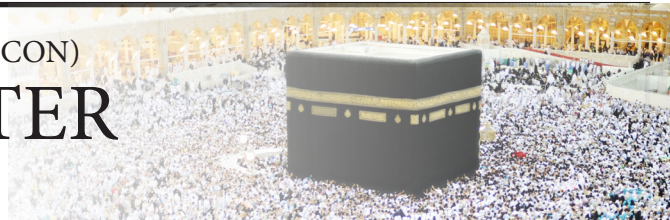




National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON)

# HAJJ NEWSLETTER



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Barrister Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad MON, FCIA held up his plaque of “the most responsive Corporate CEO (Public Sector) award by NUJ/NASS Press Corps.

## NAHCON BOSS BAGS DOUBLE AWARD

It was a week of honour for the Chairman/CEO of National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) Barr. Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad, MON, FCIA as he was honoured with a distinguished award of Excellence by two media organisations, Manara Satellite TV/Radio station and the NUJ House of Representatives Press Corp.

The investiture ceremonies which took place within some of each other at the Ladi Kwali hall and the International Conference Centre (ICC) Abuja, respectively saw the NAHCON helmsman recognised for excellent performance in Hajj administration.

According to the organisers of the events, Barr Abdullahi deserved merit award for his outstanding contributions in the area of pro-active and prompt intervention in Pilgrims Affairs, novel initiative and reforms introduced in the area of gazetting of Hajj and Umrah regulations and guidelines, licensing of State Pilgrims Welfare Boards which has brought some sanity to Hajj Administration in States among others.

At the NUJ honour ceremony, Barr. Abdullahi was adjudged as one of the best chief executive with innovative programme that have impacted positively with the lives of his patrons as well as the standing image of the country.

Why he was honoured? According to citation, the NAHCON boss was recognised for his anti-corruption stand especially in the innovative purchase of Hadaya which has eliminated the fraudulent practice of Hadaya, other reasons canvassed was his strong-arm tactics against illegal Hajj and Umrah Tour companies who yearly defraud unsuspecting Intending Pilgrims of their hard-earned money; acquisition of befitting office accommodation – the metro plaza as a testament of his forward looking vision and mission to uplift the standard of Hajj in the country.

### Inside this issue:

- NIGERIAN ENVOY TO KSA COMMENDS NAHCON
- NAHCON EMBARK ON SENSITISATION VISITS

## 31st MARCH 2018 DEADLINE FOR PILGRIMS REGISTRATION.



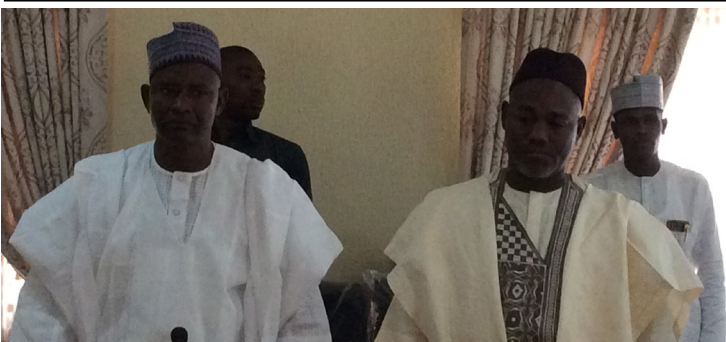
Barr Abdullahi Mukthar Muhammad MON, FCIA receiving the Manara TV award



Chairman/CEO delivering his keynote address at one day symposium organized by Manara TV



Barr Abdullahi Mukthar Muhammad MON, FCIA welcoming Ambassador Isa Muhammad Dodo, Nigeria's ambassador to Saudi Arabia to his Office.



Commissioner OPs Alh Abdullahi Modibbo Saleh flanked by the commissioner representing North East in the Board of the Commission at the sensitization tour of Adamawa and Taraba.



Commissioner PPMF Alh. Yusuf Adebayo Ibrahim sharing a joke with the director FCT pilgrims welfare board at the Abuja sensitization for ulama on 2018 Hajj.



Nigeria Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ambassador Isa Muhammad Dodo making a presentation during his official courtesy visit to NAHCON

## Nigerian Envoy to KSA Commends NAHCON

The Nigerian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Isa Muhammad Dodo has praised the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) for its early propagation towards the 2018 Hajj.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to NAHCON's Corporate Office in Abuja, the Envoy expressed joy that the Commission imbibed the ideal of early preparation, which he said would positively impact on the success of the 2018 Hajj exercise.

