

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NASRU LAHI IL FATIH SOCIETY (NASFAT ) TO THE DELEGATES AT THE YEAR 2021 GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY, HOLDING AT LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA ON 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021.**

Audhu billahi mina shaytani rajim, Bismillahi Rahman Raheem,

(I seek refuge in Allah from Shaytan the accursed. In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate.)

Alhamdulillah rabil alamin.

We seek Allah's forgiveness, and seek refuge from Him from the evils of our thoughts and deeds.

May the peace and blessings of Allah be on our noble Prophet Muhammad, his Companions, his household and all those who follow the message of Islam.

To Allah we give all the Glory and we thank Allah for His Mercy and Kindness on all of us here – physically and on-line – , members of our society NASRU LAHI IL FATIH SOCIETY (NASFAT) and our country Nigeria.

We pray Allah (SWT) to guide our citizens and leaders to righteousness and bless Nigeria with peace and prosperity.

**PROTOCOLS** - Please permit me to stand on already established protocols.

Salam alaykun wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu (May the Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah, be with us all)

On behalf of the society, it is my pleasure to welcome all of us from all over the world, to this Biennial Conference of the society. I pray for Allah's Guidance in all our deliberations.

Alhamdulillah that we are alive and able to participate in this conference.

That the conference is holding in Lagos this year, even though we wished, planned and were looking forward to the opportunity of having a Conference in Sokoto, is a reflection of the challenges the world – and more devastatingly the Muslim world- has been going through in the last two years, since our conference of 2019 in Abeokuta.

Terrorism, insurgency, banditry and wars have continued to claim lives in Yemen (Saudi Arabia), Iraq, Syria, Mali, Somalia, Chad, Niger, many other places and our own Nigeria.

COVID 19 and its variants have continued to devastate the world economy, impoverished more people, disrupt and cause cancellations of Hajj – an important pillar in Islam – , lay bare the limitations of science and medical facilities in the most developed economies of the world and cause loss of lives.

For us Muslims, all these should remind us of Allah’s words in the Qur’an:

“Unto Allah belongeth the dominion of the heavens and the earth. He giveth life and He taketh it.

Except for Him, ye have no protector nor helper.” Q9:116.

We should be in the forefront of doing right, propagating and following instructions of Allah on Justice and Fairness to all irrespective of race, tribe or ethnicity and listening to and obeying instructions from medical experts on keeping safe and healthy.

NASFAT as an organisation must continue to answer the call of Allah in the Qur’an Q3:104 “Let there arise out of you, a group inviting to all that is good (Islam) and forbidding evil, and it is they who are successful” and also persist in its efforts “to develop an enlightened society nurtured by a true understanding of Islam for the spiritual upliftment and welfare of mankind” as stated in its motto..

Let me express gratitude to all who have sacrificed resources to steer NASFAT through the challenging two years. Many thanks to the Headquarters EXCO – and all Zonal and Branch EXCOs -, the totality of the Mission Board led by the Chief Missioner , Council of Elders – including the various Zonal and Branch Councils – volunteers in the different committees, all who have demonstrated commitment and resilience in the last two years, and all members who have striven in the cause of Allah.

May Allah (SWT) accept our efforts as acts of Ibadah and reward us abundantly for these.

We welcome the incoming EXCO of the society and pray that Allah in His infinite Mercy will guard and guide them right in managing the affairs of our society, with the support of all NASFAT stakeholders. Amin.

Between 30<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 the society gathered its members in Ibadan and reviewed itself and re-strategised for the future. This in essence is the blueprint which the members of the society pray that its leaders in various organs will help to implement.

We pray to Allah to guide and support the incoming EXCO and officials in the various organs of the society - from the Headquartes to zones and branches all over the world - to be able to implement the strategic objectives and achieve goals even higher than envisioned by the society.

May Allah (SWT) continue to shower His blessings on all members of the society and help the society to impact positively in the lives of members and the environment.

May Allah (SWT) continuously make our tomorrow better than today.

May this conference be a resounding success, in sha Allah.

Salam alaykun wa rahmatullahi, wa barakatu.

Abdul Latif Adewale Olasupo.

Chairman BOT