoined members of the NISACORA to pray to Allah to reform their lives so that others could be reformed through them.

Alhaji Musa Isa Lapai drew the attention of the representatives to the composition of the members of the NISACORA, enjoining them, in effect, to co-operate, come together as Muslims and not as sects to work for the common good of al-Islam and Muslims. Brotherhood and unity are two powerful tools for healthy living, he opined.

Malam Kawu informed the representatives that they will be required to submit a report of their enlightenment activities, stating therein successes, problems, failures and prospects, at a meeting to be called in Minna *insha* Allah.

Malam Muhammad Falalu expressed his happiness over this visit, and called for unity amongst Muslims and co-operation in their day-to-day activities. He said that as soon as he got the letter from NISACORA, he met his community and they all resolved that their local chapter will embark on the production of a fortnightly magazine aimed at enlightening Muslims; and in fact the maiden issue was produced last week. He pointed out that the stimulus to get the *ulama* enlighten the *ummah* on the Sharia issue should have come from the *ummah* itself and not from the Government.

Malam Sambo explained that the *ummah* is also doing its best to see to the implementation of the Sharia and also called on the representatives to do what is possible for them to do to see an enlightenment team is formed on the Sharia.

Malam Yusuf Maikanti Yunus called on the Governor to, himself, effect changes in his life style in conformity with Islamic injunctions. He suggested that the Governor should be sat, admonished and enlightened about the welfare of Muslims under him. He must imbibe the culture of looking at his people with compassionate eyes. He advised NISACORA to take a leaf from Zamfara State Government, and suggested that members of NISACORA should, with the support of the Governor, visit Zamfara to see and hear things as they are there. He went further to suggest that the NISACORA should be the eyes of the Government, ascertaining to it what conforms to the Sharia and what contradicts it. He also called for the establishment of a Religious Affairs Ministry, or, at least, a Department of Religious Affairs under the Governor's Office. Members of NISACORA, he added should be permanent members of that department or ministry. He also foresees that the next election will be between Muslims and Christians, and therefore called for the need for Muslims to penetrate the nooks and corners of this State enlightening Muslims about this. He also requested that the Governor should put up a vote of charge for the day-to-day running of the NISACORA.

The Chairman on behalf of all members of the NISACORA thanked the representatives for attending the meeting and offering useful suggestions.

The meeting was closed at 1.47 p.m.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF Tafa
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
HELD ON 24TH RAB'UL AWWAL 1421 (26TH JUNE 2000)

Attendance:

Malam Umar S. Sarki Sarkin Ija Gwari	-	Representative
Malam Imam Shafi'i	-	Representative
Malam Idris Adamu	-	Representative
Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Isa Lapai	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary, NISACORA

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer led by Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo at about 3.05 p.m., after which those in attendance introduced themselves on the request of the Chairman.

The Chairman then explained the purpose of the meeting, which he said had to do with the institution of the Sharia in the judicial system of Niger State. He said members of the NISACORA were called by the Governor and charged with the responsibility of mass enlightenment of the people of Niger State especially in the transactions aspect of the Sharia. He urged the representatives to work with other *ulama* in their localities and to include topics on the Sharia in their usual preaching and public address sessions. He enjoined them to invite various interest groups such as butchers, traders, contractors, teachers etc, and talk to them on the Sharia.

The Chairman warned that in the process of enlightening people, the *ulama* must confine themselves to the words of Allah and Muhammad (SAW) guidance. He informed them that they will be required to submit a report of their enlightenment activities at the State's general meeting which will be called in Minna.

Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo emphasised that it is by the grace of Allah that the three representatives were selected to lead the enlightenment job in their Local Government Area. He gave the representatives some hints on how to go about doing this important work, and at the end prayed Allah to make this task exclusively for gaining His favour.

Malam Abu-Bakr Abu Sumayyah stated that the formation of the NISACORA is a sign of success in the drive to implement the full Sharia in Niger State. He then urged

the representatives to do all they can towards accomplishing the wish of the Governor and the Committee members.

Malam Musa Isa Lapai noticed that Tafa Local Government Area has a large Christian population and therefore enjoined the representatives to do all they can to unite the various Muslim groups so that they can, collectively, face the great task ahead of them. He urged them to use the knowledge they have of their environment to pursue the enlightenment job.

Malam Umar S. Sarki, Sarki Ija Gwari, informed NISACORA members about their meeting with the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) and pointed out that he briefed the SSG about the worries of Gwari Muslims over the Sharia; and said that they promised the SSG that they will revive their various preaching groups in a meeting to be held on Thursday with all Gwari leaders. He pointed out that he will introduce the transactions aspect of the Sharia in the meeting, and the need for *da'awab* in Gwariland.

The Chairman welcomed the idea and suggested that emphasis should be placed on the Sharia at all preaching sessions.

