MUSLIM UNITY & THE QUEST FOR NATIONAL INTEGRATION IN NIGERIA

ARE MUSLIMS FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE NIGERIAN NATION-STATE?
EARLY ADVENT OF ISLAM

• Kanem Borno
• Muhammad Ibn Mani
• Humi Jilmi
• 1085
LATE ARRIVAL OF CHRISTIANITY

• Rev. Henry Townsend
• Agacia Tree, Badagry
• 1842
THE GAP

800 YEARS!
THE EFFECT

SHARI‘AH REPLACED WITH COMMON LAW

• FRIDAY CHANGED TO SUNDAY

• ISLAMIC EDUCATION CHANGED TO WESTERN EDUCATION

• MUSLIMS FORCEFULLY CONVERTED
POST-INDEPENDENCE NIGERIA

• THE OIC IMBROGLIO

• OPPOSITION AGAINST SHARIAH (1999)

• OUTCRY AGAINST ISLAMIC BANKING

• THE SUKUK SAGA
NIGERIA’S HOLIDAYS (8)

• Christians ...5
• Muslims ...3
CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS (5)

• Christmas Day
• Boxing Day
• New Year Day
• Good Friday
• Easter Monday
MUSLIM HOLIDAYS (3)

• ‘Id al-Kabir
• 'Id al-Fitr
• Maulud an-Nabiyy
MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

• CHURCH CERTIFICATES ............... ACCEPTED

• XTIAN REGISTRY CERTIFICATES ....ACCEPTED

• MOSQUE CERTIFICATES ............... REJECTED
THE FRIDAY QUESTION

• CHRISTIANS ENJOY WORK-FREE SUNDAY
• MUSLIMS MUST GO TO WORK ON FRIDAY
• CHRISTIANS ATTEND CHURCH WITH THEIR FAMILIES
• MUSLIM FAMILIES ARE SEPARATED ON FRIDAY
• CHRISTIANS STROL IN & OUT OF CHURCH ON SUNDAY
• MUSLIMS RUSH IN & OUT OF MOSQUES ON FRIDAY
WORKERS’ CHALLENGES

• Official engagements for Muslim workers on Fridays, e.g. meetings, seminars, workshops

• Some employers or heads disallow Muslim workers from attending Jum’ah

• Distance between workplace and mosque
STUDENTS’ CHALLENGES

- Exams, tests, assignments during Jum’ah period (12 – 3 pm)

- Officially recognized free hour on Friday (1-2 pm) too short

- Distance between school and mosque
THE HIJAB AFFAIR (DOCUMENTS)

• Hijab for international passports
• Driving licences
• National Identity cards
• Registration of voters
THE HIJAB AFFAIR (UNIFORMS)

• Hijab on school uniforms
• The Army
• The police
• Para-military formations
• Nurses
THE IDEAL JUDICIARY

• Christians ... Common Law courts
• Muslims ... Shari‘ah Court
• Traditionalists ... Customary Court
STUMBLING BLOCKS

• Controversy on work-free Friday
• Debate on Maulud Nabiyy
• Disagreement over hijab
SCRIPTURAL INTERVENTION

• Qur’an 49:10
  انما المومنون اخوة
• Qur’an 3:102-105
  و اعتصموا بحبل الله جميعا
• Qur’an 21:92
  ان هده امتكم امة واحدة
HADITH ON UNITY

- The Muslims for the Muslims, when two Muslims fight, they fight with the strength of two. When a Muslim fights, he fights as a whole.

- The Muslims are like one man. If he is injured, they all feel the pain. If he is burnt, they all feel the pain. If he is killed, they all feel the pain.

- We are not the ones who call for bloodshed. We are not the ones who kill on the path of bloodshed. We are not the ones who die on the path of bloodshed.
SUMMARY

• Britain Christianised Nigeria

• The situation has not changed

• Muslims are now endangered species: Persecution, Stigmatisation, Disenfranchisement, Marginalisation
CONCLUSION

• Muslims are not integrated into the Nigerian system until:
  1. 1\textsuperscript{st} Muharram is declared a holiday
  2. Mosque marriage certificate is recognised
  3. Friday becomes work-free
  4. Hijab is allowed on documents/uniforms
  5. Shari‘ah courts are allowed in all states
THANKS FOR LISTENING