According to him, it is a heart-warming that since the reform of the Commission from 2017 Hajj, it has devoted itself to making plan and preparation, which he said would help the Commission succeed. "I am glad to be part of the team that witnessed the Signing of the 2018 Hajj Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Saudi Arabia, but I'm very much

happy to note that since your return home, you have pursued that preparation vigorously. I therefore wish and hope that you will continue with your efforts in the early arrangements you started in Saudi Arabia," he said.

“I am very sure that you have double your effort and I am very much happy to see the stride and progress you are making towards the success of 2018 Hajj. I prayed the almighty Allah to make the operation smooth, so that you can weather whatever challenges that may confront you and your team, so that you can record another successful Hajj exercise,” he added.

In his remarks, the Chairman/CEO Barr. Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad, (MON, FCIA) expressed the Commission's gratitude and appreciation to the diplomat for his interest, prayer and

concern for the success of the Commission.

While highlighting some of the steps taking towards the successful organisation of the 2018 Hajj to include the nation-wide Pilgrims sensitization campaign across the six geo-political zone in the country in which the Commission engaged the scholars (Ulama') and relevant stakeholders on the new Saudi guidelines for the 2018 Hajj, especially the introduction of mandatory biometric data capturing of Intending Pilgrims, introduction of 5% Value Added Tax (VAT) on goods and services as well as the deadline for the closure of Saudi portal.

Barr Abdullahi however, called for the continued co-operation and assistance of the envoy towards the successful prosecution of the 2018 Hajj operations.

### PUBLIC NOTICE !!!

#### NAHCON REVOKES FAMILY TRAVELS & TOURS LIMITED OPERATIONAL LICENSES

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria wishes to draw the attention of the general public that the Hajj and Umrah operational licenses of FAMILY TRAVELS & TOURS LIMITED, whose Head office address is situated at CSF 11, K-City Plaza, Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II Abuja, was revoked for contravening the provision of Hajj and Umrah (Registration, Licensing and Operations) Regulations, 2015; and was also de-listed from the register of Travel Agencies maintained by the commission.

The general public is by this notice, strongly warned to desist from doing any business on Hajj and Umrah, with the said Travel Agency.

Fatima M Mustapha  
Head of Media

## NAHCON Embarks on Sensitization Visit

From 24th of February 2018, National Hajj Commission (NAHCON) began a nationwide sensitization tour aimed at creative awareness on new development surrounding this year's Hajj operation. The tours had their starting point as Kaduna and Lagos zone which drew participants from diverse interest groups and some intending pilgrims.

The main focus of the visit is to draw the attention of Hajj operators from both state and independent sectors the urgency involved in meeting the 31st March deadline for Hajj registration the visits were to indirectly awaken intending pilgrims through their various agents and mentors to come out and register before end of the deadline seeing the abysmal manner in which the message is being received so far. It is hoped that these Hajj operators and revered Islamic leaders will motivate individuals wishing to embark on this religion trip to move forward in good time since Saudi Authority has set its own deadline for closure of Hajj portal.

Among other new developments discussed at the various meet-

ing are the issues of financial burdens as imposed by the Saudi Authority, Vis-a-Vis the newly introduced 5% value Added Tax regime (VAT) on most goods and services enjoyed in the kingdom, (2) the 2000 Riyals surcharge to be paid by re-entry pilgrims who have visited the Kingdom within last three years, (3) high exchange rate of the Naira to a Dollar that may likely affect the year's Hajj fares.

Other issues discussed include a ward of caution to the Ulamas and Imams on the need to be vigilant while standing as guarantors for pilgrims so that they do not land into trouble signatory for dubious persons. Similarly, the representative were urged to call upon their respective adherents to be law abiding while in Saudi Arabia and to deist from getting into trouble whether naively or deliberately.

The tours were conducted by two teams. Team 'A' led by the commissioner Policy personnel management and finance (PPMF) Alhaji Yusuf Adebayo Ibrahim visited Lagos zone which comprises Lagos, Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Edo stated and

armed forces; Ilorin zone which falls Kwara, Ekiti and Ondo states; South-South and South East states under the Port-Harcourt purview; Niger State that stands alone and the federal Capital territory zone which has Nasarawa, Kogi Benue and Abuja territories. The Abuja visit was honoured with presence of the Chairman/CEO NAHCON Barrister Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad.

Team 'B' was led by Alhaji Abdullahi Modibbo Saleh, NAHCON's Commissioner operations. This team has so far visited Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto zone drawing membership from Kebbi and Zamfara States; Bauchi Zone with its members as Plateau, Gombe and Bauchi states; Yola which has Taraba and Adamawa in the same umbrella as at the time of writing this report, the team was in Maidugiri hosting Yobe and Borno state stakeholders it was yet to visit Kano state as well.

Summarily, the visit was adjudged as successful considering the highly interactive atmosphere prevalent at the sessions.