Malam Idris Adamu pointed out that they, in Tafa, are holding fast to Allah's injunction "And hold fast all together to the rope of Allah, and do not be divided," adding that their Muslim *ummah* is cooperating in this regard. He therefore prayed to Allah for success.

Malam Muhammad Sambo emphasized that all groups, Jama'atu Nasril Islam, Fityanul Islam and the Izalat al-Bid'a wa Iqamat as-Sunnah should be incorporated in this *da'awab* mission.

Malam Ndaliman explained that when he saw his appointment letter, he thought that what the letter was calling for was a repetition of what is already happening in Tafa, because according to him already a preaching exchange programme between the Tariqah and the Izala *ulama* has started in the Local Government.

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Malam Idris Adamu at 4.03 p.m.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF WUSHISHI, GBAKO AND
MASHEGU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS
HELD ON 27TH RABI'UL AWWAL 1421 (29TH JUNE 2000)

Attendance:

A. GBAKO:

Malam Ahmadu Saganuwa	-	Representative
Alhaji Muhammad Lawal Kashi	-	Representative
Alhaji Muhammad Liman Gbangba	-	Representative

B. MASHEGU

Malam Ahmad Isa Doko	-	Representative
Malam Muhammad Sani Abubakar Mashegu	-	Representative

C. WUSHISHI

Malam Dauda Alhaji Ibrahim	-	Representative
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D. NISACORA

Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Isa Lapai	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary, NISACORA

The meeting started with a prayer offered by Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo at about 12.00 noon.

The Chairman, Kadi Muhammad Sambo, explained the purpose of the meeting which he said was as a result of the Governor's appointment of the five-member committee and summoning it to map out strategies for the enlightenment of the *ummah* on the interactions and transactions aspects of the Sharia which he observed many people do not know much about. The Chairman said that there are many injustices perpetrated by various interest groups in their transactions. These groups include traders, workers, leaders, scholars etc. The Governor therefore charged the NISACORA to invite *ulama* from various Local Governments in the State, so that groups of enlightenment teams could be formed to educate people about the *mu'amalat* segment of the Sharia. The Chairman enjoined the representatives to use all available fora; Friday sermons, occasional preachings, and teaching sessions to propagate the Sharia. He also urged them to organise special preaching for the various interest groups. In doing their duty, however, the representatives should not say "the Governor said we should do...." But instead state only what Allah and His Messenger said about the Sharia.

Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo encouraged the representatives to go back to their respective destinations and choose well-respected *ulama* and incorporate them in this important duty. He warned them not to hide the knowledge Allah has given to them, but instead come out courageously and preach what they know. He also called for mutual love among Muslims.

Sheikh Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah explained that the life of each Muslim should be in accordance with al-Islam, and that Muslim scholars should express gratitude to Allah for giving them a Governor who wants to institute the Sharia and who is also interested in the plight of the protagonists of the Sharia. He added that Muslims should understand that Allah has blessed them with the Sharia through politics. He enjoined the representatives to always make reference to Allah and His Prophet (SAW) while they preach.

Alhaji Musa Isa Lapai contended that the representatives should thank Allah for choosing them as members of the body to represent their various Local Government Areas in the onerous task. He therefore called on the representatives to go back home and enlighten their people. He said that each representative is supposed to give a report

of his successes and problems while he was engaged in the enlightenment work. He called them to be upright and discourage disunity among them.

Malam Abubakar Kawu admonished the representatives to obey their leaders and people vested with responsibility over them in what they hate or agree upon so as to ensure unity and solidarity.

Kadi Muhammad Sambo re-emphasised the need for unity and fraternity among Muslims.

Malam Ahmad Isa Adoko asked NISACORA members to introduce themselves. This was done. He then showed his worry over the financial problems that may be faced in discharging this duty, and requested that NISACORA should assist financially. He then emphasised the need for the *ulama* to re-mould their characters.

Malam Dauda promised that Wushishi *ulama* would do their best to enlighten the public.

Malam Muhammad Sambo declared that there is the need for much enlightenment among the *ulama*.

The closing prayer, at about 1.28 p.m., led by Sheikh Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah, signalled the end of the meeting.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF BOSSO AND PAIKORO
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS
HELD ON 2ND RABPUL AKHAQ 1421 (3RD JULY 2000)

Attendance:

Sheikh Isa Tijani Peta of Peta Village	-	Representative
Sheikh Lawal Hikima, Minna	-	Representative
Sheikh Ibrahim Hussam A., Imam Dutsen-Kura Gwari, Minna	-	Representative
Malam Umar Abdullahi Dada Paiko	-	Representative
Alhaji Muhammad Badamasi Paiko	-	Representative
Alhaji Muhammad Hassan Lukpan	-	Representative
Malam Abubakar Siddiq Chanchaga	-	Representative
Alhaji Yusufu Feleme	-	Representative
Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Musa Isa Lapai	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary, NISACORA

The meeting was started with a prayer led by Sheikh Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah at about 12.00 noon.

