

Stewardship Report of the President, Mr. Olaniyi Mumini Yusuf at the Annual General Meeting of the 6th Biennial Conference of NASFAT held at Oranmiyan Hall, Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos State on the 18th December, 2021

Protocols.

I adopt all existing protocols.

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful, the Lord of the Worlds, the creator of heaven and earth, indeed, He is to whom all praises and adoration is reserved. I bear witness that there is no one worthy of worship but Allah Alone, I bear witness that Muhammad (saw) is His servant and the seal of His Messengers. I seek refuge from Allah against shaytan, the accursed. I greet all in the best form by saying Asalam alaykun waramatulahi wabarakatuhu.

It is a privilege, honour and pleasure to welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting of our Society, and to present to you the Stewardship Report at this Annual General Meeting. Mindful of the fact that the General Secretary will present report of the activities and administration of the society, my speech therefore, will be a personal reflection of key activities and achievements of this outgoing National Executive Council.

It is exactly 26 months since the inauguration of the NEC on Sunday 20th October 2019 and I recall in my acceptance speech at Aseese, I made a solemn promise that *“as NEC: we care, we will work hard, very hard and put in our very best 24x7. We will listen to all, accept feedback, promote inclusion, and embrace our diversity. We will have the courage to try new ideas, take bold initiatives, and creatively do more with less. We will act with integrity, purpose, and honour, we will be transparent and accountable to earn your trust and support. We are aware of the huge expectations and in turn, we solicit your involvement, support, criticism, feedback, and prayers. May God help us. Amen.”*

I want to appreciate my colleagues in the NEC, our elders, leaders in our zones and branches, and members of our great society that have embraced and supported some of the ideas we floated in the last 2 years and that made the journey in the last two years worthwhile despite the challenges we encountered. The NEC has benefited from the financial support of the NCOE (including handsome donation to the Biennial Conference), wise counsel and coaching of the NCOE leadership over and beyond my regular monthly President Briefing to the Council. We have also benefited from the encouragement and counsel of the BOT who remain the moral guardian of the society.

When we decided to focus our attention, programs and interventions in 4 areas of priority – **Health, Education, Livelihood and Da’wah** (with the acronym **HELD**) we did not envisage there would be a major pandemic - covid-19 which was confirmed in Nigeria on 27th February 2020. Alhamdulillah for His mercies over us and keeping us safe, and we pray for all dead Muslims including Justice Bola Babalakin the former president of MUSWEN who died aged 94.

Its been a challenging and tough last 2 years with a health emergency that morphed into a social and economic crisis, exacerbated by insecurity and volatile macro environment. Hence, the last 2 years have been full of disruptions aptly characterised as a VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous) environment that impeded long term planning and with restrictions that disrupted our plans and limited the physical attendance of many members at our programmes. Despite the difficulties, am happy that members of the NEC have visited 18 of our 22 zones as a deliberate tactic to promote inclusion.

Health

Health is indeed Wealth! I must express my deep gratitude to you all for your contributions in 2020 that enabled us to provide N69.6m relief to 23,216 households and 130,673 beneficiaries across 252 locations across all our zones. Jazakallahu Khayran to all who contributed. Subsequently, NEC approved regular Health Talk at Asalatu on every 3rd Sunday of the month and I will encourage our leaders to ensure this is done at your locations. We provided screening services – Dental, Eyes, HIV, Hepatitis, Prostrate, Cervical and Breast Cancer, Diabetes and Hypertension – to thousands of members across our locations and have similarly provided vaccination for Hepatitis and covid-19 to members at some locations plus free cataract eye surgery and distribution of medical eyeglasses to members at the HQ. Additionally, at the HQ, we now have a functional Ambulance whose donation by Assist International USA was facilitated by Imam Lanre Gidado of our Bay Area California branch. I recall my visit to the NASFAT Osogbo Medical Center when I inspected the facilities including the delivery ward and so I was happy to read of the accreditation of the center by the Osun Health Insurance Scheme to provide affordable medical care to members and non-members alike. Our desire is for the society to establish more medical centers and hospitals in addition to 4 existing hospitals in Abidjan, Osogbo, Iree and Okeho. We look forward to the completion and operations of the medical centers undergoing construction at Ota and Ikorodu, and to the beginning of the construction of the Mother & Child Hospital at HQ, promoted by the Women Management Committee.

