

**INAUGURATION AND ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, DELIVERED BY KABIR RAJI,
NASFAT YOUTH SECRETARY DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE 10th
NATIONAL YOUTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (YNEC) ON 20th February ,
2022 AT THE NASFAT Headquarters, Alausa, LAGOS State.**

Leadership and Sacrifice- The Inseparable Twin – Niyi Yusuf

To Allah Alone belongs all praises and Adorations. The Lord of the Universe, The Giver, The Taker, The All in All. You Alone we do worship and it is Upon You alone we seek help and Guidance. We Thank You- Allah for making us this way, if you chose not to, who will blame You?

May the Peace and Blessings of Allah continue to be upon the Holy Prophet, The seal of Prophets, the Leader of Leaders, The hope of Mankind Rasullahi (SAW).

All protocols duly and respectfully observed.

In the last 29 Months, I have had the rear privilege to lead a team of 15 great men and women to pilot the affairs of the Youth wing of our dear society members NASFAT. No doubt, it was a journey of great experience, exposure and Sacrifice. The journey that was fortunate to meet with the greatest pandemic of our generation – COVID, the Journey that hosted a protest that put the Youth on an unforgettable spotlight – #Endsars. Despite all odds, we strived, we gave commitment, we gave dedication and we sacrifice.

On the 11th November 2019, we committed to bringing us effective programs that will improve capacity development of our members, strategic positioning of the Youth wing among contemporary, Eradicate the ‘we and them’ syndromes and of course to support our founding fathers legacy projects- Aseese Mosque Complex, Fountain University amongst others. Little did we knew about the challenges ahead, but with great sacrifice, commitment and dedication of all and sundry we had our Dawah Advancement programs, Employability skill set programs , Executive retreats and training programs, Trainings on Cyber security, Database Management and Programming, Accessing Global opportunities, Masterclasses on Digital Marketing amongst others geared towards capacity development of our members. No doubt, the strategic involvement by the Youth wing of NASFAT commemorating special days and initiating special programs moved us ahead

of our previous positioning and perceptions. Today, we are not just one of the foremost organisation promoting Hijabs but a voice to reckon with on World Hijab Day. Programs like our NASFAT SDG youth summit, NASFAT youth Economic summit, Global Youth Seminar, the NASFAT Games and commemoration of the International Youth Day, International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit trafficking, Joining the campaign against Rape and Gender base violence, and having several youth trained as response team among the NASFAT child Protection of Sexual and Gender Based violence project have helped to change the dynamics. Today, we will all attest to a more collaborative programs experienced across our branches and Zones, Women connect with Youth, Missionary connect with youth, Youth involvement in shurah processes across our zones and branches, Youth involvements in all committees, Youth engagements and many more are deliberate steps to eradicating 'we and them' syndromes within the society. The Youth wing support to Aseese Mosque is ongoing, we have set a minimum target of N1m per annum to the Mosque project. Aside our strategic drive to feed Fountain University with our best, promote visibility of the school to the entire world and Youth to be specific, our NASFAT Games is also aimed among others to improving the sporting facilities in the University community, No doubt the 2021 NASGA had paved way to start discussion on building a standard Basket Ball court for the University.

Our Focus was never different from that of our parent body whose intent is to see a more result oriented Youth ever ready to take mantle of leadership, pay the sacrifice and use the society to attract more younger generation to uphold the vision and mission statement of our dear society. Leveraging under the HELD Agenda, The Youth had supported the society in initiating and achieving several programs and projects under Health including Awareness campaigns, basic medical checks in collaboration with the Health Secretaries across some of our branches, Health Talk on Cancer, Hepatitis, Diabetes and support to members with health challenges financially, treatment and counselling. We worked with the Education committee to support the JAMB coaching centres, free online lessons for our younger members, support Education projects. Under livelihood, we supported our members with several training programs to empower them and make them self reliant as against job seekers. Many of our Trainings here were around ICT and

entrepreneur skills. With the approval of the Tech team agenda, we are changing the digital face of NASFAT, - Digital Dawah, online programs, Dawah training, quiz and Qur'an competition, building Imams out of our Heads of Dawah and more are areas of impact in terms of Dawah.

All these we achieved because Allah accepted our sacrifice.

Our appreciation goes to the National Executive Council, National Council of Elders, The mission board, The women Management Committee, and all zonal chairmen for believing in us to drive the youth wing of the society. Indeed, to our lieutenants – All zonal Youth Secretaries both within Nigeria and in the diaspora, thank you for making us proud, thank you for showing to the world that we are great leaders. As most of us move up to take bigger responsibility at the parent body warafanahu mankana aleeha. To all my colleagues in the YNEC (2019-2021), our Elders in the YAC and all NASFAT Youth Stakeholders, I say Thank you for tolerating me and us. Worthy of appreciation are my committee of friends and loyal financial supporters of the Youth wing activities. Most hit by this great sacrifice is no other person than my beloved wife -Khadeejah Raji. You have been the greatest support I ever enjoyed, thank you for the unimaginable understanding, prayers and support.

The reward of a good job is another job.

Today, The Journey continues for another 24 months with another set of vibrant young and energetic men and women. The task ahead is enormous and challenges are yet to be known. However, we will strive to sustain the gains of the last administration, and see to the implementation of the 2021 - 2025 Strategic document of the society. We pledge to leave no one behind, we will continue to work dynamically on the 'How' to achieving our mission statement as a society as it affects the youth wing.

Here we come again to demand from You O' Lord, A bigger sacrifice opportunity to steer the ship further. As we roll out our Agenda towards continuity in the few days, I call on the support of All Stakeholders from the Board of Trustee, National Executive Council, National Council of Elders, National Mission Board, National Women Management Committee, All Zonal Chairmen, all Zonal Youth Secretaries, All Branch Chairmen, all branch youth

secretaries and everyone, we will always fall back at you, please do not turn us down when we come again.

In conclusion, let me charge my incoming colleagues to give absolute commitment and dedication to the youth wing and the society at large . We must be prepared to sacrifice and show good examples. We should note that we are not the best, but only beneficiaries of confidence and trust of those in the society who have chosen us to be the arrow heads of the youth wing at this time. To whom much is given, they say, much is expected. One of the greatest wonders of the world, and the most enduring joy any human being can experience is service to mankind. We will serve Islam, we will serve NASFAT, we will serve you as members of NASFAT and we will serve humanity through you. I pray ALLAH TO GUIDE, GUARD and PROTECT us to succeed.

I wish you all Allah's Mercies back to your various destinations.

Ma Salam.

KABIR RAJI
NATIONAL YOUTH SECRETARY
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