The purpose of the meeting was told by the Chairman Kadi Muhammad Sambo, which was the institution of the Sharia in the State's judicial system. The purpose of the Governor's charge on the five-member committee was explained. The Governor wants the Committee to get to all the Local Government Areas to inform, and involve other *ulama* and canvassing their co-operation to get the meaning of the Sharia understood in all its ramifications: matters concerning worship, interactions and transactions. The Chairman said that the Governor wants more emphasis to be placed on the transactions facet of the Sharia, being the part that is ill-understood; and to inform the populace that he has lifted the suspension order he announced on the Sharia in Niger State.

The Chairman then stated that it is the duty of the representatives to implant the covered Islamic moral conduct into the hearts of Muslims of various shades of occupations. The *ulama* should, he said, talk to those various groups through their leaders about their religious responsibilities as Muslims. He also informed the representatives that they were selected on merit by a collective decision of the NISACORA members – a committee made up of Muslims drawn from different Islamic religious groups in the State.

Sheikh Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah explained that members of NISACORA were contacted singly by the Governor; none of them knew the other; until they were collectively invited by the Governor for the inaugural meeting. It was then that they were told that their Committee was to be called Niger State Advisory Committee on Religious Affairs (NISACORA). The Sheikh went further to state that Allah the Exalted has glorified the Muslim community with two responsibilities: calling to what is good and forbidding evil. He therefore called upon the representatives to be upright in discharging their responsibilities.

Alhaji Musa Isa Lapai emphasised the significance of unity amongst the representatives. He craved their indulgence to work with wisdom Allah has bestowed on them to make sure that the assignment assigned to NISACORA by the Governor is carried to the grassroots through the involvement and co-operation of other malams each of whom is aware of the peculiarities of his society.

Malam Kawu drew the attention of the representatives to the antagonistic drives of Christians and ill-informed Muslims against the Sharia, and tasked the representatives to measure up to expectations in responding to this call by the Governor.

Malam Lawal Hikima expressed gratitude to Allah for making the meeting possible. He observed that the Government has a greater role to play in the implementation process, pointing out that various injustices are being perpetrated in the Minna central market and the menace of the black-market and kabu-kabu boys.

The Chairman, Kadi Sambo responded by assuring the representatives that whatever is discussed in the meeting will be conveyed to the Governor for appropriate action.

Malam Husam suggested that NISACORA should extend its invitation to other important *ulamas* and imams so that they could be intimated first-hand, instead of getting this information from secondary sources. He also requested that a blueprint be produced

by NISACORA for Islamic organisations, so that the march towards the implementation of full Sharia will be eased. He called on NISACORA to evolve strategies and assist in the dissemination of al-Islam on rural areas seeing that Christians have penetrated the hinterlands and are now working arduously towards stripping Muslims of their faith. He then promised to give the CIO papers to members of NISACORA.

Malam Umar Paiko saw the need for imams to adjust their mode of delivering sermons, so that they now make some pronouncements indicating that Government has ordered imams to include the Sharia issue in their sermons, for easy acceptance by people and implementation by Government. But the Chairman responded that although Government was fully behind the campaign, preachers should not mention this to their audience.

Malam Muhammad Badamasi requested that a letter should be issued to strengthen their stride. He also requested for Government's support to Islamiyyah and Qur'anic schools.

Malam Sadiq Yahaya requested the representatives not to abuse or insult non-Muslims in their enlightenment process, but instead intensify efforts in the propagation of the religion, devoid of all sentiments.

Malam Muhammad Hassan Lukpan requested for financial backing over this issue.

Kadi Sambo informed the meeting that NISACORA will request and commit government to sponsor radio and television programmes aimed at the smooth implementation of the Sharia where topics such as trade in al-Islam, interactions among Muslims, interactions between Muslims and non-Muslims, etc. will be treated.

Malam Isa Tijani expressed gratitude for having been chosen as one of the representatives working towards the implementation of the Sharia. He pointed that this work needs a good and workable plan on the enlightenment process. He pointed out that NISACORA has made the right choice of representatives and therefore suggested that the membership should be retained.

Malam Lawal Hikima stressed that all activities engaged in by NISACORA must be done on the platform of al-Islam, and not under the banner of any other association.

Malam Umar Paiko re-emphasised the need for co-operation between the representatives, and enjoined them to stick to what is common between them concerning the Islamic faith, and not what is peculiar to the groups.

Alhaji Yusuf Fulani showed that the meeting has to him signaled the success of the Sharia implementation by Christians to dissuade ignorant Muslims from the Sharia, by pointing out to them that al-Islam was spread by the sword. Establishing Islamic nursery and primary schools, he said was one of the ways of countering the falsehood sprayed by Christians against al-Islam.