Education

This religion is based on knowledge (*imo l'oni adinni*) and so Education remains a very important cornerstone of our activities. We encouraged the study of Arabic, Qur'an, Hadith and Fiqh including hosting multiple Quranic recitation and Quiz competition, Walimat li Qur'an Ceremonies, and start of the Online Arabic and Qur'an Training Institute. A revised Education Policy and Quality Assurance Framework will soon be published to codify our standards and infuse technology, ethics, leadership, and entrepreneurship into our curriculum to improve learning outcomes and ensure we can prepare our children for success in this world and in the hereafter. Over 53 members who are teachers and volunteers have been enrolled in Project METAL (Making Every Teacher A Leader), a Leadership training by an external organisation paid for by NASFAT and a member. We have also commenced operations of the HAVEK Leadership Academy that aims to develop ethically minded leaders based on Islamic values. In January, HAVEK will conduct leadership training and orientation for the incoming NEC members and will subsequently be required to conduct leadership training for all new ZEC/BEC members. Indeed, the NEC had approved a revised shurah guidelines that includes digital literacy and attendance of leadership training organised by HAVEK as screening criteria. In 2022, HAVEK will also commence its maiden Fellowship program for our young professionals. I encourage you all to nominate eligible youth and members of the society to enrol in the HAVEK Fellowship program. We must invest in producing youth, who can become good leaders and provide good governance to the larger society, this is one of the roles that FBOs have to play.

We need to promote more learning and scholarship amongst our children and Missioners. Hence, we encouraged JAMB UMTE coaching classes by our branches and provide subsidy for the purchase of JAMB forms. We also have a Scholarship scheme for Undergraduates at both Fountain University and other public universities, and an Education scheme for Missioners as part of the Missionary Welfare Fund. It is gratifying to note the impact of our Orphans Support Scheme coordinated by the Children Affairs Committee of which an orphan, Khadija, is being supported for life-long educational pursuit by a kind donor, a young professional who is not a member of NASFAT, and who just informed me that Khadija recorded a CGPA of 4.82 in her first year in the University of Lagos. Alhamdulillah!

We do need to provide more opportunities for our children, including building more schools in addition to our existing 8 secondary and 26 primary schools. Hence, NEC gave approval for new secondary schools in 3 zones (Kwara, Ogun and Lagos Zone2) and also supported fundraising for Offa model school even as we look

forward to progress reports from Ogun/Ijebu Ode and Lagos Zone 2/Iyana Ipaja. I must once again appreciate our National Council of Elders and the UK/I zone (ably led then by Dapo Ayoola) who contributed to the rebuilding of Mokwa Secondary school that suffered from a windstorm. Such exemplary generosity and leadership!

Your university, Fountain University Osogbo (FUO) has approved tuition discount ranging from 5% - 10% to children of NASFAT parents. The FUO also added 2 new colleges in 2020 to make a total of 4 colleges and the Governing Board has approved 35 programs but requires funding to mobilise requisite infrastructure and resources to enable the University to commence these programs. Hence in 2020, eight major projects were completed in FUO by NASFAT, private investors in a PPP/Build-Operate-Transfer scheme and individual donors including a 60 bed Hostel funded by a group of 5 members committed to building 5 projects in FUO in 5 years. We encourage other group of friends to come together to do similar initiative. In 2021, we have funded (and funding) 3 building projects, 2 buses for the 2 new Colleges, first visitation panel of NASFAT in 14 years, NUC accreditation and professional accreditation, 15 Scholarship slots for indigent students for 4 years and we are now looking for donors to support the over N2.5bn Medium Term Development Projects being pursued to open up the South Campus of the University. Your support and referral to likely donors will be greatly appreciated even as we look forward to the 14th convocation ceremony of the FUO on January 14, 2022 and the resumption of Alhaji Awa Ibraheem as the new Pro-Chancellor upon the expiration of the tenure of Admiral Jubrilla Ayinla, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. I pray Allah rewards him in multiple fold for his support for and immense contributions to the FUO.