Kadi Muhammad Sambo expressed gratitude to the representatives, and also reminded them of a general meeting, which will be called in Minna on a date to be fixed later.

The meeting was terminated at about 2.10 p.m. with a prayer led by Malam Muhammad Hassan Lukpan.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF BORGU AND AGWARA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS
HELD AT EMIR'S PALACE NEW-BUSSA ON 5TH RABI'UL AKHAQ 1421 (6TH
JULY 2000)

Attendance:

Alhaji Aliyu Jega	-	Representative
Sheikh Saiqullahi Abubakar	-	Representative
Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Isa Lapai	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary, NISACORA

The opening prayer was said by Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo at about 6.06 p.m.

The Chairman, Malam Muhammad Sambo, tendered an apology to the representatives, on behalf of NISACORA, for their inability to arrive on time. He also requested the representatives in attendance to communicate issues discussed in the meeting to the Agwara representatives who could not wait for Committee's arrival.

He (the Chairman) explained that the meeting was aimed at intimating the representatives with the message of the Governor of Niger State over his willingness to implement the full Sharia legal system in the State. He went on to mention that the Governor is ready to implement the Sharia but he wants the Muslim *ummah* in the State to be enlightened on, especially, the Islamic laws of contracts and transactions. He said that it is the wish of the Governor that people in all Local Governments of the State to be enlightened, and that is what precipitated the move to select representatives in the various Local Government Areas through whom NISACORA will work to deliver the Governor's message to the grassroots. He said also that representatives from Borgu and Agwara were selected through consultations. He therefore urged the representatives to utilise this rare opportunity to enlighten Muslims over their religious obligations on a day-to-day basis. The affiliation the *ulama* have for their different groups or philosophies notwithstanding, they should all variously and collectively work towards awakening Muslims to see that the Sharia is understood and longed to be implemented.

Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo confirmed the Chairman's opening speech, and added that the representatives should express gratitude to Allah for raising a person in our State who has declared his intention to give us back what we have long missed and now cherish and hope to retrieve – that is the Sharia. He said that NISACORA has come only

to remind the representatives of their religious responsibilities, and will be waiting for a written document of their enlightenment exercise, to be submitted in Minna when the State-wide meeting is summoned. This report is expected to include successes, failures, problems and prospects.

Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah explained that it will be a big success on the part of the representatives if anybody gets remoulded or guided through them; and therefore encouraged them to seek for Allah's reward through this means. He reminded them of the trust reposed on them by the Governor in the Sharia issue.

Malam Kawu reminded the representatives of the importance of unity among Muslims and advised that whatever they deliver to people should be hinged on what Allah and His prophet said on the Sharia, and not try to link it to the Governor.

Alhaji Ali Jega expressed gratitude to Allah for the members of NISACORA, explaining that they have long been hoping that the Sharia be established, and by the grace of Allah, their wishes are being met today. He expected that the people of Borgu Emirate are well known for performing *da'awah* exercise, but pointed out they have the problem of travelling to villages.

Malam Saifullahi told the meeting that alcohol is no longer sold anywhere in Borgu and that incidences of theft have reduced drastically. He then requested NISACORA to seek the Governor's help to buy them vehicles for *da'awah* activities. He finally thanked members of the NISACORA.

The meeting was closed with a prayer said by Sheikh Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah, at about 6.49 p.m.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

MINUTES OF NISACORA MEETING
WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULAMA OF MOKWA
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA
HELD AT THE CHIEF IMAM'S RESIDENCE, MOKWA ON 6TH RAB'UL
AKHAQ 1421 (7TH JULY 2000)

Attendance:

Alhaji Aliyu (Chief Imam Mokwa)	-	Representative
Malam Muhammad Naibi (Naibi Imam)	-	Representative
Muhammad Sani Alh. Isa	-	Representative
Alhaji Danmusa	-	Representative
Alhaji Mohammed Liman Nnasunna	-	Representative
Kadi Muhammad Sambo	-	Chairman, NISACORA
Alhaji Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah	-	Member, NISACORA
Alhaji Isa Lapai	-	Member, NISACORA
Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan	-	Secretary, NISACORA

The meeting started with an opening prayer led by Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo at about 8.58 a.m.

The Chairman, Malam Muhammad Sambo, explained the purpose of the meeting which he attributed to the Governor's intention to concretise the move to institute Sharia in Niger State. He pointed out that the Governor observed that the beliefs and worship aspects of the Sharia are known and practised by the *ummah* but their grasp on the interactions and transactions segments is very poor. The Governor, therefore, wants members of NISACORA to work through Local Government representatives to mount enlightenment activities aimed at, specifically, educating Muslims about the interactions and transactions aspects of the Sharia. The Chairman therefore urged the representatives to recruit other *ulama* to help in achieving this objective right back to the grassroots level. He enjoined that all preaching and sermons should be focussed on Allah's decree and teachings of His Messenger – may the peace and blessing of Allah be upon him; with the sole aim of remoulding the general character of the community

Sheikh Abdul-Qadir Na'uzo observed that the Governor has indeed reminded the *ulama* their responsibilities in spite of the fact that he has a strong and long-standing affiliation with Western education and orientation. He therefore urged the representatives to rise up to this onerous task, which is to get out of Mokwa township and go into villages and hamlets, and enlighten people over this important message. He prayed for the success of this operation.

Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah observed that the life of every Muslim should be Islamic. He also said that the Government has come to help al-Islam and the Muslim in Niger state.

Malam Kawu explained to the representatives that they are required to submit a progress report of activities they embark upon after this meeting. He also stressed the need for unity among them for progressive future.

Malam Sambo hinted about some changes currently being effected in the State's judiciary service and promised to offer an explanation at the State's meetings in Minna.

Malam Kawu also told the representatives that similar reforms are also planned for the schools system pointing out that the Governor has to introduce Arabic at both primary and secondary school levels by September this year as a core subject to the Muslims.

Alhaji Muhammad Liman Nnasunna expressed gratitude to Allah for this development and commended NISACORA members.

Kadi Sambo explained the importance of unity among them and the danger of creating divisions among the *ulama*, and warned them not to be divided.

The Chief Imam Alhaji Aliyu led the closing prayer at about 10.00 a.m.

KADI MUHAMMAD SAMBO
Chairman

MALAM ABUBAKAR KAWU HASSAN
Secretary

II.

**REPORT ON NISACORA'S VISIT TO ZAMFARA STATE
ON 31ST JULY 2000**

Preamble:

In the name of Allah, the Gracious and the Merciful. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. May Allah's bountiful peace be upon Prophet Muhammad (SAW), his household, his companions and all that follow his foot-prints up to the day of judgment.

The five NISACORA members witnessed a safe journey throughout their assignment. *Alhamdu lillab*. The members arrived Gusau which is the headquarters of Zamfara State on Monday 31st of July 2000. The members were received by the Director Personnel of the Secretary to the Zamfara State Government's Office in the absence of the SSG. The members later saw the SSG and presented an introductory letter to him from the Niger State Office of the Secretary to the State Government. The members were led to various ministries and departments in Zamfara State by the Deputy Director General Services of the SSG's Office, Malam Sahabi Sani Kagara. Members paid visits to Zamfara State Ministry of Justice, Zamfara State Ministry of Religious Affairs, Sharia Court of Appeal and Zamfara State Anti-corruption Commission. Members also took time to go round Gusau town to see how Sharia is being practised. It is based on this tour that an eyewitness account is being compiled.

1. NISACORA in Zamfara State Ministry of Justice

The NISACORA members visited Zamfara State Ministry of Justice and met with the State Attorney-General and Commissioner of Justice, Alhaji Ahmed Bello Mahmud. He received the members in an Islamic manner and explained to the members the way Sharia is being practised in Zamfara State, taking into consideration the Nigerian Constitution. He emphasised the importance of enabling law, which according to him, should be the first to be drafted and should be in accordance with Islam. He explained that the enabling law gives chance for a State to amend, repeal and change laws to suit the aspirations of Muslims (i.e. Sharia). He posited that at the time of the introduction of Sharia in Zamfara State, all criminal jurisdictions were introduced along with it except apostasy (*riddab*) and punishment of sodomy. He explained that punishment for sodomy (*li'wat*) was reduced to punishment for *zina* in the new law (see pages 14 and 15 of Sharia Penal Code Law of Zamfara State). The Attorney-General explained that judges are warned not to exceed forty (40) lashes while giving a discretionary punishment for offences whose punishment is not specified (*ta'azir*).

- I. **Sharia Court of Appeal:** The Attorney-General, Alhaji Ahmed Bello Mahmud related to NISACORA members that all Sharia Courts in Zamfara State are now under the supervision and control of the Grand Kadi. He explained that this was brought about because of the developments after the introduction of the Sharia Law, which necessitated this change. He emphasised that the Nigerian Constitution did not object to this. He explained also that a law was enacted to repeal Area Courts Establishment Law in favour of Sharia Courts Establishment Law. The Law

also gives mandate to the State Government to implement Sharia. He also contended that the Sharia Court of Appeal is given criminal jurisdiction.

- II. **Introduction of new laws and commission:** The Attorney-General and Commissioner of Justice explained that new laws are being introduced apart from the already existing common Sharia laws. Laws such as Zakat and Endowment law and Marriage Expenses Law are introduced. He said that a tribunal to compel whoever refuses to pay *zakat* to give what is due for onward distribution to the less-privileged, is set up. He also explained that Marriage Expenses Law checks the excesses during marriage ceremonies. The Attorney-General also informed the members about the creation of Anti-Corruption Commission which investigates the problems of mistrust and recommends to the appropriate ministry or department or court the appropriate action to be taken by the authority.
- III. **Working with the Aid Group Members:** The Attorney-General explained that the Aid Groups members have proved their worth since the introduction of Sharia law in the State. According to him, they have contributed a lot in preventing crime in the State. He therefore explained that some of them will be trained on methods of prosecution. After the training, according to him, they will be permitted by his office to prosecute.
- IV. **Social reforms:** The Attorney-General explained that as part of Zamfara State Government's effort to sensitise people to Sharia changes and to promote its establishment, many social changes are introduced. Uniform scales, and standard measures are introduced. Muslim scholars, imams, deputy imams and preachers are placed on the salary roll of the State. Islamic scholars are united under one umbrella by the government. Friday sermons are co-ordinated and reflect the happenings in the society. Both *al-majirai* and prostitutes are rehabilitated. Ministry of Religious Affairs and Anti-Corruption Commission are established. Various committees, boards and councils are established. He said that Ministry of Religious Affairs distributes *hijab* to less privileged women especially the Fulani women free of charge. He contended that the government also gives interest-free loan to its workers and pays dowry and marriage materials to the less privileged especially the rehabilitated prostitute who wants to marry. He observed that since the introduction of Sharia law in Zamfara State there has been a high rate of conversion from Christianity to Islam. He also explained that there is drastic reduction on litigation in courts since Sharia law is being implemented. He pointed out that Local Government Councils are empowered to enact bye-laws to prevent Muslim women from riding on commercial motorcycles (*kabu-kabu*) with men who are not their blood relations. He however explained to the members that the Local Government executives were advised to introduce mild punishments in this respect. He explained that already Gusau Local Government Area has introduced its bye-laws on commercial motorcyclists, which takes effect on 1st August 2000.
- V. **Zamfara State contractors:** The contractors who enjoy Zamfara State Government contracts according to the Attorney-General are encouraged to come to the aid of the citizens through introducing transport system in the State. The contractors purchase commercial buses to tour every Local Government Area of the State including the State capital.

- VI. **Christians in Zamfara State:** The Attorney-General informed the members of NISACORA that Christians are living peacefully in Zamfara State. He explained that the government has no problem with the Christians in the State. He emphasised that it is only the Christians outside Zamfara State that formulate lies against the State and Sharia.
- VII. **Need for Uniform Law:** The Attorney-General expressed the need for uniform Sharia Law in the States that adopted it. He explained that already plans are underway to call for a meeting of Attorneys-General of Sharia States together with their Councils of Ulama to get a uniform Sharia Law for the States. The Attorney-General gave the members copies of Zamfara State Sharia Penal Code Law, the enabling law and other relevant documents.

2. NISACORA in Zamfara State Ministry for Religious Affairs

NISACORA members visited Zamfara State Ministry for Religious Affairs. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Malam Muhammad Tukur Jangebe, received the members. The Ministry has a Commissioner and a Permanent Secretary. It has six departments. These departments are Religious Department, Da'awah Department, Sharia Department, Finance Department, Department of Administration and Planning, and Research and Statistics Department. According to Malam Tukur, a director heads each department. He also explained that there are deputy directors and assistant directors in each department with supporting staff.

- I. **Religious Department:** This department takes care of anything or any matter concerning religion. According to the Permanent Secretary, the department treats cases of revert to Islam, marriage contracts, illness, mental problems etc.
- II. **Da'awah Department:** Da'awah Department organises public enlightenment, seminars and workshops for the Muslim scholars such as imams and malams. Some are organised for the general public. The Ministry employed two hundred (200) Muslim scholars for the department and these scholars are posted to the fourteen Local Government Areas of the State. Among the scholars employed, there are volunteers and there are those who receive five thousand naira monthly as their salary. The department therefore spends one million naira (₦1,000,000) to pay its field workers every month. Malam Tukur also explained that various Islamic organisations in the State are invited from time to time to attend seminars and workshops. He also contended that the department also polices the affairs of the *ulama*. It is based on this that any Muslim preacher who misinterprets the Holy Qur'an or the Hadith of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is invited for interrogation and appropriate correction by the department. He pointed out that there is absolute peace and unity among the *ulama* in Zamfara State and among the various religious groups in the State. He said that the department recorded a huge success when it held a joint national inter-religious preaching session whereby all the commissioners, emirs and district heads attended.
- III. **Sharia Department:** The Sharia Department according to Malam Tukur listens to the reports of the public against corrupt practices of the judges. The department investigates such cases and reports to the Ministry for onward transmission to the Grand Kadi. They also look into issues that affect Sharia.