Livelihood

“Extreme poverty anywhere is a threat to human security everywhere.” As said by Kofi Annan, the Seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations. Hence, our focus on livelihood to enable more of our members to have a decent means of livelihood through either of paid employment or entrepreneurship in furtherance of the SDG 8 which is the promotion of decent work and economic growth. We encouraged our Empowerment scheme to go beyond training to now focus on competency, counselling and capital evident in our distribution of over N28m as livelihood grants to over 1067 members including volunteers, Missioners, wives of Missioners, Widows and youth in 186 locations across the HQ and zones.

Ikija Farm in Oyo zone is a novel initiative where we are piloting a cooperative farming scheme using the donated 100 acres of land that had been lying fallow and also under threat of encroachment. We now have over 51 members who have planted maize, cassava and vegetables on NASFAT land based on a lease agreement with the society. I encourage other zones and locations to explore similar initiatives to unlock some of our non-earning assets. Of concern are our Cooperative Societies, many of whom are faltering, weighed down by bad debts and misused funds, and we will have to rethink the entire coop model including using digital coop platforms and professional debt recovery efforts.

NEC has designated the 5th Sunday of any month as NASFAT Charity Day and we encourage our branches and groups to use these 4 Sundays in the year for a group act of Charity, and to also work with the NAZAS (NASFAT Agency for Zakat and Sadaqat) or Zakat Committee in the zone/branch. NAZAS has collected and distributed over N350m to 40,000 recipients since 2014. Allah has mercifully given Muslims the institution of Zakat and it is for us to coordinate ourselves to use Zakat as a tool to provide succour to our members and for poverty alleviation.

Da'wah

Da'wah is the last and an important pillar of focus for the Society. We are resolute in our determination to make the society stand on a tripod - **prayer, knowledge and dawah**. We will stay true to our roots as an asalatu prayer group but at the same time, we will promote knowledge acquisition to enable us conduct

meaningful da'wah activities so we can call others to what is good and to refrain from what is bad (Q3:104). In 2020 in response to the pandemic, we began online virtual asalatu service, we also established the Online Arabic and Quranic Training Institute which celebrated some graduands on the 11th December, 2021. We issue the Friday Weekly *The Call* Poster on all our social media channels and have also started a Weekly Sunday webinar with lecturers from different countries engaged to educate our members and the general public on contemporary topics. We must appreciate the mission board led by the energetic, industrious and indefatigable Chief Missioner whose leadership and support has been instrumental to the gradual shift and focus on the tripod of prayer, knowledge and dawah. Through the remarkable efforts of the Chief Missioner, 45 of our missioners/members have attended various virtual and physical international training programs including 6-month physical residential Dawah Training Programme in Rabat, Morocco and other 2 – 3 month programs organised by the world renown Al-Azhar University in Cairo and the popular Da'wah Academy of the International Islamic University of Islamabad, Pakistan.

We have established a Missionary Welfare Fund for the education and welfare of our members and seeded the Fund with N12m donated by a generous donor. NAZAS has enrolled some missioners and family in the Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme, and we now plan to extend this to all 231 missioners in Lagos State as a first step while also considering a takaful life insurance scheme for our missioners subject to resource availability. LASILKIN Communications Limited, whose board is chaired by former President Yomi Bolarinwa, is being prepared to be the digital media arm of the Society and the NEC has approved its plan to launch online TV, online Radio and online web presence in 2022, In sha Allah. With an enriched digital media asset, we hopefully can have contents that will attract our youth and young professionals. I must also appreciate the efforts of Kaduna branch and Samonda branch Ibadan who have deployed resources towards setting up media studio.