- IV. **Finance Department:** According to Malam Tukur Jangebe, the Finance Department deals with any case that is capital oriented and affects finance such as extending assistance to individuals and organizations. All the Ministry's financial matters are being handled by this department.
- V. **Department of Administration:** This department deals with any administrative matter, according to Jangebe. He said that Ministry of Religious Affairs meets every month to give progress reports and to find solutions to the problem areas.
- VI. **Planning, Research and Statistics Department:** The department collects, collates and analyses data and statistics on the number of Islamiyyah schools and Qur'anic schools in the State. The department also supports publications, and songs composed in favour of Sharia through giving financial assistance after scrutiny. It also organises a fact-finding tour to various Local Government Areas in the State.

The Permanent Secretary, Malam Tukur Jangebe, also explained that several committees are created under the supervision of the Ministry for Religious Affairs. These committees include Sharia Implementation Committee headed by His Excellency, the Zamfara State Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Sani Yariman Bakura; State Ulama Consultative Committee, a twenty-two member committee headed by Malam Muhammad Isah Talata Mafara; Joint Aid Monitoring Committee comprising all the Aid Groups in the State such as JNI, Fityanul Islam, Izalatul Bid'a Aid Groups; Committee of Elders headed by Malam Yahaya Gusau; and Committee for the Improvement of Jum'at Mosques. He also pointed out that in Zamfara State, the Islamic youths organisations such as Muslim Students Society, Muslim Corpers Association, Muslim Sisters Forum, etc., are joined together to form a joint youth organisation. They complement government's effort on public enlightenment. He also pointed out that the doors to see His Excellency are wide open all the time to him and his commissioners. He stated that the Ministry, in a bid to institute Sharia in Nigeria, supports any state that wants to implement Sharia through hiring vehicles and mobilising the public to travel to such states to support their move.

The Permanent Secretary informed the members about two parastatals under the Ministry of Religious Affairs: The Zakat and Endowment Board, which has four directors and a part-time chairman and part-time members, and the Islamic Religious Preaching Board which has twenty-one members. The Religious Preaching Board examines the suitability of a preacher. The Islamic Religious Committee at the Local Government level recommends the suitability of establishing a Jum'at Mosque and the Ministry looks into the recommendation. He stated that the Ministry assists from time to time the Quranic schools with grains for the feeding of pupils.

The Permanent Secretary also suggested ways that could lead to the success of Sharia in Niger State based on their experience. These ways include intensive *du'a* (prayers) which should involve sending *ulama* to the sacred lands of Makka and Madina to pray for the success of Sharia, establishment of inter-religious committee comprising both Muslims and Christians for the cross-fertilisation of ideas, and encouraging imams to present Friday *khutbah* in a modest manner. He also advised that the *ulama* should be encouraged to fear Allah, work with purity of mind and not be greedy.

He also suggested that Muslim writers should be encouraged to write and those who are Muslims among the SSS and police should be assisted to support Government move

on Sharia. He explained that Government should hold consultations with Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and assistance be extended to them where necessary. Those who support Sharia implementation among them should be closely monitored and encouraged in that vein. He stressed that there should be radio and television programmes by renowned Muslim scholars in support of Sharia and explaining Sharia to the Nigerlites [sic].

While speaking to NISACORA members on what will be the position of the Niger State Chief Executive, he stressed that he should support Sharia whole-heartedly and commit much of the finance to it. He said that His Excellency should allow NISACORA members to see him at anytime and without any delay when the need arises. He stated that His Excellency should compel his commissioners to support Sharia movement. The Permanent Secretary contended that since the issue of Sharia implementation is capital intensive, His Excellency should be ever ready to give financial assistance whenever the need arises. He also emphasised that the government should seek Nigeria Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) members' co-operation through giving them vehicle loans.

When asked about the relationship of his Ministry with the Pilgrims Welfare Board, he said that the Ministry liaises with the Pilgrims Welfare Board to give pertinent advice. He also stressed that members of Zakat Board should comprise the keen Muslims who are rich.

He also advised that the Ministry refers women with problems to Women Commission.

3. NISACORA in Zamfara State Anti-Corruption Commission

The NISACORA members visited Zamfara State Anti-Corruption Commission where the Commission's Chairman, Malam Aliyu Muhammad Sani Jangebe, received them. The Chairman contended that there are fifteen (15) members in the Commission who work for the meantime without supporting staff. He explained that the idea to established Anti-Corruption Commission was mooted to his Excellency, the Executive Governor of Zamfara State, before the Federal Government sets in motion his anti-corruption bill to the National Assembly. Malam Aliyu stated that the Commission members were chosen taking into consideration their previous experience of proven honesty and loyalty in the civil service and their contribution towards the establishment of Sharia. He stressed that the Chief Executive of Zamfara State together with State officials from grade level 10 and above including the permanent secretaries and commissioners were compelled by the Commission to declare their assets. He emphasised that the Commission investigates cases of corrupt practices by the civil servants, judges and community leaders and recommends appropriate action. According to him, judges are invited by the Commission through the judiciary for interrogation over allegations labelled against them. He contended that since the Commission's main task is to fight against corruption, it embarks upon table payments to the Zamfara State civil servants in order to discover ghost workers. He stated that the Commission resolves conflicts between two parties especially between Fulani cattle rearers and the peasant farmers. According to him, the Commission also distributes grains and food materials when the need arises. He said that the Commission at its inception had minor problems with corrupt politicians, judges and

leaders. He said that the State members of the House of Assembly signed the edict establishing the Commission into law after four months of hot debate.