I must thank the Aseese Mosque Development Committee ably led by Alhaji Y.O. Saliu for their doggedness and unwavering commitment to the development of our National Mosque, which is a major pillar of our dawah activities. We are now at the roofing stage for which N100m is required and we have tasked each zone to raise N10m. I must salute the response of Lagos Zone 2 who have raised and contributed N7.5m (from a target of N15m) in addition to their ongoing construction of a Guest House at Aseese. Very inspiring commitment from Lagos Zone 2. Ditto for Ogun zone that has pledge above N5m from its branches. Our goal is to complete the roofing so we can observe taraweesh in the mosque come next Ramadan, In sha Allah. I call on all zones and branches to do more to contribute to the immediate goal of roofing the mosque even as over N1.5bn is still required to complete the mosque. May Allah reward all donors who contribute to the completion of the mosque. Amen.

In recent months, the society has received gifts and endowment of mosques from individuals including Ikotun, Ejigbo, Ikorodu and soon in Abeokuta. Our zones/branches must put these mosques to proper use to justify the trust of the endowers. These mosques will be used for more than asalatu program, to include Quranic classes, madrassah, events and wedding services.

Marriage counselling has been devolved to the zones, a new marriage certificate for issuance at the zonal level with improved security features has been put in place and I encourage zones to get their Imams and others trained as counsellors by the HQ team, who have trained over 35 counselors so far. We developed and are implementing response strategy for campaign against Rape, Child Abuse, Sexual and Gender Based Violence. NASFAT based on its excellent and transparent records in the last girl child advocacy, was engaged by UNICEF in conjunction with European Union for a campaign on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (ENDVAWG) in six focal states (Lagos, Sokoto, Ebonyi, Cross River, Adamawa and FCT) over a 3 months

duration. We duly appreciate all our members in the above states for the tremendous support and ownership of the project.

At this juncture, let me remind us all of the prohibition of dancing, singing, drumming, hero worshipping and praise singing at NASFAT events. We are a religious society and not a social or cultural club. Similarly, we demand of our missionaries total and complete dedication to the mission of the society and have reminded them of our zero tolerance for private asalatu in compliance with the code of conduct of the society. The February 2022 deadline for no-more-private-asalatu still stands. In sha Allah. Furthermore, we look forward to the output of the Dr Junaid committee and receipt of a Blueprint for the restructuring of our Missionary Activities to make it fit for purpose and with meaningful prospect for our missionaries. This is in addition to our aspiration to establish a diploma awarding Missionary Training Institute in collaboration with a foreign academy.

Finance

Alhamdulillah we were able to submit a consolidated report of our financial statement of the society for 2019 and now 2020 financial year. This is a significant step and we hope this can become a tradition. I say kudos to our finance team and all that made it happen. More importantly, we noticed the refusal or non-submission of annual financial accounts by some zones/branches/groups thereby hindering a true statement of the Society's assets and liabilities. Let it be put on record that it is a constitutional requirement for all zones/branches/groups to ensure submission of their financial records to the HQ to demonstrate transparency and accountability. Our zonal/branch financial secretaries and chairpersons must do more to fulfil their obligations. The NEC will have to take stiffer measures on erring zones/branches/groups that do not submit their 2020 and 2021 reports as they compromise the integrity of our financial records and expose the society to regulatory and reputational risks. We are now using a cloud-based accounting software at the HQ and will plan to pilot this in 2022 at some of our strategic locations, to ease our financial reporting. To further improve the integrity of our books, our external auditors have recommended that we employ independent external auditors who are resident in our offshore locations to conduct the statutory annual audit of these offshore locations. With your cooperation, we will start this offshore external audit in 2022. In sha Allah.

Let me appreciate the various individuals, zones, branches and groups that have keyed into the Direct Debit Mandate (DDM), which is a direct deduction of dues from your bank account on monthly basis to support our various projects – Aseese Islamic Centre, FUI and membership subscription. However, there is still much to be done as we noticed that many branches are yet to key into this scheme. This process helps us to forecast and plan effectively and as such we call on all our zonal/branch/group leaders to ensure they fill and submit their DDM. As you must have observed, functional DDM is one of the criteria used in the disbursement of grants and awards to deserving zones, branches and groups.