Malam Aliyu Jangebe stressed that the Commission is directly under the office of the Governor, and it is answerable to the Governor. The Chairman commended the effort of His Excellency the Governor of Zamfara State for his support to the Commission and for choosing influential and non-corrupt individuals as members of the Committee. The Chairman posited that His Excellency is always ready to support any move in favour of Sharia.

The Chairman of the Commission advised NISACORA to intensify efforts to enlighten the general public whenever the Niger State Government intends to establish a similar commission. He also urged the members to encourage the Niger State Governor to enact an edict establishing such commission and to make sure that such edict is signed into law. He advised that such edict should give adequate power to the commission to monitor, investigate and sue cases involving a wide range of corrupt action such as contract awards and execution, employment of workers and salary payments, use or misuse of public properties, assets declaration and auditing of government spending, checking corrupt practices such as giving and taking of bribery, nepotism, favouritism, instilling the virtues of discipline and respect for law and leadership, listening to public complaints etc.

All the officers visited in Zamfara State promised to make available relevant documents to NISACORA apart from the ones given. The Chairman of NISACORA Kadi Muhammad Sambo thanked them on behalf of the Niger State Government. He promised to send the NISACORA Secretary Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan back to Zamfara State capital to get the promised documents when they are made available.

The atmosphere in Gusau, the Zamfara State capital was calm and favourable. People go about their normal business without any molestation. Both Muslims and Christians live together peacefully with high degree of decorum. The hospitality of the people living in the Sharia State cannot be over emphasised. They have high regards to strangers and they are very ready to assist them whenever the need arises. Their commercial activities are associated with high degree of prudence and honesty.

Kadi Muhammad Sambo
Chairman

Sheikh Abdulkadir Na Uzo
Member

Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah
Member

Alhaji Musa Isah Lapai
Member

Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan
Secretary

III.

**NISACORA RESOLUTIONS ON ITS TOUR TO ZAMFARA STATE
ON 31ST JULY TO 2ND AUGUST 2000**

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful, may peace and benediction be upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The Niger State Advisory Council on Religious Affairs was mandated to take a fact-finding tour to Zamfara State by the Government of Niger State. The Committee toured some Ministries in Zamfara State and observed how Sharia law is being practised. It is based on this tour, NISACORA members resolved as follows:

1. The Government of Niger State under the able leadership of His Excellency, Engr. Abdulkadir A. Kure, should take NISACORA's report on its tour to Zamfara State with absolute seriousness by studying it and implementing the report in toto.
2. The Ministry of Justice should put more effort with regard to Sharia reforms.
3. NISACORA hereby advises His Excellency to immediately put all machinery in motion for the continuation of Sharia legal system in the State.
4. All Sharia law reforms should only apply to Muslims and to non-Muslims who consented.
5. Zamfara State Sharia law reforms should be adopted for Niger State Area Courts, while Northern Nigeria Penal Code should be left for Magistrate Courts.
6. All Area Courts should come under the supervision and control of the Sharia Court of Appeal and the Grand Kadi.
7. The Sharia Court of Appeal should be given criminal jurisdiction to hear criminal appeal cases from the lower courts.
8. NISACORA noted with great concern the corrupt practices of some of the judges in Niger State. It therefore opined and advised that all the Sharia court judges proposed to be appointed should be learned and pious.
9. All traditional rulers in Niger State should be informed and intimated about Sharia reforms in Niger state by NISACORA through the Commissioner and Permanent Secretary of Niger State Ministry for Local Government.
10. NISACORA viewed with great concern that the Sharia reform is capital intensive. It therefore urged His Excellency to commit much resources to this important drive that will *insha* Allah sanitize the State.
11. The Committee observed the significance of Anti-Corruption Squad to deal with corrupt practices. It is in recognition of this that it advises the Niger State Government to establish with immediate effect Anti-Corruption Commission.
12. The Committee hereby hopes that the Niger State government should fully implement this resolution.

Kadi Muhammad Sambo
Chairman

Sheikh Abdulkadir Na Uzo
Member

NIGER STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL: VISITS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND TO ZAMFARA STATE

Malam Abubakar Abu-Sumayyah
Member

Alhaji Musa Isah Lapai
Member

Malam Abubakar Kawu Hassan
Secretary