Future Outlook

The NEC has approved the draft of a new constitution as submitted by the constitution review committee. This will now go through the process of final approval by all organs. The reviewed constitution addresses some of the major gaps that we have noticed and am hopeful it will support the growth, development, performance and success of the society.

Given the success of the maiden edition of the Good Governance Workshop Series that took place in October 2021, the secretariat will plan other seminars in the Good Governance Workshop Series as our contribution to enthroning good governance in our polity as the general election of 2023 beckons. Good leadership from all, including family units, will enable good governance and a good society, from which everybody benefits.

The revised master plan for Aseese land has been approved and an Implementation Committee setup which we hope can commence activities in earnest in coming months, exploring innovative schemes including PPP/JV to accelerate the development of the over 28 hectares of land. I encourage all our branches/groups to ensure they have legal title to their land and properties. As part of the Virtual Land Bank established at the Secretariat, the HQ will be available to provide support to groups/branches pursuing the legal titling or valuation of their real estate assets.

We are exploring how to enhance the future sustainability of the Society by incubating an online community and a platform for Young Muslim professionals, strengthening and recapitalising Tafsan Investment Limited, establishing a HQ/Zone1 national cemetery on sound commercial basis, creating a N2.0bn endowment fund and fashioning out a Growth Strategy for each of our Zones, so we are deliberate about growth and success while noting the peculiarities of each zone.

I am acutely aware of the current and future challenges facing the Society, especially the following 8 existential challenges of (1) embracing multi-dimensional diversity especially demographic and ethnicity – we have setup a committee to develop a diversity and inclusion policy for the Society, (2) improving talent density, (3) building leadership pipeline, (4) being knowledge based, (5) remaining mission driven, (6) promoting unity and cohesion across all locations so we act with unity of purpose, (7) enhancing our Relevance Index so we remain relevant to our target audience and (8) resource mobilisation to match our ambition. Lets be a TEAM – Together Everybody Achieves More!

Every crisis presents opportunities for those who are able to seize the momentum. Despite these challenges, opportunities abound for the bold. I am an optimist and I believe the future is bright. So I need us as leaders to be bold and go for growth despite the hurdles. There may never be a right moment. We can always find excuses but NASFAT, nay Humanity. needs leadership that is bold, dynamic, courageous, determined and that won't look for excuses, These are what we need to do, if we remain focused on doing what is best for NASFAT.

So much has been done. Yet so much more yet to be done. This period calls for improved dedication, commitment and sacrifice from all of us. Leadership is about sacrifice. Our prophet Rasul (SAW) sacrificed and left Mecca his home town for Medina and he was rewarded majestically by Allah. In Nigeria, our forefathers sacrificed as we see in the history of the Ansar Ud Deen Society and how they have bult schools and mosques in many rural locations. We too must be ready to sacrifice and plant cash crops for future generations to harvest. As the Rasul (SAW) said, "The best among you are those who bring greatest benefits to many others". May Allah make it easy for you and I to be counted amongst the best of mankind. Amen.

In closing, let me thank you all for the various support, counsel and hand of goodwill extended to my person and NEC members during the cause of our service to the society. We want to appeal for your understanding, cooperation, patience, trust and prayers as a new NEC is sworn in early next year. Mere mortals we are and so we welcome constructive feedback, as Allah alone is infallible.

I thank you most sincerely for listening to this stewardship report and ask that you forgive me and the NEC team for any error of commission or omission. I pray to be able to host many of you in United Kingdom during the 7th Biennial Conference. In sha Allah. May Allah spare us beyond then.

Subhanaka allahumma wa bihamdika ashadu an laillaha ila anta wastag firuka wa tub'ilaehi.

Olaniyi Mumini Yusuf
NASFAT President.